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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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50¢

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org



John Martin

Pro-life leaders urged to persevere, continue to teach truth 'with love'

BY JESSICA ABLE

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (CNS) — Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, told diocesan pro-life leaders gathered in Louisville Aug. 5-7 that they are part of the "most important human rights effort of our time and our age."

Eighty-five directors of pro-life ministry from 63 dioceses around the country gathered for the Diocesan Pro-Life Leadership Conference, sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The theme of the conference was "Christ, Our Hope."

Archbishop Naumann, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on

Pro-Life Activities, delivered the conference's opening keynote address Aug. 5.

In the talk — titled "Life Will Be Victorious," which also is his episcopal motto — he thanked the diocesan pro-life leaders for helping their bishops and dioceses "build a culture of life in this particular moment in time when the Church is wounded by

the clerical sexual abuse scandal; at a time of pro-life promise with the current composition of the U.S. Supreme Court; and a time when supporters of legalized abortion are incredibly motivated and energized."

"This is a moment of great opportunity as well as a moment

PRO-LIFE, page 20

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Pew survey shows majority of Catholics don't believe in 'Real Presence'



CNS/Gregory A. Shemitz

An extraordinary minister of holy Communion in Brooklyn, N.Y., distributes the Eucharist during Mass in this 2008 file photo. A new Pew study about the level of Catholic belief in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist showed that a majority of Catholics do not believe that the bread and wine used at Mass become the body and blood of Christ.

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new study about the level of Catholic belief in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist showed that a majority of Catholics do not believe that the bread and wine used at Mass become the body and blood of Christ.

The report drew a strong rebuke from Auxiliary Bishop Robert E. Barron of Los Angeles, who posted Aug. 6 on Twitter: "It's hard to describe how angry I feel after reading what the latest @pewresearch study reveals about understanding of the Eucharist among Catholics. This should be a wake-up call to all of us in the Church."

In a video that accompanied the post, Bishop Barron's anger is not directed at Pew, but inward. "I'm blaming myself, bishops, priests and anybody" responsible for transmitting the faith, he said. "We're all guilty."

He added, "It's been a massive failure of the Church carry-

ing on its own tradition."

The Pew study, issued Aug. 5, showed that 69% of all self-identified Catholics said they believed the bread and wine used at Mass are not Jesus, but instead "symbols of the body and blood of Jesus Christ." The other 31% believed in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, known as transubstantiation.

"Most Catholics who believe that the bread and wine are symbolic do not know that the Church holds that transubstantiation occurs," said Gregory A. Smith, associate director of research at Pew Research Center in Washington. "Overall, 43% of Catholics believe that the bread and wine are symbolic and also that this reflects the position of the Church.

"Still, one in five Catholics — 22% — reject the idea of transubstantiation, even though they know about the Church's teaching," Smith said.

The numbers who believe in transubstantiation are higher among Catholics who go to

Mass at least once a week, but are hardly overwhelming. About five of every eight churchgoing Catholics believe in the Church's teaching of transubstantiation.

Split among the 37% who don't believe that the Communion bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Christ are 23% who don't know what the Church's teaching is, and 14% who know the Church's teaching but don't believe it, Smith said.

According to Pew's figures, a majority in all age groups believe the bread and wine used at Mass to be symbolic, and the majority grows larger as the age group grows younger. Catholics with a high school education or less are less likely to believe in transubstantiation, Hispanic Catholics believe in it less than whites, and women believe in it less than men.

Bishop Barron sounded astounded by the findings. "Any Catholic worth his or her salt knows this is a central teaching," he said in the video. "It's a basic

tenet of Catholicism."

He said some are bound to react, "Oh, well, who cares? As long as they're committed to the poor, or committed to social justice. Isn't that important?" But Bishop Barron called that "a reduction of religion to morality, which is repugnant to Catholicism."

He cited a list of saints and holy people — among them Dorothy Day, St. Katharine Drexel, Jacques Maritain and St. Vincent de Paul — whom he said had "a profound understanding and love for the Eucharist, and said if someone asked them, 'Isn't the Eucharist a nice symbol of Jesus?'," "you'd have open rebellion."

"You take away the central teachings of our Church at the doctrinal level, and trust me, you will take away our commitment to the poor," Bishop Barron said. "It belongs together as a whole."

Editor's Note: The full Pew study can be found online at <https://pewrsr.ch/31sP7em>.

After shootings, faith leaders ask end to hate speech, urge gun control

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The bells at the Cathedral Guadalupe in the Diocese of Dallas rang 31 times the night of Aug. 7 for those killed in the mass shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, as hundreds of people gathered inside the cathedral to pray for the victims, survivors and their families.

Dallas Bishop Edward J. Burns was the main celebrant of the evening bilingual Mass. "These tragic shootings have caused great pain and sadness not only in the communities in which they occurred, but also for people of goodwill around the country," Bishop Burns said in announcing the special Mass.

Special liturgies, prayer services and other memorials have taken place at houses of worship across the country since the Aug. 3 and 4 shootings in Texas and Ohio that left 31 dead and dozens more injured.

In addition to statements from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, El Paso Bishop Mark J. Seitz and Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr issued immediately after the shootings, reaction to the tragedies have poured forth from other faith leaders across the country.

Many of these statements express sorrow and ask prayers for the victims and their families, decry the rise of "racism and white nationalism" and call for "commonsense gun control."

Statements

General Council of the Adrian

Dominican Sisters in Adrian, Michigan: "We weep with and pray for the families of the latest victims of murderous rampages in our country — this time in El Paso and Dayton. We cry out in anguish at the 'normalization' of gun violence that claims the lives of hundreds of victims each year and at the racial hatred and white nationalism that is fueling horrific acts of domestic terrorism. This 'new normal' is not normal. It goes against the grain of every value of decency and goodness we claim as nation and strive for as people of faith, as brothers and sisters created in the image and likeness of our one God. We insist on commonsense gun control. There is no place in our streets, our schools, our homes for AK-47 assault rifles; gun owners, like vehicle owners, should be licensed; gun safety measures should be implemented and regulated. We insist on concrete measures to expunge the scourge of white nationalism that poses such a real and present threat to our brothers and sisters of color and is so toxic to our nation, assaulting the very fabric of our union."



CNS photo/Bryan Woolston, Reuters

A man walks past a memorial Aug. 7 for those killed in a mass shooting in Dayton, Ohio, four days earlier. Three U.S. bishops' committee chairmen issued a statement Aug. 8 to call on the nation's elected officials "to exert leadership in seeking to heal the wounds" of the country.

Sisters of Providence and Sisters of St. Dominic of Tacoma, Wash: "Today we raise our voices together as religious congregations of Catholic women to say enough is enough. Our congregations are called to lift up people who are poor and vulnerable, advocate for the marginalized and rejected, and care for the victims and the voiceless. We serve our neighbors in need through social justice ministries and compassionate presence. The recent mass shootings and rampant rage and division that has overpowered the nation represents a most egregious injustice — the disrespect of and failure to protect our most precious gift of life — and demands changes to our national gun policy and our national culture. ... Let us call on our Provident God to move each one of us to action so we can help put an end to this senseless violence. Everyone is a child of God, equal in the eyes of God, and should be equal in our eyes as well. The path to peace begins here."

Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley: "Our nation was founded on the principle that all people are entitled to 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.' We implore our elected leaders to rise above ideological differences and work together to address the serious issues facing our country by enacting meaningful and effective policies to end the violence. This includes keeping firearms, particularly assault weapons, out of the hands of those who would use them to inflict devastating harm on our communities. We must address inadequate mental health care in this country. Finally, we must work towards a more civil and just society that rejects all forms of violence and

hatred in our country. The fabric of our national conscience is at risk."

Metropolitan Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia: "The shock of the wanton violence and massacres calls us to conversion. The gun culture, violence on screens and personal morality, in general, in our country — all need conversion. The complex factors which stand behind the hate, racism, rejection of immigrants, the compulsions and addictions, the mental illness and escalating aggression do not have one common social denominator — other than a spiritual and moral one — the rejection of God, a lack of love for neighbor. The free-for-all in our popular culture, the use of guns as toys or instruments of revenge, the lack of respect for the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death is all in a continuum. So is the vulgar political discourse. I am afraid it will get worse before it gets better. Unless we have a change of heart. Unless we address the root causes. Unfortunately, many political and social leaders are taking us in the wrong direction. Pray, be humble and do the right thing always and everywhere. That is the best we can do, that is the example of our Lord in the face of injustice and violence."

Leadership Conference of Women Religious: "What we are witnessing today is being called stochastic terrorism — the use of mass public communication, usually against a particular individual or group, which incites or inspires acts of terrorism which are statistically probable but happen seemingly at random. The



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, August 18: 12 p.m. — Mass and Blessing of Addition to Parish Education Center, St. Pius X Church, Granger
 Tuesday, August 20: 8:15 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, St. Jude School, Fort Wayne
 Thursday, August 22: 9:45 a.m. — All School Mass and Blessing of New Football Stadium, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne
 Saturday, August 24: 10:30 a.m. — Mass for Annual Diaconate Picnic, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw
 Sunday, August 25: 10:30 a.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Michael the Archangel Church, Waterloo
 Monday, August 26: 10 a.m. — Meeting of the Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, Fort Wayne
 Wednesday, August 28: 11 a.m. — University of Saint Francis Opening Convocation and Mass, Hutzell Athletic Center, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne
 Wednesday, August 28: 6 p.m. — Annual Bishops' Appeal Dinner, Parkview Mirro Center, Fort Wayne
 Thursday, August 29: 10:30 a.m. — Presbyterate Meeting, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw
 Friday, August 30: 10:30 a.m. — Meeting of Hispanic Apostolate, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw

demonization of groups through mass media has been shown to result in violent acts because some who hear this speech interpret it as promoting targeted violence. We insist that society be protected from such acts of terrorism. We are called to confront rhetoric that stokes racism and hatred of anyone perceived to be 'different' than we are. We are all responsible for monitoring our own language and actions and calling attention when the language and actions of others cross the line. We implore all legislative bodies to pass legislation that effectively prevents gun violence. We call for the passage of laws that ban assault weapons, require universal background checks for all gun sales, provide funding for gun violence prevention research, and makes the trafficking in weapons a federal crime."

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Leadership Team: "It is impossible to ignore the sickening, racist motives of the El Paso shooter. This horrific violence was fueled by racist rhetoric, irresponsible gun laws and dehumanizing policies toward immigrants. We must, as a people, name it, and we must defy it. We must stand strong together to condemn the white supremacist ideology that motivated the shooter and that has poisoned the soul of our nation. We must further stand together to condemn the inflammatory, hateful speech voiced almost daily by public figures — including the president of the United States — speech that does nothing but fan the flames of violence. We agree with those who say we need to address the mental health problems that drive some to commit violence with guns. But let us not also be ignorant to the fact that for far too long, weapons designed for war have been far too easily accessible to civilians. ... Let us

demand that, at a minimum, our legislators enact gun safety laws like H.R. 8, a bipartisan measure that calls for strict background checks for those purchasing guns. ... We, the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, believe that we must all be actively working toward a culture that promotes peace and non-violence rather than one that glorifies violence and hate."

Catholic Charities USA: "Hate and violence have no place in our society. It is abhorrent that some victims were targeted simply because they were perceived to be immigrants. As an organization committed to helping vulnerable people, Catholic Charities USA stands in solidarity with others committed to overcoming painful divisions that lead to such disregard for human life. We join other leaders and people of good will in calling our elected officials to take immediate action to address the scourge of gun violence and xenophobia. We pray for the victims and their families, for the first responders and for healing in our suffering communities."

The Rev. Jennifer Butler, CEO Faith in Public Life: "On the seventh anniversary of the attack on the Sikh temple at Oak Creek (Wisconsin), which killed six people, we mourn continued mass murder in El Paso and Dayton. People are being murdered by weapons of war because of their race, their religion or simply being in the wrong place. President (Donald) Trump must stop his rhetoric, which incites violence, and prioritize investigating white supremacist terrorism. The Senate must pass H.R. 8, which would amend federal gun laws to require background checks for all gun sales. Only these concrete steps toward repentance will start to heal our nation."

Accident turned life upside down, faith helped him survive, thrive

BY ELIZABETH BACHMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — “Guys, I think Brandon is dead.”

This is what Brandon Gosselin heard, lying in shock and a pool of his own blood, the left side of his face mangled where it had skidded across the gravel after he was hurled over the handlebars of his Four Wheeler traveling at 50 mph. He hit a deer. The Four Wheeler stopped. Gosselin didn't.

Gosselin woke up in a hospital bed three days later. He had suffered a traumatic brain injury that left him with the mental capacity of a third-grader and his doctors told him he would never be the same.

That was in 2013. This year, Gosselin submitted a creative video narrating his experience of the accident — and what happened after — to The Christophers college video award competition, winning first place. But this accomplishment represents only a sliver of Gosselin's ventures and aspirations, including, among other things, running for president of the United States in the 2032 election.

Before his accident, Gosselin had just graduated from high school. He was valedictorian of his class, one of the top 10 basketball players in Oklahoma, and had been accepted to his dream school, University of Oklahoma.

So naturally, after the acci-

dent, Gosselin did not listen to his doctors.

“I woke up to my life turned upside down. I went from Mr. High School to Mr. Hopeless,” Gosselin said. “I accepted the fact of where I was because the doctors went to school for a billion years, so they know that they are talking about. But one day, I was lying in bed, and I had this realization. ... God put me on earth for a reason and I am bound and determined to see what that is.”

Gosselin got better. Not just better than he was after the accident, but better than he was before.

He went to college the next year, his mental capacity improving far beyond what doctors had led him to expect, and he attributed it all to “the man upstairs.” His mantra as he struggled to heal and simultaneously succeed in his classes became “Study. Physical therapy. Pray. Repeat.”

“After my accident I have had a more intense relationship with God. I am not going to lie, sometimes it has been bad and sometimes it has been good,” Gosselin said. “It has been a journey. Understanding it is a relationship with God and not just a religion, and seeing him not just as ‘Abba,’ the Father, but someone you can lean on as a best friend.”

He graduated from college with a 4.0 GPA and now owns his own company, the Aspiration



CNS photo/courtesy Brandon Gosselin: The Aspirational Storyteller

Brandon Gosselin, who today is a motivational speaker and entrepreneur, suffered a traumatic brain injury in 2013 that left him with the mental capacity of a third-grader. His doctors told him he would never be the same. This year, Gosselin submitted a creative video narrating his experience of the accident, and what happened after, to The Christophers college video award competition, winning first place.

Corp., through which he travels across the nation as an inspirational speaker for high school and college students. He is also a founding member of a tech startup that offers an advertising platform.

Not one to neglect the charitable, Gosselin has several fingers in the nonprofit pie. One of his pet projects has been to help build a self-sustaining economy in Haiti.

He works on the board for

the “Coalition of Hope,” which is in the process of re-purposing an old naval vessel as a disaster relief ship, outfitted with medical personnel, food, water and emergency supplies. The ship can easily access coastal areas, including Haiti, when hurricanes or other natural disasters strike.

Gosselin, only 24 years old, humbly deflected the responsibility for his own accomplishments.

“We only have one life to live, why live it in areas where we

are complacent or comfortable,” Gosselin asked. “It is important to push forward and get out of our comfort zone towards glorifying the kingdom of God.”

For Gosselin, a life-threatening accident with a Four Wheeler “hasn't been all bells and whistles and cherries and Tootsie rolls,” but it also was the defining experience of his life, the experience that redirected his path from that of a Wall Street trader, to the evangelist/entrepreneur/writer/motivational speaker he is today. And the president he hopes to be in the future.

Gosselin said the work he has been doing for the past six years has all been a part of, what he calls, “the education plan,” in preparation for his 2032 presidential campaign.

Over the past few years, Gosselin made a point to live experience different parts of American life. He grew up in the Midwest, now lives on the East Coast and plans to move to the West Coast. He grew up poor. His family of six lived in a one-bedroom house in tiny Burlington, Oklahoma, where the population was just over 150.

As an adult, he has experienced life in the middle class, and also surviving paycheck to paycheck. He has lived as a college student, struggling to pay tuition, and also as an entrepreneur learning the challenges of operating a business. He plans to spend time working as a fireman or police officer before his 2032 campaign.

“I'm putting myself in the experience and lives of people I don't fully understand,” Gosselin said. “If I can have a glimpse of their lives, I can put myself into a better place to understand and serve the American people.”

Gosselin said that, for him, the whole idea of running for president is not self-promotional.

“It is only because I want to serve the American people, because I want to be a true voice for them,” Gosselin said.

Editor's Note: More information about Gosselin can be found at his website, <https://brandon-gosselin.com>.

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Knights give \$185 million to charity, 76 million hours in service

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) — In 2018, the Knights of Columbus gave \$185.7 million to charity and donated 76.7 million hours of hands-on service.

The New Haven-based Catholic fraternal organization announced its charitable activity over the last year in a July 31 news release, issued ahead of its annual Supreme Convention in Minneapolis Aug. 6-8.

The Knights of Columbus, which has a membership of more than 1.9 million, said its charitable activity is threefold: fundraising by the national organization and local Knights councils; community service; and revenues from its insurance and annuities portfolio.

Using Independent Sector's valuation of a volunteer hour for 2018 — \$25.43 — the Knights' service hours came to \$1.9 billion, the release said. The value of this work combined with the year's monetary donations brings the total value of the Knights' charity to nearly \$2.1 billion.

"Regardless of how or who the Knights serve, it's the chance to help those who are unable to help themselves and to be of assistance to the sick or disabled that is at the heart of what being a Knight is all about," Knights of Columbus Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson said in a statement.

The release noted that the Knights' charitable activity is carried out by more than 16,000 councils in nine countries, which



CNS photo/Bob Roller

Janice Evans, center, works alongside members of the Knights of Columbus as they rip out waterlogged sections of the kitchen area of her home Sept. 6, 2017, in Dickinson, Texas, in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Harvey. The Knights of Columbus, a 1.9 million-member Catholic fraternal and charitable organization, announced July 31 that it gave \$185.7 million to charity and donated 76.7 million hours of hands-on service in 2018.

raise funds for a variety of causes, including efforts to protect and provide relief to persecuted Christians, pro-life initiatives and disaster aid and recovery.

Volunteer time donated by the councils' members goes to helping their own parishes and communities and to organizations such as Special Olympics and Habitat for Humanity. They give time to Knights-sponsored efforts, including "Coats for Kids," "Food for Families" and scholarship programs.

Councils raise money with activities such as pancake breakfasts, raffles, auctions, tank pulls, rodeos and the Knights' signature Tootsie Roll drives.

Beneficiaries of money raised by Knights include local pregnancy support centers, seminarians, and veterans and service members who make the Knights' annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, organized in conjunction with the U.S. Archdiocese of the Military Services.

Other charitable funds come from the Knights of Columbus Insurance arm: Once the company's revenue is used to cover operational costs and refunds (dividends) to its members, "the remaining profits are directed to charity," the news release said.

The Fortune 1000 insurance company has 1,207 agents, who also are Knights, and it sells a portfolio of insurance and annuities products to its members.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Chaldean archbishop: Iraqi Christians face 'extinction' unless world acts

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Iraqi Christians face "extinction" unless Islam recognizes the fundamental equality of all people and takes steps to overcome violent factions that seek to force religious minorities from the country, said Chaldean Archbishop Bashar Warda of Erbil. "The truth is that there is a foundational crisis within Islam itself, and if this crisis is not acknowledged, addressed and fixed, then there can be no future for civil society in the Middle East or indeed anywhere Islam brings itself to bear upon a host nation," Archbishop Warda told Aid to the Church in Need. The archbishop voiced his concerns in an interview, the transcript of which was released by the organization Aug. 6, the fifth anniversary of the Islamic State group overrunning Christian communities on the Ninevah Plain in northern Iraq. The Islamic State group's violence "shocked the conscience of the world" as well as Islamic majority nations, Archbishop Warda said. "The question now," he said, "is whether or not Islam will continue on a political trajectory, in which sharia is the basis for civil law and nearly every aspect of life is circumscribed by religion, or whether a more tolerant movement will develop." The archbishop also expressed concern that while the Islamic State group has been defeated in Iraq, the "idea of the re-establishment of the Caliphate" has not subsided.

Spirituality 'just tip of iceberg' for airport chaplain always on the go

JAMAICA, N.Y. (CNS) — As the Catholic chaplain at John F. Kennedy International Airport ambled through Terminal 4 on a hot summer afternoon, security personnel, airport employees and flight crews shouted a cheery hello or stopped for a quiet word. "That's my priest," one uniformed woman told her companion with a confident nod. The bearded man in a black polo shirt, black trousers and scuffed black Crocs smiled back at them. "There's no average day here. Most of my ministry happens on the go," Father Chris Piasta said. He is a priest of the Diocese of Brooklyn, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Jamaica in the New York borough of Queens and is now in his 10th year as the face of the Catholic Church at the nation's busiest airport. "It's a ministry of presence," Father Piasta said. "At its core is being an open and friendly human being to someone else, being open to the humanity of others and simply embracing their needs at a particular time." Sometimes that entails giving

Stark new reality for Venezuelans



CNS photo/Marco Bello, Reuters

A volunteer with "Make the Difference" charity initiative gives a cup of soup and an "arepa" to a homeless child along a street in Caracas, Venezuela, March 5, 2017. Caracas in recent years has seen tear gas attacks, physical assaults on citizens by government forces, and hungry and malnourished crowds asking for help in streets that once boasted some of the most well-off people in all of Latin America.

arriving passengers directions to connecting flights or answering what he says is the most common question, "Where is the nearest restroom?" Sixty million people pass through JFK each year. Most often, the chaplain is ministering to the spiritual needs of some of the airport's 40,000 employees. Five days a week, Father Piasta celebrates Mass at the small well-lit chapel of Our Lady of the Skies.

'Crosses for losses' aim to bring comfort at scenes of mass shootings

EL PASO, Texas (CNS) — Greg Zanis, a carpenter by trade from Aurora, Illinois, has traveled around the country for more than 20 years to place white wooden

crosses in memory of shooting victims, and after the mass shootings Aug. 3 and Aug. 4 in El Paso and in Dayton, Ohio, his signature crosses are now in those cities. Zanis, 68, told ABC News the message he wants to send with the crosses is this: "Today it's the first day they (the victims) get to go to heaven. ... they're not suffering anymore. We're going to see them again." To date Zanis, who retired in 2016, has delivered free of charge more than 26,000 of these wooden memorials to the sites of mass murders and other tragedies across the U.S. According to his website, <https://zaniscrossesforlosses.org>, he made his first memorial cross in 1996, after finding the body of his father-in-law, who was murdered. Zanis was a master carpenter by then and worked on house renovations, but finding

his father-in-law dead was "the game changer" for him. "Now all that mattered did not matter anymore. That same year, there were car crashes, murders in Aurora, Illinois, and Greg made the first memorial cross," the site says. "We know what it means for someone to extend a hand of love. We love to give you a cross," says his website. "The crosses are intended to provide comfort."

Teen who died saving classmates in school shooting made a Knight

MINNEAPOLIS (CNS) — As residents of El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, mourned the loss of 31 people in mass shootings

Aug. 3 and Aug. 4, the Knights of Columbus honored a teen who died in May trying to save the lives of his classmates during a shooting at his suburban Denver high school. Kendrick Castillo, the 18-year-old hero who charged a shooter at STEM School Highlands Ranch in Colorado, posthumously named a Knight of Columbus Aug. 6 at the organization's Supreme Convention in Minneapolis. Castillo's parents, John and Maria, also accepted the Caritas Medal on his behalf. It is second-highest honor of the Knights of Columbus. Their son is just the fourth recipient of the award, created in 2013 to recognize extraordinary acts of charity and service. "Kendrick wanted to be a Knight of Columbus because he wanted to help not only people, but his community. And in his last moments, Kendrick Castillo did both," Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson said in an address to more than 2,000 convention attendees. Castillo had taken part in 2,600 hours of service with the Knights, along with his father, who belongs to the Knights' Southwest Denver Council 4844.

Circle of Protection members, others see much to like in budget deal

WASHINGTON (CNS) — There is a lot to like in the two-year budget worked out in Congress and signed by President Donald Trump, according to faith-based institutions that are members of the Circle of Protection. "This is a big deal for the Circle of Protection, a fulfillment of the prayer and promise that the Circle of Protection had prayed for Congress to end sequestration and for Congress to come together for low-income people so that their needs are met," said Jane Adams, a senior policy adviser with Bread for the World. "It took 10 years, but we're here." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Charities USA are members of the Circle of Protection, as is Bread for the World and about 140 other Christian organizations. The budget deal will increase funding across the board for defense and non-defense programs by \$320 billion over the next two years. The Circle of Protection had, in March, urged Congress to pass a bipartisan budget agreement. "We believe budgets are moral documents; they reveal our values and show our priorities. Budgets show who and what we view as important," the letter said. Without a deal, it added, "discretionary funding levels will return to austere levels required by the 2011 Budget Control Act, putting non-defense discretionary programs at risk of deep cuts." Negotiations are ongoing over what the allocations will be for each of a dozen separate appropriations bills.

'The Worn Out Shoes of Saint Katharina'

DONALDSON — Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center will host a retreat titled "The Worn Out Shoes of Saint Katharina: A transformational symbol for our contemporary society," Oct. 18-19 in Donaldson.

Led by Sister Nkechi Iwuoha, PHJC, the retreat focuses on following Jesus through the symbol of St. Katharina's worn-out shoes. Worn throughout her life, St. Katharina's shoes remain a strong symbol of service today, signifying hope, joyful service and devotion to serving others in Christ; yet her shoes also bear the marks of storms she weathered.

Options available for this overnight retreat include double occupancy at \$130, single occupancy at \$110, and a commuter rate of \$50. All options include meals, refreshments, time for personal prayer and reflection, and an e-book copy of Sister Nkechi's book, "Walking in the Wisdom of Worn Out Shoes of Blessed Catherine Kasper: A Symbol of Transformation."

Register at Lindenwood.org or call 574-935-1780 for more information. A part of The Center at Donaldson, Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center is a ministry of The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

Conference for engaged couples

FORT WAYNE — A daylong conference for engaged couples Sept. 21 at the Grand Wayne Center, 120 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne, will explore the many dimensions of Christian married love and is geared for couples marrying in the Catholic Church.

Topics that will be covered include the three essential characteristics of married love; communication and intimacy in marriage; an introduction to Pope St. John Paul II's theology of the body; sex, as the body language of married love; the meaning of responsible parenthood and the practice of natural family planning; building a strong partnership as spouses, the spirituality of Christian marriage; and the Christian family as the church of the home.

This conference fulfills in part the requirement for marriage preparation for couples marrying in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The schedule for the day is from 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.; cost is \$90 per couple.

For more information or to register online, visit www.diocesefwsb.org/Marriage-Preparation.

Forever Learning Institute experiences to resume

SOUTH BEND — Stores are filling up with backpacks and thermoses, but back to school isn't just for kids. Michiana's own Forever Learning Institute is

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Knights of Columbus educational awards



Provided by Michael Shade

The Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana presented the annual Knights of Columbus — Stephen Badin Educational Awards of \$1,000 each July 27 to seven college students who have excelled in their high school academics as well as involvement with their parishes and in community activities. Award funds are generated from an endowment established by the Knights of Columbus with the Catholic Community Foundation. The students who received the awards during a ceremony at St. Pius X Parish, Granger, are Erik Wilcox, Purdue University; Lauren Salela, Butler University; Nicholas Padrnos, Ball State University; Edward Null, Purdue; Brynn Harty, Ball State; Chloe Bartz, Hope College; and Christopher Achkar, Indiana University.

offering senior adults over 118 classes this fall on just about every topic imaginable. Care to learn a new language, play the ukulele, or brush up on computer skills? Or maybe The Psychology of Personality or Pickleball 101 are more some people's speed.

Unlike other schools, Forever Learning offers students and instructors the opportunity to explore interests they are passionate about and share this excitement with like-minded learners. Classes are held at the main campus in the parish center of St. Therese, Little Flower Church, the Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley, at Southfield Village and at numerous partner organizations throughout Michiana.

Students may view all course offerings online at www.foreverlearninginstitute.org or stop by the FLI office to pick up a course guide. Guides are also available at all St. Joseph County and Mishawaka Public Libraries.

Registration at Forever Learning Institute begins Tuesday, Aug. 27. Classes will begin Monday, Sept. 9. Students may register for classes by mail or in person at the Forever Learning Institute, 54191 Ironwood Road, South Bend.

For more information contact

Eve Finnessy, executive director, at 574-282-1901 or eve@foreverlearninginstitute.org.

Christ Child clothing center opens for year

SOUTH BEND — The Christ Child Society Clothing Center, 308 S. Scott St., South Bend, opened for the 2019-20 school year Aug. 7.

Clothing is available for children from birth to 12 years, including new winter coats, gloves and hats, jeans and shirts, uniform pants and shirts, underwear, socks and athletic shoes. Infants receive a tote bag full of clothing, blankets, a hand-knit sweater set and baby supplies. Families at or below 130% of the poverty level are eligible for clothing. They can obtain a referral form from one of over 30 agencies including Goodwill, St. Vincent de Paul and Women's Care Center, as well as South Bend, Mishawaka, Penn-Harris-Madison and Catholic schools.

The clothing center will be open every Wednesday until Christmas.

CCS is the only organization in the area that provides a complete set of all-new winter clothing to under-resourced children.

Young adult road trip to Inheritance Conference

MISHAWAKA — Young adults of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are invited on a road trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Oct. 12-13. The participants will attend Inheritance Conference 2019 on Saturday and explore "Brew City" on Sunday.

Inheritance 2019 consists of powerful TED-style talks and workshops given by nationally known Catholic speakers that are relevant to the lives of young adults. Catholic musicians will lead everyone in song and prayer throughout the day. On Sunday, participants will attend Mass, tour the Basilica of St. Josephat, visit the "Historic Third Ward" neighborhood, peruse the public market and maybe tour a local brewery.

The group departs from South Bend Saturday morning and will stay overnight in a nearby hotel, driving back on Sunday evening.

Tickets to the conference are \$35 until Sept. 1. Hotel rooms are \$28-\$112 and most meals are included. More information is available at www.diocesefwsb.org/yam-conferences or contact Sean Allen at sallen@diocesefwsb.org.

St. Joseph Parish pastor installed



Provided by Lourdes Silva

Father Osman Ramos, FM, is installed by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at St. Joseph Parish, LaGrange, Sunday, July 28, during the 11:30 a.m. Mass. He is also now pastor of St. Gaspar del Bufalo Parish in Rome City. Father Ramos and his brother priest, Father Alven Salada, FM, who will serve as parochial vicar of both parishes, are of the Franciscans of Mary order from Madrid, Spain.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Miracle Miles benefits the hungry

Photos by Bethany Beebe

For the 11th year, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne organized Miracle Miles walk and 5K run Aug. 3 to raise money for St. Mary's Soup Kitchen, a ministry of St. Mary, Mother of God Parish. The event enjoys participation by a wide age range of parishioners, and this year was no different. Since 2013 more than \$25,000 has been donated to St. Mary's Soup Kitchen from the Miracle Miles event, or about \$4,000 a year.



Father David Voors, who's ready to walk, leads participants in prayer before St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish's Miracle Miles fundraising event Aug. 3 in Fort Wayne.



Age group medals, master's and overall winners were awarded for the 5K run.

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

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

Leave a Legacy of Love and Faith.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHEAST INDIANA
www.ccfnei.org



The diaper dash, children's race and family walk provided something for everyone.

Catholic school principals prepare to welcome students



Nate Proulx

Principals of Catholic schools of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend gathered at Sacred Heart Parish and school, Warsaw, Aug. 1 for Mass with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and meetings led by Secretary for Education Carl Loesch and Superintendent Dr. Joseph Brettbacher.

BY JENNIFER MILLER

For Indiana children, August is the bittersweet month when the joys of summer-time give way to the structured days of classroom education. But reuniting with friends and teachers and experiencing the fun of learning can brighten the time of transition to a new school year.

The Office of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is also going through a time of transition. Following the passing of former Superintendent Marsha Jordan in the spring, Dr. Joseph Brettbacher, former principal of Marian High School, Mishawaka, will fulfill the leadership duties; Jeffrey Kiefer, former principal of St. Joseph School, Decatur, will serve as assistant superintendent. Additionally, several school principals have changed posts or been hired.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is where Brettbacher first began his vocation as a Catholic school administrator, and he is grateful to be returning. He said he finds the diocese to have its strengths in “God, the Most Reverend Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, pastors and priests,

OCS staff, administrators, teachers and staff. They see their jobs as a vocation from God. As disciples, they understand the importance of partnering with parents to assist them in developing their children to fulfill their destiny, become saints, and go to heaven.”

Some of the challenges that the CSO office will face in the coming year, he said, will be “to continue to develop partnerships with institutions, organizations, foundations and charities to help our students excel spiritually, intellectually, physically and socially. Another opportunity is for the CSO to work with pastors and administrators to create school climates where students live out their faith for the good of the marginalized in our society.”

“The CSO wants to work with our pastors and administrators to lessen their workload by using technology as a tool to reduce the amount of time it takes to complete a wide array of paperwork that results from tuition assistance and school plans and reports,” he added. “We see challenges as opportunities to work together as a community to resolve them.”

He hopes to visit all 43 diocesan Catholic schools by the end

of the first semester. “I want to listen to our bishop, Catholic Schools Office, pastors, principals, faculty, staff, parents, community and students about some of the opportunities we have to improve our schools and work collaboratively to get there. Individually we can do no great things, but with the grace of God and by working together as a community, we can make some astonishing progress. He hopes that Catholics of the diocese will pray for him and ask God to guide him to make wise decisions for the betterment of the schools, the diocese and God’s kingdom.

Five school administrators have transferred from one school to another. Two additional principals are new to school leadership, and a position is to still be filled at Our Lady of Hungary School. Also in South Bend, Mattie Willerton, previously of St. John the Evangelist School in Goshen, now serves at Corpus Christi School.

In Monroeville, Travis Heckber has transferred from St. Charles Borromeo School, Fort Wayne, to St. Rose of Lima School. Jeanine Skordos has transitioned from Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, to St. Joseph - Hessen

Cassel School. Also in Fort Wayne, Mary Keefer, a former Bishop Luers principal, is serving at St. John the Baptist School; and Bea Royal, former principal of St. John the Baptist School, is the new principal of Our Lady School.

Sacred Heart School in Warsaw and St. John the Evangelist School will welcome freshman principals. Michael McClain is serving at the former, with John Loflin at the latter.

McClain, a parishioner of St. Paul of the Cross, Columbia City, is originally from Altoona, Iowa, an eastern suburb of Des Moines. He earned an English teaching degree from the University of Northern Iowa and worked as a middle school assistant principal and elementary school principal with Whitko Community Schools.

“I’m excited for every aspect of being the educational leader of Sacred Heart,” McClain said. “I’m looking forward to work with the staff and parents in equipping our students with the knowledge needed to be successful in their academic and spiritual endeavors. I’m looking forward to developing a shared vision of what Sacred Heart could be, and I look forward to building relationships with and working with all stake-

holders. Lastly, I look forward to helping to develop and augment systems that will lead us to be the best SHS that we can be.”

Loflin, a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist Parish, has worked as a public school teacher and administrator for the past 20 years, receiving his B.A. from Nicholls State University in Louisiana and his master’s in education and educational specialist degrees from Nova Southeastern University in Florida.

He’s looking forward to serving at a Catholic school, a place where, “Catholic educators and the institutions they serve have the unique opportunity to model Catholic morals and values no matter which cultural contexts they espouse those values.”

In the coming year, Loflin said he will strive to serve like his mentor saint, St. John Bosco, “patterning his works according to the corporal works of mercy and serve as an instructional leader to help the students at St. John the Evangelist Catholic School meet or exceed their potential and become model Catholic members of their community.”

Diocesan programs aid effort to reduce in

BY KEVIN KILBANE

Adriana Vazquez was a high school senior when she found out she was pregnant. The Fort Wayne woman didn't know much about being a mom, but she knew she wanted to graduate and go on to college.

Her school referred her to the Education Creates Hope and Opportunity program offered by Catholic Charities in some areas of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The program provides pregnant teens and young adults with the support they need to graduate from high school and become a parent.

"It was really useful for me being a first-time mom," said Vazquez, now 23, who had a son.

The ECHO program is just one of many ways the diocese and the Catholic community in northern Indiana work to reduce the high infant mortality rates in this area of the state.

"The Church and our diocese take a broad view of what is support for families expecting a child," said Lisa Everett, the diocese's director of Marriage and Family Ministry.

The problem

From 2013-17, 677 babies living in counties within the diocese died before age 1, including 137 in 2017, the most recent data available from the Indiana State Department of Health showed. Statewide, 3,029 infants died before age 1 from 2013-17.

A limited number of infant deaths can't be prevented because of the babies' health problems. More infant deaths result from factors such as poor prenatal care during pregnancy,

early birth, low birth weight or unsafe sleep practices, such as placing an infant on a couch, local social service agency staff members said. A mother's poverty, limited access to healthy food, alcohol or drug abuse, or lack of safe or stable housing also can contribute to infant mortality.

Infant mortality refers to the number of babies who die before age 1. The infant mortality rate reports the number of infants who died before age 1 per 1,000 live births.

In 2017, Indiana had an infant mortality rate of 7.3, the most recent data available from the state department of health said. That rate exceeded the state goal of 6 and the national rate of 5.8 and ranked 40th worst nationally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics reported at www.cdc.gov/nchs.

During the years 2013-17, about 72 percent of infant mortality cases in the diocese occurred in Allen, Elkhart and St. Joseph counties, the largest population centers. In 2017, Allen County equaled the state infant mortality rate of 7.3, while Elkhart and St. Joseph counties exceeded it at 8.4 and 10.3, respectively, state health data showed.

Postal ZIP code areas in Allen and St. Joseph counties also rank among the highest in the state for infant mortality.

The response

The diocese's work to prevent infant mortality includes direct client work and providing financial or other support to independent nonprofit organizations that help pregnant women and new parents keep their babies safe and healthy.



Kevin Kilbane

Adriana Vazquez was a senior in high school when she became pregnant. Catholic Charities' ECHO program helped her have a successful birth, graduate from high school, obtain a job and go on to college.

Among its initiatives, Catholic Charities' ECHO program likely has the greatest impact. During the past three years, ECHO participants served by the Fort Wayne and South Bend Catholic Charities offices experienced no infant deaths related to infant mortality factors, said staff members Melissa Singh and Nicole Kurut.

ECHO provides a support system for expecting mothers and fathers ages 14-24 by helping young moms attend all prenatal and well-baby checkups and connecting them with resources for food, health care and housing. Expecting parents learn about safe sleep for their baby, infant feeding and parenting and receive help to complete at least

their high school education.

"Our goal is always to strengthen families and eradicate poverty," which is part of Catholic social teachings, said Kurut, Catholic Charities' mission advancement coordinator.

Helping teen and young adult parents graduate from high school greatly increases their earnings potential during their work career, she noted. About 90 percent of ECHO participants graduate from high school, which is more than double the rate of 40 percent for similar programs nationally, said Singh, Catholic Charities' community services supervisor.

In the Fort Wayne area, Catholic Charities has offered ECHO since 1999 in collaboration with Lutheran Social Services of Indiana. Catholic Charities' Fort Wayne office generally serves clients living in northern Allen County, and LSSI assists those in southern Allen County, said Singh.

The Fort Wayne office also provides the ECHO program in Whitley and Huntington counties and hopes to expand to DeKalb, Noble and LaGrange counties, said Singh. The South Bend office offers ECHO in St. Joseph, Elkhart, Marshall and Kosciusko counties.

This past fiscal year, the ECHO program served 81 parents just in Allen County and 41 parents through the South Bend office.

"We love working with young moms and watching them grow," said Singh. "It's amazing the barriers they overcome."

Vazquez' first caseworker connected her with pregnancy and other resources. The caseworker helped her stay current with school work, provided parenting

education and kept her focused on her goal of high school graduation and college.

Today, Vazquez and her husband have boys ages 5 and 4. She works in newborn care at Lutheran and Dupont hospitals and hopes to graduate this winter with a college degree in medical assisting.

She stays in regular contact with her current ECHO caseworker, Natalie Stabler.

"They are really good to talk to or about giving advice or how to take the next step on things," said Vazquez. "With ECHO, I feel you get a really good friendship."

For information about the ECHO program, call 260-422-5625 or 574-234-3111.

Other programs

The diocese's Miriam's Blessing program, which began in September 2016, provides peer mentors and support for parents who receive a diagnosis during pregnancy that their child has a serious disability or health problem, including those children expected to die shortly after birth. The program encourages parents to celebrate life in all its forms and for however long they have with their child, according to Everett.

About 100,000 couples a year in the United States receive a poor prenatal diagnosis. Past research has shown families who receive solid support are more likely to carry the baby to term than to seek an abortion.

Miriam's Blessing peer mentors must have some experience with prenatal loss so they can empathize with a family facing a poor prenatal diagnosis, said Everett. "The idea is to provide a listening ear."

The program has served a handful of families so far. Everett hopes to create more awareness about the ministry in the future. For information about Miriam's Blessing, contact Everett at 574-234-0687 or lisanneverett@sbcglobal.net.

The diocese's office of Marriage and Family also supports organizations that assist pregnant and at-risk women, such as the Women's Care Center locations throughout the diocese and two maternity homes that serve homeless pregnant women: Hannah's House in Mishawaka and A Mother's Hope in Fort Wayne.

The diocese also works with the Indiana Catholic Conference, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana, to propose and support legislation at the Indiana General Assembly. The conference supports legislation providing improved prenatal care or other aid to reduce infant mortality, said Everett. "We want to be involved in protecting and promoting human life from the moment of conception."



Provided by Women's Care Center

Women's Care Center locations help prevent infant mortality by offering pregnancy testing and other support, connecting women with prenatal care, and offering a wide range of parenting classes, including this music class.

infant mortality



Kevin Kilbane

Homeless women who are pregnant learn parenting, infant care and other skills at A Mother's Hope maternity home, which was founded by Stasia Roth, left. The program helps women prepare for the birth of their child and for the eventual transition to living on their own.



Kevin Kilbane

Dr. Nancy Swigonski, a professor at the Indiana University School of Medicine and a pediatrician at Riley Children's Health, both in Indianapolis, spoke at the May Prenatal & Infant Care Network quarterly meeting in Fort Wayne May 23. The St. Joseph Community Health Foundation helped organize the network and provides funding support in its effort to prevent infant mortality in Allen County. Network meetings include presentations and panel discussions by experts and an opportunity for social service providers to build collaborations.

The starting point: Support mothers

BY KEVIN KILBANE

Organizations that are part of or supported by the Catholic community also work to reduce infant mortality within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Women's Care Center

The nonprofit, which receives financial support from the diocese, was founded in South Bend and now operates 32 centers in 11 states. Women's Care Center has 10 locations within the diocese: three in South Bend, three in Fort Wayne and one each in Plymouth, Mishawaka, Elkhart and Auburn, said Jenny Hunsberger, WCC vice president.

Within the 365 days prior to July 17, WCC centers provided care to 9,968 individual women within the diocese, she said. During the same period, WCC centers nationwide worked with 29,006 women and provided 100,597 office visits.

"Well over nine out of 10 women who come to us choose life," said Hunsberger.

Women come for a pregnancy test, ultrasound and pregnancy planning, and they are invited to return at each trimester to ensure they are receiving the prenatal care and the pregnancy and parenting education they need. Moms also can return to WCC after the birth of their child.

WCC offers an extensive array of parenting classes available almost daily at many locations. Most classes are offered in English and Spanish.

In 2017, WCC locations in St. Joseph County served 57 percent of the pregnant women in the county, a WCC fact sheet reported. That includes at least 90 percent of both teen and unmarried mothers and 78 percent of African American mothers.

"When women come to the Women's Care Center more often, the average birth weight (of their baby) increases by 6 ounces," said Hunsberger. "That's a tremendous difference for the health of a baby."

She believes the improved birth weights result from the encouragement women receive at WCC to get prenatal care. Staff also advocate for and help women with individual goals

and concerns, such as applying for Medicaid, finding housing and breastfeeding.

"Probably more important is the empowerment clients feel," said Hunsberger.

When women first come in, they are met with care and compassion and not judgment, she said. Staff members believe each woman is uniquely qualified to be the mother of her future baby. "That inspires people," said Hunsberger.

For information, call the helpline at 877-908-2341.

A Mother's Hope

Since its opening in October 2018 through mid-July, A Mother's Hope has served 14 homeless pregnant women ages 19-36 who have had seven babies, said Stasia Roth, executive director.

The nonprofit can house as many as eight women and their babies at a time. Women can stay in the program for up to one year after their child's birth. To be eligible for A Mother's Hope, a woman must be pregnant and homeless or at risk of being homeless or not having a safe place to stay, Roth said. Women also

must meet income requirements and stay drug- and alcohol-free.

Except for a brief period after the birth of their child, women also must put in 40 hours of productivity per week, which can include chores at the shelter, attending classes or working at a job in the community, she added.

Staff, who are awake and on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week, also provide a lot of one-on-one support to moms. That includes ensuring the mother and baby stay healthy, educating moms about parenting, and helping them pursue an education. Staff also work with women on finding employment and child care and making the transition to living on their own.

The work is grounded Christian love, said Roth, who is Catholic.

"When I felt called to do this, there was so much pain and suffering in the world, and I asked (God) if I could help stop it. For me, this is our way of bringing women to Him. That is where they will find their joy and hope."

The organization has received funding and other support from the diocese, St. Joseph Community Health

Foundation and the Mary Cross Tippmann Foundation. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades appoints a member to the A Mother's Hope board of directors, which includes several Catholic members.

For information, call 260-373-0097 or go to www.amothershopefw.org.

Hannah's House

The diocese worked with Bethel University, Women's Care Center and St. Joseph Health System, all in Mishawaka, to found Hannah's House 26 years ago in Mishawaka.

The Christian, nondenominational maternity home serves women of all ages who are homeless and pregnant, said John Meiser, Hannah's House executive director. Most clients come from the Michiana area, but the home accepts applications from women outside the region.

"We as an organization empower pregnant women facing homelessness to begin a process of transformation," said Meiser. Staff believe the transformation takes place through Jesus Christ, but women don't have to be Christian to apply for the program.

The staff determines what each woman needs to become successful as a person and parent, said Meiser, who believes access to the program has encouraged some women to give birth rather than seek an abortion.

The maternity home can accommodate seven women and three babies at the same time, he said. Women can stay up to one year in the maternity home, including up to four months after their baby's birth.

Moms who complete the maternity program, have a job and arrange child care can move into Hannah's House's transitional home, where they can live for up to one year. While in the transitional home, they begin paying income-based rent, develop a personal spiritual plan and learn about finances.

Hannah's House helps prevent infant mortality by emphasizing preventive health care, said Meiser. The maternity and transitional homes are a block away from a medical clinic, so staff can get moms and babies to a doctor quickly if needed.

Staff members teach moms about safe infant sleep practices and how to care for and feed a baby. Staff do bed checks two or three times a night on both moms and babies.

He believes the family stability provided by Hannah's House also helps reduce infant mortality.

Cleaning for Christ and congregation

BY DENISE FEDOROW

They go about their work efficiently and without a lot of fanfare. In fact, many parishioners likely take what they do for granted. But it's the deep faith of those involved in church cleaning ministries that motivates them to perform a vital parish service.

At St. John the Evangelist Church in Goshen the cleaning committee has shrunk from about a half-dozen regulars to two or three regulars. Sacristan and church cleaning coordinator Donna Elchert said they've had members pass away, and others have had to drop out due to advancing age and declining health.

Elchert, along with Cheryl Kenawell and sometimes Alice Wheeler, generally clean the church after the 8 a.m. Mass on Friday — with the exception of first Friday because of eucharistic adoration — so that it's ready for the weekend Masses. Other volunteers help out from time to time. The large Hispanic community at St. John schedules different ministries each week (to clean after the final Mass each weekend, at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, so the church is clean for upcoming weekday Masses.

Elchert and her husband, Deacon Dave Elchert, have been members of St. John the Evangelist Parish since 1989. They were members from 1978-81 but moved away for a time. When they returned, Donna started cleaning the church and became part-time sacristan.

"I kept joining things, and when I retired in 1991, I went full force," she said.

Kenawell began assisting with the church cleaning committee to help out another former member, Nancy Glon, when she would go to Arizona for the winter. A recent shoulder injury has taken Glon out of the committee for the foreseeable future.

What drives Elchert is her sense of the sacredness of the church. "I don't think it's right, and I couldn't stand to have a Mass said if the church is dirty," she said. "This is Jesus' house — it shouldn't be dirty."

The ladies make sure furniture is in the right place and change the water in the baptismal font. Some of the other duties the women perform include cleaning bathrooms, vacuuming, dusting the statues and candle stands and ensuring the seats and pews are clean and dusted. They also sweep and clean the entryways and windows and remove gum and wax off the carpeting as necessary. They also keep track of when candles on the altar and the votives need to be replaced, and they check for damaged hymnals and missalettes.

"And a lot of little things along the way," Kenawell said, "and there are some surprises

that are not always pleasant."

Donna's grandson, the St. John the Evangelist School custodian, takes care of cleaning the church basement.

Both women desire for the church to be clean and ready for parishioners: Kenawell also cited it as the reason she chooses to help. "To show respect, yes; and you want it to be clean and ready for people."

She added that she hopes a clean church will encourage parishioners to want to keep it that way.

Besides the satisfaction and sense of pride that comes when a cleaning job is completed, participating in this ministry helps Donna and Kenawell in other ways, too.

"When you're spending time here and doing your work there's a lot of things going through your mind and there's a peace in that," Kenawell said.

Donna agreed that especially after Mass, when the church empties, it gives her "a sense of peace."

They also believe the church being clean and tidy helps parishioners to not be distracted when they come to pray.

After her cleaning work is done, Kenawell often stays to do just that — sit and pray, and ask the Lord, "Where do I take this day from here?"

"I'm more conscious about praying for others at those times, too."

Donna shared that she has silently prayed a rosary while cleaning, or sung a hymn to herself, and that she appreciates that time.

The women encourage others to consider ministries of cleaning, "for the very reasons we do it," Kenawell said.

"You don't need experience — anyone can clean," Donna said, adding that there's usually not a lot of time involved.

While it may not be as visible



Denise Fedorow

Donna Elchert, left, and Cheryl Kenawell, members of the church cleaning committee at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Goshen, share some thoughts as they spruce up the nave of the church.

as some other church ministries, it's a necessary one; and those involved have hearts for service.

"I just love this church,"

Donna said. "I don't want people to have to come into a dirty church."



Many hands, light work

Hispanic ministries of the parish alternate Sunday afternoon cleaning duties at St. John. Those ministries are acolytes and married couples, Sunday choir, lectors, eucharistic ministers, sacristans and ushers, apologetics, adult education, children's evangelization, baptism couples, Catholic Christian Family Movement, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, evening adoration and the women's and men's Christ Renews His Parish teams.

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Apologist roars into diocese to share God's message

BY COLLEEN SCHENA

Upon stepping out of Holy Family Parish, South Bend, on Aug. 5, the distant roar of motorcycles was unmistakable. Jeff Cavins, apologist and founding host of the Eternal Word Television Network's "Life on the Rock" show, and his companion rode into the parking lot on their motorcycles, excited for the blessings that the parish's pastor, Father Glen Kohrman, and Father Sunday Akuh were about to bestow.

Holy Family held a blessing of motorcycles, and one bicycle, immediately following evening Mass. The two jubilant new riders and other members of the "God Squad" were in the midst of their annual cross-country ride and decided to stop by. They were riding and stopping at parishes all along their route, evangelizing and speaking on various topics.

At Holy Family, the Lord placed discipleship heavy on the heart of Cavins. He spoke passionately to the crowd about the difference between the definition of "disciple," versus the true meaning of it. He recognized the typical definition of what a disciple does and studies: In rapid succession, he showed his listeners that this is no more than being a "fan." Being a disciple is much more, he said.

Cavins shared that those who seek to become disciples are drawn out of their comfort zones. In the days of Christ on earth, a rabbi would choose his students, telling them to follow him. This is called "lech achari" in Hebrew. They became entirely devoted to the teacher for the next several years. Only after this time would a disciple reach their goal of emulating the master.

It is in constantly being with the Master that the disciple truly becomes



Photos by Colleen Schena

A motorcyclist bows his head as a blessing begins at Holy Family Parish, South Bend, Aug. 5.

like Him, Cavins said. Doing so requires the same strength and bravery that the Rabbi Himself, Christ, has. It requires being outside of comfort.

Cavins reminded his listeners

that "we have a message of life for the world, and we need to share it." The boldness required to share the Truth comes from spending time with the Master as well as being open to opportunity – something as simple as telling someone that God loves them.

He encouraged spending time with the Lord, truly being with Him. "This is from where we gain our strength to evangelize." Whether done in line at the grocery store or on a motorcycle ride across the United States, "above all, we have a responsibility to share Christ with others" in the way that is uniquely ours, he said; one that we discover by responding to the Lord's lech achari to each one of us.

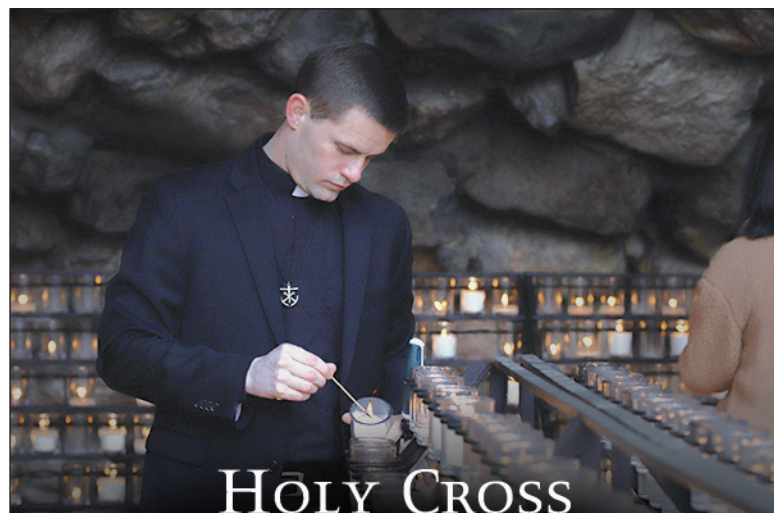
For more information about Cavins and his ministry, visit www.jeff-cavins.com/. To learn more about the God Squad, go to <https://god-squad.ca/>.



God Squad members, including apologist and EWTN personality Jeff Cavins, visited Holy Family Parish to share God's message.



Father Sunday Akuh, left, and Jeff Cavins, are shown during the God Squad's stop.



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Mary's Meals reaches milestone

FORT WAYNE — Global school feeding charity Mary's Meals announced July 30 that it is now feeding 1,504,471 children every day in 2,358 schools in 18 countries around the globe.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters from Mary's Meals USA and worldwide, the number of hungry children receiving Mary's Meals daily at school has risen 5% since January.

Mary's Meals works with local volunteers in some of the world's poorest communities. The promise of a nutritious meal encourages children who may otherwise be forced to work, beg or scavenge for food to come to school and gain an education that can provide an escape route from poverty.

The charity's founder, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, said: "While the numbers have never been the

most important thing for us, this is another wonderful milestone that gives us an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to every single person participating in this mission."

Mary's Meals began by feeding just 200 children in Malawi in 2002. The average cost to feed a child with Mary's Meals for a whole school year is just \$19.50.



Norms offer Communion options for gluten-intolerant Catholics

BY JANET PATTERSON

Lucas Cook was born with food allergies. "I didn't sleep and I threw up all the time. It was very hard on my mother," said the 16-year-old from Howe.

His allergies finally were identified when the youngster was 6. Both he and his brother Nathan, who is 13, were diagnosed with numerous food allergies, one of which was a wheat allergy that meant a sensitivity to gluten.

Individuals with gluten sensitivity do not produce the enzymes necessary to digest wheat, so their stomachs may not tolerate a regular Communion host.

For the Cook brothers and others like them, the desire to participate in the sacrament of holy Communion meant finding an alternative.

"So I would just go up to Communion and cross my arms," he said.

When his grandmother Delores Henderson talked about this with Father J. Steele, who administered St. Joseph Parish in LaGrange at the time, Father Steele suggested that Lucas and Nathan might be able to receive the Eucharist in the form of low-gluten hosts.

The family had the answer to their prayers. When the boys arrived for Mass they let Father Steele know they were there, and he would place the low-gluten hosts in a pyx for consecration separate from the wheat hosts.

Recent studies have identified a condition called non-celiac gluten sensitivity that includes people with wheat allergies, and an increase in the number of people with non-celiac gluten intolerance has raised the issue of the wheat that is a necessary ingredient in communion hosts.

"Given the serious health risk for those suffering gluten intolerance, it is important for pastors and other Church leaders not only to be aware of the reality, but prepared to address the situation of Catholics ... who come to parishes and seek to receive Holy Communion in a safe, sensitive, and compassionate man-



Photos by Janet Patterson

The Catholic Church teaches that a person receiving holy Communion under one or the other species, either the transubstantiated bread or wine, can be confident of the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

ner," the USCCB guidelines state.

In 2003, then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger issued a letter to the presidents of the conferences of bishops reminding them that "for bread to be valid matter for the Eucharist, it must be made solely of wheat, contain enough gluten to effect the confection of bread, be free of foreign materials, and unaffected by any preparation of baking methods which would alter its nature."

The letter went on to say that there is no minimum percentage or weight prescribed for validity, but there must be some gluten content.

For people who suffer from celiac disease, however, a small – even a trace – amount of gluten provokes a potentially deadly physical reaction.

In its guidelines for eucharistic ministry to those who have either celiac disease or gluten sensitivity, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops quotes a 2012 Mayo Clinic-led analysis that estimated about 1.8 million Americans have celiac disease, which means they cannot safely ingest even a small amount of gluten.

Cardinal Ratzinger, who later became Pope Benedict XVI, wrote that the lay faithful who could not receive "Holy Communion at all under the species of bread, even of low-gluten hosts, may receive...under the species of wine only, regardless of whether the Precious Blood is offered to the rest of the faithful present..."

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 1390, and General Instruction of the Roman Missal, No. 282, the Church



Father J. Steele suggested low-gluten hosts to the Cook brothers' grandmother to ease concerns about their wheat allergies when he was administrator of St. Joseph Parish in LaGrange, where the family worships.

teaches that the faithful receive the whole Christ whether under the form of the body of Christ or His precious blood.

Before Father Steele began to provide the low-gluten hosts for the Cook brothers, Lucas said he found that he could receive the precious blood without a reaction.

In late February, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades issued a memorandum to pastors of the diocese asking them to keep in mind the faithful who cannot receive even low-gluten hosts because of allergies or celiac disease. Since the precious blood is not distributed in some parishes during flu season, he reminded pastors that it should be made available to those individuals who receive solely from the chalice.

He also reminded pastors that if more than just those with gluten sensitivity will receive the precious blood, "the designated chalice must not yet have been drunk from by anyone who has already received a host," even a low-gluten host.

The issue of "cross-contamination" also extends to keeping the low-gluten hosts separate from the regular hosts.

Father Tony Steinacker, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Huntington wrote about the

reception of holy Communion for parishioners with gluten sensitivity in the parish's March 24 bulletin.

His suggestions include letting an usher know of the need for the low-gluten host when arriving for Mass.

"When you do come up in the communion line, I ask that you come to the line in which the Priest who is offering the Mass is distributing communion. As you present yourself to him, please simply say 'I need to receive the low-gluten Host or from the separate Chalice,'" he wrote.

"This is just one way that our Parish community can be more welcoming and accommodating to the needs of others," he noted.

The USCCB states that no medical certification is required to receive low-gluten hosts, and the determination to use low-gluten hosts is delegated to the pastor of a parish by the diocesan bishop.

For more information about low-gluten hosts, go to www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/liturgy-of-the-eucharist/cealic-disease-and-alcohol-intolerance.cfm



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What Christians need to know about Islam

BY DAVID MCCLAMROCK

David Pinault is a Catholic Christian who has spent his life studying Islam. In his book "The Crucifix on Mecca's Front Porch: A Christian Companion for the Study of Islam," he maintains that the study of Islam can help us better appreciate our Christian faith. Why?

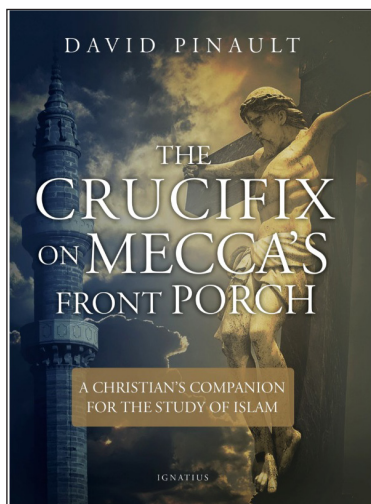
In large part, it's because we can see the goodness and beauty of the Christian faith more clearly by contrast with Islam. True, Pinault acknowledges that Muslims worship the same God as Jews and Christians do, the creator of the universe, under the name of Allah. But he must also acknowledge many stark contrasts between historic Muslim and Christian faith and practice — beginning with Muhammad himself, the founder of Islam. Here are a few examples brought forth by Pinault from Muhammad's life and teaching.

Far from doing no evil, like Jesus, Muhammad started committing robbery and murder in the name of Allah fairly early on. Far from bearing insults patiently and praying for his persecutors, as Jesus did, Muhammad was especially concerned to behead anyone who mocked or satirized him — showing himself too much like "the devil, the proud spirit," who "cannot endure to be mocked," in St. Thomas More's words.

Far from sacrificing himself for love of sinners in expectation of rising to eternal blessings, as Jesus and the saints have done, Muhammad denied both the Crucifixion and the Resurrection, and threatened those deemed sinners with torture in both this life and the next if they failed to submit to Allah's alleged requirements. Far from being always faithful to his word, like God and His only begotten Son, Muhammad contradicted himself in the Koran on such important points as whether Jews and Christians were or were not idolaters, and whether Muslims should or should not try to exterminate them.

The deepest contrast between Christianity and Islam, Pinault maintains, is found in the cross. God Himself, Christians believe, humbled Himself out of love for us, His creatures. To save us from sin and death, He became a man, suffered and died on the Cross, and rose again. Allah, according to Muhammad, would never do a thing so far beneath his dignity, and the worst among the Muslims regard it as blasphemy — punishable by death — to suggest that he would.

Muhammad also thought it abominable to attribute "helpers" to Allah. Christians believe that God became man to unite us with Himself as not only helpers but friends — sharing His suffer-



Ignatius Press, 2018 425 pp., ISBN 978-1-162164-232-9 (PB)

ings in His mission of salvation, becoming like Him as children of His Father, and spreading His charity to all throughout the world. So great is the unity of God with His helpers, His friends, that Christians — unlike Muslims — dare to proclaim, "Blessed be God in His angels and in His saints!"

In view of such extreme contrasts, Pinault understandably takes a dim view of those who try to promote interreligious harmony by minimizing the differences between Christianity and Islam. On the other hand, he is not among those Christians who declare that the most fanatical and violent interpretation of the Koran is the correct one, and therefore there can be no reconciliation at all between Christians and Muslims. Why not?

The short answer is that he knows too much about Islam and has seen too many Muslims who are not violent fanatics. He knows that the Koran is self-contradictory: For example, it contains passages indicating that Islam is indeed a religion of peace and tolerance, in addition to others indicating the opposite. All Muslims, so long as they remain Muslims, must regard some of these passages as canceling out those that contradict them, but they differ as to which ones are canceled and which ones remain valid.

It follows that Christians should engage in no senseless disputes about whether Islam is essentially a religion of peace and harmony or one of war and violence. Neither view is wholly true; both are true in part, but true of different versions of Islam.

Pinault makes it clear, in detail, that there are many widely different versions of Islam — as one would expect. Islam, like Protestantism, has a sacred book but no single authority to interpret the book. Schisms therefore arise from different interpretations of the same book. Some parts of the Bible may seem difficult, but are not impossible, to reconcile with other parts — and yet different sects claiming to rely on the Bible cannot agree. The

Koran contains some passages that literally contradict others; it is only to be expected that those who claim to rely on such a book will greatly disagree among themselves.

What does this mean for the future of relations between Christians and Muslims? Guess what: It means different things in relation to those who adhere to different versions of Islam.

Some are ruthless fanatics who seek to oppress Christians, to force them (if possible) to convert to Islam, or simply to terrorize or kill them. Christians must love their enemies but must recognize that Muslims of this kind are indeed enemies, and should strive to free all people from their grip.

Some eschew violence but engage in forms of "da'wah" or Islamic "evangelization" that unfairly misrepresents Christian teaching in contrast to Islam. These should be met with the whole truth, both about those points on which Christians and Muslims agree and those on which they disagree.

And then there are those, beloved of Pope Francis and many others, who sincerely wish to be fair to Christianity and even to engage in beneficial dialogue with Christians. Are these the only true Muslims? Of course not. Are they true Muslims? Yes, as true as any others, Pinault would say, though not as slavish in following their founder's bad example.

"As soon as men begin to be fair to the Church," G.K. Chesterton said, "they begin to be fond of her." Muslims are not immune to the goodness and beauty of Christianity and the Church. May those among them who are fair and respectful to the Church become fond of her, and ultimately change their loyalty from Muhammad and the Koran to the Son of God incarnate?

Things almost as strange have happened. Once upon a time, where Calvinism (originally a dismayingly Islam-like form of Protestantism) was in control, Catholics were oppressed and the Mass was prohibited as being supposedly idolatrous. Today, Calvin's various successors may honor his memory, but don't follow his bad example — and more than a few of them have become Catholic. With faithful effort and a lot of prayer from Christians, something like this may happen much more widely among Muslims too — especially where fanatics are not permitted to execute them for alleged apostasy, merely for recognizing that the same God they wish to serve has become a man to save us.

David McClamrock is a Catholic convert, a graduate of Thomas Aquinas College and The Law School of the University of Notre Dame, and a Hoosier lawyer.

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Random thoughts and caveats

One of the things I've been thinking about lately is how it's well known that preschool-age children who go to day care centers have more respiratory illnesses than those children who stay home. A study of nearly 1,000 children was recently performed to compare soap and water with hand sanitizer after coughing, sneezing, blowing noses, before and after lunch, after outside play and before going home. There were fewer respiratory illnesses and less antibiotic use in the hand sanitizer group. The message is to use hand sanitizer liberally and often, and you will be less likely to get sick.

I've been thinking about some other random things lately, too.

- One of the greatest risks of diabetes is an increased risk of cardiovascular events like heart attack, stroke and congestive heart failure. New medications have become available that are effective at not only treating diabetes but also at reducing cardiovascular risk. They are called sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors. If you already have heart disease they will likely provide even more benefit. Since these medicines were launched, rare serious side effects have been observed. Ask your doctor to help you weigh the risks and benefits of using these agents if you have diabetes. The downside is that despite multiple SGLT2 inhibitors being released to the market, they are all brand name and tend to be quite expensive unless you have

good insurance coverage. Don't forget that the best treatment for Type 2 diabetes is actually free — weight loss.

- A very recent article in the respected publication *Journal of the American Medical Association* reported on a study that took about a decade to complete. The investigators looked at sleep habits of women. They compared those who slept in pitch-black settings or wore a sleep mask, versus those who had significant exposure to light during the night. Sources of light included a television left on, a night light, a bright alarm clock, or a computer left on emitting light through the night. The scientists found that those women with light exposure during the night were more likely to be overweight. This study adds to the data we already know — not getting a good night's sleep is correlated with obesity. The bottom line is get enough sleep, and sleep in pitch-black conditions.

- I recently saw a 97-year-old whom I have had the honor to take care of for over three decades. He had bypass surgery 32 years ago. One of his sons lives on the same property to keep a close eye on him and usually comes with him to his appointments. I asked how active he was. He proceeded to tell me he was trimming bushes the week before and lost his balance falling backwards into the bush, becoming now stuck. He calmly and cleverly got his flip phone off his belt and called his son. The son confirmed that the conversa-



DR. DAVID KAMINSKAS

THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

tion went like this: "Son, are you doing anything right now?" "No Dad, I'm not really doing anything." "Do you think you could come outside and get me out of the bushes?" You can't make this stuff up! I am entertained by my patients every day.

- Obesity across our country is growing (pun intended). Insulin resistance occurs as people become overweight causing high insulin levels. These high insulin levels block the burning of fat, and cause storage of fat, promoting more obesity. Research has shown that fat burning and weight loss is difficult unless you drive your insulin levels down. The most effective way to do this is thru intermittent fasting. If you are near normal weight, a 12-hour fast can accomplish this. In the substantially overweight group your goal is in the 16-24 hour range. I suggest picking one day a week, stop eating after 6 p.m. and then wait till lunch the following day before you consume any calories. You just did an 18-hour fast! And, we all know that fasting is an integral part of

KAMINSKAS, page 17

Living in largo: in praise of a slower pace

There is an art and a science to slow living. This summer I'm trying to learn both.

In music you can measure it. The tempo called "largo" — Italian for "slow and broad" — clocks in at 40 to 60 beats per minute. "Allegro," by contrast, doubles that pace, while "presto" races up to 200.

Largo, as an art form, comes after the practice, once you turn off the metronome and play what you love. For me, that meant playing Mozart's Clarinet Concerto with my grandpa, our horns and hearts in sync.

Now 88, my grandpa has tucked away his clarinet but kept the tempo, experiencing the gift of largo as a listener, enjoying the younger music makers in his midst.

Sometimes I am astonished by the pace of life: how quickly we can make online purchases, how readily we can outsource, how fully we can avoid human contact.

This summer I'm being shown another way, discovering little invitations to slow down. One came as a letter from a college friend, handwritten on narrow sheets of a grocery-list pad. It was simple and newsy: a new niece, a recent trip to San Francisco, yearnings for the home she sold last year. The length surprised me, pausing me on a Tuesday night and transporting me to another time and place, the little German town where she'd been raised, where



CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

TWENTY SOMETHING

she was visiting when she wrote.

"So much of the spiritual journey is simply remembering — good or bad — and seeing God's hand in our lives," she told me. "Writing about those memories helps me to process and learn."

The same week a package from my cousin arrived: 10 black ballpoint pens, a sampler from JetPens.com. I was bowled over by the elegance of the gift, the luxury: to try out each one and determine a favorite, comparing the ink flow and tip size and grips.

I prefer the 0.7mm Uni Jetstream Sport. Every letter-writing, blessing-counting person deserves a favorite pen. This is mine.

In our busy modern world, to sit down and write someone a letter is a powerful affirmation of that person's dignity. The recipient is worth each pen stroke, each thought — written for her and her alone. My cousin's gift was the instrument to embrace that bedrock Catholic social teaching.

CAPECCHI, page 17

Resist the pressure to turn away from Christ



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

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Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 12:49-53

The Book of Jeremiah is the source of the first reading for this weekend. Jeremiah is regarded as one of the more important prophets. Along with Isaiah and Ezekiel, Jeremiah is called a major prophet.

Jeremiah was active as a prophet during the reign of King Josiah of Judah, or between 640 and 609 B.C., 2,600 years ago. Generally, Josiah was seen as a good and upright king, loyal to God.

It is good to remember that kingship in the eyes of the devout ancient Hebrews was not a matter primarily of govern-

ing the country politically, or of conducting foreign affairs, or of commanding the military. Instead, for the faithful, the king's responsibility, regardless of the person who was wearing the crown at any given time, was to see that the law of God was obeyed, and that the people of the kingdom were aware, and attentive to, the Covenant with God.

Very often, this expectation meant that prophets placed themselves in conflict with the powerful.

Jeremiah in this reading is certainly involving himself in controversy. He made enemies. Not everyone appreciated his demands to be loyal, above all else, to religious obligations. Indeed, enemies gathered to plot his death.

Despite the personal risk and ignoring the scheming of his enemies, Jeremiah, with utter determination, spoke that God deserved obedience. The Covenant had to be honored.

The Epistle to the Hebrews provides the second reading.

Written for a Jewish audience, eloquent and even majestically so, with strong references to

Hebrew history and symbols, this epistle splendidly proclaims the Lord Jesus to be the Redeemer, the Lamb of God and the High Priest.

The epistle's section, read this weekend, says that Jesus was "shameless" even when dying the ignoble death of crucifixion. Regardless of the insults and scorn of others, Jesus rose to sit at the right hand of the Father in glory.

For its last reading on this weekend, the Church offers us a passage from St. Luke's Gospel.

Always in reading the Gospels, it is important to note that they were written not at the time of Jesus, but decades later. This Gospel, for instance, was probably written 40 years after Jesus.

By the time this Gospel was composed, hostility against Christians already was beginning to form in the Roman Empire. This hostility erupted into a full-fledged persecution. Even without legal persecution, the Christian ethic stood utterly opposite the prevailing culture. It was Christianity versus the culture.

The evangelist had to record in writing words spoken by Jesus to apply to conditions important to the evangelist's audience. This being the case, it is easy to see what the Gospel in this reading quotes Jesus as predicting that peace would not inevitably occur on earth. Conflict was inevitable, as the attraction to sin was inevitable.

Humans have never automatically submitted themselves to God. The Lord's prediction was frank and direct.

Life for Christians would not be easy. Christians must be prepared to withstand many pressures to turn away from Christ.

Reflection

The Church is always inviting us to follow the Lord. Indeed, its most magnificent liturgical moments are in Holy Week, when it tells us so brilliantly of the Lord's love for us, given in the Eucharist, and on Calvary, and of the Lord's identity as Son of God, affirmed by the resurrection.

Nevertheless, in inviting us to discipleship, the Church never

leads us down a primrose path. It is very honest.

It is being very straightforward in these readings. Following Christ often may require us to swim against the tide. Pushing us the other way will be the setting in which we live, those among whom we love, or ourselves.

As was Jeremiah, as was Christ, we must withstand all that is contrary to God.

READINGS

Sunday: Jer 38:4-6, 8-10 Ps 40:2-4, 18 Heb 12:1-4 Lk 12:49-53

Monday: Jgs 2:11-19 Ps 106:34-37, 39-40, 43ab-44 Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24a Ps 85:9, 11-14 Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15 Ps 21:2-7 Mt 20:1-16

Thursday: Jgs 11:29-30a Ps 40:5, 7-10 Mt 22:1-14

Friday: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22 Ps 146:5-10 Mt 22:34-40

Saturday: Rv 21:9b-14 Ps 145:10-13ab, 17-18 Jn 1:45-51

Marriage: When expectations yield to love

This summer marks the special occasions of David's and my 40th anniversary and the marriage of our older son Ryan to Sarah, our new daughter.

In one of the pre-wedding festivities, I asked the men gathered, married from 10 to 50 years, what advice they have for the groom-to-be. They responded with this sheepish, knowing laugh that seemed to communicate the sentiment, "You don't know what is in store."

One pointed to the plaque on the wall with the inscription, "Happy wife, happy life." They all chimed in, "This is it." There was a collective explanation that when you are a bachelor, you get to your chores at some time and in some manner. But wives are very specific: They need things done by a particular time (usually now) and in a particular way (theirs). They seem to do so with unequal parts of cajoling, list-making and tyranny.

"Why You Will Marry the Wrong Person," an op-ed by Swiss and British philosopher Alain de Botton in *The New York Times*, May 28, 2016, was the most read article of the paper in that year. While it seems to deride marriage, the essay actually proposes what it takes to succeed in marriage.

It suggests that most people are too enamored to know, or want to know, the whole person they fall head over heels for and then marry. Romantic love stories traditionally set the apex at the altar and then leave generations of readers with "and they lived happily ever after."

Well, they don't. We find that we are actually difficult to live with; we make demands on each

other that can be self-centered or arbitrary; we are more different than we think; we have neuroses and baggage that trigger dramatic reactions to what seem to be throwaway comments. It is a letdown to realize that not all our needs — such as loneliness, security or affirmation — can be met.

Moreover, we find that our spouses come with families and friends who place claims on our time, resources and emotional well-being. We would have married the wrong person if the right person is the "perfect being ... who can meet all our needs and satisfy our every yearning."

De Botton proposes the work of marriage as the ability to "accommodate ourselves to 'wrongness,' striving always to adopt a more forgiving, humorous and kindly perspective." Compatibility, he reminds us, is the outcome of love, not its precondition.

From experience, I know grace happens when stifling expectations for the "perfect" spouse give way to appreciation of his or her goodness, vocation, gifts, vulnerabilities, heartfelt expressions of care and shortcomings. We should be most watchful about the tendency to remake spouses fit for our use to meet our needs and vanities.

While marriage is work, it is built on such simple things as "please," "may I," "thank you" and "sorry," the folksy advice that Pope Francis frequently gives to married couples. The strength of a marriage comes in times of difficulties when there are no answers, no guarantees, no safety net, but only the confidence that you can make it because you have each other.



OUR GLOBAL FAMILY

CAROLYN WOO

Commitment gives the space where healing can begin when one is at his or her worst and totally unreasonable, yet the spouse stays put.

The above is not only possible, but it is the plan of God for marriage. Holy Cross Father Bill Beauchamp, in his homily at Ryan and Sarah's wedding, reminded the couple, "Today you pledge yourselves to the unknown. You do not fully comprehend what you are promising to each other today, but you do so freely and with much excitement and joy, confident that God will be with you in your marriage."

Woo is distinguished president's fellow for global development at Purdue University and served as the CEO and president of Catholic Relief Services from 2012 to 2016.

Carolyn Woo is the distinguished president's fellow for global development at Purdue University and served as the CEO and president of Catholic Relief Services from 2012 to 2016.

of letter writing as "calisthenics for the brain."

This summer I'm using my Uni Jetstream Sport to tell others — one at a time — about the mile markers and music makers in my life. I'm playing Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young's humble hymn "Our House." I'm sitting on the porch. I'm taking my time. The days are stretching out before me with blue skies and bird song.

I'm trying to live in largo. I'm letting the word waltz in my mind, looking up its meaning. The Italian word, it turns out, derives from a Latin word, "largus," meaning "abundant." And this rings true: There is abundance to be found in slow living.

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

KAMINSKAS, from page 16

Christian discipline and worshipping our Lord.

Allow me to close with a favorite Bible verse, Matthew 6:16-18: "When you fast, you are not to look glum as the hypocrites do. They change the appearance of their faces so that others may see they are fasting. I assure you, they are already repaid. When you fast, see to it that you groom your hair and wash your face. In that way no one can see you are fasting but your Father who is hidden; and your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you."

Dr. David Kaminkas is a board-certified cardiologist and member of the Dr. Jerome Lejeune Catholic Medical Guild of Northeast Indiana, www.fortwaynecma.com.

CAPECCHI, from page 16

There is no wrong way to write a letter. The act of connecting counts. I bought a few postcards from an antique store to remind me of that truth. One postcard, penned in 1911 and mailed to Bonfield, Illinois, with a 1-cent stamp, consisted of nine words (and zero punctuation marks): "Hello Mary How are you I am fine Carrie."

Mary, in turn, faithfully wrote dispatches from Bonfield, sending her sister an update on Oct. 27, 1914: "Boys are busy husking. It is pretty cold. Yesterday we had frost. ... Lena Stehr will be buried this afternoon."

Mary also received postcards from her boyfriend, Howard. One contained a marriage proposal.

Letters become breadcrumbs that are gobbled up by historians, archivists and relatives hungry for secrets and signs of life. David McCullough, the acclaimed presidential biographer, praised the exercise

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Readings for August 18, 2019

Hebrews 12:1-4/ Luke 12:49-53

Following is a word search based on the Second Reading and Gospel for the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SURROUNDED	A CLOUD	THE RACE
FAITH	ENDURED	THE CROSS
SHAME	RIGHT	HAND
THRONE OF GOD	WEARY	SHEDDING
BLOOD	FIRE	BAPTISM
PEACE	EARTH	DIVIDED
AGAINST	MOTHER	DAUGHTER

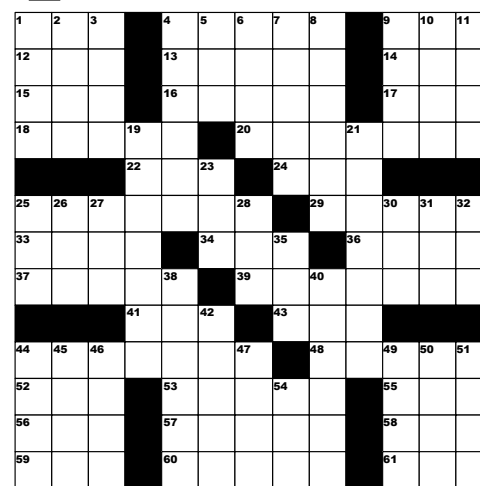
ENDURING

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

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The Cross Word

August 18 and 25, 2019



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Readings: Jer 38:4-6, 8-10; Heb 12:1-4; Lk 12:49-53 and Is 66:18-21; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30

ACROSS

- 1 __ Lanka
- 4 Anxiety
- 9 Not downs
- 12 Boy
- 13 " __ and south"
- 14 Foot extension
- 15 Frost
- 16 Town news giver
- 17 Alias (abbr.)
- 18 They wanted Jeremiah's
- 20 Jeremiah was one
- 22 "Father against"
- 24 Compass point

25 Christ __ the cross

- 29 Rub out
- 33 Person, place or thing
- 34 Pull
- 36 Horse prodder
- 37 Author Poe
- 39 Worth his wage
- 41 Cistern was filled with
- 43 "Every burden and"
- 44 Demanded
- 48 Hereditary class
- 52 Klutz
- 53 Small egg
- 55 Hovel

- 56 Southwestern Indian
- 57 Shred (2 wds.)
- 58 Sea eagle
- 59 Church bench
- 60 Children's sliding toys
- 61 Genetic code

DOWN

- 1 Skidded
- 2 "Running the __"
- 3 Thought
- 4 Hope symbol
- 5 Neither's partner
- 6 Grab tightly
- 7 Harsh
- 8 God's seat
- 9 Salt Lake state
- 10 Jab
- 11 Christ has taken his
- 19 Giant wave
- 21 Public image
- 23 Gauze
- 25 East northeast
- 26 Affirmative gesture
- 27 Shoveled
- 28 Pain unit
- 30 Easter month
- 31 Take to court
- 32 Sin
- 35 Had been
- 38 Hearsay
- 40 Arm muscles
- 42 Satan
- 44 __ de grace
- 45 Deceased
- 46 "Will only __ people be saved?"
- 47 Fool
- 49 Martyrs __ blood
- 50 Spin around
- 51 Gas burner
- 54 Italy volcano

Answer Key can be found on page 19

MOTHERS, from page 11

Hannah's House relies completely on donations for its funding. The diocese, its parishes and Catholic community are important contributors to its operation.

For information on Hannah's House, call 574-254-5309 or go to www.hannahshousemichiana.org.

Foundation support

Two Catholic-based foundations in Fort Wayne, the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation and the Mary Cross Tippmann Foundation, invest significantly in organizations working to prevent infant mortality.

"We are involved because we want to love the mother and the baby," said Meg Distler, SJCHF executive director, who said preventing infant mortality is the foundation's No. 1 priority. Women shouldn't feel so stressed they choose to abort a pregnancy, she said.

To help pregnant women and mothers get the array of support services they need, the foundation provides funding to a range of social service organizations working to prevent infant mortality. It also helped start the Prenatal & Infant Care Network in Fort Wayne, which has about 260 social service agency staff



Today's Catholic file photo

Hannah's House is located at 518 W. South St., close to public transportation and in a neighborhood near downtown Mishawaka.



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members on its mailing list. Quarterly network meetings provide an opportunity to learn from experts and to build collaboration among various agencies and their staffs.

The Mary Cross Tippmann Foundation provides funding to several organizations that help prevent infant mortality, including Women's Care Center, A Mother's Hope, Hannah's House, the Christ Child Society and Safe Haven Baby Boxes, said Cheryl Chalfant, foun-

ation executive director.

"We also support a number of organizations that assist families with their needs for food, shelter and medical attention," Chalfant said in an email. "While these programs may not be specifically directed toward reducing infant mortality, we find that supporting families with healthy food, routine medical attention and safe shelter improves the overall health of moms and babies during pregnancy and beyond."



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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.

World Apostolate of Fatima quarterly meeting planned

SOUTH BEND — The World Apostolate of Fatima will have a quarterly meeting with rosary and benediction, Thursday, Aug. 15, at 7 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Parish, 3616 St. Johns Way. Celebrant for Mass will be Father Glen Kohrman. A reception will follow. Visit fatimafwsb.org for information.

Cursillo Ultreya

FORT WAYNE — Our Lady of Good Hope, 7215 St. Joe Rd., will hold a Cursillo Ultreya on Saturday, Aug. 17, from 7-9 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with an opportunity for snacks and fellowship before the event. Praise and worship at 7 p.m. will be followed by testimony, grouping and time for more fellowship. This event is open to all Cursillistas, their spouses and anyone interested in learning more about Cursillo. Contact Jackie Oberhausen at jackieo@olghfw.com for more information.

Theology on Tap - summer series finale

FORT WAYNE — Conclude the Theology on Tap series Aug 20 with a Mass and cookout at St. Charles Borromeo, 4916 Trier Rd. Mass at 6:30 p.m. in the church will be followed by a cookout at 7 p.m. Grilled meats and water will be provided. Bring a side dish to share, any additional beverages (no hard alcohol) and your favorite lawn game. Contact Crystal Serrano-Puebla at 224-650-0578 or cserrano@diocesefwsb.org for information.

Frassati Society lake day

SYRACUSE — Fort Wayne's Frassati Society is hosting a relaxing day at Lake Wawasee, 12029 North Ogden Point Rd., Saturday, Aug. 24, to grow in fellowship with young adults in the diocese. Snacks and dinner provided but eat lunch before you come. Contact Ryan Harner at ryanharner@saintv.org.

Pilgrimage to Medugorje

FORT WAYNE — Join Father Daniel Whelan, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Good Hope, for a pilgrimage to Medugorje. We will be staying at the house of Mirjana and her family. Mirjana is one of the visionaries. Contact Father Daniel or go to the website www.triumphpilgrimages.com. Contact Father Whelan at padredww@yahoo.com.

Love, Life and Laughter three-part series to begin

FORT WAYNE — St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1502 E Wallen Rd., will offer a three-part series on faith and the family. All events are 7:30-9 p.m. in the church. Aug. 25: Dr. Christopher Stroud – One in Christ with Marianne Stroud; Sept. 15: Dr. Ray Guarendi – Supporting Catholic Parents; and Oct. 6: Chris Padgett – Catholic Family and Marriage. Contact Dorothy Schuerman at 260-489-3537 or church@saintv.org.

REST IN PEACE

Angola

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Decatur

Margaret R. Moeller, 88, St. Mary of the Assumption

Fort Wayne

Margaret Stevens, 90, St. Charles Borromeo

Nilda Salazar, 84, St. Charles Borromeo

John Harper, 80, St. Charles Borromeo

Joseph Brinker, 77, St. Vincent de Paul

Rita Sweeney, 83, St. Vincent de Paul

Reina Gladieux, 90, St. Vincent de Paul

Granger

Alex Horvath, 61, St. Pius X

Huntington

Barbara J. Steele, 84, St. Mary

Mishawaka

Michael Bennett, 69, Queen of Peace

Kathleen Freese, 68, St. Bavo

South Bend

Stan Klaybor, 89, St. John the Baptist

Margaret Robinson, 91, Christ the King

Virginia Zellers, St. Jude

John Golba, 87, St. Therese, Little Flower

Brian Garland, 47, St. Therese, Little Flower

Susan O'Brien, 52, St. Therese, Little Flower

Timothy Scott, 66, Holy Cross

Eva Buday, 74, St. Matthew Cathedral

Visit www.todayscatholic.org/event for the complete events calendar

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August 18 and 25, 2019

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PRO-LIFE, from page 1

of great peril for our culture and society," Archbishop Naumann said.

During the three-day conference, participants attended a variety of break-out sessions led by experts in law and medicine, diocesan leaders and parish priests.

Sessions addressed topics related to overturning Roe v. Wade, ministry to people after abortion, hospice and palliative care, and assisted suicide.

During his keynote address, Archbishop Naumann acknowledged the pain and anger caused by the clergy sexual abuse crisis and encouraged his listeners to persevere as leaders in the Church.

He noted that a 2019 book by Auxiliary Bishop Robert E. Barron of Los Angeles titled "Letter to a Suffering Church: A Bishop Speaks Out on the Sexual Crisis" describes the scandal as a "diabolical masterpiece" that has "corroded Catholic credibility" on a variety of fronts.

The pro-life effort was affected, too, Archbishop Naumann said.

"It cannot be denied that it has impaired the voice of the Church in speaking to our culture about the great moral evils of our time," he said. This does not "absolve us of speaking boldly and strongly at the same time with humility. But, we must continue to teach the truth and speak it with love."



Marchers share the pro-life message on the streets of Fort Wayne in January.

John Martin

He noted that Bishop Barron's book addresses the question "Why remain Catholic in these difficult times?"

The archbishop added, "For you, I think the question becomes even more powerful: 'Why remain a leader within

the Church who has these problems?'"

The Church is an "earthen vessel" but holds a great, great treasure," he said. He went on to list three reasons to remain Catholic and continue to be a leader in the Church.

First, the Church speaks of God in an age when "we see a growing atheism and a growing return to a paganism," he said.

"There is a God. But not just that there's a God, but to know of a God of revelation, of a God that has pursued us, that sent

His Son into the world to share our humanity so that we could share in His life," he continued. "That is the privilege of all of us as Catholics, but especially as Catholic leaders, to share with our world."

Another reason to persevere is the saints, he said.

"There would be no scandals in the Church if its members, particularly we the clergy, faithfully followed our moral teaching," Archbishop Naumann said. "Many saints were previously great sinners yet we do not venerate them for their sin but the transformation of their lives by God's grace."

Quoting Pope Benedict XVI, he said the saints were motivated to live "heroic lives of virtue" for the chance to encounter the person of Jesus Christ.

"Catholicism affords us many opportunities to experience encounters with Jesus," he said.

The third reason to persevere, the archbishop said, is the magisterium. The magisterium is the Church's authority to give authentic interpretation of the word of God.

"The magisterium is a great gift even though it's entrusted to weak individuals," he said. "But it's through this gift the Holy Spirit remains with the Church and keeps us constant in our teachings."

Jessica Able is a staff writer at The Record, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Louisville.



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