

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE – SOUTH BEND
915 South Clinton Street · Post Office Box 390
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

March 17, 2020

Dear Faithful of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend,

In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, I write to encourage you, in the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, "to live this difficult moment with the strength of the faith, the certainty of hope and the ardor of charity."

Like many other dioceses throughout our country and world, I have made the difficult decision, along with the other bishops of Indiana, to suspend the celebration of public Masses in our diocese due to the escalation of the virus and to help prevent its spread. This suspension begins on Wednesday, March 18th and will remain in effect until further notice.

Not being able to attend Mass is very difficult spiritually since the Holy Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life." As Catholics, we must do our part to help protect those who could be infected by the virus at public gatherings.

Please know that I and our priests will be praying fervently for you at our daily private celebrations of Mass. I encourage you to make an act of "spiritual communion," especially on Sundays. Saint Thomas Aquinas defined "spiritual communion" as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him." You can use the following prayer from Saint Alphonsus Liguori to make a "spiritual communion":

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least into my heart. I embrace You as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Saint Teresa of Avila wrote: "When you cannot receive Communion and cannot attend Mass, you can make a spiritual communion, which is a most beneficial practice; by it the love of God will be greatly impressed on you."

I encourage you during this time to watch Holy Mass on television or the online Masses being live-streamed from many of our parishes, including a live-streamed Mass that I will be celebrating every Sunday at 10:00 AM. I also encourage you to reflect on

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USCCB launches 'Walking With Moms in Need' yearlong parish service project

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Catholic bishops are being asked to invite the parishes in their dioceses to join a nationwide effort called "Walking With Moms in Need: A Year of Service" from March 25 of this year through March 25, 2021.

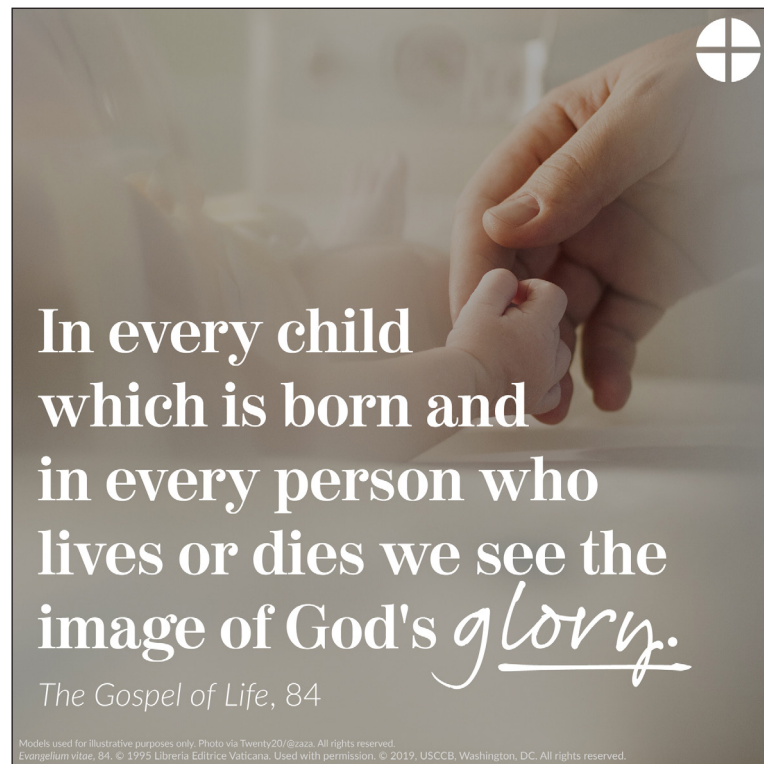
Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, announced the new initiative on the National Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children Jan. 22, the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion through all nine months of pregnancy across the country.

The new program has its own website, www.walkingwithmoms.com, with "resources, outreach tools and models to assist parishes in this effort. Resources will be continue to be added to the site, according to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities.

"As the Church and growing numbers of pro-life Americans continue to advocate for women and children in courthouses and legislatures," Archbishop Naumann said, "the Church's pastoral response is focused on the needs of women facing pregnancies in challenging circumstances."

This pastoral response to pregnant women and mothers in need "has long been the case" for the Church, he said, but added the Year of Service will "intensify" this response.

The launch date of the program marks the 25th anniversary of St. John Paul II's encyclical "Evangelium Vitae" ("The Gospel of Life"). The encyclical,



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CNS photo/USCCB

This meme is included in the materials for the U.S. bishops' "Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service" from March 25, 2020, through March 25, 2021. The U.S. bishops are inviting the parishes in their dioceses to join in this national initiative, which Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said intensifies the Church's long-standing pastoral response to "the needs of women facing pregnancies in challenging circumstances."

the 11th of his pontificate, forthrightly condemns abortion and euthanasia, the major attacks on human life at its beginning and end. It also contained what several observers at the time called the strongest expression ever of Church teaching against capital punishment: It says the cases of justifiable use of it today are "very rare, if not practically non-

existent."

Through the Year of Service, parishes are asked to complete a simple inventory of the resources currently available in their local area, assess the results and identify gaps, and plan and implement a parish response based on their findings.

In "recognizing that women in need can be most effectively

reached at the local level," Archbishop Naumann explained, the year of service "invites parishes to assess, communicate, and expand resources to expectant mothers within their own communities."

The Year of Service is divided into five phases of parish action:

— Phase 1: Announce the Year of Service and begin building a core team (March 2020).

— Phase 2: Launch parish inventory process (May 2020).

— Phase 3: Share inventory results and begin assessment and planning (September 2020).

— Phase 4: Announcement and Commitment to Parish Response (January 2021).

— Phase 5: Celebration and Implementation of Parish Plans (March 2021).

There are suggested steps for implementing each phase, along with sample announcements, sample intercessions, homily helps and a prayer activity.

For example in Phase 1, the steps include appoint a parish leader; begin assembling a parish core team; establish a parish support network; and announce the "Evangelium Vitae" anniversary and Year of Service; pray for pregnant mothers in need as a parish community; and begin planning the parish's first core team meeting.

"We pray that 'Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service' will help us reach every pregnant mother in need, that she may know she can turn to her local Catholic community for help and authentic friendship," Archbishop Naumann added when he announced the nationwide effort in January.

Walking with
Moms in Need
a year of service





Latest diocesan directives on COVID-19

FORT WAYNE — The spread of the new coronavirus has been carefully monitored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and all dioceses in the state of Indiana, including the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. A webpage has been created to share COVID-19 information and directives that affect Catholic school parents and members of all parishes: www.diocesefwsb.org/covid-19. The information on that page is available in both English and Spanish. Please visit the site regularly for updates on the diocesan response to COVID-19.

With the spread of COVID-19 accelerating and more stringent measures being recommended by the CDC and other civil authorities, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has issued the following directives, effective immediately.

Catholic schools

The Catholic Schools Office announced March 12 the closing of all 43 Catholics within the 14-county service area effective Monday, March 16 and for a minimum of three weeks. A set date has not been established for the re-opening of the schools. Additionally, all afterschool and extracurricular activities have been suspended until further notice. Beginning March 16, school officials began working with staff members from all 43 schools to finalize plans for eLearning or distance learning for students. Parents should watch for communications from their principals for more information.

Parishes

All public Sunday and weekday Masses are suspended, effective March 18, until further notice.

All Catholics in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend remain dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass while this suspension is in effect. (TV Mass and live-stream online options can be found at <http://www.dio->

cesefwsb.org/covid-19.)

At the present time, parish churches will remain open for private prayer and adoration of the Lord in the tabernacle. There will be no “scheduled” services that would bring people together at a specific time. These include services of Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Sacraments and other liturgical rites

At the present time, baptisms, weddings, and funerals may proceed, but attendance is to be limited to immediate family and necessary participants (and only if they have not exhibited symptoms of COVID-19).

Those preparing to receive the sacraments and enter the Church this Easter or in the following weeks through RCIA will still be permitted to complete that process at an appropriate time once the pandemic has eased. The bishop has dispensed the elect from the preparatory rites for initiation.

Penance services are prohibited and confession times will not be scheduled. Priests can hear confessions of people who ask to receive the sacrament. For individual confessions, it is recommended that some distance (6 feet, if possible) should be kept between priest and penitent. Confessions may be heard outdoors. If indoors, it is recommended that the room be large enough to maintain some distance. Whether indoors or outdoors, the secrecy of the confession must be maintained. No one else should be near enough to hear the confession.

The protocols and directives of hospitals, nursing homes and other health care facilities must be followed in pastoral visits to the sick, including the use of masks, gloves, or gowns. The same or similar precautions should be taken when visiting the sick in their homes, especially if the sick person has, or is suspected of having, the COVID-19 virus. In such cases,

the priest may use a cotton-tipped swab or a cotton ball in anointing the sick person. In pastoral visits to the sick, proper precautions should be taken in hearing confessions and giving Holy Communion. Hands should be washed or sanitized thoroughly before and after all visits to the sick. Priests are to follow the directives of local and state health officials when ministering to persons with the COVID-19 virus. Quarantine may be required if the proper protocols are not followed.

At this time, weddings and funerals may be celebrated within or outside Mass, but are not open to the general public. The precautions previously mandated for Masses (with some adjustments) remain in effect for these occasions, including “social distancing” measures, no physical contact at the sign of peace or any other time, precautions surrounding the preparation of the bread and wine, and particular care during distribution of Holy Communion.

Additional directives that apply to priests, parish staff and liturgical ministers have been sent to priests. These can also be viewed online at www.diocesefwsb.org/covid-19.

Q & A

If I must miss Mass, what else can I do to keep Sunday holy?

Those who cannot attend Mass in person may participate in the liturgy through the weekly televised Mass shown at the following times.

In the Fort Wayne area: WFFT TV, FOX Ch. 55 at 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning. Cable: Frontier Ch. 5 and Comcast Ch. 12.

In the South Bend area: WNDU, Channel 16 at 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning. Cable: Comcast Ch. 8.

Watch current and past Sunday Masses from Heart of the Nation online anytime at: www.heartofthenation.org/online-mass/sunday-mass

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Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

In the interest of stemming the spread of COVID-19, all events on the public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades for the week of March 22-28 have been postponed.



DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

ReportBishopAbuse.org or (800) 276-1562

The **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** has been established to receive reports of sexual abuse and related misconduct by bishops, and to relay those reports to proper Church authorities for investigation. Where a report includes a crime, such as the sexual abuse of a minor, it will also be reported to civil authorities. Otherwise, reports will be kept confidential.

If you have any other kind of complaint about a bishop—such as parish assignments, church closings, or homily contents—please address those directly to your diocesan or eparchial bishop instead. Sexual abuse by a priest, deacon or a staff member or volunteer of the Church should be reported to the office of Victim Assistance in your local diocese/eparchy. So, to be sure you get the help you need, phone numbers and addresses may be found on the diocesan/eparchial website.

If you are the victim of sexual abuse (or any other crime), please contact local law enforcement.

Nationwide service to report sexual misconduct involving U.S. bishops launched

INDIANAPOLIS — As part of a continuing effort to strengthen its commitment to protecting minors and vulnerable adults, Catholic dioceses in the United States have established a third-party reporting system to receive allegations of sexual abuse, sexual misconduct and cover-up of abuse by bishops.

People can call a toll-free hotline at (800) 276-1562 to submit a complaint or make a report online at ReportBishopAbuse.org.

The Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting service was created in response to Pope Francis' call for “public, stable and easily accessible systems” for global reporting of abuse allegation in his apostolic letter ‘Vos estis lux mundi’ (‘You are the light of the world’), which he issued on May

7, 2019. That document mandated every Catholic diocese in the world to create procedures for such reporting by June 1, 2020.

The requirements put forth in “Vos estis lux mundi” do not replace systems already in place in every diocese and archdiocese in the United States for reporting abuse by clergy, religious and Church employees or volunteers. The new third-party reporting system has been created to specifically address sexual abuse, sexual misconduct and cover-up of complaints involving bishops and general superiors of religious orders.

The Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting service allows for

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PREPARE, from page 3

Daily Mass readings can be read at www.usccb.org/bible. Any type of meditative devotional prayer (e.g., the Rosary) is also a great option for the ill or bedridden.

Redeemer Radio broadcasts Mass on Saturday and Sunday mornings at 8 a.m. on 95.7FM Michiana and 106.3FM NE Indiana. Listen live any time at www.redeemerradio.com.

What is a spiritual communion?

We can pray for Jesus to enter our hearts spiritually, that we may be filled with the graces missed in the sacrament.

I want to pray for those who are sick.**Any recommendations for prayers?**

All the faithful are invited to join together to seek together the maternal intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Prayer in English. Prayer in Spanish. Read more from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Some sample prayers for the sick may be found here. [St.](#)

Roch is patron of plague victims, so one could pray for his intercession. Our Lady of Prompt Succor ("Quick Help") is another powerful intercessor in times of tribulation.

My loved one is sick with COVID-19. Can I still request Anointing of the Sick?

Yes, every effort will be made to bestow Anointing of the Sick so long as a priest is available for the anointing. Special precautions may need to be taken to avoid the risk of transmission. Is there anything I can do to help prevent the spread at my parish? For example, can I volunteer to help keep my parish sanitized?

Consult instructions on proper hygiene and sanitation, and then call your parish to see what the needs might be.

SERVICE, from page 3

individuals to relay to Church authorities any reports of U.S. Catholic bishops who have:

- forced someone to perform or to submit to sexual acts through violence, threat, or abuse of authority;
- performed sexual acts with a minor or a vulnerable person;
- produced, exhibited, possessed, or distributed child pornography, or recruited or induced a minor or a vulnerable person to participate in pornographic exhibitions;
- or, a diocesan or eparchial bishop, or a cleric overseeing a diocese/eparchy in the absence of a diocesan or eparchial bishop, who has intentionally interfered with a civil or Church investigation into allegations of sexual abuse committed by another cleric or religious.

In response to "Vos estis lux mundi," the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved three documents at its fall 2019 meeting affirming full commitment to the provisions in Pope Francis' Apostolic letter as well as directives and protocols for fulfilling the mandates in "Vos estis lux mundi." The three documents – "Affirming our Episcopal Commitments," "Directives for the Implementation of the Provisions of 'Vos estis lux mundi' Concerning Bishops and their Equivalents" and "Protocol Regarding Available Non-Penal Restrictions on Bishops" – may be found on the website of each diocese in Indiana.

Under the new third-party reporting service, complaints will be fielded by Convercent, Inc., an independent company, which is operating the toll-free hotline and website. Convercent is responsible for sending the allegations to the appropriate metropolitan archbishop and to the Apostolic Nuncio, who is the Holy Father's representative in Washington, D.C. who sends the report to the Holy See. The

Catholic Church in the United States has 32 provinces. Each province has one archdiocese plus several dioceses. The head of the archdiocese (the archbishop) is also known as the "metropolitan," and he presides over the province. The other dioceses are referred to as "suffragan" dioceses.

In Indiana, the five Catholic dioceses — Indianapolis, Gary, Fort Wayne-South Bend, Lafayette and Evansville — make up the Province of Indianapolis. The metropolitan of the province is the Archbishop of Indianapolis. If an allegation were to be made against the Archbishop of Indianapolis, the report is forwarded the senior suffragan bishop in the province.

A layperson has been appointed by each metropolitan to receive reports of conduct about bishops either through the third-party reporting entity or those made directly to the metropolitan. In addition to appointing a layperson to receive reports, each metropolitan is to appoint qualified experts to help with investigations of claims. In Indiana, the list of experts, who are all lay people, includes retired police detectives, a former federal prosecutor, clinical psychologists, a retired civil rights attorney, a school principal and others with appropriate areas of expertise.

Once a report has been received, the metropolitan will promptly comply with all applicable civil laws with respect to making reports to civil authorities and will encourage anyone with an allegation to make his or her own report to civil authorities. Each metropolitan is also responsible for seeing that any person making a report of having been harmed receives pastoral care.

An initial examination of the report is to be immediately conducted to determine whether or not the report appears manifestly unfounded or whether its impossibility or falsehood is obvious, clear and in need of no further investigation. If the report is determined to be manifestly

unfounded, the Apostolic Nuncio should be informed of the reasons for the conclusion and provided any relevant information. The Apostolic Nuncio can direct that further inquiry be conducted in order to determine with more certainty that the report is false.

If the report is not manifestly unfounded, the metropolitan is to request authorization from the Holy See through the Apostolic Nuncio to begin an investigation into the report. A determination should also be made at the same time whether there is any personal bias or conflict of interest that would hinder the metropolitan who received the report from completing an impartial investigation. If so, the metropolitan should indicate in the request to the Holy See that he has recused himself.

Once authorization is given by the Holy See to begin the investigation, the metropolitan may carry out the investigation personally or appoint an investigator chosen from among the lay experts identified previously by the province to conduct the investigation.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the metropolitan is to send the findings to the Holy See through the Apostolic Nuncio, including the names and titles of the individuals from the expert list who were chosen to assist in the process, as well as any other pertinent documents. Once the Holy See receives the conclusions of the investigation, the Holy See will initiate the appropriate process that will lead to a final judgement.

In accord with the presumption of innocence, all appropriate steps are to be taken to protect the reputation of the person under investigation, to assure the exercise of other rights afforded him under canon law, and to restore his good name if it has been illegitimately harmed.

These directives will be reviewed every three years by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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Who is a metropolitan?

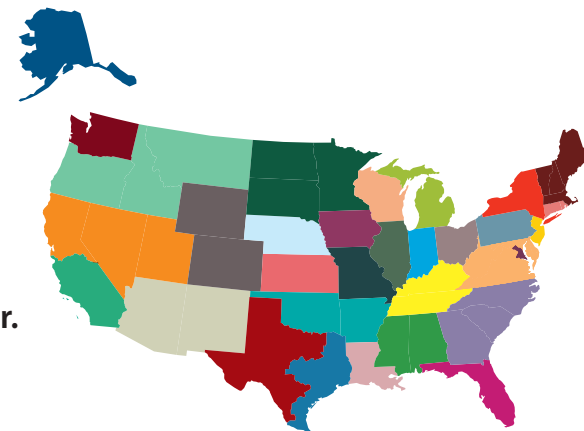
• The Catholic Church in the United States has 32 provinces.

• Each province is made up of dioceses that are grouped together.

• A province has one archdiocese plus one or more dioceses.

• The other dioceses in the province are referred to as suffragan dioceses.

• The archbishop of the archdiocese, also known as the metropolitan, presides over the province.



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Measure promoting respect for life among ICC's 2020 successes

A major pro-life victory was among the highlights of this year's short session of the Indiana General Assembly, which saw successes as well as setbacks for the Indiana Catholic Conference.

Senate Bill 299, a measure that clarifies requirements for abortion providers to treat fetal remains with dignity, passed both chambers of the state legislature with bipartisan support and at press time was awaiting Gov. Eric Holcomb's signature. Authored by Sen. Liz Brown, R-Fort Wayne, the bill gives direction to the Indiana State Department of Health and augments a 2016 state law requiring the respectful disposition of fetal remains after abortion, which was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court after being challenged by the abortion industry.

If signed into law, Senate Bill 299 will mandate that abortion providers in Indiana have policies in place with a funeral home or licensed burial provider to dispose of fetal remains by burial or cremation.

"This is a very positive outcome, and it needed to be done," said Glenn Tebbe, associate director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. "The clarification and implementation of the law stating that fetal remains be treated with dignity as human remains and not as medical waste is a significant step forward. The ICC always puts respect for life at the top of its priorities, and we applaud lawmakers for taking this important stand."

The 2020 legislative session, which concluded March 11, marked the final one with Tebbe's longtime presence at the Statehouse. Tebbe led the ICC for 16 years before transitioning the executive director role to Angela Espada on Jan. 1. He contin-

ued to collaborate with Espada throughout the session and will remain involved in ICC business until his anticipated retirement in mid-May.

As in past years, the ICC promoted certain legislation in keeping with Catholic social teaching, while opposing other measures.

"We had many bills that would have been detrimental to the well-being of society that were fortunately not heard," Tebbe said. "Those included bills concerning physician-assisted suicide and gestational surrogacy."

Education is always a key priority of the ICC, and Tebbe and Espada point to positive moves on that front this year. Among the numerous measures that sought to streamline bureaucracy in education was House Bill 1003, which reduces ever-growing requirements for teacher training. Tebbe emphasized that this legislation, which moved forward with broad support, will benefit all schools in Indiana, both public and non-public.

Another measure backed by the ICC was House Bill 1066, an omnibus education bill that included closing certain gaps in school voucher eligibility for siblings and foster children. Although that language was eventually stripped from the bill, Tebbe said he was heartened by the tone of the debate and the fact that many lawmakers indicated the provision might be more successful in next year's longer legislative session, which will include the creation and passage of the state's biennial budget.

"The discussion was very positive, without the animosity that is sometimes there with regard to the school choice program," Tebbe said. "Although in the end the law wasn't changed because of this being a non-budget year, we heard from many legislators that they intend to make that

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

change next year."

Another ICC-supported bill was signed into law by Gov. Holcomb on the final day of the legislative session. House Bill 1009, authored by Rep. Chuck Goodrich, R-Noblesville, will benefit poor families by exempting a student's income earned through a paid internship or other work-based opportunity from their family's eligibility for certain government-assistance programs. Those include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, more commonly known as food stamps, and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

At the same time, a long-overdue modernization of TANF itself was passed over again, to the dismay of the ICC and other advocates for the poor. Other setbacks during the legislative session included the failure of Senate Bill 67, a measure that would have given more authority to township trustees to aid the homeless in their area who may not be from their township or cannot prove their legal residence.

"This session had some disappointing moments, when legislation that would have helped the poor or vulnerable did not move forward," Espada said. "There were also many high points. And for me, one of the highlights was having Glenn as a source of information and knowledge. It was an honor to have him accompany me through my first session, and it remains an honor for me to represent the Church."

Tebbe said the ICC is in good hands moving forward under Espada's leadership.

"She embraced this role, was a quick learner, and was very effective," Tebbe said. "I look forward to her continuing what is now a more than 50-year tradition of the ICC at the Statehouse. We are one of the few religious entities that have an ongoing

and sustained presence there, and our conference is still relevant and effective, particularly when we work in harmony with other like-minded individuals and groups. We are even more effective when we have the Catholic faithful echoing Church teaching and reminding legislators that they're watching and they're interested.

"Legislators — both Catholic and non-Catholic — do want to know where the Church stands on many issues," Tebbe continued. "They recognize that we are

a consistent moral voice, and we don't have an ideological or party affiliation. I've been privileged to have this position, and whatever successes we have had have been a team effort."


For more detailed information regarding these bills and other priority legislation of the ICC, visit www.indianacc.org. This website includes I-CAN, the Indiana Catholic Action Network, which offers the Church's position on key issues and ways to contact elected representatives.

"Legislators — both Catholic and non-Catholic — do want to know where the Church stands on many issues."

GLENN TEBBE



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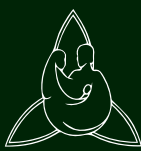
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Pope entrusts world threatened by coronavirus pandemic to Mary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis entrusted to Jesus' mother the suffering and anguish of millions of people affected by the coronavirus pandemic. In a video message broadcast March 11, the pope prayed before a portrait of Our Lady of Divine Love, beseeching her to "not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial" but to "deliver us from every danger. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm," the pope prayed. "You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial." The pope's video message was aired on TV2000, the television channel of the Italian bishops' conference, and the Diocese of Rome's Facebook page. Cardinal Angelo De Donatis, papal vicar of Rome, celebrated a Mass at Rome's Shrine of Divine Love that was aired live after the pope's message. The Mass, according to the Diocese of Rome, capped a day of prayer and fasting for the city and for Italy, which has been under a government-mandated lockdown to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

New Zealand deacon participates in ordination of his son as bishop

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (CNS) — In a first for New Zealand, a permanent deacon participated in the episcopal ordination Mass of his son. More than 3,000 people from throughout New Zealand attended the March 7 ordination Mass of Bishop Michael Gielen, 48, as an auxiliary bishop of Auckland. Deacon Henk Gielen participated in the Mass, which had strong Maori and Pasifika cultural elements. The Vodafone Events Centre was chosen for the event because St. Patrick's Cathedral was not large enough to accommodate the expected congregation. Before the Mass, NZ Catholic newspaper asked Deacon Gielen if he could ever have imagined when his son was growing up in the central North Island forestry town of Tokoroa that the pair of them would one day be flanking Auckland Bishop Patrick Dunn, with one as a deacon and the other as a new bishop. "No father knows what will become of their children," Deacon Gielen said. "But you love them and give them your best and hope they will flourish." Deacon Gielen, from the Papamoa Coast, said he is very proud of his son — the oldest of six children in his family. He said the news that his son was to be a bishop came as something of

Private Masses livestreamed



CNS photo/Ann M. Augherton, Arlington Herald

A viewer watches a livestream Mass from the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore celebrated by Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori and a few concelebrants March 15. All Sunday Masses in the Archdiocese of Baltimore were canceled amid coronavirus pandemic concerns. At one point nearly 1,800 people were watching the live feed, which exceeds the capacity of the cathedral.

a shock, and he is still getting used to the idea. But he thinks God called Bishop Gielen to this ministry because "Michael has a heart for (the) less privileged and a heart of compassion."

It's quiet time for New Rochelle, N.Y., parish on edge of containment area

RYE, N.Y. (CNS) — The arrival of the National Guard was a palpable sign that life has changed at Holy Family in New Rochelle, New York. The church is one block outside a state-mandated "containment area" established to fight the spread of COVID-19. "The National Guard came to the door of the rectory with hand sanitizer and information

sheets," according to Father Robert Verrigni, parochial vicar at Holy Family. Holy Family pastor Msgr. Dennis P. Keane told parishioners in a March 12 letter that while the church building is not included in the containment zone, "a large portion of our parish is within this area." The containment area is a one-mile circle centered on a synagogue where the local coronavirus outbreak is clustered. New Rochelle has the highest concentration of COVID-19 cases in the country. Gov. Andrew Cuomo directed schools in the zone to close and forbade large gatherings of people. A quarantine is not in effect and people may travel freely. Father Verrigni said the practical effect of the containment area mandate is "it's like a ghost town and there's no one on the sidewalks or in the street."

Big St. Patrick's Day parades canceled this year amid coronavirus fears

WASHINGTON (CNS) — St. Patrick's Day parades, long-held traditions in towns and cities throughout the country where onlookers and participants alike get their green on, were called off or postponed indefinitely, amid fears of coronavirus spread. U.S. cities that called off the parades for now include Boston; Chicago; New York; Philadelphia; San Francisco; Cleveland; Seattle; Pittsburgh; Washington; Baltimore; Denver; Kansas City, Missouri; Lexington, Kentucky; and Savannah, Georgia, just to name a few, but these cities have some of the biggest parades in the

country and some have been running since the late 1700s or early 1800s. In short, these events are almost a religion, acknowledging Irish culture, if not so much St. Patrick himself, the fifth-century missionary known for converting Ireland to Christianity and whose feast day is March 17. City mayors who announced these cancellations or postponements said they agonized over the decision. Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot was no exception, saying at a news conference the decision to indefinitely postpone the city's three parades on the weekend of March 14 along with the tradition of dyeing the Chicago River on St. Patrick's Day was not made lightly. Boston Mayor Marty Walsh similarly said canceling the parade is "not something I do lightly." The news that New York City's parade was not being held, for the first time since 1762, was announced in a March 11 statement by Gov. Andrew Cuomo and parade organizers. "While I know the parade organizers did not make this decision lightly, public health experts agree that one of the most effective ways to contain the spread of the virus is to limit large gatherings and close contacts," Cuomo said.

Christ's Gospel can satisfy hunger, thirst for justice, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Amid a nationwide lockdown due to the coronavirus epidemic, Pope Francis soldiered on with his weekly general audience and called on people to not forget those who suffer from war and violence. During a live broadcast from the library of the Apostolic Palace March 11, the pope said he did not want "this sorrow, this epidemic, to make us forget the poor Syrians who are suffering on the border of Greece and Turkey." Thousands of men, women and children have crowded the Turkish side of the Greek border after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan opened the border to refugees and migrants until the European Union meets his demand to add some \$3.5 billion in funding for the refugees' stay in Turkey, in addition to the approximately \$6 billion Turkey has already received. The action violates a deal Turkey struck with the EU to close its borders after 1 million migrants flooded into Europe from Turkey during the 2015-16 migrant crisis. Critics have accused Erdogan of weaponizing the Syrian refugee humanitarian crisis. The Syrian refugees are "people who have suffered for years, fleeing war, hunger and sickness," the pope said. "Let us not forget our brothers and sisters, so many children suffering there."

CDC director 'not shy about his Catholic faith,' says Baltimore pastor

BY TIM SWIFT

BALTIMORE (CNS) — When Msgr. Richard Woy sees Dr. Robert Redfield, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, on television these days flanked by medical experts issuing the latest guidance on the novel coronavirus he doesn't just see one of the top health officials in the U.S., he sees one of the faithful.

Msgr. Woy, rector of Baltimore's Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, said when he met Redfield and his wife, Joyce, "they had been active parishioners here for decades."

As Redfield helps lead the federal response to the growing threat of coronavirus, which causes the disease COVID-19, his pastor and friends say his years of work studying viruses along with his deep Catholic faith will help guide the country through the crisis.

"Dr. Redfield is not shy about his Catholic faith. And I think it does not compromise in any way his work as a scientist," Msgr. Woy told the Catholic Review, the media outlet of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. "I do not believe he sees any contradiction between the two whatsoever."

While they are spending most of their time in Atlanta, where the CDC is based, Msgr. Woy said the Redfields have returned to Baltimore on weekends and attended Masses at the cathedral in February, serving as extraordinary ministers of holy Communion.

Although Redfield was unavailable for an interview, he said in a statement that the faith community will play an important role as the pandemic continues.

In the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Archbishop William E. Lori has closed Catholic schools, issued a dispensation for Mass attendance and taken other measures to limit the spread of the disease. On March 14, the archbishop canceled all public Masses "until further notice."



CNS photo/Joshua Roberts, Reuters

Dr. Robert Redfield, a Catholic who is director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, testifies about coronavirus preparedness and response to the House Government Oversight and Reform Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington March 11.

"I have witnessed firsthand the impact of the faith community's work in global disease outbreaks," Redfield said in his statement. "The same compassion, counsel and care will be just as important as we confront this new virus and as many Americans and others around the world experience disruption in their daily lives."

He added, "The faith community has always stepped in to enhance response efforts where our public health and clinical settings lack the capacity or expertise to comfort patients, families and whole communities."

Redfield came to prominence during the emergence of HIV/AIDS in the early 1980s. As a military doctor serving at what was then the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington,

he was the first to establish that the disease was not limited to gay men. In 1996, he founded the University of Maryland's prestigious Institute of Human Virology in Baltimore with his colleagues Dr. William Blattner and Dr. Robert Gallo.

"He has magnificent credentials in public health. He was the first to develop a classification for AIDS and HIV, the Walter Reed classification, and was published in *New England Journal (of Medicine)*," Blattner said. "He spearheaded the development of treatment regimens that were more reliable than the original treatments that were being rolled out."

Blattner said he and Redfield participated in one of the first conferences on HIV/AIDS with St. John Paul II, then pope, in the late 1980s.

In 2011, Redfield worked with Baltimore-based Catholic Relief Services in Haiti to help treat those injured by a devastating earthquake. With the University of Maryland, Redfield had also been active in Haiti to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS, mirroring his earlier work with the U.S. government in Africa.

Blattner praised the CDC's response to the coronavirus pandemic thus far, saying the decision to ban travel from China, where the virus originated, bought the country valuable time.

"Dr. Redfield was on top of this. I mean, as soon as there was a sniff of something going on, they were on it in terms of what was going on over there. And then rapidly started to develop strategies," Blattner told the Catholic Review.

He noted that the highly publicized problems with COVID-19 testing kits were an early setback, but he said the components are fairly sophisticated and viewed it as a short-term problem.

However, Redfield is not without controversy; many public health advocates questioned his appointment to the CDC in 2018.

Blattner attributed the opposition to politics. He said unlike many scientists, Redfield is staunchly opposed to abortion and favors abstinence over birth control measures such as condoms to stop sexually transmitted infections such as HIV.

"Whenever you're a high-profile person and you have a strong face and you have strong political leanings that are pro-life and so on and so forth, you are going to come under attack," Blattner said.

Redfield joined other top health officials in pushing back against some misleading information from congressional Republicans and President Donald Trump.

On March 11 during a hearing on Capitol Hill, he publicly disagreed with some members of Congress and media personalities who have attempted to label COVID-19 as the "Chinese coronavirus."

He also said physical borders such as a wall on the border between the U.S. and Mexico would not stop the spread of the virus, which had been implied by Trump in a recent Tweet.

Blattner, who also is a Catholic and is a parishioner of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine in Florida, said faith in God has grounded his and Redfield's work.

"I think that humility is an important gift that we're given. And when you're dealing with this kind of situation, having humility helps one to allow all of the gifted people to be able to be heard and to bring their expertise to the table," Blattner said.

Swift is the social media coordinator for the Catholic Review and the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Late Scripture scholar's commitment to students recalled as 'unstinting'

TRENTON, N.J. (CNS) — The late Father Gerard S. Sloyan was "ever the teacher and pastor" whose commitment to students "was unstinting," said one of the organizers of a recent symposium held at The Catholic University of Washington to honor the legacy of the Trenton diocesan priest.

Father Sloyan, who died in the early morning hours of Feb. 23 at age 100, was a Scripture scholar, professor and a leading

popular writer on the Second Vatican Council's liturgical renewal in the 1960s and '70s.

He was a true "polymath" of the post-conciliar Church, as one of the presenters at the March 4 symposium, professor Philip Cunningham of St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia described him, according to Ian Boxall, one of the organizers of the Sloyan symposium, who is an associate professor of New Testament in Catholic

University's School of Theology and Religious Studies.

Boxall told Catholic News Service in a March 11 email: "Father Sloyan had significant academic and pastoral interests in a wide range of theological disciplines and related subjects: Scripture; catechesis; liturgy; homiletics; Jewish-Christian Dialogue; Christian education."

"He was key to promoting theological education for religious and laypeople in

CUA's Department of Religious Education," he added. "Our symposium at CUA was able to touch on just some of Father Sloyan's many interests."

At the time of his death, Father Sloyan was the Diocese of Trenton's oldest priest and had been ordained the longest.

He celebrated dual milestones in 2019 — his 75th anniversary of priestly ordination June 3 and his 100th birthday Dec. 9. For many years Father Sloyan

lived in an assisted living facility located on the grounds of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Potomac, Maryland, in the Archdiocese of Washington.

Born in 1919 in the New York borough of the Bronx and raised in Red Bank, New Jersey, Father Sloyan spent the majority of his 75 years of priestly ministry serving in academia.

Walkerton parish honors Irish roots at M

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Parishioners embraced their Irish history at St. Patrick Parish in Walkerton on March 14 with a Mass of dedication of an altar to mark the church's 150th anniversary. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated, asking the congregation to consider the anniversary an opportunity to "commit yourselves anew to the mission of evangelization."

"Let's not just celebrate the past today. I encourage you to look to the present and future of your parish," he said.

Touches of Irish tradition colored the liturgy, along with splashes of shamrock green worn by those present in the small but full church, honoring the upcoming feast of their patron saint. The tribute was especially noticeable in the music, which was arranged in the Glendalough Mass style with songs set to Irish tunes and including one based on St. Patrick's Breastplate prayer, as well as the addition of a flute accompanist.

Drawing on the weekend's Gospel reading from the Book of John, in which Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well, Bishop Rhoades spoke in his homily of thirsting for God.

"What she's thirsty for is what we all are thirsty for: for truth and goodness, for meaning in her life; for joy and peace. In every one of us there is this thirst in our souls for life and salvation, a thirst for the infinite, basically, the thirst for God.

"Jesus wants to quench our thirst. This is what Jesus is thirsty for: our faith and our love so that He can quench our thirst for life and joy, peace and salvation. ... Jesus thirsts for our salvation like He deeply thirsted for the salvation of the Samaritan woman at the well."

He spoke of the founding of the parish in 1856 and the building of the church in 1870, reminding those present of the faith of their founding members.

"My brothers and sisters, for 150 years, the faithful have come to this church to have their thirst for meaning, purpose, life, and salvation quenched. Here they have been refreshed by the living water which is the Holy Spirit. Here they have been nourished by the Body and Blood of Jesus. And from here, they have gone out to proclaim and witness to others in their families and community the joy of their faith."

Bishop Rhoades gave the congregation of St. Patrick a mission: to emulate the Samaritan woman, whom Jesus "set on fire in her the flame of



Photos by John Martin

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades pours sacred chrism on the altar at St. Patrick Church, Walkerton, during a Mass celebrated March 14. The Mass marked the 150th anniversary of the church and included the Rite of Dedication of the new altar.

God's love." He beseeched them to let their lives be transformed by God's work in their lives. "And may you and all the faithful of St. Patrick Parish leave the water jar behind at the well and take the Good News to your homes and communities!"

After singing the litany of the saints, Bishop Rhoades anointed the new altar with sacred chrism. He informed those present that dedication of an altar is the only time that sacred chrism is used on an inanimate object, demonstrating the importance of the altar. Participating in the cleaning and dressing of the altar were parish members Ben Jimenez, Vicki Krohn, Leonard Kuzmicz, Susan Rudecki and

Pam Borton.

Immediately following was the lighting of the altar. Pastor Father Eric Zimmer lit the altar candles amidst a haze of incense, highlighting the mystical beauty of the ceremony and the elegance of the high altar.

The original church was 45 feet by 22 feet in size, built by 19



St. Patrick Church has seen its share of renovations since its humble beginnings. The most recent renovations have drawn to completion and include the opening of an interior wall, enabling worshippers to view the rose window in the steeple on the inside of the church.

families. It has been expanded throughout the parish's history to the size it is today. Many of the founders of the church were Irish Catholics who worked on the Cincinnati, Peru and Chicago Railroad extension in the area.

In the parish's early history, it was served by Holy Cross priests and priests of the Precious Blood order.

In addition to the new altar, Father Zimmer said the church itself has seen "quite a bit of renovations" in the last several years. Its stained-glass windows have been restored, including opening a wall that had hidden the rose window in the bell tower from view. Floors were redone and a new audio system installed, complete with a hearing loop for those with hearing aids, among other improvements. The parish hall and church grounds have also seen many upgrades.

Aside from physical improvements, St. Patrick has advanced in its community-building activities as well. Father Zimmer stated that the parish has grown over the last few years, gaining roughly 50 families. "Religious

More photos are available at www.todayscatholic.org



Mass of dedication of altar



Prior to the Liturgy of the Word, Bishop Rhoades blesses those present with holy water.

education has grown from about 30 children to 40-50," he noted.

St. Patrick organizes an annual St. Patty's Day dinner, a social event for the community that was held immediately after the dedication Mass. The dinner has been served since around 1947 and continues to be popular, with all 150 tickets selling out each year. Earlier this year a Super Bowl party and chili cook-off also took place, and participants watched the game on an 8-foot television screen.

The parish looks for ways to be good stewards of the earth, with one example being the use of real plates during fish fries. Evangelization is important as well, and those efforts include a ministry group dedicated to bringing Communion to parishioners who are unable to attend Sunday Mass.

Of the ceremony, Father Zimmer said, "It's spectacular. It went beautifully." Father Zimmer has served at St. Patrick for the past five years. "It's been a wonderful experience for my priesthood. I think I've done a lot of good for the parish." Indeed, parishioners have expressed thankfulness for his leadership.

The people of St. Patrick are proud of their small church and the upgrades made to it. Richard and Kathy Eichstedt have been members for almost nine years.

"It's been a wonderful parish from the beginning," Kathy said.

The couple spoke of the array of improvements to the church and parish hall, as well as the feeling of community present in the faith community. "We've had wonderful priests, and Father Zimmer has done so much for the parish. We love it here."



Pastor Father Eric Zimmer proclaims the Gospel reading, from the Book of John, during the anniversary Mass.

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Parish celebrates African Americans on the path to sainthood

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Six African Americans are currently candidates for sainthood, something Deacon Mel Tardy, chairman of the diocesan Black Catholic Advisory Board, is eager to see.

"They would be the first African American saints," Deacon Tardy said. "We have very few American saints. It's wonderful in terms of evangelization, just to have someone we can relate to." There is also a sense of pride that the canonization of the six would give to the African American community, he added.

A celebration of one of the candidates, Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, was scheduled for April 1 at St. Augustine Parish in South Bend but has been postponed to an undetermined date. On the new date, the parish hopes to celebrate the birthday of Father Tolton with a Mass of Thanksgiving.

The best-known of the candidates, Father Tolton, or "Father Gus," as he was known by his beloved flock, was born a slave. Father Tolton overcame racial prejudice to gain his education and became the first Roman Catholic priest in the United States publicly known to be black when he was ordained in 1886. He went on to pastor the first black Catholic church in Chicago, St. Monica. He is said to have been an excellent homilist and to have had a close association with St. Mother Katharine Drexel, who sponsored many Catholic missions for African Americans and Native Americans.

Of the other candidates, five are women. All lived holy lives in vastly different situations and locations. Two helped found African American women's religious orders: Servant of God Mother Mary Lange founded the Oblate Sisters and Venerable

Henriette Delille founded the Society for the Holy Family. Both orders were dedicated to educating and caring for poor African Americans in their respective cities of Baltimore and New Orleans. Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman also became a religious sister due to the example of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, which she joined.

The other two candidates were laypeople who lived in vastly different situations. Venerable Pierre Toussaint was a well-educated slave in New York: He was eventually freed and became a wealthy man. He generously gave much of his money to Catholic social causes, and he and his wife opened their home to orphans and those sick with epidemics.

Servant of God Julia Greeley lived in poverty, though her generosity was no less than Toussaint's. Moving west after the Civil War she ultimately settled in Denver, Colorado, working for white families and giving everything she could spare to the poor in her neighborhood. Greeley had a deep devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and became a Secular Franciscan toward the end of her life.

St. Augustine Parish established the Tolton Society in the 1970s with a mission that in large part consists of promoting "a full appreciation of and honor for African American spirituality and culture in Catholic liturgy."

When Annie Tardy, Deacon Mel's wife, became chairman of the ministry, she began praying over what its mission meant for the parish. "It changed from planning Christmas socials to finding ways to promote our namesake," she said. In making the change she, along with other members of the ministry, gained a greater familiarity with Venerable Tolton and an appreciation for the struggles he faced as a former slave, particularly



File photo

Venerable Father Augustus Tolton and five of his African American brothers and sisters in Christ are now on the path to sainthood.

O God, we give you thanks for your servant and priest, Father Augustus Tolton, who labored among us in times of contradiction, times that were both beautiful and paradoxical. His ministry helped lay the foundation for a truly Catholic gathering in faith in our time. We stand in the shadow of his ministry. May his life continue to inspire us and imbue us with that confidence and hope that will forge a new evangelization for the Church we love.

Father in Heaven, Father Tolton's suffering service sheds light upon our sorrows; we see them through the prism of your Son's passion and death. If it be your Will, O God, glorify your servant, Father Tolton, by granting the favor I now request through his intercession (mention your request) so that all may know the goodness of this priest whose memory looms large in the Church he loved.

Complete what you have begun in us that we might work for the fulfillment of your kingdom. Not to us the glory, but glory to you O God, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are our God, living and reigning forever and ever.

Amen.

2010 Bishop Joseph N. Perry
Imprimatur
Francis Cardinal George, OMI
Archdiocese of Chicago
<https://tolton.archchicago.org/>

those of trying to receive an education and pursue a vocation to the priesthood.

The Tolton Society has made pilgrimages to places in Illinois that were significant in Venerable Tolton's life. The group currently meets on the first Monday of the month and has expanded its membership and activities beyond the parish to include St. Pius X.

In July, South Bend became the eighth city in the country to form a group of what is known as the Tolton Ambassadors. These groups raise awareness for Tolton's canonization through fundraising events and prayer. Local ambassadors meet once a year with ambassadors from other cities such as New Orleans, Atlanta and Chicago to further promote Venerable Tolton's cause.

Bishop Joseph N. Perry, auxiliary bishop of Chicago and postulator of the cause of Father Tolton, encourages the praying of intercessions to Father Tolton with the following prayer.

"O God, we give you thanks for your servant and priest, Father Augustus Tolton, who labored among us in times of contradiction, times that were both beautiful and paradoxical. His ministry helped lay the foundation for a truly Catholic gathering in faith in our time. We stand in the shadow of his ministry. May his life continue to inspire us and imbue us with that confidence and hope that will forge a new evangelization for the Church we love.

"Father in Heaven, Father Tolton's suffering service sheds light upon our sorrows; we see them through the prism of your Son's passion and death. If it be your Will, O God, glorify your servant, Father Tolton, by granting the favor I now request through his intercession (mention your request) so that all may know the goodness of this priest whose memory looms large in the Church he loved.

"Complete what you have begun in us that we might work for the fulfillment of your kingdom. Not to us the glory, but glory to you O God, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are our God, living and reigning forever and ever. Amen"

Deacon Tardy also hopes the community will pray for the causes of Father Tolton and the other five African American saints, something that is "certainly appropriate during this holy season of Lent," he said.



El Salvador marks 43rd anniversary of Jesuit's martyrdom as beatification looms

BY RHINA GUIDOS

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Even as the government of El Salvador announced a nationwide quarantine, hundreds flocked to a pilgrimage site March 12 to remember a Jesuit priest and his companions killed 43 years ago and declared martyrs by Pope Francis in February.

A Mass for Salvadoran Jesuit Father Rutilio Grande at the site where he was martyred along with two parishioners March 12, 1977, near his hometown of El Paisnal, was canceled after the government prohibited gatherings of more than 250 as a precaution to prevent coronavirus from spreading. Instead, the Archdiocese of San Salvador asked parishes to celebrate “our martyrs” in their respective localities.

The three were murdered en route to a novena to celebrate the feast of St. Joseph, though the main target was Father Grande, killed because he helped the poor.

In his efforts to teach the poor to read using the Bible, Father Grande also organized them so they could speak against a rich and powerful minority: the coffee farmers and landowners, who oppressed them.

On March 12, the Salvadoran Catholic TV station Television Catolica showed hundreds headed to the church where Father Grande is buried, along with elderly parishioner Manuel Solorzano and teenager Nelson Rutilio Lemus, who died with him.

The Vatican announced Feb. 22 that Pope Francis has recognized their martyrdom. Papal recognition of their martyrdom clears the way for their beatification, although the Vatican has not announced a date or place for the ceremony.

Archbishop Jose Luis Escobar Alas of the Archdiocese of San Salvador began the day celebrating a Mass for the three in a chapel at the archdiocese. In a statement late March 11, he said that because of government regulations, groups of 100-150 at a time would be allowed into the church where the three are



CNS photo/Jose Cabezas, Reuters

Catholic school students participate in the commemoration of the 1977 murder of Jesuit Father Rutilio Grande in El Paisnal, El Salvador, March 12, 2019. March 12 marks the 43rd anniversary of when Father Grande was killed while on his way to a novena.

buried, for those who wanted to pay their respects on what some of them have long-considered a type of feast day.

For years, the crowds of those making the March 12 pilgrimage to El Paisnal have grown. The municipality is close to where Father Grande and a group of Jesuits and other lay missionaries worked with farmworkers in the 1970s.

Lauding Father Grande, the archbishop said the Jesuit offered his life and gave it freely, defending the poor because “in them, he found Christ.”

“God has rewarded him because the name of his executioners isn’t known. They’re hidden,” he said. “Instead, the name of our martyrs is exalted, and

they have been rewarded ... they are taking part in the eternal banquet because God is just.” He characterized their assassination as a “crime against humanity,” but one of thousands suffered by many other Salvadorans killed during the country’s civil conflict that raged in the 1980s.

“Blessed is our homeland that was received the blood of our martyrs,” he said, adding that only God can make something good out of something bad.

In a time in which many live in fear of coronavirus, Archbishop Escobar told those gathered for Mass to pray for the intercession of the martyrs, for their protection because they were offered as examples of how Christians should live but also to intercede for others in heaven.

“We invoke them knowing they are with us,” he said.

El Salvador does not have any confirmed cases of the disease COVID-19, but the Salvadoran government announced late March 11 that it would not allow foreign nationals — with the exception of diplomats and residents — to enter for 21 days as a measure of preventing the virus from spreading among its population.

SCHOLAR, from page 7

He prepared for the priesthood at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey; Immaculate Conception Seminary in Darlington, New Jersey; and Theological College of The Catholic University of America. He was ordained a priest by Bishop William A. Griffin June 3, 1944, in St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral in Trenton.

His first assignment after ordination was to St. Anthony Parish in Hamilton, New Jersey (now part of Our Lady of Sorrows-St. Anthony Parish). After a summer in Hamilton, he began full-time work in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at The Catholic University of America.

After several other pastoral assignments in the Trenton Diocese and a brief time in the novitiate of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart in Metuchen, New Jersey, Father Sloyan in 1955 served briefly as assistant dean of the College of Arts and Science at Catholic University.

In 1957 he became head of the graduate department of religious education, a position he held for a decade before he resigned and joined the Department of Religion at Temple University, Philadelphia, where he remained until his retirement. Once he retired, he returned to Washington as an adjunct professor of theology at Catholic University and at Georgetown University, also in Washington.

Throughout his years in academics, Father Sloyan published numerous books on the Catholic faith, focusing primarily on the life of Jesus and the Gospels. Among his popular works are “What Are They Saying About John?” in 1991; “Jesus on Trial: A Study of the Gospels” in 2006; and “Jesus: Word Made Flesh” in 2008. He also served on the continuing education committee of the Trenton diocesan priests’ council.

In an interview by The Monitor, Trenton’s diocesan newspaper, for a story on his 75th anniversary of his priestly ordination, Father Sloyan reflected on his special milestones in 2019.

He recalled knowing from the time he was 6 and serving as an altar boy in his parish that he would one day want to become a priest. He credited his parents, Marie Virginia Kelley and Jerome James Sloyan, for raising him and his three sisters in a strong Catholic household and instilling them the belief in God.

“To me, faith is all important,” Father Sloyan said in the interview.

“Faith is at the roots of my human being from infancy up,” he said, and noted that his Catholic upbringing was influential in his wanting to become a priest and that two of his sisters also entered religious life.

A description of the priest in materials prepared for the symposium said of him: “Father Sloyan, who was instrumental in articulating an American response to the Second Vatican Council at Catholic University and beyond, remained a guiding light for many in education, pastoral studies, and church life over the course of his long career.”

Many of his former students came to Washington to attend the symposium.

Boxall told CNS: “Father Sloyan’s impressive list of publications bears testimony to the breadth of his interests, his capacity to make connections between disciplines, and his concern to ensure that scholarship remained firmly in the service of the Church, especially through pastoral ministry and preaching.

He added: “Aware that some of his ground-breaking ideas were controversial at the time” — including his support for women’s ordination and his argument that bishops should be locally elected — “Father Sloyan’s approach is well summed up in his 1950 book on Catholic education: ‘Should it sting, remember the ancient difficulty of making an omelet without breaking a few eggs.’”

Contributing to this story were Lynnea Mumola, a correspondent with the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington, and Mary Stadnyk, associate editor of The Monitor, newspaper of the Diocese of Trenton.



CNS photo/courtesy The Monitor

Father Gerard Sloyan poses for a photo with Bishop David M. O’Connell of Trenton, N.J., in this 2019 file photo. Father Sloyan, who was the Diocese of Trenton’s oldest priest and longest ordained, died Feb. 23 at age 100

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Another infernal betrayal

Dante Alighieri's "Inferno" is still hell's bestseller. A masterpiece of medieval poetry and theology since it was published seven centuries ago, the "Inferno" traces the author's imagined trip through the levels of hell, recording the sinners he finds there and their punishments.

As a student, I found the theology less compelling than the ingenious tortures involving entrails and muck, fire and ice, for a variety of miscreants, including popes. Dante even consigned his archrival, Pope Boniface VIII, to hell before his actual death, placing him in the pit of simoniacs, those who had betrayed the Church by profiteering from their position and office.

Since 2002, it feels as if we need some new Dante to draft punishments for all those who have betrayed the Church: those who have betrayed the trust of the children, young adults and seminarians in their care. Those who failed in their responsibilities to protect the weak and defenseless from predators.

Like Dante, our outrage at the sins so often wreaked by the powerful and the greedy upon the powerless can fuel a righteous anger against those who used positions of trust and authority to live extravagantly, to force themselves on others, to manipulate and coerce for the sake of power and influence.

The Lord knows that there are many others, from movie moguls to politicians, corporate heads to crime lords, who we might want to consign to our modern

inferno. We do not seem to lack examples of villainy and corruption.

Yet, as perhaps Dante also felt, we perceive the betrayal of those who are our co-religionists to be the most treasonous.

Real life is not so simple as a poet's fantasy, however, and it is not easy to separate the entwined threads of good and evil in individual biographies. Which brings me to the sad, terrible case of Jean Vanier. A layman who died in 2019 at 90 years of age, Vanier had been heralded as a living saint for his founding of the L'Arche communities.

It was his inspiration to provide Christian homes of care and community for the intellectually disabled. Vanier saw Christ in those who were so often rejected by everyone else, and he created a movement that continues to bear witness to the Gospel and exemplify the Christian commitment to the common good.

It was this same Jean Vanier, we have now found out, who manipulated young women (not disabled) under the guise of spiritual direction, using blasphemous analogies to justify his sexual predations. He lied to protect himself and his equally predatory mentor. And he took his lies to the grave.

It is one thing to have a movie mogul revealed as a rapacious troll. It is quite another to have someone we thought of as saintly exposed as such.

How does God weigh such sins of betrayal against the good that was undeniably accomplished? I do not know. I don't



AMID THE FRAY

GREG ERLANDSON

think I want to know in this life what divine calculation measures out perfect justice and perfect mercy.

We can only pray for all those who have been abused and their trust violated. They must not feel abandoned by their Church.

We must also take a hard look at the cult of celebrity in our own Church, be it priest or bishop, nun or layperson. We need to stop making saints of mere mortals in this life, no matter how virtuous or eloquent they seem.

Let's leave the saint-making to God, and keep our focus firmly fixed not on those who serve, but on those we are called to serve, and on the Lord we profess to follow.

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

Love an enemy this Lent

The three classical spiritual practices that the Church urges us to embrace during Lent are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. I would strongly encourage every one of my readers to follow this recommendation, perhaps intensifying each one of the three during the holy season. But there is another Lenten discipline that I would like to put forward, inspired very much by the Gospel readings this week: forgiving an enemy.

There is enough anger in the Catholic community to light up the Eastern Seaboard for a year. I say this not to pick on Catholics in particular; I would say it of any group of human beings. We are — all of us — sitting on a lot of unresolved rage. Thomas Aquinas defines the deadly sin of anger in his typically pithy manner as an irrational or excessive desire for revenge. Every one of us has been hurt by someone else, aggressed, unjustly harmed, insulted, perhaps to an extreme degree. And so, naturally enough, we harbor a desire to respond in kind.

Now, there is such a thing as justified anger, which is nothing but a passion to right wrongs. Think of the "anger" displayed by Jesus as He cleansed the temple or by Martin Luther King as he led the civil rights movement. That righteous indignation is to be praised. But many of us, let's be honest, cultivate an excessive, unreasonable passion to get back at those who have harmed us. We spend an extraordinary amount of time fantasizing about what we might say and do to our enemies if we ever had



WORD ON FIRE

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

the opportunity or the requisite power. This is what Aquinas means by the "deadly sin" of anger. And this is precisely what Jesus is urging us to extricate from our souls precisely through the admittedly wrenching act of forgiving our enemies.

In the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord teaches, "You have heard it said, 'You shall not murder. ...' But I say to you, 'that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council. ...' So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there. . . .

First be reconciled to your brother or sister." And in what constitutes, in my judgment, the rhetorical and spiritual highpoint of the sermon, Jesus says, "You have heard it said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies."

This teaching makes no sense unless we are assuming that we have real enemies — that is to say, people who have unfairly and aggressively harmed us. But the Lord is summoning us beyond the desire for revenge,

BARRON, page 13

Through Christ, we are brought from darkness into light



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Fourth Sunday of Lent John 9:1-41

Drawing from the first word, in Latin, in the Entrance Antiphon for the liturgy for this day, this Sunday long has been called Laetare Sunday. "Laetare" means "to rejoice." The Church rejoices that even amid the drabness and penance of Lent, and indeed of life, the glory of Christ shines forth, warm, enlightening and nourishing.

The first reading for this weekend is from the First Book of Samuel. An ancient prophet, and therefore God's representative and spokesman, Samuel selected the young David to be king of Israel. To signify this appointment, Samuel

anointed David with oil.

Anointings always have marked persons for special jobs or to strengthen them in particular circumstances. All Catholics are anointed when they are baptized or confirmed. Priests and bishops are anointed. Faithful people in bad health are anointed to strengthen them and reinforce their spiritual constitution should they near death. Christian kings were anointed.

David was, and still is, special in the Hebrew mind. He was the great king who united and empowered the nation, but he was much more than a successful political leader. His ultimate duty was in tightening the bond between God and the people. The bond was in the people's genuine acknowledgement of God, and their lives of obedience to God's law confirmed this bond.

The Epistle to the Ephesians provides the second reading. This reading is an admonition to the Christian people of Ephesus, in the first century one of the major seaports, commercial centers and pagan shrines of the Roman

Empire.

Drawing heavily upon the imagery of light and darkness, the reading links light with righteousness, and darkness with sin, calling upon the Christian Ephesians to live in the light.

St. John's Gospel furnishes the last reading. Central to the story is the Lord's meeting with a man blind since birth. The Lord gives the man sight. To understand this entire story, it is necessary to realize how Jews at the time of Jesus looked upon physical difficulties.

Unaware of the scientific explanations for blindness and other problems that people of this age have come to see as obvious, the ancient Jews believed such terrible handicaps came as a result of sin. After all, original sin ushered death itself into the world. In this thinking, sin also upset the good order of nature itself, hence blindness.

Thus, the question came. Was this man's blindness the result of his own sin or a sin of his parents?

Searching for an answer, the Pharisees questioned the man.

The Pharisees were obstinate and smug. By contrast, the blind man was humble and sincere. He had faith in God and in Jesus.

An added element, surely of special interest to the early generations of Christians who suffered persecution, was that the Pharisees expelled the man from their synagogue. The righteous often suffer from the ill will and shortsightedness of others.

Reflection

The Gospel story recalls a miracle. It also is a study in contrasts. On the one side is the man born blind whom Jesus healed. On the other side are the Pharisees, self-satisfied and confident in their high estimates of their own piety and knowledge.

Apply these contrasts to ourselves. We may not be very evil, or even pompous and boastful as were the Pharisees. Still, we have our limitations, among them an incorrect trust in our personal attributes.

Our exaggerated judgments of ourselves trick us again and

again and again.

All this keeps us in the dark. Lent is the time to face facts. We must recognize our need for God. We must turn to God. He is light.

Life can be a dark night. Laetare Sunday represents the dawn, edging across the horizon. Easter is near. Christ, the light of the world, shines. Rejoice!

READINGS

Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b,6-7,10-13a Ps 23:1-6 Eph 5:8-14 Jn 9:1-41

Monday: Is 65:17-21 Ps 30:2,4-6,11-12a,13b Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9,12 Ps 46:2-3,5-6,8-9 Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14;8:10 Ps 40:7-11 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14 Ps 106:19-23 Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a,12-22 Ps 34:17-21,23 Jn 7:1-2,10,25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20 Ps 7:2-3,9b-12 Jn 7:40-53

Doubling down on a bad deal

Perseverance on a difficult but noble path is a virtue. Stubbornness when confronted by irrefutable evidence of a grave mistake is a vice. The latter would seem an apt characterization of a letter sent on Ash Wednesday to the entire College of Cardinals by its new dean, Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re. In that letter — his first official act as dean — Cardinal Re reprimands the redoubtable Cardinal Joseph Zen, SDB, emeritus bishop of Hong Kong, for his criticisms of the agreement the Vatican made with the People's Republic of China in 2018.

The bloom is off the Chinese rose just about everywhere in the world. So it is more than disturbing that the Holy See should be doubling down on what everyone (except those directly involved in cutting it) thinks is a very bad deal: bad, because it allows the Chinese Communist Party to nominate candidates for bishop, which the Holy See can then approve or reject.

Why is the bloom off the Chinese rose? Why are China and its "model" no longer lauded in the global commentariat? The initial Chinese mishandling (and worse) of COVID-19, the coronavirus, has had an impact. Before anyone had heard of COVID-19, however, there was mounting concern about the intentions and brutality of the Chinese communist regime: about its herding Uighurs into concentration camps; about its assaults on religious communities, including the defacing and demolition of Catholic churches after the accord with the Holy See was signed; about its aggressive military moves in the South China Sea. There have been concerns about its creation of an Orwellian internal security apparatus through facial-recognition technology; about its ranking the Chinese citizenry according to their political reliability (meaning their acquiescence to what

the Chinese Communist Party dictates); about its international espionage, often conducted behind the cover of putatively independent technology companies like Huawei; about its relentless digital attacks on Taiwan; and about the global Chinese "Belt-and-Road" initiative, which financially shackles Third World countries to the Beijing regime.

Yet nary a public word has been spoken by Vatican diplomacy about any of this.

What is most disturbing about Cardinal Re's letter, however, is its claim that the 2018 Vatican-China agreement is in continuity with the diplomacy of John Paul II and Benedict XVI. To my understanding, that is simply not right — or at best, it's a distortion of the historical record in service to defending what can't be defended on the merits.

Yes, John Paul II and Benedict XVI sought ways to unite the Church in China. But neither was prepared to do so at the expense of the Church's right to order its internal life by Catholic criteria. Both John Paul II and Benedict XVI could have had a deal in which the Chinese government would propose candidates for bishop, which the Vatican would then accept or veto. Both popes declined to accept any such arrangement, not only because it contradicted the teaching of Vatican II in its Decree on the Pastoral Office of the Bishops in the Church and Canon 377.5 of the Code of Canon Law, but because they knew that that concession would weaken the Church's evangelical mission in China. The deal Cardinal Re defends is not in a line of continuity with the policy of John Paul II and Benedict XVI: It is an even worse deal than the deal those popes would not make. For it concedes nominating power to the Chinese Community Party, which manages religious affairs in China, not the Chinese govern-



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

ment. And that is, in a word, intolerable.

Cardinal Re's defense of the indefensible is a last gasp of the old Vatican "Ostpolitik," the failed policy of making concessions to totalitarian regimes that did much damage to the Church in east central Europe during the 1970s. Italian Vatican diplomats still defend that policy, claiming absurdly that it set the table for the Revolution of 1989 and the fall of the Berlin Wall. But what did the Ostpolitik actually accomplish? It made the Hungarian hierarchy a wholly owned subsidiary of the Hungarian Communist Party, gutting the Church's evangelical credibility in the process. It demoralized Catholicism in what was then Czechoslovakia. It put unnecessary pressure on the Church in Poland. And it facilitated the deep penetration of the Vatican by communist secret intelligence services.

Cardinal Re's letter laments that the path forward for the Catholic Church in China is difficult and complex. Who could doubt it? That path is not made easier, however, by making unbecoming concessions to thugs — or by calling out fellow cardinals who challenge the 2018 Vatican-China deal because it does precisely that.

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

blamed Cardinal Bernardin if he had said, "Good riddance!" and never had a thing further to do with Cook? But the cardinal didn't do that. Instead, he travelled to see the young man, brought him the gift of a Bible, anointed him (Cook was dying of AIDS), and offered his forgiveness. That's what loving, and not just tolerating, one's enemy looks like.

Some decades ago, an Amish family — mother, father and son — was making their way, as is their custom, by horse-drawn buggy. A car filled with rowdy teenagers came up behind them and commenced to tailgate them impatiently. Finally, they swerved around the buggy and one of the boys hurled a brick in the direction of the horse. The projectile missed the animal but struck the young man, killing him instantly. Who could pos-

sibly have blamed the grieving parents if they had turned on their son's killer? Instead, they appeared at the teenager's trial and begged the judge for leniency — and then, during the time of his imprisonment, they visited him regularly. That is another icon of enemy love.

Might I urge all of my readers to call to mind an enemy? Hold an image of him or her in your mind — someone who has done you real harm. This Lent, contrive a way to love that person, to heal that relationship. It might be a phone call, an email, a visit, a gesture — but as a salutary Lenten practice, do it.

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

BARRON, from page 12

even beyond the strict justice of the "lex talionis," the "eye for an eye" principle. He is insisting that we love those who have made us angry, that we desire their good.

About 25 years ago, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago was accused by a young man named Steven Cook of sexual misconduct. In a speech given at Mundelein Seminary shortly thereafter, the cardinal said that he was devastated by this charge, indeed so demoralized and traumatized that he had taken to praying, spread-eagle on the ground in his chapel, that the Lord might deliver him from the shame and hurt that he felt. After two agonizing months, Cook withdrew the charge, admitting that it was based on a false memory. Who would have

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for March 22, 2020

John 9: 1, 6-7, 13-17, 34-38

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle A: the healing of a blind man. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

PASSED BY	A MAN	BLIND
BIRTH	SPIT	GROUND
CLAY	EYES	GO WASH
SILOAM	NEIGHBORS	BEGGAR
SIT AND BEG	PHARISEES	SABBATH
SUCH SIGNS	DIVISION	BORN
BELIEVE	WHO IS HE	SEEN HIM

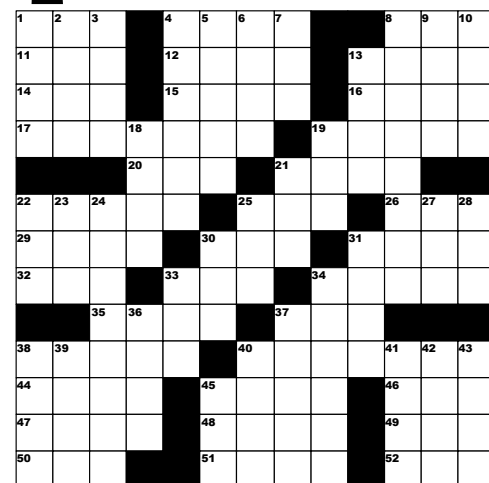
GO WASH

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

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The Cross Word

March 15
22 and 29, 2020



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Readings: Ex 17: 3-7; Rom 5: 1-2, 5-8; Jn 4: 5-42 and 1Sm 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Eph 5: 8-14; Jn 9: 1-41 and Ez 37: 12-14; Rom 8: 8-11; Jn 11: 1-45

ACROSS

- 1 Hair product
- 4 Not front
- 8 Little dog sound
- 11 Wing
- 12 Decorative needle case
- 13 Slang for "crazy"
- 14 Ship initials
- 15 Held Samuel's oil
- 16 European money unit
- 17 Drop (2 wds)
- 19 Sliding cover
- 20 Lazarus was, before dying
- 21 David was anointed as
- 22 Moses struck rock with

- 25 Appropriate
- 26 Female sheep
- 29 Air (prefix)
- 30 Lent Wednesday
- 31 Russian king
- 32 Scots nickname
- 33 Cooking measurement
- 34 "___ Dame"
- 35 Large flying predator
- 37 Indistinct
- 38 Friend (Sp.)
- 40 Burn
- 44 Tomb was in a ___
- 45 Frozen
- 46 Thai
- 47 Jesus put clay on man's eyes

- 48 Cain killed him
- 49 To be
- 50 Daddy
- 51 Invited
- 52 Concealed

DOWN

- 1 Ancient European region of Rome
- 2 Otherwise
- 3 Will rise on ___ day
- 4 Speaking for
- 5 Coral reef
- 6 Ringlet
- 7 Family
- 8 David was the ___ brother
- 9 Land unit
- 10 Siloam
- 13 Thin
- 18 "First in, first out"
- 19 Gehenna
- 21 Kilometers per hour
- 22 Book of Samuel (abbr.)
- 23 British drink
- 24 Recorded
- 25 Poisonous snake
- 27 Battle of nations
- 28 Before, poetically
- 30 "___ and it shall be given"
- 31 Where Lazarus was buried
- 33 # of days Jesus was in Samaritan town
- 34 Quick
- 36 Rock of ___
- 37 Rounded
- 38 Did well
- 39 Mesoamerican civilization
- 40 Caribbean island
- 41 Beehive state
- 43 Bandages were around body
- 45 Arrest

Answer key can be found on page 15

Reporting system to record abuse complaints against bishops begins

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A reporting system accepting sexual misconduct allegations against U.S. bishops and eparchs is in place.

Called the Catholic Bishops Abuse Reporting Service, or CBAR, the system became operational March 16.

The mechanism incorporates a website and a toll-free telephone number through which individuals can file reports regarding a bishop.

The website is ReportBishopAbuse.org. Calls can be placed at (800) 276-1562.

The nationwide system is being implemented by individual dioceses under the direction of each respective cardinal, archbishop or bishop. The information gathered will be protected through enhanced encryption.

Bishop John M. Botean of the Romanian Catholic Eparchy of St. George in Canton, Ohio, was set to post a notice on the diocesan website March 16 as the service started.

"I'll have just a little explanation of what the service is," he told Catholic News Service.

Because the Eastern-rite eparchies have no metropolitan archbishops, Bishop Botean said he expects that reports filed through the new system will be sent directly to the apostolic nuncio in Washington, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, for review.

Bishop Botean welcomed the reporting system as well. "It's too bad that it's come to this, but if it's necessary, here it is," he said.

In the Archdiocese of Baltimore, which in January 2019 implemented its own system for reporting allegations against bishops, Auxiliary Bishop Adam J. Parker said CBAR is similar in that it will be accessible from the archdiocesan home page and by phone.

Posters will be displayed at each parish promoting the national hotline as well as information about contacting the archdiocese's Child and Youth Protection Office.

"Our intention was that the (nationwide) system — which we are implementing locally as a metropolitan — would be no less robust than what we had implemented here in Baltimore," Bishop Parker said.

Denver-based Convercent developed the reporting system under a two-year contract with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The company specializes in ethics and compliance management for businesses and organizations.

Under the system, the company gathers information and routes reports to the appropriate Church authority consistent with canon law. It does not conduct any investigation.

Approved by the U.S. bishops



CNS photo/Bob Roller

Archbishop Paul D. Etienne of Seattle, center, and other prelates pray during the fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore Nov. 12.

in June at their spring general assembly, the reporting mechanism meets the requirements established by Pope Francis in his "motu proprio" "Vos Estis Lux Mundi" ("You are the light of the world") to have a way of receiving reports of sexual misconduct by a bishop.

"Motu proprio" is a Latin phrase that means "on one's own initiative." Popes use it to signal a special personal interest in a subject.

The system works like this:

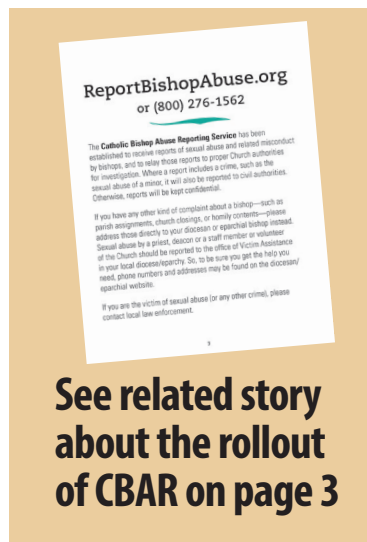
— Calls initially will come into a central phone bank, where trained personnel will ask for information about the allegation being made including the name of the person making the report and his or her contact information. People also will have the option of filing a report online if they do not want to call. People will not be required to give their name if they wish to remain anonymous.

— The information gathered will be forwarded to the appropriate metropolitan, or archbishop, responsible for each diocese in a province. Allegations against a metropolitan will be forwarded to the senior suffragan bishop in the appropriate province. The U.S. has 32 metropolitans. Each province has one archdiocese and several dioceses.

— The information also will be forwarded to a layperson designated to assist the bishop in receiving allegations.

— After review, the metropolitan or senior suffragan will send the report the apostolic nuncio in Washington.

— The nuncio is required to send the report and the met-



See related story about the rollout of CBAR on page 3

ropolitan's assessment to the Vatican, which has 30 days to determine if a formal investigation is warranted. If so, a bishop will be authorized to oversee an investigation.

— When an investigation is ordered qualified experts, including laypeople will conduct it. An investigation is expected to be completed within 90 days and forwarded to the Vatican.

— Vatican officials will review the findings of the investigation and determine the appropriate process leading to a final judgment.

As each case is filed, the person reporting an incident will be given a case number and password which can be used to follow progress of their particular case.

Individuals who file a report also will be encouraged to contact local law enforcement if they believe they have been a victim of a crime.

Anthony Picarello, USCCB

Summit held to address Church's 'twin crises' of abuse, leadership failure

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- A summit of U.S. Catholic leaders was convened recently in Washington "to continue to respond to the twin crises in our Church, a crisis of abuse and a crisis of leadership failure," said Kim Smolik, CEO of the Leadership Roundtable, which organized the gathering.

The Catholic Partnership Summit, held Feb. 28-29, had as its theme, "From Crisis to Co-Responsibility: Creating a New Culture of Leadership." It drew 260 Catholic leaders from 63 U.S. dioceses, including bishops, diocesan staff, Catholic university presidents, corporate leaders, abuse survivors, philanthropists and more than 30 young adults.

Speaking in a news conference call with three other summit participants, Smolik noted that the Leadership Roundtable was founded after the 2002 sexual abuse crisis "to transform the leadership and management culture in our Church."

Leadership Roundtable, based in the nation's capital, is an organization of laity, religious and clergy that describes its mission as promoting "best practices and accountability in the management, finances, communications and human resources development of the Catholic Church in the U.S., including greater incorporation of the expertise of the laity."

The organization offers programs, collections of best practices and consulting services tailored for dioceses, religious communities, parishes, and for Catholic schools, charities and organizations.

The summit had panels on envisioning a new culture of leadership in the Church, building a culture of ethical financial management and stewardship, and inviting young adults to the leadership table, followed by roundtable discussions among the participants.

Smolik said the summit of Catholic leaders demonstrated that "people want to come together, and they want to be part of the solution moving forward, and they want to be invited to do that, and not just be on the sidelines."

She said a summit report will be written this spring and distributed to Catholic leaders and made available to Catholic institutions across the United States.

associate general secretary, told the bishops during their fall general assembly in November the system is designed to filter complaints so that only those addressed in the "motu proprio" will be forwarded.

Under CBAR, people with complaints about any other actions of a bishop, such as diocesan assignments, church closings, liturgy or homily content, will be asked to contact the appropriate diocese or eparchy directly.

Allegations of sexual abuse by a priest, deacon, religious, diocesan staff member or volunteer, will be directed to the local diocesan or eparchial victim assistance coordinator under the process that has been in place under the 2002 "Charter for Protection of Children and Young People."

Pope Francis released his "motu proprio" last May following a worldwide meeting of bishops' conference leaders at the Vatican early in 2019 to discuss the Church's response to clergy sexual abuse. The document specifically addresses allegations of sexual misconduct and other accusations of actions or omissions intended to interfere with or avoid civil or Church investigations of such misconduct by clergy.

The "motu proprio" requires dioceses and eparchies worldwide to establish "one or more public, stable and easily accessible systems for submission of reports" by May 31.

Contributing to this report was Christopher Gunty, associate publisher/editor of Catholic Review Media, the media arm of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

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.

Catholic nursing homes respond to coronavirus restrictions

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The impact of the coronavirus in the United States is likely felt the strongest in nursing homes around the country, and Catholic facilities are no exception.

As of March 13, all nursing homes and long-term care facilities, caring for the population most vulnerable to the coronavirus, have been urged by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to restrict all visitation to their facilities except in certain compassionate care situations, such as end-of-life situations.

"We're following the guidelines to the letter," said Darlene Underhill, a registered nurse and director of clinical services for New Hampshire Catholic Charities, which operates several rehabilitation and nursing centers.

Underhill told Catholic News Service March 12 that curtailing visits could be for a "lengthy period of time" and is something residents at first seem to initially "take more in stride," but as the restrictions have increased and for an unknown period, it is hard to know what lies ahead.

Alain Bernard, assistant vice president of health care services for New Hampshire Catholic Charities, said the centers were working on getting residents computer tablets so they can communicate with relatives.

He said the facilities screen staff members each time they enter. They also are diligent about keeping residents and staff informed of all updates.

Underhill stressed that it is an "unusual situation" with fluid guidance requiring everyone to

be flexible to stop the spread of the virus. She also mentioned the concern for staff members, especially since many of them have school-age children. Schools in the state closed March 15 due to virus concerns.

"Every day is a new situation," she added.

Catholic Charities in Chicago announced mid-March that it was suspending senior group meals and senior center group activities but that box lunches would be made available to pick up at meal sites and individualized assistance from staff members would be available at senior centers.

A stepped-up guideline the CDC issued March 13 included the restriction of all volunteers and nonessential health care personnel at nursing homes and long-term care facilities and the cancellation of all group activities and communal dining.

The loss of visits and communal atmosphere has raised concerns about the mental health and stability of seniors during this time of heightened concern for their physical health.

The restrictions should remind people all the more to keep in touch with family members or those they know in nursing homes or assisted-living centers, by phone or email or social media if that platform is used.

Donna Buxton, head of research at the International Longevity Center in Westminster, England, said the coronavirus outbreak could be a chance for society to reset its relationship with older people.

"The kind of things we should be doing to support older people are the kind of things we should be doing anyway, coronavirus outbreak or not," she told The Telegraph, a British daily newspaper.

REST IN PEACE

Angola William J. Leider, 87, St. Anthony	Huntington Linda K. Zahm, 68, SS. Peter and Paul	Charlene Idzik, 66, St. Matthew Cathedral
Auburn Louis Muzzillo, 90, Immaculate Conception	New Haven Stephen Deininger, 65, St. John the Baptist	Dorothy Kostielney, 92, St. Matthew Cathedral
Fort Wayne Sharon Boreani, 78, St. Charles Borromeo	Clark W. Fagan, 83, St. John the Baptist	Dixie Rospopo, 85, Christ the King
Bart Fraizer, 52, St. Vincent de Paul	Carl R. Wetoskey, 90, St. John the Baptist	William Schmitt, 85, Holy Family
Armanda Rohrbacher, 99, St. Charles Borromeo	South Bend Majorie Bycraft, 81, St. Matthew Cathedral	Richard Wegner, 91, St. Matthew Cathedral
Robert Weigand, 89, St. Charles Borromeo	Ronald Chrustowski, 79, St. Hedwig	

**Check todayscatholic.org/event
or contact the parish to verify that events are still taking place.
Many have been canceled.**



Living choices for every age and every stage

Presence Sacred Heart Home, located just north of Fort Wayne, is a Catholic faith-based community that offers a continuum of care including independent living, assisted living, short-term rehabilitation, long-term care and memory support.

Call 260-888-3539 to schedule a personal visit or learn more at ascensionliving.org



Business Manager Needed

St. John the Baptist in Fort Wayne seeks a full-time business manager to administer parish finances and personnel functions. Candidates with a degree in business or equivalent experience may send their resume to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 4525 Arlington Ave., Fort Wayne, IN. Attn: Fr. Andrew Budzinski, Pastor.



CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF FORT WAYNE
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION



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Thanks to all the parishes who helped raise OVER \$55,000 for at-risk children in our community.

You have made this our most successful baby bottle initiative to date.

**TEACH
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EMPOWER
CHILDREN** in our area
with your loose change!

Additional donations may be made online at christchildsoctyfw.org or by mailing a donation to Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne, PO Box 12708, Fort Wayne IN 46864

The CrossWord

March 15, 22 and 29, 2020



LETTER, from page 1

the Sunday readings and to take time for personal and family prayer by reciting together the holy rosary, the Divine Mercy chaplet or the Stations of the Cross.

As members of the Body of Christ, let us be united in our prayers for one another and especially for those here or abroad who are suffering from illness or have died from the virus infection. Let us also remember in our prayers the valiant doctors, nurses and other health care workers who are working hard to bring healing to the sick as well as our priests and pastoral workers who are providing sacramental and pastoral care to the sick and dying.

In this time of "social isolation," let us not be isolated in our hearts from those who need our love, care and compassion. I am very edified by so many of our faithful who are bringing food to the elderly and staying in contact with those who may feel lonely, anxious, or depressed during this time. Thank you to all who are doing corporal and spiritual works of mercy in this Lenten season and offering assistance to those in need during this pandemic.

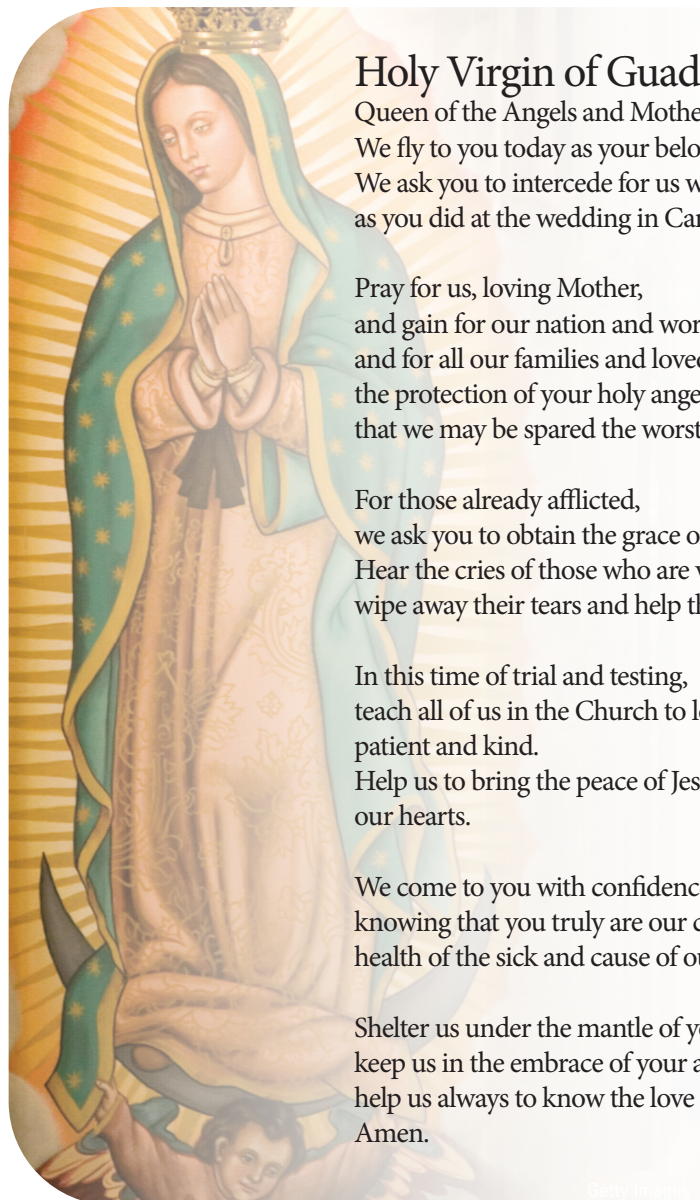
Jesus invites us, His disciples, to follow Him by taking up the cross. Not being able to attend Mass is a heavy cross, but one that we can carry with the help of the Lord. We are united in spirit with our brothers and sisters throughout the world who are also unable to attend Mass because of the pandemic and also with those who regularly cannot go to Mass because of sickness, persecution or a shortage of priests. I hope and pray that this experience will deepen everyone's desire to receive our Lord in the Eucharist, the great gift that we can too often take for granted.

Finally, let us implore our Blessed Mother, as the patroness of our diocese under the title of the Immaculate Conception, as well as Saint Matthew, our secondary patron, to intercede for us during this trial. Let us remember that Jesus is always with us and nothing can separate us from His love. Let us live in His love and spread His love in our community. May God bless you!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Kevin C. Rhoades

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



Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.
We fly to you today as your beloved children.
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be
patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to
our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.
Amen.



The Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

LIVESTREAM WITH BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Every Sunday beginning March 22 at 10 a.m.
Search: @diocesefwsb on Facebook.com and YouTube.com
Can't watch live? Watch the recordings!



DIOCESE OF
FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND