

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 93 No. 23

50¢

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org



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Cindy Klepper

Mark and Kathy Vickrey, members of SS. Peter and Paul Parish, hold open the doors for those attending the Huntington church's 175th anniversary Mass on Saturday, June 29.

Huntington parish mindful of past, moves into future

BY CINDY KLEPPER

The newly built altar at SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Huntington looks as if it were from the same era as three older altars that dominate the church's sanctuary. That's by design, says the church's pastor, Father Tony Steinacker.

"What you see up there is honoring our past," he said.

The altars — both the new one, which is used daily, and the century-old altars that have been recently redecorated — are the focus of the church building.

That, also, is as it should be, said Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

"The altar is the center and focal point of every Catholic church or chapel," Bishop Rhoades said during his homily at the church's 175th anniversary Mass on Saturday, June 29.

Following his homily, the bishop consecrated the new altar, anointing it with sacred chrism before parish members dressed it with altar cloths, a crucifix and candles so that the Eucharist could be celebrated. As Mass continued, Bishop Rhoades was joined by concelebrants including Father Steinacker; SS. Peter and Paul's former parochial vicar, Father Maicaal "Mike" Lobo; former pastor Father Perry McDonald; former parish administrator Msgr. Owen Campion; former assistant pastor Father Tom Zelinski; Deacon Daniel

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Franciscans of Mary welcomed to diocese

BY JANET PATTERSON

The move to a new home always has challenges, but when the new home has two locations, life can get complicated. Father Osman Ramos, FM, and Father Alven Fabiolas Salada, FM, however, seem to be settling into their two new parishes with grace.

The priests, who are members of the Franciscans of Mary from Madrid, Spain, are new at St. Gaspar del Bufalo Parish in Rome City and St. Joseph Parish in LaGrange. Father Ramos will pastor both parishes, while Father Salada will serve as parochial vicar at both.

The two priests began their



FATHER OSMAN RAMOS, FM



FATHER ALVEN SALADA, FM

assignments on June 18, moving into the rectory at St. Gaspar. They bring their love of the Lord, the Blessed Mother and a spirituality of gratitude with them.

"We love the Lord like Mary loves the Lord," Father Ramos said. "And we love the Church as St. Francis loved the Church."

Although founded in 1988 in Madrid, the community follows in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi, who in the 13th century heard the voice of God speak to him, saying, "Francis, repair my Church."

Their order is also known as the Missionaries of Gratitude. The priests explain that in a world focused on consumerism, it is too

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Official newspaper of the
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
P.O. Box 11169
Fort Wayne, IN 46856

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Published weekly except for the last Sunday in December; and every other week from third Sunday in May through fourth Sunday in August, by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, 915 S. Clinton St., P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, IN 46801. Periodicals postage paid at Fort Wayne, IN, and additional mailing office.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856-1169 or email: circulation@diocesefwsb.org

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

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

News deadline is 10 days prior to publication date. Advertising deadline is nine days before publication date.

Today's Catholic may be reached at:
Today's Catholic,
P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN
46856-1169; or email:
editor@diocesefwsb.org

(ISSN 0891-1533)
(USPS 403630)



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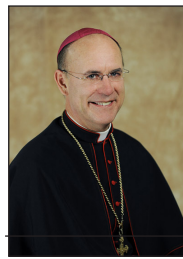
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'Truth is a condition for authentic freedom'



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Happy Fourth of July! As we celebrate our nation's independence, I invite you to reflect on the meaning of freedom from the perspective of our faith. We heard about freedom in the second reading at Mass this past Sunday. St. Paul wrote to the Galatians: "For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery."

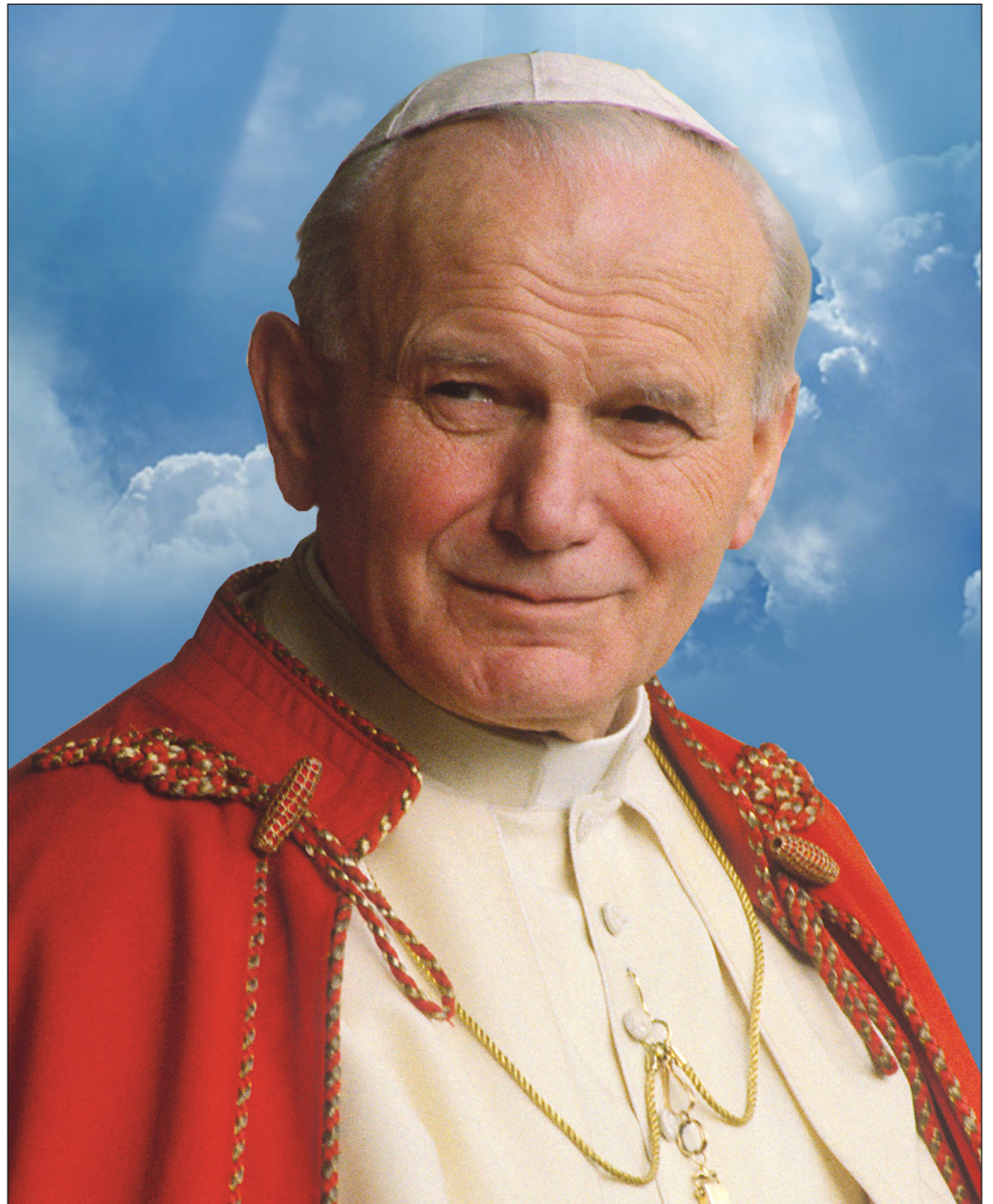
On Independence Day, we celebrate our nation's freedom from the yoke of British domination. But there's a big challenge we face today as a nation. There's a danger of falling into another kind of tyranny when we exalt freedom at the expense of truth. St. Paul writes: "For you were called for freedom, brothers and sisters. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather serve one another with love."

Our Founding Fathers enshrined sound moral principles in the founding of our nation. The Declaration of Independence, read on the Fourth of July 1776, attested to these principles, solemnly affirming the equality of all human beings, endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And our Founding Fathers explicitly expressed their "firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence." The Liberty Bell, which rang out on the Fourth of July 243 years ago, bears this inscription from the book of Leviticus: "Proclaim liberty throughout the land." The challenge for all future Americans, including us, is to be "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

On the Fourth of July, we celebrate the freedom we cherish as Americans. It's part of our heritage. But we must recognize, as I think our Founding Fathers did, that freedom is not an end in itself. A freedom that tolerates offenses against the rights of others is not a good. The freedom to kill an unborn child is not authentic freedom. Truth is a condition for authentic freedom, otherwise it is an illusory or false freedom. Freedom can be misused when it is severed from what is objectively true and morally good.

Jesus said: "You will know the truth and the truth will make you free." Freedom is superficial and illusory, even harmful, when it is divorced from the whole truth about the human person and the world. There can be no true freedom without respect for the truth regarding the dignity of all human life or the truth about marriage and the family. We're not truly free if we consider freedom to be doing whatever we want, even what the majority votes for in a democratic system of government if it is contrary to the true moral order, contrary to the divine and natural law.

As Catholics, we certainly value our democratic system of government because it ensures the participation of citizens in making political choices. We can elect and hold accountable our representatives in government. At the same time, we know that "authentic democracy is possible," as Pope St. John Paul II taught, "only in a State ruled



CNS/Grzegorz Galazka

Pope St. John Paul II wrote that "truth is not determined by the majority nor is it subject to variation according to different political trends. . . . if there is no ultimate truth to guide and direct political activity, then ideas and convictions can easily be manipulated for reasons of power. As history demonstrates, a democracy without values easily turns into open or thinly disguised totalitarianism."

by law, and on the basis of a correct conception of the human person." He wrote that "truth is not determined by the majority nor is it subject to variation according to different political trends. . . . if there is no ultimate truth to guide and direct political activity, then ideas and convictions can easily be manipulated for reasons of power. As history demonstrates, a democracy without values easily turns into open or thinly disguised totalitarianism."

When the right to life is denied, when marriage is redefined, when religious freedom is curtailed, when human rights are not fully respected, which has happened in many democracies like our own, the common good is harmed. I was in China two weeks ago giving a conference to the bishops there. I witnessed the oppression of the Communist system and the restrictions on human freedom, especially religious freedom. But human rights can also be trampled upon in democratic systems when justice and morality are not upheld, when freedom is severed from truth.

Loyalty to our nation and healthy patriotism is good, loyalty and fidelity to Christ

should come before our loyalty to any political party or system. Fidelity to the truth of the Gospel should be our first concern and priority. Such fidelity has led to persecution and even martyrdom for many disciples, like the martyrs of China. It led to the martyrdom of St. Thomas More, who famously said: "I die as the king's loyal servant, but God's servant first." Thomas More's discipleship was unconditional.

As we celebrate the Fourth of July, let us pray for our nation. Let us thank God for our freedom. Let us also ask the Lord to guide our nation not to abuse that freedom, but to return to the sound moral principles and ideals on which our nation was founded: the freedom that is rooted in moral truth, the freedom that respects the dignity of the human person and serves justice and the common good, the freedom that is not license to do whatever we want, but to do what we ought. This Fourth of July, let us remember the counsel of St. Paul: "For you were called for freedom, brothers and sisters. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love."

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easy to forget the gifts that God gives.

"Our medicine for our sickness of consumerism is gratitude. Not only do I thank God with my words but with my acts," Father Ramos said. "We can be generous with our Lord, our Church, our family and our friends."

A native of Nicaragua, Father Ramos joined the Franciscans of Mary and was ordained to the diaconate in March 2016. He was ordained a priest in June 2016 in Guatemala. He has served in the community's parish in Madrid and as a teacher at Franciscan of Mary Seminary.

The youngest of three children, he describes his parents as "very, very Catholic," which he believes was a great influence on his vocation to the priesthood.

His parents remain in Nicaragua, while his siblings have moved to Panama — a move he would like for his parents to make as well.

Before entering the community, Father Ramos was a teacher of Hispanic literature. "My dream was to teach at a university. That was about to happen when I learned about the Franciscans of Mary." After spending a week in Guatemala learning the ways of the community from the founder, Father Santiago Martin, he chose the path to the priesthood.

"I am not 'happy' in the priesthood," he said, breaking into a grin. "I am 'very, very, very happy.'"

Father Salada felt the first nudges toward a priestly vocation when he was an altar server in third grade. "I had a passion for wearing the chasuble that the priest wore. I wanted to be like that." He continued serving at the altar through high school.

An accomplished pianist and organist, he studied music in Russia before returning to his native Philippines. He had completed a master's degree in theology with a concentration in mission before deciding to give up music and focus on working in a hospital run by surgeon Sister Eva Maama, who is considered the Mother Teresa of the Philippines.

"One day I saw the founder of the Franciscans of Mary on EWTN. He said that if anyone was interested in the community, to email him," Father Salada said.

He emailed Father Santiago and two weeks later received an invitation from him to come to Madrid to learn more. He was ordained to the diaconate in Guatemala in July 2018, and to the priesthood in January in the Philippines.

The second of three children in his family, Father Salada's older brother is a mechanical engineer in Baltimore. His sister is studying nursing in the Philippines, where his parents live and work. "They are very happy that I will be in the United States," he added.



Photos by Janet Patterson

Father Alven Salada, left, and Father Osman Ramos stand before a Rubens painting of the Blessed Virgin Mary that the priests brought from Spain, home of the Franciscans of Mary. Father Ramos is serving in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend as the pastor of St. Gaspar del Bufalo Parish in Rome City and St. Joseph Parish in LaGrange; Father Salada serves as parochial vicar at both parishes.

Although he has been in this country only a month, he said he already is finding himself at ease in the American culture. "After all, the Philippines was colonized by Americans — so we are familiar with the ways."

Explaining the spirituality of gratitude of the Franciscans of Mary, Father Salada said that their mission is to teach others to be thankful. Their daily life includes joining together for morning and evening prayer, as well as the rosary.

The sacraments are key to their ministry. In addition to celebrating the Eucharist daily, they will have confessions available before every Mass in both parishes.

"United with the pope and the bishops, it is important to celebrate Mass, to provide beautiful liturgies for the people," he added.

Part of the ministry is taking care of their own household, as Mary cared for her home in Galilee. "We clean our house ourselves. We cook our own food. We wash and iron our clothes. These are ways for our sanctification," Father Ramos said.

The communal sharing of prayer and daily chores is part of living as brothers in community much as the apostles did, he explained.

The two priests recognize they have come from two different cultures to yet another culture, but believe that the common language for all is love.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades invited the community to come to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend after learning about them last year. The two priests and Father Martin came to Indiana in January to discuss helping in parishes here. After visiting the two parishes where they might serve, they accepted the bishop's invitation.

In an email, Father Martin

said, "We are very happy and grateful to Bishop Rhoades for the trust and welcome he has given us, as well as to the other people — the vicar general especially — who have shown us love and helped us to take the first steps in the diocese."

In addition to the parish in Madrid, Franciscans of Mary minister in parishes in Chile, Guatemala and Coatesville, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia. Father Ramos said the young community consists of 12 priests and 20 seminarians, one of whom is studying in Rome.

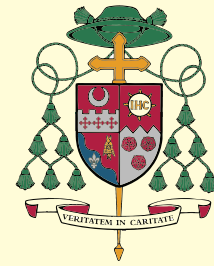
Father Salada said using modern technology like his first contact with Father Martin by email has helped their community grow. "We use social media like Facebook to let people know about our mission."

The community also has a lay component called "schools of gratitude" that is present in Europe as well as the countries of North and South America, and in Sri Lanka in Asia.

The Franciscans of Mary received pontifical approval from Pope Benedict XVI on March 25, 2007, the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, the day on which Mary said her "yes" to the incarnation of Jesus. The presentation of the decree took place at the Vatican on June 26, 2007, the feast of the community's other founder, St. Josemaria Escriva.

The priests are eager to see their ministry flourish in the two parishes. Both love music, and with Father Salada's talent on the piano and organ and Father Ramos' singing voice, they hope to make music a part of their work.

They stress that their mission is to serve the people of God. Father Salada summed it up: "To serve the invisible God is to serve the visible people."



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, July 7: 2:30 p.m. — Mass, St. Patrick Church, South Bend
 Monday, July 8: 5:30 p.m. — Meeting of Diocesan Review Board, Wyndham Garden Hotel, Warsaw
 Wednesday, July 10: 3 p.m. — Mass, Towne House Retirement Community, Fort Wayne
 Saturday, July 13: 5:30 p.m. — Mass, St. Bernard Church, Wabash
 Sunday, July 14: 11 a.m. — Mass, St. Bavo Church, Mishawaka
 Thursday, July 18: 6 p.m. — Bocce Tournament Benefiting Redeemer Radio, Home of David and Theresa Thomas, South Bend

Seminarist admitted as candidate



Joseph Knepper

A Mass with rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders was celebrated June 28 for Samuel Anderson, a parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne. Admission of Candidacy is one of the steps before ordination, in which the seminarist expresses publicly his intention of receiving the sacrament. Celebrating the Mass and rite at St. Vincent de Paul on the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus represented "what we are all about as disciples of Jesus," Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades said. "From the Heart of Christ, we learn to know the genuine and unique meaning of our life and our destiny: love. Love is our vocation." Father Daniel Scheidt, pastor, is pictured with Anderson and Bishop Rhoades after the Mass.

Catholic schools diverge over teachers in same-sex unions

BY RHINA GUIDOS

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two Catholic high schools in the Indianapolis archdiocese took different actions in late June over employees who are in same-sex marriages.

Cathedral High School announced June 24 that it was firing a gay teacher to avoid “forfeiting” its Catholic identity just three days after the Indianapolis archbishop announced “with great sadness” that Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School was no longer recognized as a Catholic institution because of its refusal to dismiss a gay employee. The issue is their same-sex marital status.

Officials at Cathedral High School, which is affiliated with but not sponsored by the Holy Cross Brothers, explained in a letter to the school community on the school’s website June 24 that it had made the “agonizing decision” to follow the direct guidance they had been given by Indianapolis Archbishop Charles C. Thompson and “separate from the teacher” after 22 months of “earnest discussion and extensive dialogue with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis about Cathedral’s continued Catholic identity.”

The letter, signed by the high school’s president and chairman of the board of directors, explained what would have happened to the school if it had not made this decision.

It pointed out that Archbishop Thompson had “made it clear that Cathedral’s continued employment of a teacher in a public, same-sex marriage would result in our forfeiting our Catholic identity due to our employment of an individual living in contradiction to Catholic teaching on marriage.”

If the school had not complied with the archbishop, the letter said, it would no longer be able to celebrate the sacraments or have the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel’s tabernacle. The school could no longer be referred to as

a Catholic school; diocesan priests would no longer be permitted to serve on its board of directors and it would lose its affiliation with the Holy Cross Brothers. The school would also lose its tax-exempt status.

The letter points out the difference between Cathedral and Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School, stating that the Jesuit school has a different canonical and non-profit status than Cathedral, so the impact of the archdiocesan decree revoking a school’s Catholic status would not have the same effect on both schools.

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis issued a statement June 24 emphasizing that every archdiocesan Catholic school and private Catholic school has been instructed to “clearly state in its contracts and ministerial job descriptions that all ministers must convey and be supportive of all teachings of the Catholic Church.”

“This issue is not about sexual orientation,” the statement said, but “about our expectation that all personnel inside a Catholic school — who are ministers of the faith — abide by all Church teachings, including the nature of marriage.”

Officials at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School, administered by the Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus, had been at odds with the Indianapolis archbishop over its teacher for two years. A statement released by the Jesuit superior in charge of the province said the archdiocese had verbally requested that the school “not renew this teacher’s contract because this teacher’s marital status does not conform to church doctrine.”

When the Jesuits decided not to comply, the archdiocese took action.

Jesuit Father Brian Paulson, who is the provincial, or superior, for the Midwest Jesuits, said in a June 20 letter explaining the rift, that he disagreed “with the necessity and prudence” of the archdiocese’s decision.

The teacher does not teach

religion, is a longtime valued employee, and “we recognize that at times some people who are associated with our mission make personal moral decisions at variance with church doctrine; we do our best to help them grow in holiness, all of us being loved sinners who desire to follow Jesus,” Father Paulson said in the letter.

That’s why Brebeuf “declined to honor the archdiocese’s expectation that the school dismiss this teacher,” the letter said.

A statement released by the archdiocese when the decree was issued said that “all those who minister in Catholic educational institutions carry out an important ministry in communicating the fullness of Catholic teaching to students both by word and action inside and outside the classroom. It is their duty and privilege to ensure that students receive instruction in Catholic doctrine and practice. To effectively bear witness to Christ, whether they teach religion or not, all ministers in their professional and private lives must convey and be supportive of Catholic Church teaching.”

The decree says that Brebeuf Jesuit “by its own selection, can no longer use the name Catholic and will no longer be identified or recognized as a Catholic institution by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis nor included in the listing of The Official Catholic Directory.”

The Midwest Jesuits, through the provincial, said they will be appealing the decree locally and, if necessary, through “hierarchical recourse to the Vatican.” Even though archdiocesan representatives may no longer choose to attend events or formal functions

at the school, “Brebeuf Jesuit still affirms its identity and mission as a Catholic Jesuit school and the Midwest Jesuits still regard it as a sponsored work,” said the letter issued by Father Paulson.

Last year, a different Catholic school in the archdiocese placed a guidance counselor on paid administrative leave after someone showed the administration a copy of her marriage license. The employee was living in a civil marriage to another woman.

A June 20 letter sent by the school’s board of trustees to the Jesuit community at Brebeuf said that following the archdiocese’s wishes would have established a “concerning” precedent that could have affected the school’s autonomy.

“To our knowledge, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis’ direct insertion into an employment matter of a school governed by a religious order is unprecedented,” the letter said. “What’s more, we also recognize the harm that adhering to this mandate would cause our highly capable and qualified teachers and staff. As an institution with a mission to develop men and women for others, our intent has been to do the right thing by the people we employ while preserving our authority as an independent, Catholic Jesuit school.”

In response to inquiries resulting from the situations occurring in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend spoke to media sources in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. In an interview with WFFT, Fox55 News, Fort Wayne, he said that enforcing Catholic principles

can be a challenge in today’s society.

“We expect our teachers or educators to be faithful to the Church’s teachings on marriage. That means marriage between one man and one woman. That’s (a) very core teaching of the Catholic faith,” Fox55 reported.

The Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese strives to ensure that it is known upfront what is expected of those who wish to serve in positions on behalf of the diocese, he said — pointing out that a person with same-sex attraction who abides by the Church’s teaching and strives to live a chaste life is not in conflict with Church teaching.

“One who lives in an illicit homosexual or heterosexual relationship would be living in contradiction to that teaching,” Bishop Rhoades stated Friday, June 28.

He added that he wants people working for the Church who believe in its mission. “My thinking is that if a teacher discerned that he or she disagrees with the Church’s teaching and decided to enter into an illicit relationship that he or she would voluntarily resign.”

“We expect our employees and our teachers to uphold and bear witness to the truths of our faith, including the sacredness of all human life, the truth about marriage according to God’s plan, and our preferential option for the poor, to name some of the fundamental social and moral teachings of the Church,” he said Friday.

Contributing to this report was Carol Zimmermann at Catholic News Service. Information was also added by Today’s Catholic.

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Unlicensed abortion facility allowed to open in South Bend

BY ANN CAREY

After a nearly two-year legal battle, an unlicensed abortion facility started booking appointments in a location in South Bend, on June 19, planning to begin offering chemical abortions the following week. However, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit in Chicago currently is considering an appeal by Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill, which, if granted, would shut down the facility.

The story began in 2017, when the Texas-based Whole Woman's Health Alliance applied for a license to open a chemical abortion facility in the city. The Indiana Department of Health denied the license in early 2018, citing deficiencies in the application and concerns the business was un reputable because some of its affiliated clinics had incurred serious violations.

The WWHa subsequently filed suit in the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of Indiana to challenge the constitutionality of the state's license requirements and other regulations of abortion services. The WWHa also asked for a preliminary injunction to suspend those laws so it could operate unlicensed until the district court rendered a decision, scheduled for 2020.

Attorney General Hill filed a motion to dismiss the suit on grounds that the Supreme Court and appellate courts have long upheld the right of states to license abortion providers. The

state also asked for the court to stay the preliminary injunction until the case was decided.

However, on May 31 of this year, the district court granted the WWHa the preliminary injunction to allow it to operate the South Bend facility without licensing or regulation. Two days later, Hill appealed to the 7th Circuit higher court. He also asked the district court for an immediate stay to prevent the unlicensed abortion facility from opening until the appeals court weighed in.

On June 7, the district court denied that stay request, so on June 9, the attorney general filed a motion at the Court of Appeals to prevent that opening, saying: "The district court has declared that something as ordinary and fundamental as state licensing — which the state does for everything from nursing homes to daycares — can be invalidated in the name of the right to abortion. This ruling turns the right to abortion into a cudgel against state licensing laws that the Supreme Court long ago declared to be perfectly valid."

The appeals court has not yet ruled on Indiana's motion to disallow opening the facility, but that ruling is expected soon.

At the heart of all the legal wrangling is the nature of the WWHa business that operates two other abortion facilities, one in Virginia and one in Texas. One of the main reasons the Department of Health denied the license was that WWHa failed to list in its application six affiliated clinics in Texas, Minnesota, Maryland and Virginia, some of which had serious health and

regulation violations.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has a strong defense of life community in South Bend, many of whom are active in the Apostolate of Divine Mercy and St. Joseph County Right to Life organizations. SJCR and the Indiana Right to Life organization have vocally and tenaciously fought the opening of the South Bend facility. A national pregnancy support center founded in South Bend, the Women's Care Center, also has acted to oppose the facility and to provide an alternate, pro-life presence in the immediate vicinity of the facility. In 2018, a zoning request that would have allowed the WCC to locate an office next door was passed by the South Bend City Council, but vetoed by Mayor Pete Buttigieg. The WCC subsequently acquired a commercial site across the street and plans to open a new care center there soon.

WWHa president and CEO Amy Hagstrom Miller claimed that the nonprofit WWHa is a separate entity from the for-profit abortion chain that she owns called Whole Woman's Health. In various media interviews, she explained that she founded the nonprofit after a legal battle against Texas abortion laws left her with debt. In one of those cases, *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, the Supreme Court ruled in 2016 that some Texas laws caused an "undue burden" on women.

Buoyed by that victory, Hagstrom Miller felt she had a precedent to challenge laws in other states she considers to be "extremely hostile" to abortion.

However, she realized that she needed outside money for her national strategy to "shift the stigma around abortion in our culture." Thus, she founded the WWHa as a nonprofit to enable donations for her efforts. Money from the TARA Health Foundation funded WWHa's Indiana license application, according to that foundation's website.

In 2017, Hagstrom Miller's nonprofit took in nearly \$1 million in donations or grants, according to the group's IRS Form 990. Her two other nonprofit abortion facilities are in Virginia and Texas, where the WWHa also has filed suit against those states' abortion regulations.

Hagstrom Miller claims that, while she owns the for-profit WWHa facilities and their management company (alternately called Whole Woman's Health or the Booyah Group), the nonprofit WWHa is not owned by her, but is controlled by a board of directors.

However, the Indiana Department of Health found that the lines between the two entities were blurred and that Hagstrom Miller has actual control of both businesses. Further, the management company she owns provides services for the nonprofit chain as well as the for-profit chain.

Indeed, the WWHa 2017 Form 990 shows that none of the nonprofit's board of directors receive any compensation and average only one hour per week directing the corporation. Further, none of the directors listed on the WWHa current website lives in Indiana, but all either have ties to the abortion industry or have advocated

for abortion rights. Some are linked to the WWHa for-profit business.

Two WWHa directors are entertainers, one of whom brought her comedy tour "Lady Parts Justice League" to South Bend last year to support opening the abortion facility here.

Many local residents have voiced strong objections to an outside group coming into the community, challenging Indiana laws and values, and expecting to operate without any state oversight whatsoever. Local physicians also have expressed concern that emergency rooms will begin to see women harmed by the strong chemicals used in abortion, and surgeons will face the onerous task of dealing with incomplete abortions that require surgery to remove the dead baby.

Attorney General Hill addressed this issue at a June 15 pro-life rally that drew over 200 people to St. John the Baptist Church, which is just a few blocks from the abortion facility. Hill noted that the state has a responsibility to license all professions — whether they are dentists, lawyers, doctors, nurses or medical facilities — to keep citizens from harm.

"How anyone can determine that having a clinic of this nature where they use chemicals to abort a child could not impose some kind of dangerous concern for a woman's health is beyond me," he said, pledging to uphold state law.

Whether the abortion facility will be allowed to remain open now depends on the appeal being considered by the 7th Circuit.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Pope announces themes for upcoming WYD celebrations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Announcing the themes for the next three local World Youth Day celebrations, Pope Francis called on young men and women to meditate on the path of Christian life that God has called them to walk. Meeting with 280 young people from 109 countries who took part in a post-synod Youth Forum in Rome June 22, the pope said he hoped the themes of the World Youth Day celebrations for the next three years will be a “harmonious coordination” between the synod process and the next international celebration of World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal, in 2022. “Do not tune out the voice of God, who urges you to arise and follow the paths that he has prepared for you,” the pope told the young adults. The Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life had asked bishops’ conferences around the world to identify two young adult leaders to participate in the forum, which was held at a retreat center just south of Rome. The themes for the next three World Youth Days, according to the Vatican, will be: 2020, “Young man, I tell you, arise!” (Lk 7,14) For 2021, “Arise! I have appointed you as a witness of what you have seen.” (Acts 26,16) and for 2022, “Mary arose and went with haste.” (Lk 1:39). The next international celebration of World Youth Day will take place in Lisbon, Portugal, in 2022.

Report details attacks on, abuses against religious freedom worldwide

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The State Department’s newly released annual report on international religious freedom shows continued attacks and abuse by governments and societies against religious minorities in their respective countries. The report, issued June 21, collected data on each nation for the year 2018. U.S. embassies “prepare the initial drafts of country chapters based on information from government officials, religious groups, nongovernmental organizations, journalists, human rights monitors, academics, media, and others,” said the report’s introduction. The State Department’s Office of International Religious Freedom collects and analyzes additional information from separate sources as well. The report includes disclaimers. “Specific inclusions or omissions should not be interpreted as a signal that a particular case is of greater or lesser importance to the U.S. government,” the report noted. “The goal is to shed light on the nature, scope, and severity of actions impacting religious freedom through illustrative examples.” A sampling of situa-

U.S. bishops join pope reacting to photos of drowned migrant father, child



CNS photo/Loren Elliott, Reuters

Mourners in Brownsville, Texas, honor the lives of Salvadoran migrant Oscar Alberto Martinez Ramirez and his 23 month-old daughter, Valeria, during a June 30 vigil. They drowned June 24 in the Rio Grande while trying to reach the United States. U.S. bishops joined Pope Francis in expressing sadness after seeing photos of their lifeless bodies. “This image cries to heaven for justice. This image silences politics. Who can look on this picture and not see the results of the failures of all of us to find a humane and just solution to the immigration crisis?” the bishops asked in a June 26 statement, issued by Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration.

tions found in the report provide example after example of troubling situations. The full report can found be online at <https://bit.ly/2FnW6MS>.

Receive Communion every time as if it were the first time, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Every time a Catholic receives Communion, it should be like his or her first Communion, Pope Francis said. Marking the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ June 23, the pope spoke about the gift of the Eucharist during his midday Angelus address at the Vatican

and at the Rome parish of Santa Maria Consolatrice, where he celebrated an evening Mass and led eucharistic Benediction after a Corpus Christi procession. The feast, he told visitors in St. Peter’s Square, is an annual occasion for Catholics “to renew our awe and joy for the stupendous gift of the Lord, which is the Eucharist.” Catholics should concentrate on receiving Communion with gratitude every time they receive it, he said, rather than approaching the altar “in a passive, mechanical way. We must get used to receiving the Eucharist and not go to Communion out of habit,” the pope said. “When the priest says to us, ‘The body of Christ,’ we say, ‘Amen.’ But let it be an ‘Amen’ that comes from the heart, with conviction.”

Vatican women’s soccer match canceled after protests

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The members of the Vatican’s women’s soccer team decided not to play their first foreign match June 22 when a couple members of the opposing team lifted their shirts to reveal slogans protesting the Catholic Church’s opposition to abortion. Vienna’s Mariahilf women’s team had invited the new Vatican team to Austria as part of the Vienna team’s 25th anniversary celebrations. But during the playing of the Vatican anthem just before the match was to begin, several members of the

Mariahilf team lifted their shirts to show protests painted on their bellies and backs. One said, “My body, my rule.” At the same time, in the stands, someone unfurled a banner reading, “Against homophobia.” Vatican News said, “The protest took by surprise the Vatican players who simply expected a celebration of sports.” Along with their coaches, it added, the women “made the difficult decision not to play the match so as to prevent the manipulation of an event they had prepared with joy.” Just over half of the team members are Vatican employees, the others are the wives or daughters of employees. Male Vatican employees have had teams and an intramural tournament for decades; the women formed their team early in the spring to play five-a-side games, but the match in Vienna was to be a regulation game with 11 players on each team.

Archbishop’s remains moved to Peoria; sainthood cause is reopened

PEORIA, Ill. (CNS) — As a small group of witnesses silently looked on, the mortal remains of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen were interred at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Peoria late in the afternoon of June 27, completing a transfer from St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York that began early that morning. Peoria Bishop Daniel R. Jenky was among those present as the casket arrived by hearse at the cathedral where Archbishop Sheen was ordained a priest nearly a century ago. The bishop blessed with holy water a container holding the casket as it was carried up the cathedral steps by nine seminarians and again after it was placed in a new tomb at a side altar dedicated to Mary under the title of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Earlier in the day, Bishop Jenky announced that the sainthood cause for the famed preacher, media pioneer, author and missionary had resumed after being suspended for five years pending the resolution of a legal dispute over the location of Archbishop Sheen’s remains. Since his death Dec. 9, 1979, at age 84, Archbishop Sheen had been interred in a basement crypt under the main altar of St. Patrick’s Cathedral. Diocese of Peoria officials are hopeful that Pope Francis will soon receive evidence of an alleged miracle attributed to Archbishop Sheen’s intercession. The Peoria diocese opened Archbishop Sheen’s cause for canonization in 2002. His heroic virtue and life of sanctity were recognized in 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI, who granted him the title “Venerable.”

Seminarian commissioned for military service

FORT WAYNE — During a ceremony June 19 at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, Joseph Knepper, a seminarian of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy. Knepper is co-sponsored by the Archdiocese for Military



JOSEPH KNEPPER

Services, so he will become a chaplain for the Navy after ordination to the priesthood. Father Jay Horning, parochial vicar at St. Vincent de Paul, is also co-sponsored and a chaplain for the United States Army: Both will serve for a time in the diocese following their ordinations, then serve for several years in the military.

Scheiber Family Endowment awards scholarships, grants

HUNTINGTON — The Huntington County Community Foundation has announced Emma Bickel, Amara Eckert and Katelynn Olinger as the 2019 recipients

of the Donald E. and Lou Rayne Scheiber Catholic Education scholarships totaling \$4,500.

Bickel will attend Marian University majoring in nursing and minoring in psychology and Spanish. She is the daughter of Kristina and Cory Bickel of Huntington.

Eckert will attend the University of Saint Francis majoring in biology and minoring in business with a career goal of being a physician assistant. She is the daughter of Heather and Matt Eckert of Andrews.

Olinger will attend Ball State

University majoring in accounting and minoring in human resource management. She is the daughter of Melanie and James Olinger of Huntington.

Also awarded were Donald E. and Lou Rayne Scheiber Charity Grants to support Huntington Catholic School and the Bishop Luers High School Luers Night.

Created in 1997, the Donald E. & Lou Rayne Scheiber Catholic Education and Charity Fund accomplishes dual purposes. First, the fund promotes educational opportunities for Huntington County students who are members of one of three local Catholic parishes: St. Joseph in Roanoke, and St. Mary and SS. Peter and Paul in Huntington. Second, the fund provides charitable grants to Catholic organizations that promote the accepted teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

Daughters of Isabella leads Passion pilgrimage



Provided by Regie Jackson

The Daughters of Isabella Circle 434 in Elkhart led a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Christ's Passion in St. John on June 8. Circle members, together with parishioners and friends of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Thomas the Apostle parishes in Elkhart, journeyed through the Shrine's Prayer Trail and reflected on the Lord's life from the Last Supper through His ascension. The participants are shown in front of a life-size, bronze sculpture of the Ascension.

Mishawaka Corpus Christi procession



Michael Ivancsics

Parishioners of St. Joseph, Mishawaka, celebrate the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ June 23 with a eucharistic procession around the campus at the end of a morning Mass. A public procession of the Eucharist is a witness of Christian's faith and devotion toward the sacrament.

Four Victory Noll sisters mark jubilees

HUNTINGTON — Four members of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters celebrate jubilees this year. A Mass to honor them was held May 24 in the Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel on the Victory Noll campus in Huntington. The jubilarians are Sister Millicent Peaslee, Sister Alodia Carney, Sister Sharon Rose Eshleman and Sister Margarita Moreno.

Sister Millicent, a native of Gary, has been a Victory Noll sister for 80 years. She entered the



SISTER MILLICENT PEASLEE

congregation on Oct. 28, 1939. Her ministry work has taken her to Michigan, Indiana, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Texas and Colorado. She has served as a catechist, a pastoral assistant and in the office of diocesan religious education. She has been coordinator of the House of Prayer and the Spiritual Renewal Center.

Sister Alodia has been a Victory Noll Sister for 70 years, entering the congregation on Oct. 27, 1949. She is a native of Detroit, but grew up in



SISTER ALODIA CARNEY

Fillmore, Iowa. She has served in Texas, Michigan, California, Iowa, Indiana and Colorado. Sister Alodia has worked as a catechist, pastor and an RCIA coordinator.

Sister Sharon Rose celebrates her 60th jubilee. From Piper City, Illinois, she entered the congregation on Sept. 5, 1959. She has been missioned in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Utah and New Mexico. She has served as a catechist, pastoral minister, director of



SISTER SHARON ROSE ESHLEMAN

religious education and most recently as librarian at Victory Noll.

Sister Margarita is celebrating her 60th year as a woman religious. A native of Parita, Panama, Sister Margarita entered religious life in her native country. She eventually was called by Archbishop Gregorio McGrath to become director of catechesis for the archdiocese, the first woman to hold a senior position within the archdiocese. She organized many major events,



SISTER MARGARITA MORENO

such as the nationwide televised Catholic Mass and the visit of Pope John Paul II to Panama in 1983. Sister Margarita joined the congregation in 1998 and served the majority of her time in the Diocese of San Bernardino. She has worked as a catechist, spiritual director, in adult formation and in prison ministry.

Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters is a religious community of women dedicated to those living in poverty or oppression in the name of Christ. Founded in 1922 by Father John Joseph Sigstein, the members of the Victory Noll community minister to those in need.

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY



Photos by Cindy Klepper

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades uses sacred chrism to anoint a new, main altar at SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Huntington June 29. The altar was consecrated during a 175th anniversary Mass.



Bishop Rhoades is surrounded by concelebrating priests who are or were connected to SS. Peter and Paul Pa

ANNIVERSARY, from page 1

Koehl; Father David Ruppert, who grew up at SS. Peter and Paul Parish; Father Steve Colchin, pastor of St. Mary Catholic Parish in Huntington; and other pastors from neighboring parishes or who have been associated with SS. Peter and Paul.

"We are joyful today because we recognize the meaning and the dignity of the altar as well as the abundant graces we receive from the sacrament that is celebrated on it, the graces of the Holy Eucharist," Bishop Rhoades said during his homily.

The Mass was celebrated on the solemnity of the church's patron saints, the Apostles Peter and Paul. They are, Bishop Rhoades said, "pillars of the Church at its beginning."

Both were martyred, he said. "Their blood was the seed for God's Church to grow and spread from Rome to the ends of the earth."

Bishop Rhoades placed relics of three saints in the new altar.

"We're privileged to be having three saints, chosen for specific reasons," Father Steinacker noted. "St. Anthony the abbot and confessor, chosen to encourage a stronger participation and strengthen all priests in helping them to be good confessors; St. George the soldier and martyr, to help each of us to be strong in our faith at all times and be will-

ing to give of ourselves completely for the faith; and St. Therese of Lisieux, virgin and doctor of the Church. Her writings are inspirational ... she has inspired countless believers to embrace a life of simplicity and complete devotion to good."

The relics, which Father Steinacker calls "my personal gifts to the church," were given to him by other priests over the years and have now been placed in the altar stone at SS. Peter and Paul.

The new altar, which replaced a small, simple one now in storage, contains elements that reflect the church's past. So, too, do the three larger altars. Originally made of stained pine, the altars were whitewashed and decorated in 24-karat gold in 1903. They were again whitewashed and regilded in 1953, when faux marble accents were added. All of the ornamentation disappeared in 1973 when the altars were painted solid white.

The new look pays tribute to the styles chosen by previous generations, with a white base, wood graining and faux marble and accents of gold and other colors. A crucifix was restored to the top of the main altar.

Renovation of the altars is part of a wider project undertaken by the parish during a yearlong celebration of its anniversary.

The current church building,

dedicated in 1865, is actually the second church occupied by the parish. The first was a small building made of logs, where the first Mass was celebrated on Aug. 15, 1843 — the official founding date of SS. Peter and Paul Parish.

"I believe this is the fourth oldest parish in our diocese," Bishop Rhoades noted during his homily.

The first few Catholics living in what would eventually become the city of Huntington worshipped when they could. A traveling priest arrived every few weeks to celebrate Mass in the home of one of the five Catholic families who had immigrated from Germany and who, along with the Native American families who had joined the Church, made up the whole of the area's Catholic community.

That changed when Miami Chief Jean Baptiste Richardville donated a piece of land so the small log church could be built.

"From the beginning, the primary purpose of the people of SS. Peter and Paul was to be welcoming to all," said Father Steinacker, the 14th priest to serve as pastor in the parish's history. The parish now counts 990 families in its membership and welcomed Father Steinacker as its pastor just two years ago.

"The Catholic community has been alive, strong, vibrant, instrumental in so many differ-

ent ways since the beginning," he said. "We are strongly seeking the input of parishioners and community members of just how SS. Peter and Paul Parish can be welcoming and active in the community for generations to come."

Education, he noted, was one of the parish's first missions — and one that continues today. The first parish school was established in 1858 and, beginning in 1868, the parish was served for 150 years by members of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, a presence that ended just last year.

In cooperation with the neighboring St. Mary Parish, SS. Peter and Paul continues to operate Huntington Catholic School, serving students in preschool through eighth grade.

"We have the longest-running school system here," Father Steinacker said. "We've educated hundreds, thousands of people."

The church's current building was constructed adjacent to the log structure in 1865 on land donated by Miami Chief Francis LaFontaine, Richardville's son-in-law and successor. The log structure was eventually dismantled, with its beams forming the framework of a private home that still stands north of Huntington.

Situated atop a hill and boasting a 185-foot-tall steeple, SS. Peter and Paul's church building

is visible throughout the city.

"The physical structure is so prominent," Father Steinacker said. "It just rises — from every point of the city, you can see this church."

The parish's reputation in the community was boosted by Father Steinacker's immediate predecessor, Father Ron Rieder, who served as SS. Peter and Paul's pastor for nearly 33 years and was extremely active in the community at large.

"Father Ron is an institution unto himself," Father Steinacker said. "Thirty-two years and eight months as a pastor; that's unheard of."

Father Rieder served as chaplain to the city's fire and police departments, a position that Father Steinacker now holds, Huntington Mayor Brooks Fetters noted during a dinner following the anniversary Mass. Fetters proclaimed June 29, 2019, as SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church Day in Huntington, and the parish also received congratulations from Congressman Jim Banks, Indiana Sen. Andy Zay, and Indiana Rep. Dan Leonard.

Dana Wannemacher offered this counsel for his fellow parishioners as they continue the mission started by their forefathers: "Rely on God. Work together. And spread the word. It's worked for 175 years."

-FIVE YEARS OF SACRAMENTS



...ish in Huntington.



Recounting the parish's 175-year history, Bishop Rhoades speaks to the faithful before consecrating a new altar installed as part of a renovation completed in honor of the anniversary.



Members of SS. Peter and Paul prepare to dress the church's main altar after it was consecrated by Bishop Rhoades.



Ralph Johnson, seated, presents the offertory bread to Bishop Rhoades during an anniversary Mass celebrated Saturday, June 29, at SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Huntington.



Indiana Sen. Andy Zay, speaking for himself and for Indiana Rep. Dan Leonard, congratulates members of SS. Peter and Paul Parish on the anniversary. Zay spoke during a dinner on Saturday, June 29, which also saw Huntington Mayor Brooks Fetters proclaim the day as SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church Day in the city of Huntington.

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ celebrate sisters' jubilee year

BY BARBARA ALLISON

Ten Sisters of The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ in Donaldson celebrate their jubilees this year. All have ministered in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. A 50-year Jubilarian, Sister Judith Diltz, PHJC provincial, is a Mishawaka native.

Sister Florence Kuhn celebrates 75 years as a Poor Handmaid. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend she taught at St. Monica School, Mishawaka, and was the assistant director of Ancilla Domini High School, Donaldson. Sister Florence also ministered in pastoral care and senior care at Catherine's Cottage in Donaldson. She retired to a ministry of prayer at the Catherine Kasper Home, Donaldson, in 2015 and enjoys watching the St. Louis Cardinals.

Sister Agnes Muehlenfeld celebrates 70 years as a Poor Handmaid. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Sister Agnes served in the ministries of dietary services, hospitality, community service and prayer at Convent Ancilla Domini, Donaldson, and Catherine Kasper Home, where she currently resides. Known for her sense of humor and her delicious baked goods, recipes she developed are still made by dining services co-workers at The Center at Donaldson.

Sister Kathleen Quinn celebrates her 70th jubilee. A nurse, health care administrator and provincial leader in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Sister Kathleen served as an administrator at St. Joseph Hospital, Fort Wayne, and as both provincial and associate provincial of the Poor Handmaids. A resident of St. Catherine Convent, East Chicago, she's currently a pastoral minister at St. Catherine Hospital, also in East Chicago.

Sister Pauline Bridegroom is celebrating 60 years as a Poor Handmaid. She has served in the ministries of education, administration, pastoral care, com-

munity service and senior care. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Sister Pauline taught at St. Monica School. She also served as librarian and chauffeur at Convent Ancilla Domini. Later, she ministered as a chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital, Fort Wayne, and at St. Joseph Hospital, Mishawaka, where she also served as director of pastoral care and vice president of Mission Integration. Also in Mishawaka, she ministered to residents in her neighborhood while residing at Joseph House. Currently, she lives at Catherine's Cottage, where she serves the PHJC community.

Sister Damian McNamara celebrates her 60th jubilee. She served in the ministries of transportation services, child care and physical therapy. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend she cared for children at St. Vincent Villa, Fort Wayne, and was a physical therapy assistant at Catherine Kasper Home. Later, she became transportation services director at Convent Ancilla Domini. Currently, she resides at Catherine's Cottage, teaching visiting sisters from Vietnam and India how to drive.

Sister Frances Jean Gallinatti celebrates 50 years as a Poor Handmaid. A medical doctor, Sister Frances Jean received her M.D. from Loyola University Medical School, Chicago. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend she served as medical director of Catherine Kasper Home. Currently, she lives at Casa de la Anunciacion in Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz, Mexico, where she is a physician. Sister Frances Jean also has ministered on many medical trips to Haiti, including after the 2010 earthquake.

Sister Joetta Huelsmann is celebrating her 50th jubilee. She served in the ministries of education, pastoral care, retreat direction,



SISTER PAULINE BRIDEGROOM

spiritual direction and in provincial leadership. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Sister Joetta taught at St. Monica School and at St. Agnes School, Mishawaka. She also served as a pastoral associate at St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne. She is a member of the PHJC provincial leadership team and teaches spiritual direction at Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center. She resides at Little House, Donaldson.

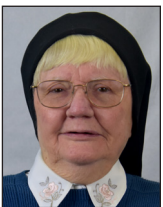
Sister Judith Diltz celebrates 50 years as a Poor Handmaid sister. She ministered in education, development and in provincial leadership. She taught at Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne; Marian High School, Mishawaka; and Ancilla College. Additionally, she served in the development office of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ and currently serves as PHJC provincial. In August, she'll move to Dernbach, Germany, after being recently elected general superior of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ congregation. She lives at Wapple House, Donaldson.

Sister Marlene Ann Lama celebrates her 50th jubilee. She served in the ministries of education, provincial leadership and senior care. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend she ministered as a PHJC provincial counselor and in senior care at Catherine's Cottage. She's also a resident of Catherine's Cottage.

Sister Pamela Tholkes is a 50-year jubilarian. She served in the ministries of nursing, home health care and senior care. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend she served as a nurse's aide at St. Joseph Hospital, Mishawaka. A resident of St. Catherine Convent, East Chicago, Sister Pam ministers as an R.N. on the medical-surgical unit at Community Hospital, Munster.

Sister Joetta Huelsmann is celebrating her 50th jubilee. She served in the ministries of education, pastoral care, retreat direction,

Barbara Allison is the director of communications for the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ congregation.



SISTER DAMIAN MCNAMARA



SISTER FRANCES JEAN GALLINATTI



SISTER JOETTA HUELSMANN



SISTER JUDITH DILTZ



SISTER MARLENE ANN LAMA



SISTER PAMELA THOLKES

Father Nkwocha is a Wabash favorite

BY BARB SIEMINSKI

It isn't often that a Catholic priest or deacon gets top billing in a community's reader's choice list, but Father Levi UC Nkwocha of St. Bernard Church in Wabash received just such an accolade last month. Father Nkwocha was voted "Best Minister" in the *Wabash Plain Dealer* newspaper, which conducted a survey of top industrial and institutional leaders through readers' feedback.

Father Nkwocha is a Nigerian priest who got his Ph.D. in theology last year from the University of Notre Dame. He was assigned to St. Bernard Parish following the passing of former pastor Father Sextus Don in 2018.

"Within three weeks of Father Levi arriving at St. Bernard's, the parish enjoyed the installation of a new sound system in the church. Father Levi is a 'mover' and a 'go-getter,'" said Ann Unger, the parish secretary.

Another successful endeavor led by Father Nkwocha, according to Unger, is that this past spring a youth group was formed at the parish.

The young people have already participated in a work day at parishioners' houses.

Ron Garlist, a parishioner of St. Bernard, also has been impressed with Father Nkwocha's initiative.

"Father Levi is dynamic and an excellent homilist," said Garlist. "He's been able to deal with negative situations on our weekly collections, (even though) he's been forced to cut the budget at the school because of the lack of funds. He came into an almost impossible situation, he's been here almost a year and he has handled everything very professionally."

"We knew nobody would be able to replace Father Don. What we wanted was for Father Levi to come in, be himself and do his job," said Garlist.

Prior to Father's Day, Garlist added: "Just to give you an idea of how he is handling this, Father Levi is hosting a get-together this Father's Day evening for all the fathers in the parish at the local Knights of Columbus and treating everyone to a drink. He's giving all the mothers flowers, (because) he didn't think the dads would appreciate flowers."

"Our youth group is going to have 20 of our students and chaperones go to Kentucky later



Provided by Ann Unger

Father Levi UC Nkwocha is the pastor of St. Bernard Parish.

this month to tour religious shrines, and we haven't had anything like that in the parish for years."

Father Nkwocha has been a priest for 18 years, but most of that time has been in an academic capacity, according to Garlist.

"One other thing that endeared him to my wife and me is the fact that my wife is an identical twin, and we spent a few days helping him get settled in," said Garlist. "He totally fell in love with the twins, and on the second day he was able to tell them apart — which most people can't do

even after several years!"

Father Nkwocha was surprised at the Plain Dealer's recognition. "It came as a surprise because I had been at St. Bernard only 10 months, and was barely known here," he said. "This might have been a result of positive impacts on the people who voted. You never know whose life is impacted by our individual lives."

At the Easter Vigil, two adults whom Father Nkwocha had evangelized were baptized, according to Unger.

"Father Levi's way of looking at and explaining Scripture is something to experience. Besides his parishioners, Catholics and non-Catholics who attend Masses, funerals and weddings at St. Bernard testify to this gift," she said. "His love for God and all creation and his dedication to his vocation is exemplary. Father Levi is simply a charismatic priest and a teacher of the Word. Wabash is blessed to have him as a new and fresh part of its community."

"Wabash is blessed to have him as a new and fresh part of its community."

ANN UNGER

Healing power of the Spirit revealed at St. Therese, Little Flower

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

St. Therese, Little Flower Parish, South Bend, hosted a healing service on Friday, June 14. Led by Father Andrew Curry, the evening consisted of praise and worship music, as well as reflections on Sacred Scripture, ultimately culminating in the healing itself.

"God's going to do amazing things tonight. People are going to be healed in different ways: mind, body and soul," said Father Curry. "It's not 'if it will happen,' or 'maybe it will happen' — God is going to do great things tonight."

At this, praise and worship music filled the church. Parishioners began to praise God and invoke the Holy Spirit, before asking His intercession for healing in their lives.

Father Curry led those gathered in reflections on Scripture passages from the Acts of the Apostles. He drew parallels between these readings, in which Paul and Barnabas healed a crippled man through the power of the Holy Spirit, and the present healing service. Demonstrating the idea that the healing service reflected the healing that occurred in the New Testament, Father Curry shared stories about miraculous healings that have taken place at similar healing services in the diocese.

About a healing service at St. Anthony de Padua Parish, South Bend, Father Curry said: "There was a guy there (who was) totally blind in his right eye. He called me and said that now he can see out of his right eye 50 percent."

Another story of miraculous healing that he shared occurred even more suddenly. Only two weeks after he hosted a healing service at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, he ran into a girl who had been in attendance at the service. She told him that after the service, at which she had prayed for healing from infertility, she discovered she was pregnant.

"I was shocked," said Father Curry. "There's lots and lots of Holy Spirit power already happening. I'm going to be here to rejoice in it."

He described a vital step in the healing process, telling participants that it's essential to remove the obstacles that are preventing "God's river" from flowing in them. To accomplish this, Father Curry asked the participants to ask God for forgiveness. Then he asked them to forgive others who have sinned against them. Step by step, he assisted the congregation in removing obstacles to receiving God's grace. Finally, the congregation renounced a number of vices aloud, which prepared them to start the healing portion of the service.

Four lines formed at the foot of the sanctuary, extending to the very last pew. Father Curry and Father Terrence Coonan Jr., as well as two lay individuals,



Photos by Joshua Schipper

Father Andrew Curry asks for the Holy Spirit's intercession during a healing service June 14 at St. Therese, Little Flower Parish, South Bend.



Father Terrence Coonan Jr. prays over a gentleman, invoking the Holy Spirit.

began to pray over those gathered. One by one, parishioners stepped forward to be prayed over.

After asking each individual, whether their infirmity was spiritual, mental or physical, the healer asked for the Holy Spirit's intercession on behalf of the person's intentions. The length and content of these prayers is different from a typical blessing, being in-depth intercessory prayer to the Holy Spirit. During these prayers, a number of individuals were overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit.

Mark Tilmer was among them. After feeling that he had experienced the power of the Holy Spirit, Tilmer fell unconscious. After waking he stood up, smiled and returned to his seat. When asked what it felt like experiencing the Holy Spirit in such an extraordinary way, the only words he could muster about the experience were, "very peaceful."

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A Year in the Eternal City

It's hard to believe, but almost a year has passed since I last saw my beautiful homeland (the United States) and came to Europe. A lot has changed in that brief year, and I found myself reflecting on a particular aspect of life that I had a vague idea of before, but now see pretty clearly. To put it simply, a year of integrating myself into a different culture is good preparation for thinking about life as a Christian.

Sounds a little weird, or not really connected: but hear me out.

Ask anyone who has had to spend any considerable time away from home, and I'm sure they will tell you that there was some sort of culture shock that was part of their experience. Even when people go on short trips abroad, they pick up on the ways in which the different culture functions, or at least draws them out of their comfort zone and their "normal."

In Italy, for example, there are hundreds of ways this American has been challenged to see the world from a different perspective. Sometimes I've just had to learn to enjoy something that isn't done the way I would think it should be done. From not being able to have a cappuccino after noon, to riding a bike in high traffic in Rome, to learning the way idiomatic expressions are made in Italian and not having AC except in the occasional store or shop, there are many experiences a different culture can offer to help you see the world just a little differently.

Why am I talking about this?

This whole experience got me thinking that the same is true for our life as Christians. Part of being baptized in Christ means that we are made new, something completely different. We no longer can live for ourselves, but, as Paul says, it is Christ who lives in us. This means that we need to immerse ourselves into the culture that is the mystical body of Christ. It means that the way we see the world should change, the way we talk should change, and what we find acceptable and are willing to do for others should change.

One thing that stands out in particular is the issue of language. We need to learn the native language of the body of Christ. By learning a new language, we not only learn a new way to say the same words we already use, but more so: We learn a new way of seeing life, a new way of seeing how to express an idea or how to name an object.

By way of example, in Italian you do not say "I spent time." Time is not a commodity that is spent. Rather, you would say that you "passed" time. The idea here is a little different. It's these subtle ways that things are different that really draw us out of ourselves to see a different way of seeing the same things.

To really enter into the body of Christ and live there like a native, we need to learn the language. Not only that, we need to learn how the natives live. How do we do this? Prayer, community, service, etc. Above all, it's in the liturgy that we best learn the language, the culture and



A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

MARK HELLINGER

the worldview that is native to the body of Christ. Scripture also teaches us as well. Community with fellow citizens of the city of God also helps draw us toward a better living and understanding.

We are, of course, free to not enter into the culture of the body of Christ — just like there are plenty of tourists in cities all over the world who resist the shocking change of foreign cultures. You can, of course, survive for short trips that way, but if you really want to make a place feel like home, you have to be willing to change and be changed.

God desires us to make His home our home. He is already chasing after us, and He desires that we conform our lives to the new culture of our heavenly calling. Let's not be tourists in the city of God, but let's make our home there. When we do that, and when we are changed by the culture of true, self-giving love that sums up the whole place, then we will be ready to draw others there, too.

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

How to accept criticism: a spiritual exercise

More than 19 million people tuned in to watch the final episode of "Game of Thrones" May 19, making it the most viewed show to ever air on HBO.

Yet many were dissatisfied with what they saw, hurling gripe after grouse online. The finale didn't fit the ethos of the show, they insisted. It was overly sentimental. It tarnished the show's legacy. More than 1 million people signed an online petition to remake the show's final season.

Several "Game of Thrones" actors took umbrage, including Sophie Turner, who called the criticism "disrespectful" and defended the show's writers and filmmakers.

Whether the many critiques are fair remains subject to debate, but one fact gives me pause: The petition was drafted before the show's finale aired, meaning a million people lobbied for a remade season before seeing how it would resolve.

We live in an unfortunate era for online criticism. Critics fling insults they would never dare utter face to face. Defendants — typically privileged public figures — bristle with self-righteousness, dubbing their critics "haters," earning praise for "clapping back" in their own defense.

I wonder if we're growing too defensive. When we clap back so fiercely, do we take the time to consider the criticism? Are we cooling down enough to find the teaching moment in the hot



TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

exchange? Or are we digging our heels in and sticking our fingers in our ears?

A media executive once offered a handy guide on when to take criticism to heart. Ask yourself two questions about your critic, she said: Can you trust that this person is acting in good faith and not on some ulterior motive? Does this person have some knowledge of this particular situation that I do not? If the answers are yes, then heed their words. If the answers are no, make like Taylor Swift and shake it off.

Lately I've been struggling to determine when to be gentle with myself and when to push myself to a higher standard. In my sleep-deprived days with an infant, it's easy to justify the former. But there are moments I look at my choices and I know I can do better. More green smoothies, earlier bedtimes. Less binge TV, fewer donuts. I know it's all connected: sleep, sugar, the limits of my patience, the frequency of my prayer.

I used to cling to St. Francis

CAPECCHI, page 13

The Lord gives us the strength to be truly free



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

The first reading is from the third section of Isaiah. The three sections of this book, so favored over the years by pious Jews as well as devout Christians, saw a great sweep of Hebrew history, from before the Babylonian conquest, through the exile of many Jews to Babylon, the imperial capital, and finally to the Jews' return to their ancestral home.

This return was bittersweet. Poverty and despair stalked the land. Cynicism, at best, must have been everywhere. Where was God in all this?

The prophet majestically and relentlessly reassured the people that if they are faithful, God will sustain them. It was a great summons to faith, but the prophet reminded the people of God's mercy and favor so well demonstrated at other times.

The Epistle to the Galatians provides the next reading. It proclaims Jesus to be the Lord and Savior. Paul insists that he himself is no bearer of salvation. Jesus, the Christ, is the Savior. The Lord is our only hope. Here, "Christ" is not a name, but a title. It means the select of God, chosen to be the Redeemer.

St. Luke's Gospel supplies the last reading. Already Jesus is making plans to announce the Good News far and wide. The crucifixion and resurrection have not yet occurred at this point in the Gospel, but the Lord is calling all people to be reconciled with God and to find God's peace and hope. Jesus sends 72 disciples, in pairs, to distant places to convey this call. All people are in God's love.

Jesus instructs these disciples to carry no provisions. God will

provide for them. They must focus their intentions upon their mission of representing Jesus, not upon their earthly needs.

It is not an order to these disciples that they be foolhardy, or that they dismiss the realities of life on earth. Rather, it makes clear that their primary mission is spiritual, of and for God. No secondary consideration should distract the disciples.

The Lord warns that many people will not accept these delegates from God. People are blind and attached to sin. Those who reject God cannot be coerced to do otherwise. This is their freedom, but, nevertheless, those who turn away from God and spurn God's redemption bring doom upon themselves; not as divine revenge, but as simple consequence of their choice to reject God.

Reflection

This week, the country commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776. This document has come to

represent the basic political philosophy of the United States: that freedom is essential for, and integral to, every person. This does not mean, however, that freedom creates the license to do anything. Laws protect rights as well as liberties, and they set responsibilities.

All this fully is within the historic Catholic concept of human nature and of the dignity of each person. No philosophy or policy in vogue today excels the Catholic belief in the worth, and potential, of each person.

Respecting others, and realizing personal potential in the moral sense, can be a chore. Original sin has made us all nearsighted and insecure. It leads us to abuse our freedom and to forfeit our dignity by sinning. It renders us limited, self-centered and afraid, in spiritual matters as well as in other considerations.

Yet, God has not abandoned us to our plight. Seeing us in our needs and our failures, God gave us Jesus, so wonderfully extolled by Paul.

We need God. We find God

in Jesus. Redemption in Christ means our restoration from the effects of original sin. If we earnestly accept the Lord, Jesus gives us the perception and the strength to be truly free, to escape the captivity and the consequences of sin.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 66:10-14c Ps 66:1-7, 16, 20 Gal 6:14-18 Lk 10:1-12, 17-20

Monday: Gn 28:10-22a Ps 91:1-4, 14-15ab Mt 9:18-26

Tuesday: Gn 32:23-33 Ps 17:1b-3, 6-7, 8b, 15 Mt 9:32-38

Wednesday: Gn 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a Ps 33:2-3, 10-11, 18-19 Mt 10:1-7

Thursday: Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5 Ps 105: 16-21 Mt 10:7-15

Friday: Gn 46:1-7, 28-30 Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40 Mt 10:16-23

Saturday: Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26a Ps 105:1-4, 6-7 Mt 10:24-33

'God wants me to be happy'

A reflection on a deeply flawed moral stance

One of the questionable, and unfortunately common, forms of moral reasoning today is the rather narcissistic notion that God wants each of us to be happy. Sometimes it is put in the form of a rhetorical question: God wants me to be happy, doesn't He?

This sort of reasoning (if you want to call it that) is used to justify just about anything. Thus, in pondering divorce, a spouse might point to his or her misery and conclude that God would approve of the split because God wants me to be happy, doesn't He? Many seek to justify so-called same-sex marriage, and other illicit sexual notions in the same way.

Further, other responsibilities are often blithely set aside as too demanding, under the pretext that God would not make difficult demands because, after all, He wants me to be happy. Since getting to Mass is difficult for me, God will understand if I don't go; He wants me to be happy, not burdened. Forgiving someone is hard and God does not ask hard things of us; He wants me to be happy. Refusing to cooperate with some evil at work would risk my income; surely God would not demand that I withstand it since He wants me to be happy, content and financially secure.

The notion that God wants me to be happy thus becomes a kind of trump card, some sort of definitive declaration that obviates the need for any further moral reflection. Practically speaking, this means that I am now free to do as I please. Since I am happy, God is happy, and this is His will ... or so the thinking goes.

There are, of course, multiple problems with the "God wants me to be happy" moral stance. In the first place, happiness is a complex matter that admits of many subjective criteria including personal development, temporal dimensions and worldview. For example, a spiritually mature person can find happiness simply in knowing that he is pleasing God by following His commandments. On an interpersonal level, many are happy to make sacri-

fices for the people they love. To others who are less mature, even the smallest sacrifice can seem obnoxious and bring on unhappiness; pleasing God is not even on their radar, let alone something that would make them happy.

Happiness is also temporally variable. Most of us are well aware that happiness tomorrow is often contingent upon making certain sacrifices today. For example, the happiness one gets in taking a vacation is usually dependent upon having saved up some money beforehand. Making sacrifices today enables happiness tomorrow. If all I do is please myself in the moment, insist on being happy right now, my ability to be happy in the future will likely be seriously compromised. Setting no limits today might mean that I am broke tomorrow, or addicted, or unhealthily overweight or afflicted with a sexually transmitted disease. True, lasting, deep happiness in the future often requires some sacrifice today, some capacity to say no right now. Without any consideration of the future or of eternal life, "happiness" in the moment is vague, foolish and meaningless, if not outright destructive. God desires our happiness all right, but the happiness He wants for us is that of eternal life with Him forever. He has clearly indicated that this will often involve forsaking many of the passing pleasures and the "happiness" of this world.

More troubling still is the self-referential and narcissistic aspect contained in the simple little word "me." God wants me to be happy.

Those who express this "me" notion might be surprised to discover that God has bigger things in mind. God actually cares about other people, too! He also cares about future generations and about the common good. Yes, there's just a little more on God's radar than you.

So the divorced man who might say, "God wants me to be happy," should consider that God might actually care about his children too; He might care about the culture that suffers



COMMUNITY IN MISSION

MSGR. CHARLES POPE

due to rampant divorce; He might care about future generations who would inherit a culture shredded by destroyed families.

Wow, God might actually want others to be happy besides me! Even more shockingly, God might want me to sacrifice my happiness for them! He might actually want me to consider them and even regard them as more important than I am.

As a moral reference point, "me" is remarkably narrow and usually self-serving. And yet many today use this almost reflexively and authoritatively. "God wants me to be happy, so all discussions and further deliberations are over. God has spoken through my desires. He wants me to be happy. Who are you to dispute that? We're done here; I will not be judged by you."

"God wants me to be happy" is not a legitimate moral principle. It bespeaks a narcissism that is, sadly, too common today. Call it "Stuart Smalley theology." You don't know who Stuart Smalley is? Watch the YouTube video, "Al Franken in 'Stuart Saves His Family,'" which shows it plainly enough. The bottom line is, don't be Stuart Smalley.

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

CAPECCHI, from page 12

de Sales' quote: "Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself." It is so tender, so loving.

But I'd been missing his subsequent statement, meant to be taken as a whole, to moderate the first part: "Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections but instantly set about remedying them. Every day begin the task anew."

This is a high bar: address a shortcoming "instantly."

St. Francis' charge is twofold, pointing us to a middle

ground: to both be patient with yourself and to consider your imperfections.

Catholic spirituality equips us with the tools for an examination of conscience and asks us to do so bravely, honestly, daily. This may be harder to do than ever before, in this time when social media makes our personal lives feel public, and we sink in the quicksand of fearing others' judgment while too readily casting judgments of our own.

It may be harder to do than ever before but also more

important. We must learn to cast aside unfounded criticism while accepting difficult feedback from trusted sources: a sibling or spouse, a spiritual director, a confessor. And then, with courage and humility, we can "set about remedying" and find a path toward progress. Again and again, sunrise, sunset — we can begin anew.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for July 7, 2019

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: the journey of the seventy-two disciples. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

THE LORD	PAIRS	HARVEST
LABORERS	LAMBS	WOLVES
GREAT	NO ONE	HOUSE
PEACE	DESERVES	DUST
CLINGS	SODOM	DEMONS
LIGHTNING	TREAD	SCORPIONS
SPIRITS	NAMES	WRITTEN

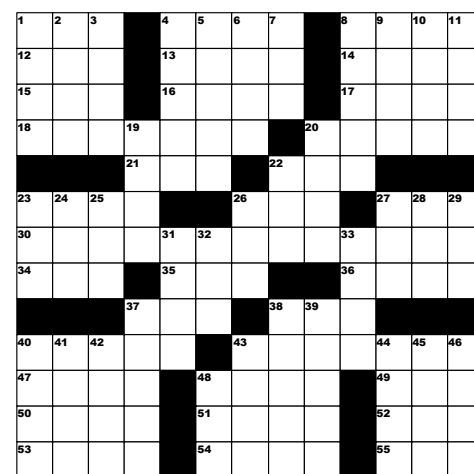
DISCIPLE POWER

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

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The Cross Word

July 7 and 14, 2019



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Readings: Is 66:10-14; Gal 6:14-18; Lk 10: 1-12, 17-20 and Dt 30: 10-14; Lk 10:25-37

ACROSS

- 1 Use up
- 4 Russian ruler
- 8 Covers a wound
- 12 French "yes"
- 13 Fury
- 14 Car
- 15 Remains holder
- 16 On top
- 17 Flatten
- 18 From Latvia
- 20 Will bring full force
- 21 No room here
- 22 Pacific Standard Time
- 23 Swiss mountains
- 26 Breach

- 27 College football conference (abbr.)
- 30 Equipment
- 34 Ram's mate
- 35 Nickname for Henry
- 36 Jesus
- 37 Bro.'s sibling
- 38 Her
- 40 Binary star
- 43 Speaks to Isaiah (2 wds)
- 47 Alcoholic beverage
- 48 Opera solo
- 49 "Dolorosa"
- 50 Capital of Norway
- 51 Look at

- 52 Easter month
- 53 Plant trunk
- 54 Scholar wanted to do to Jesus
- 55 Permit

DOWN

- 1 With all heart & _____
- 2 Halo
- 3 Weighs a pound
- 4 Engine pulls
- 5 Fell like lightning
- 6 Ancient Greek for "struggle"
- 7 Representative
- 8 Holy person
- 9 Disciples did for sick
- 10 Basic unit of chemical
- 11 Gaunt
- 19 Permit to enter a foreign country
- 20 Sports channel
- 22 Golfer's goal
- 23 Gorilla
- 24 God's statutes
- 25 Before (prefix)
- 26 Harden
- 27 Wing
- 28 Lie
- 29 Coral reef
- 31 Philippians abbrev.
- 32 Owns
- 33 Cain's brother
- 37 Gomorrah's partner
- 38 Moves in fright
- 39 Yours shall rejoice
- 40 Sycamore prophet
- 41 To avoid risk
- 42 Wind
- 43 Another name for The Cross
- 44 Type of Office
- 45 Ready to harvest
- 46 Run quickly
- 48 Appropriate

Answer Key can be found on page 15

Burger King foundation and Quality Dining award student scholarships

MISHAWAKA — Together with the Burger King McLamore Foundation, Quality Dining Inc. announced in June that it awarded \$215,000 in 2019 academic scholarships program to nearly 200 high school seniors and college students who are also Burger King employees.

The South Bend-area scholarship recipients are:

- Jennifer Martinez, NorthWood High School — \$5,000
- Michael Bernicky, Riley High School — \$1,000
- Cassandra Bokon, LaVille Jr.-Sr. High School — \$1,000
- Amber Bost, Northridge High School — \$1,000
- Charlynn Brevard, Ivy Tech Community College — \$1,000
- Aashish Hari Krishnan, Saint Joseph High School — \$1,000

- Abigail Houser, John Glenn High School — \$1,000
- Karen Hunckler, Marian High School — \$1,000
- Mariah Lee, Penn High School — \$1,000
- Tori Jones, Holy Cross College — \$1,000
- Allison Milewski, Lake Michigan College — \$1,000
- Reegan Miller, NorthWood High School — \$1,000
- Jessica Preciado, Riley High School — \$1,000
- Kaitlyn Reese, Fairfield Jr.-Sr. High School — \$1,000
- Lesley Tayagua Lua, Wawasee High School — \$1,000

The North Central-area recipients are:

- Grace Allmon, Plymouth High School — \$1,000
- Taylor Brown, Knox Community High School — \$1,000
- Miriam Hagg, Warsaw



- Community High School — \$1,000
- Dylan Materna, Indiana University Kokomo — \$1,000
- Justin Olds, Winamac Community High School — \$1,000
- Celia Robinson, Plymouth High School — \$1,000
- Andrew VanAsdall, Knox Community High School — \$1,000
- Samantha Zechiel, Plymouth High School — \$1,000



- The Fort Wayne-area recipients are:**
- Nayeli Pozuelos, Wayne High School — \$5,000
 - Kraig Blackburn, Belmont Senior High School — \$1,000
 - Kaija Bledsoe, Angola High School — \$1,000
 - Isaac Coats, West Noble High School — \$1,000
 - Jonah Getty, Bishop Dwenger High School — \$1,000
 - Isabella Kryder, Huntington North High School — \$1,000
 - Alyssa Nolan, Northrop High School — \$1,000
 - Olivia Rosen, Huntington North High School — \$1,000
 - Min Thant, North Side High School — \$1,000

Jacqueline Williams, Homestead Senior High — \$1,000

“We view scholarships as our way of investing in the future of our community and helping students reach their full potential.” said John Firth, president of Quality Dining, Inc. — a local Burger King franchisee who supports the Burger King Scholars program each year. “This is about dedication in the classroom and in their community.”

In total, Quality Dining has awarded nearly \$3.1 million in scholarships over the past decade to thousands of deserving students. Scholars are selected by a third party, based on their grade point average, community service and leadership experience. Quality Dining raises the scholarship money by selling Burger King coupons in exchange for a donation.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd formation
SOUTH BEND — Christ the King Church, 52473 S.R. 993 N. will host a Level I formation course in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd beginning in July, led by Rachael Myers and Joanie Rymsza. For information, contact Elizabeth Tomasek at ecstomasek@gmail.com or 773-208-6455.

National Catholic Partnership on Disability to host regional meeting
PLYMOUTH — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will host the National Catholic Partnership on Disability regional meeting July 15-16 at Lindenwood Retreat Center. Join other diocesan directors who are dedicated to promoting awareness, acceptance and inclusion for adults and

children with disabilities. Contact Allison Sturm at 260-399-1452 or asturm@diocesefwsb.org.

Theology on Tap summer series
GRANGER — A Catholic speaker series for young adults in their 20s & 30s, single and married, to share in food, fellowship and faith will be Tuesday evenings at Villa Macri, 225 Toscana Blvd. with the theme: "Extraordinary Everyday Purpose." Topics and speakers will be: July 16 – Relationships in a Hookup Culture – Timothy O'Malley; July 23 – Human Purpose Without Exception – Serena Dyksen and Melanie Garcia; July 30 – The Meaning of Work – Mike Seelinger; Aug 6 – Superheroes and Heroic Virtue – Father Paul

Ybarra, CSC; Aug 13 – Mass and cookout at St. Pius X Church. Visit www.diocesefwsb.org/tot.

The Crossword

July 7 and 14, 2019

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

REST IN PEACE

- | | | |
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| Decatur
Melvin E. McBarnes, 90, St. Mary of the Assumption | Granger
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| Fort Wayne
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Lucille McMahon, 85, St. Anthony de Padua |
| Larry Perkins, 74, St. Charles Borromeo | Huntington
Sister Patricia Knapp, OLVM, 99, Noll Memorial Chapel | Norbert J. Dolniak, 78, St. Anthony de Padua |
| Neal Lothamer, 55, St. Charles Borromeo | Mishawaka
Daniel Lattimer, 73, St. Joseph | Hal Finch, 87, Holy Cross |
| Georgia Karst, 90, St. Vincent de Paul | Phyllis Walenga, 85, St. Joseph | Richard Lamanna, 86, Holy Cross |
| Rosann Schall, 62, Our Lady of Good Hope | New Haven
Madeline A. Jacquay, 76, St. John the Baptist | Warsaw
Mary Ann Secrest, 60, Sacred Heart |

July 7 TV Mass time change: Due to live coverage of the FIFA Women's World Cup, the Sunday, July 7, Fort Wayne-area televised Mass will air at 5:30 p.m. rather than 10:30 a.m. on WFFT Fox55.




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Pilgrims continue to nurture fruits of World Youth Day

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Warsaw, hosted a reunion June 26 for pilgrims who attended World Youth Day in Panama in January. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who traveled with them last winter, celebrated Mass in both English and Spanish, the official language of Panama.

"I hope that your experience in Panama has borne much great fruit, in your lives as disciples of Jesus," he said in his homily. "Jesus said, near the end of the Sermon on the Mount in today's Gospel, 'By their fruits you will know them.'"

"I think we can also apply this criterion of good fruits to our own lives as disciples and to our prayer lives," he continued. "We only know whether or not we are progressing in the Christian life and growing in holiness if we are growing in the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. When we see these fruits in our lives, we know that we are following the Spirit, and that our soul is living in God's grace," he said. "Our soul becomes a good tree, which is known by its fruits."

He told the pilgrims how to discern whether their prayer was genuine and authentic.

"St. Teresa of Avila explained that we cannot judge the quality of our prayer by our feelings. Sometimes when we pray we can be pretty dry, and we do not feel much consolation. Other times, we can feel very much consolation. But we shouldn't judge the quality of our prayer by these feelings. The real task is the fruit of our prayer. Are we growing in the virtues? Do we see the fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives? If the answer is 'yes,' then our prayer is genuine, that is, the



Photos by Joshua Schipper

World Youth Day pilgrims gathered for a reunion at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Warsaw, June 26.

Holy Spirit is at work in us."

Bishop Rhoades concluded by saying, "May the Holy Spirit guide and inspire us, that we may grow in discipleship! And may the most beautiful tree in the garden of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, intercede for us!"

Following Mass, the pilgrims gathered in the parish basement to share memories of their experience in Panama and what fruits it has produced in their lives.

"One of the biggest things that World Youth Day did for me is affirm my decision to minor in global perspectives in college," shared pilgrim Dane Litchfield,

who led part of the Stations of the Cross at World Youth Day — a role that placed him only a few feet from the Holy Father.

"It was crazy looking out on all of World Youth Day," he said. "After he [Pope Francis] left the stage, all the lectors from all these Latin American countries and the U.S. were there. We joined shoulders and we just rocked back and forth to the music. We stood in solidarity



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades talks June 26 about the fruits of the Holy Spirit during Mass at a reunion of pilgrims who attended World Youth Day, Panama, in January.

with Christ, looking out upon the universal Church — this physical community of saints. That really stuck with me."

Father Matthew Coonan, who also accompanied the group



A pilgrim shares her experience at World Youth Day.

to Panama, gave an emotional account of his spiritual journey since returning from the pilgrimage.

"Firstly, remember that God loves you," he said. "Think of how much we long just to be together, and with those who we are close to that we love." He continued by speaking about the pilgrims' first stateside reunion at Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, in February. "When I finally went to Dwenger, that was huge for me — my heart was exploding within me," he recalled. "If we have this love for each other, how much more does God love us? I've been so overcome in these last five months, just pondering how much the Blessed Virgin Mary, how much the saints, love us, intercede for us, long to receive us in heaven. That's our call; to be together; to

be in communion. That's what we were created for."

When pilgrims finished sharing, diocesan Director of Youth Ministry John Pratt revealed the theme for World Youth Day 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal: "Mary arose and went with haste." Pratt also noted that there would be two more diocesan youth conferences in the years leading up to 2022. The themes for these local pilgrimages will be "Young man, I say to you, arise" and "Stand up. I appoint you as a witness of what you have seen," respectively.

As the pilgrims said goodbye, they wished each other well in growing the fruits planted in Panama.



Pilgrim Dane Litchfield explains how World Youth Day affirmed his college plans.



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