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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Bishop announces diocesewide Stations of the Cross

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has announced that on Friday, April 3, at 7 p.m., the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will livestream the Stations of the Cross from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne. Everyone who is able to access Facebook or YouTube is invited and encouraged to participate in the devotion.

The bishop has expressed hope that as many Catholics as possible will join in meditating on the Stations of the Cross together, as a diocese, on the threshold of Holy Week. In this way, and together with all the priests and religious of the diocese, this great prayer will be offered for all those suffering during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Viewers of the livestream will be able to enjoy the particular artistry of the Stations that hang in the Fort Wayne cathedral. The 14 wood-carved, three-dimensional Stations draw one into the events of Christ's passion and His love. The set was imported from Germany in 1896 and has been repaired, enhanced, framed and re-lit over the years to reveal its stunning detail.

A particularly special grace has also been offered by Bishop Rhoades to those who participate in the April 3 Stations of the Cross.

"All who participate in this pious exercise of the Way of the Cross in which we will implore from Almighty God the end of the pandemic, relief for those who are afflicted, and eternal salvation for those whom the Lord has called to Himself, may attain a plenary indulgence," he said. "They must will to fulfill the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion, and prayer for the Holy Father's intentions) as soon as possible."

For more about the conditions of a plenary indulgence, see page 3 of this week's edition of Today's Catholic.

To access the livestream

Via Facebook: Search for @diocesefwsb. A clickable post on Friday afternoon will allow for viewing.

Via YouTube: Around 5 minutes before 7 p.m., on a computer, smartphone or smart TV, search for @diocesefwsb. Click on the diocesan crest to go to the diocesan channel. Click on the video. As soon as the stations begin the image will become "live."



Photos by Nate Proulx



In wood relief Stations of the Cross at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, Jesus takes up his cross (above); below, his body is laid in the tomb. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades asks all who are able to join him online and pray the Stations of the Cross April 3.

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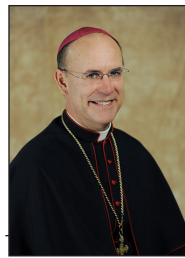
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'May Jesus, the light of the world, lead us on'

IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

The following homily was given by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades March 22, 2020, on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, during a livestreamed Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne.

How strange it is to celebrate Sunday Mass in an empty cathedral. Yet, I am keenly aware that, though physically separated, we are spiritually together through our prayer, our faith and our love. And at this Mass, we are connected online. Thank you for spiritually connecting to this Mass, which I offer for all the people of our diocese.

Together we walk in the dark valley of the coronavirus pandemic, but we walk by faith, faith in the care of God, our Good Shepherd. We prayed in the Responsorial psalm: "The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want." With faith, we pray with the psalmist: "Even though I walk in the dark valley, I fear no evil; for you are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage." The courage of faith! May the Holy Spirit give that courage to all of us during this time. May this courage of faith sustain all those who are sick, all those who are worried, all those who are hurting!

Today's Gospel of the healing of the man born blind teaches us much about faith. It is the story of a simple and sincere man who was blind from birth and about his journey of faith. At first, he encountered Jesus as a "man" among others. When the people asked him "How were your eyes opened?" he simply replied, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.'" Later, when some of the Pharisees interrogating him said that Jesus was not from God and was a sinner because He violated the Sabbath, the blind man objected and said that "Jesus is a prophet." His faith was growing. The Pharisees then continued to interrogate him, insisting that Jesus was a sinner. With courage, the blind man responded: "If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything."

Notice how the blind man's faith was growing, first referring to Jesus as a man, then as a prophet, and then as a man from God. Hearing this, the Pharisees threw him out of the synagogue. When Jesus heard about this, He went to find the blind man and, when He did, Jesus asked him: "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" This is the moment when the blind man's eyes were truly opened. He was given spiritual vision. He was able to see with the eyes of faith and thus called Jesus "Lord." He said to Jesus: "I do believe, Lord." His faith had grown to the point that, as the Gospel tells us, he then worshipped Jesus.



Wikimedia Commons

"Christ Healing the Blind," a painting circa 1567 by El Greco.

What a beautiful story of growth in faith! The man who was healed of his physical blindness was also cured of spiritual blindness. His eyes were opened by faith. Sadly, the Pharisees remained in spiritual darkness. They were spiritually blind and would not open their eyes, their minds, or their hearts to Jesus, the light of the world.

We who were enlightened by Christ at our Baptism can be tempted to return to spiritual darkness, to be spiritually blind like the Pharisees. This happens when our hearts become hardened to the truth of the Gospel,

Though one cannot receive the Eucharist at this time, one can live the Eucharist! We do so by our love, by not doing things that would hurt others by spreading the virus, by following, not ignoring, the directives of our health care experts.

when we are blinded, for example, by selfishness. We need to ask the Lord to cure us from the darkness of sin and pride. The Pharisees suffered from spiritual blindness. They were blind to the Holy Spirit. They had the externals of religion but lacked the spirit of Jesus' love. They were also blind to the suffering and pain right before their eyes. They refused to rejoice in the healing of the blind man. They were blinded by their fixation on the law and Jesus healing on the Sabbath. How easily we can be blinded by legalism and forget or ignore the very heart of Jesus' life and teaching, which is love.

This past week, the Rector of the shrine at Lourdes in France, was asked about the anger of some people who objected

to the closing of the shrine and of churches throughout Europe. He responded that "the first duty of a faithful Catholic is charity, which means we don't put other people in danger." He said: "We cannot stand next to each other, in order to avoid spreading the virus, so if the sanctuary became a place where these protection rules were broken, then we wouldn't be respecting this imperative of charity. It is as simple as that."

Though our churches here are not closed — at this time, people can still come and

pray before the Blessed Sacrament — but we cannot gather together for Mass. This is really fulfilling our duty of charity, so that we don't put people in danger and we can help stop the spread of the coronavirus. I was thinking: isn't this what the Holy Eucharist teaches us? The Eucharist is the sacrament of charity. Though one cannot receive the Eucharist at this time, one can live the Eucharist! We do so by our love, by not doing things that would hurt others by spreading the virus, by following, not ignoring, the directives of our health care experts. We do so by our prayers during these weeks for all those who are sick and suffering from the virus, for those who have died and for their families and loved ones. We do so by our prayers and support for our doctors, nurses, and health care workers. We do so by our reaching out with love to those who are afraid, who are alone, and who are in need.

This is the time to truly live our faith, to live the Eucharist which we have been so privileged to be nourished by throughout our lives. We must not be spiritually blind like the Pharisees, or shortsighted, self-centered, thinking only of ourselves. This is a time in which, by God's grace, our faith can grow deeper by our prayers and our charity and our families can grow closer with more time at home together. Let us trust that Jesus our Savior illuminates all that is dark in life. He leads us to live as "children of the light." As we heard in the reading from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians: "Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth."

Finally, I end this homily with words of the recently canonized saint, Cardinal John Henry Newman, words of a beautiful hymn that he wrote before he became Catholic, in a time of great distress in his life, asking God for light when he was lonely, confused, and very sick. "Lead, kindly Light, amid th'encircling gloom, Lead thou me on; The night is dark, and I am far from home; Lead thou me on: Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see The distance scene — one step enough for me."

Brothers and sisters, may Jesus, the light of the world, lead us on. Let us trust in Him. May His light renew our Christian love as we journey to Easter and the Resurrection!

Special indulgences related to COVID-19 announced by Vatican

From the Apostolic Penitentiary on March 20, 2020:

“The gift of special Indulgences is granted to the faithful suffering from COVID-19 disease, commonly known as Coronavirus, as well as to health care workers, family members and all those who in any capacity, including through prayer, care for them.”

About plenary indulgences:

A plenary indulgence removes all of the temporal punishment due to sins and may be applied to oneself or to the souls of the deceased.

In addition to being in a state of grace, the following are the three requirements that must be met to attain a plenary indulgence:

1. Performance of the indulged work with the intention of gaining an indulgence

2. Meeting the three usual conditions:

- 1) Being truly repentant and receiving absolution in the Sacrament of Penance
- 2) Reception of Holy Communion
- 3) Praying for the Holy Father's intentions.

3. Total detachment from any inclination to sin, even venial sins.

“A single sacramental confession suffices for gaining several plenary indulgences; but Holy Communion must be received and prayer for the intention of the Holy Father must be recited for the gaining of each plenary indulgence” (*Manual of Indulgences*, N20 §2.).

Even if all the requirements for a plenary indulgence are not met, if one is in a state of grace then it is possible still to gain a partial indulgence while seeking to perform a prescribed work.

Only one plenary indulgence can be gained in a day, except for when one is at the point of death, in which case it is always possible to gain another plenary indulgence.

The following are the four new indulgences being offered:

1) Plenary indulgence for those who are ill with COVID-19

The plenary indulgence “is granted to the faithful suffering from Coronavirus, who are subject to quarantine by order of the health authority in hospitals or in their own homes.”

This indulgence can be gained by the sick who “offer this trial in a spirit of faith in God and charity towards their brothers and sisters,” are in a state of grace, and meet the three

What are indulgences?

“The Catechism of the Catholic Church” describes an indulgence as “a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints.” (No. 1471)

Through indulgences, the infinite merits of Christ, as well as the merits of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints, are applied to our purification in this life or the life to come (in purgatory).

A plenary indulgence removes all of the temporal punishment due to sins (“plenary” means full or complete). Other indulgences are known simply as partial indulgences.

Those obtaining a plenary or partial indulgence can choose to apply it either to themselves or to the souls of deceased persons.

requirements:

1. Performance of the indulged work:

- Unite spiritually through the media to the celebration of Holy Mass, the recitation of the Holy Rosary, to the pious practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion
- Or at least recite the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and a pious invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

2. The three usual conditions, “with the will to fulfill them as soon as possible”:

- 1) Being truly repentant and receiving absolution in the Sacrament of Penance
- 2) Reception of Holy Communion
- 3) Praying for the Holy Father's intentions.

3. Total detachment from any inclination to sin, even venial sins.

2) Plenary indulgence for health care workers and for family members caring for those ill with COVID-19

This indulgence is available to “health care workers, family members and all those who, following the example of the Good Samaritan,” are in a state of grace and meet the three requirements:

1. Performance of the indulged work:

- If, exposing themselves to the risk of contagion, they care for the sick of Coronavirus

according to the words of the divine Redeemer: “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends” (Jn 15: 13).

2. The three usual conditions, “with the will to fulfill them as soon as possible”:

- 1) Being truly repentant and receiving absolution in the Sacrament of Penance
- 2) Reception of Holy Communion
- 3) Praying for the Holy Father's intentions.

3. Total detachment from any inclination to sin, even venial sins.

3) Plenary indulgence for those who offer certain prayers for an end to the pandemic

This indulgence is available for as long as the pandemic lasts to any member of the faithful who is in a state of grace and meets the three requirements:

1. Performance of the indulged work:

- Offer one of the following “to implore from Almighty God the end of the epidemic, relief for those who are afflicted and eternal salvation for those whom the Lord has called to Himself”:
 - i. A visit to the Blessed Sacrament or Eucharistic adoration
 - ii. Reading the Holy Scriptures for at least half an hour
 - iii. Recitation of the Holy Rosary
 - iv. Pious exercise of the Way of the Cross



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

There are no events on the public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades for this week.



Catholic Charities
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Catholic Charities makes COVID-19 related appeal

FORT WAYNE — Catholic Charities, the principal charitable organization of the Catholic Church, represents the Church in meeting the needs of people. During this difficult time, the agency realizes many people are experiencing an unprecedented crisis with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Because of widespread layoffs and related health issues, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is anticipating a great surge in requests for food, clothing, housing, transportation and other basics. To meet this urgent local need, CEO Gloria Whitcraft is asking for help in three ways.

First, pray for the Virgin Mary's protection and intercession in this great time of need.

Second, use recommended safety protocols and assist neighbors, especially the elderly and most vulnerable.

Third, if possible, make a financial contribution to Catholic Charities' efforts to support those in great need in the diocese. Donations are needed more than ever to aid those in the local area. Donations to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend stay in the community to serve people in need.

A \$10 gift helps keep Catholic Charities' food pantries stocked. A \$25 gift helps an out-of-work family pay for diapers and wipes. A \$50 gift helps cover family meals for a week. A \$75 gift helps pay for utility bills and a \$100 gift pays part of a family's rent.

For more information or to donate, visit ccfwsb.org/donate.

v. Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

2. The three usual conditions, “with the will to fulfill them as soon as possible”:

- 1) Being truly repentant and receiving absolution in the Sacrament of Penance
- 2) Reception of Holy Communion
- 3) Praying for the Holy Father's intentions.

3. Total detachment from any inclination to sin, even venial sins.

4) Plenary indulgence at the point of death for those unable to receive Anointing of the Sick or Viaticum

“The Church prays for those who find themselves unable to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and of the Viaticum, entrusting each and every one to divine Mercy by virtue of the communion of saints and granting the faithful a Plenary Indulgence on the

point of death, provided that they are duly disposed and have recited a few prayers during their lifetime.”

The following are the requirements:

1. Someone in a state of grace is at the point of death and is unable to receive Anointing of the Sick or Viaticum, and he or she has recited a few prayers at any point during his or her lifetime.

- For the attainment of this indulgence, it is recommended that a crucifix or cross be provided to the dying person.

2. For this indulgence, the Church makes up for the three usual conditions of Confession, Communion and prayer for the Holy Father's intentions – so they are not required.

3. Total detachment from any inclination to sin, even venial sins.

NEWS BRIEFS

Kathleen McChesney, advocate for abuse victims, to receive Laetare Medal

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Kathleen McChesney, a former FBI executive assistant and the first person to lead the U.S. bishops' Office of Child and Youth Protection, will receive the 2020 Laetare Medal from the University of Notre Dame. "It is often the church's darkest moments that call forth great faith and courage," said Notre Dame's president, Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, in announcing the award. He said the university is recognizing McChesney's efforts in response to the Church's abuse crisis and honoring her "courage, tenacity and love for the church in a tireless pursuit of justice for victims, accountability for abusers and measures that prevent this crisis from continuing." The announcement was made March 22, Laetare Sunday, which is the fourth Sunday of Lent. The medal, which has been given to Catholic leaders since 1883, is presented during graduation ceremonies, a date which is currently in question in the minds of many college students and faculty members due to coronavirus shutdowns. In a March 18 letter to the campus community, Father Jenkins said the university still plans to hold its graduation services on the scheduled date of May 17, but with students currently at home during the pandemic, a final determination on the graduation is to be made in coming weeks in collaboration with academic and student leaders.

Schools help families with school supplies, food in wake of closures

MINNEAPOLIS (CNS) — A traffic jam of sorts started at noon March 18 in the parking lot of Risen Christ Catholic School in Minneapolis. Principal Joelynn Sartell and a handful of teachers directed dozens of vehicles that pulled up to the parking lot. They drove up near the north door and a purple tent with the school's name. One by one, cars, minivans and SUVs with parents and students came to place orders for school supplies and food. It was part of an effort to help the many economically disadvantaged families that are trying to navigate the recent school closure. Already struggling families face even tougher times ahead, which the school acknowledges and is trying to soften. "We have about 330 students; 90% of them fall into the category of low income," said Mike Rogers, the school's president, who also helped out in the parking lot. "Our families are already strapped (financially). Many of them have a situation of basically toxic stress all the time related to economic hardship." In just the first hour of a scheduled six-hour distribution effort at the school, 64 cars came through to get school supplies, laptops and food from The Sheridan Story, a local organization that pro-

New York City confession



CNS photo/Ed Wilkinson, The Tablet

Father Jason Espinal listens to a penitent's confession during the ongoing pandemic crisis in the schoolyard of Our Lady of Angels Parish, New York City, New York, March 21.

vides meals to schools like Risen Christ once a week. Rogers noted that one of the new hardships for families is no longer having two free meals a day at school for their children who attend.

All perpetual adoration chapels in Green Bay diocese closing amid virus

GREEN BAY, Wis. (CNS) — Due to concerns about the spread of COVID-19, Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay has ordered that all perpetual adoration chapels in the diocese be closed, and all public eucharistic adoration be suspended. This prohibition goes into effect at midnight March 20. Father John Girotti, vicar for canonical services and associate moderator of the Curia, sent the message out to all six eucharistic chapels in the Diocese of Green Bay March 18. Father Girotti also serves as Bishop Ricken's delegate to the eucharistic chapels. The announcement came one day after Bishop Ricken ordered the suspension of all public celebration of the Mass and most other liturgical celebrations — including Stations of the Cross, a popular Lenten prayer practice. "The congregating of people is the problem," Father Girotti told *The Compass*, Green Bay's diocesan newspaper, in a March 18 interview. "There's the problem of close quarters. Adoration chapels are very tiny,"

he said. "You may have just one or two people, but they are right on top of each other. ... It's good to have a little more space." The closing of the eucharistic chapels came about after several pastors in the churches where these are located expressed concern. However, while the chapels will be closed, Bishop Ricken asked that churches remain open for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. Father Girotti acknowledged that people will express concern that "at the very time we need our eucharistic Lord the most, we're keeping people from him. The answer to that is we are keeping the churches open."

COVID-19 cases confirmed in Brooklyn parishes; include two priests

BROOKLYN, N.Y. (CNS) — The Diocese of Brooklyn announced March 19 that it has learned of at least 10 confirmed cases of COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, within several of its parish communities. All of churches in these parishes "have undergone or are undergoing a deep cleaning and sanitization, with approved disinfectants, following guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention," the diocese said in a statement. A day later, the diocese announced two priests had tested positive for COVID-19 and the diocese also closed all churches in the New York

boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, the territory covered by the diocese at noon March 20. All rectories also were closed for business at noon, and parish office business will continue by telephone only. "As a result of the closures, funerals, weddings and baptisms will not be permitted in church," the diocese said. "This is because limiting them to 10 people is proving not to be feasible." The sacrament of reconciliation will be limited to emergencies only, and spiritual counseling will be provided over the phone. The Brooklyn diocese canceled all public Masses as of March 16 until further notice.

A united humanity will rise from pandemic-stricken world, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As more countries continue to lockdown and isolate to stem the spread of the coronavirus, "we can only get out of this situation together as a whole humanity," Pope Francis said. In an interview published in the Italian newspaper *La Stampa* March 20, the pope said that although Christians must live this moment in history with "penance, compassion and hope," both believers and nonbelievers "are all in the same boat" and must confront the challenge together. "What helps us is synergy, mutual collaboration, the sense of responsibility and the spirit of sacrifice that is generated in many places," he said. "We do

not have to make a distinction between believers and nonbelievers; let's go to the root: humanity. Before God, we are all his children." Reflecting on the Lenten season, the pope said that acts of prayer and fasting are an exercise that "trains us to look at the others with solidarity, especially those who suffer." The prayers being said throughout the world during this crisis, he added, were like the apostles in the boat crying out to Jesus amid the raging storm. Much like the disciples, there are many crying out today "who are drowning, who feel threatened, alone."

Catholic-run soup kitchens serve carryout meals amid coronavirus

DETROIT (CNS) — As the new coronavirus spreads, many Catholic-run soup kitchens and food pantries are not sure what will come next. But one thing is certain: Their guests need them, and many say they will continue to serve food to those in need for as long as possible. In the Detroit archdiocese, although some soup kitchens have had to close down, others such as the Pope Francis Center, St. Leo's Soup Kitchen and St. Christine's Christian Services remain open, but with new sanitation procedures and processes for serving their guests meals. "Given the new concerns, we are doing carryout meals only, which we normally don't do," said Larmender Davis, executive director of St. Leo's in Detroit. "We are trying our best to make sure that people who depend on us for maybe their only meal of the day are at least able to have one hot meal." The Pope Francis Center, located next door to SS. Peter and Paul Parish, moved its operation entirely outdoors, setting up tents and stations serving hot coffee, juice and milk, in addition to hot meals. The center's executive director, Jesuit Father Tim McCabe, said the center also has set up sanitation stations and portable toilets, but has had to shut down other services including showers, laundry and rotating free clinics such as dentistry and legal services. As businesses, nonprofits and families across the state practice social distancing, charities and programs offered to the poor have had to cut back on some services in an effort to keep clients, staff and volunteers safe, he said. A longer-term, and more pressing concern is that donations could dry up as need rises if economic stability is affected by the length of the quarantine. "The issue really is that, as the economic downturn happens, we are going to see fewer donations, and we will see a higher number of people experiencing homelessness as people lose their jobs, lose their income and then lose their homes," Father McCabe told the Detroit Catholic, the archdiocesan digital news service. "We are bracing for numbers to go up, and we have to find a way for people to get their basic human needs met."

Find meaning, community as a Providence Associate

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS, Ind. — Are you looking for spiritual enrichment? Support? Community? A sense of mission? God may be nudging you to become a Providence Associate of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana.

Applications are being accepted for those considering becoming a Providence Associate in the coming year. Providence Associates are women and men of faith, ages 18 years and older, who share their own unique gifts and talents with others while furthering the mission of the Sisters of Providence.

The Providence Associate relationship of the Sisters of Providence began in 2007. Currently, there are nearly 280 Providence Associates in the United States and Taiwan.

“Our Providence Associates are continuing to embody our vision as they live out love, mercy and justice in their daily lives,” Sister Sue said. “The sisters and associates together make up the Providence Community. This community is vital to the mission of bringing the Gospel values and teachings of Jesus to the world.

Accepted applicants spend a year meeting one-on-one on a

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Empty pews



Nate Proulx

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrates Mass on Sunday, March 22, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne. Due to a suspension of public Masses in the diocese resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mass was open to participation strictly via livestream on Facebook and YouTube.

regular basis with a Sister of Providence or another Providence Associate companion. During the meetings, the candidate and their companions learn and share about Providence Spirituality.

Accepted candidates attend an orientation at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in October. Following the orientation, the candidate and companion usually meet once a month for the coming year.

Visit ProvidenceAssociates.org or contact Sister Sue at 312-909-7492 or spaweski@spsmw.org to learn more or to request an application.

Prayer intentions being accepted

FORT WAYNE — The group Praying with Father Solanus is accepting prayer requests for the sick and those in distress.

Norman Stoffel said members of the group feel that “at this time of endangerment, people forget about the sick from other diseases and other problems. We are asking all to send a prayer request to us and many more will help pray for those souls in need.”

Requests can be sent to Praying with Father Solanus, P.O. Box 15340, Fort Wayne, IN 46885. They will be forwarded to all the group’s members and others who have also offered to pray for the intentions.

Pope announces extraordinary ‘urbi et orbi’ blessing March 27

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- In response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Pope Francis said he will give an extraordinary blessing “urbi et orbi” (to the city and the world) at 6 p.m. Rome time March 27.

The formal blessing -- usually given only immediately after a new pope’s election and on Christmas and Easter -- carries with it a plenary indulgence for all who follow by television, internet or radio, are sorry for their sins, recite a few prescribed prayers and promise to go to confession and to receive the Eucharist as soon as possible.

After reciting the Angelus prayer March 22 from the library of the Apostolic Palace, Pope Francis announced his plans for the special blessing, which, he said, would be given in an “empty” St. Peter’s Square because all of Italy is on lockdown to prevent further spread of the virus.

With the public joining him only by television, internet or radio, “we will listen to the word of God, raise our prayer (and) adore the Blessed Sacrament,” he said. “At the end, I will give the benediction ‘urbi et orbi,’ to which will be connected the possibility of receiving a plenary indulgence.”

An indulgence is an ancient

practice of prayer and penance for the remission of the temporal punishment a person is due for sins that have been forgiven. In Catholic teaching, a person can draw on the merits of Jesus and the saints to claim the indulgence for themselves or offer it on behalf of someone who has died.

In addition to announcing the special blessing, Pope Francis said that at a time “when humanity trembles” because of the COVID-19 pandemic, he was asking Christians of every denomination to join together at noon March 25 to recite the Lord’s Prayer. The Catholic Church and many others mark March 25 as the feast of the Annunciation.

“To the pandemic of the virus we want to respond with the universality of prayer, compassion and tenderness,” he said. “Let’s stay united. Let us make those who are alone and tested feel our closeness,” as well as doctors, nurses, other healthcare workers and volunteers.

Pope Francis also expressed concern for “authorities who have to take strong measures for our good” and the police and soldiers maintaining public order and enforcing the lockdown.



CNS photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis looks over an empty St. Peter’s Square after leading a livestream of the recitation of the Angelus from the library of the Apostolic Palace March 22. The pope announced he will give an extraordinary blessing “urbi et orbi” (to the city and the world) at 6 p.m. Rome time March 27 in an “empty” St. Peter’s Square because all of Italy is on lockdown to prevent further spread of the coronavirus.

Faithful act to 'stand up straight and str

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Stories of hope and help, service and support — examples of living as Christ to others in new and meaningful ways — are already marking the spiritual life of the faithful in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

This past Sunday, March 22, marked the halfway point of the Lenten season. The fourth Sunday of Lent is known as Laetare Sunday: "Laetare" means "rejoice." In his homily on Laetare Sunday, livestreamed at 11 a.m., Father David Violi at St. Joseph Parish, Bluffton, reminded worshippers that, despite the unusual situations in which the world finds itself now, "we are still called to rejoice."

"As Christians, no matter what we face in this life, we always face it with hope," Father Violi appealed. "Let us see this time as an opportunity to rekindle the flame of faith in our lives. Let us earnestly set aflame that desire for our Lord in His sacrament, most especially in the Eucharist."

"I pray that this zeal to receive inflames every heart. May we use this time, then, to prepare our hearts for when that day comes. This journey that lies ahead will, in the end, bring us closer to Christ if we keep ourselves focused on Him."

Father Violi compared the suspension of public Mass to Holy Saturday, when Jesus lays in the tomb and the world waits in sorrowing expectation. "One of the important things to remember

is that this isn't normal. We can see it in a bad way or in a good way. God works in the unusual." Father Violi advised families to spend time together in prayer, to "break open" the "rich traditions" of the Catholic faith.

To those who follow Father Christopher Lapp, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka, on Facebook, two invitations were issued March 17.

"Feel the absence. If we are going to assert how necessary the sacraments are ... then we should be deeply moved by this time," he said, as his first invitation. Father Lapp sees this as an opportunity to witness to the love of the sacraments, particularly to the younger generations.

His second challenge was to "strive to be holy anyway." Striving for holiness in "extreme circumstances" allows for a deeper spiritual growth and a means to witness the Catholic faith for the sake of those most in spiritual need.

"We didn't choose this and yet we are obedient," stated Father Lapp. "That's incredibly important and we will miss out on a lot if we grow embittered ... The Lord will be faithful. He will be generous ... Let's stand up straight and strive to be saints. Together."

Instances of charity and support have taken on many different notes. Within the diocesan community, sometimes even complete strangers have responded to situations involving their fellow Catholics.

Chris and Ellen Langford were forced to cancel plans to travel to New Jersey to watch their daughter, Sister Lucia Marie

Langford, profess her first vows as a Dominican sister March 14. To be able to livestream the ceremony instead, at no cost, the Dominican sisters needed to get 1,000 subscribers to their YouTube channel.

The Langfords reached out to their network of family, friends and the parish of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne, to try and get the needed amount.

"A lot of people went the extra mile for us," Ellen stated. Many parishioners and their friends and family, as well as the Fidelis girls' group, did their part to help. "My son David got all the seminarians to pitch in," she added. In the end, over 1,500 people subscribed, and the Langford family was able to watch live as Sister Lucia Marie took her first vows and received her black veil. Although only a couple members of the family could be there in person, many were able to watch online and add their prayers for Sister Lucia Marie.

Knowing that the elderly are the most vulnerable, a group of about five students from Marian High School, Mishawaka, offered their grocery-shopping services earlier this month to South Bend parishes. "

There isn't much we can do," said Annie Henry, one of the students. "We were thinking of ways to help and thought we could go grocery shopping for the elderly. It's a necessary thing, but not safe for them to do." The teens have helped at both St. Jude and St. Pius X parishes, and they have requested that anyone in need of their services should contact the St. Jude Parish office.

Liz Walker, a teacher at Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, offered her expertise through Facebook to those who may need extra assistance with their studies. She has also been teaching classes from home, discussing Pope Francis's encyclical "Laudate Si'." Bishop Luers High School, also in Fort Wayne, offered laptop rentals at no cost so all students could participate in e-learning.

Going beyond the classroom, youth groups are reaching out to each other in new ways as well. At St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne, the answer was an online platform.

"I've never been able to check in daily with the teens. Their schedules are too busy for that," said leader Stacey Huneck, "Suddenly, everyone has become available and I want to minister to teens during their time of isolation."

Father John Delaney, pastor at St. Jude Parish in South Bend, acknowledges the difficulty in reaching out to the faithful, but professes that "it never ceases to amaze how community can come together and really think 'out of the box', to help one another during this time."

With the aid of modern technology, faithful Catholics are uniting in online rosaries and Mass, praying for and with each other, beyond the reaches of their homes.

Joshua Schipper contributed to this article.

For a list of how to view Masses and devotions on television and online, see page 12.



Marian High School cafeteria staff provide drive-through groceries offered at no charge to everyone who requests.



Provided by Tiffani Setlak

Tiffani Setlak and daughters Anna and Lily, parishioners at St. John the Baptist, New Haven, along with their dog, Meadow, visit grandmother Wanda "Nana" Snyder through a window. Speaking through phones to practice social distancing, the trio communicated to a smiling Snyder. Even through a global pandemic, the faithful of the diocese safely continue the corporal works of mercy.



Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the Langford family was unable to be present as their daughter, Sister Lucia Marie, took her first vows. However, the support of the Fort Wayne Catholic community, however, allowed the special event to be witnessed.

ive to be saints'



Molly Gettinger
e-through lunches to students and members of the community. The lunches have been
one since classes were suspended for public and private students across the state.



Provided by Ellen Langford
daughter took her first vows as a Dominican sister March 14 in New Jersey. The sup-
ewed via the online platform YouTube.



Provided by Kayle Landrigan
Joe Landrigan, a parishioner at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne, leads his children in the rosary at their home to
strengthen the family's spiritual life while they they remain at home.



Jodi Marlin
The diocesan Catholic faithful united themselves to the sacrifice of the Mass on Sunday, March 22, by watching
a livestream of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrating the eucharistic liturgy in the Cathedral of the Immaculate
Conception.

'I should have done this three years ago'

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Sometimes God uses dramatic means to change people's hearts. Other times, He moves in the small stirrings of the soul or in little nudges from His faithful on earth. Laura Van Roessel heard Him in the latter, leading her to finally say "yes" to accepting Him through the Catholic Church.

Baptized and raised Lutheran, Van Roessel had a stereotypical view of the Church for many years. Even while dating her now-husband Joris, who was raised Catholic, she had her doubts. "The stigma around Catholics is strong and sometimes real," Laura said. "I had every preconceived stereotype of Catholicism."

Post-college work with the John Deere company allowed the Northeast Indiana resident to travel westward. It also gave her the opportunity to explore various other Christian denomi-

nations. But when she moved back to Indiana, Joris decided their relationship was serious enough to begin going to church together. Although there were some initial compromises, Joris began taking her often to St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Waterloo. She also liked the priest, so she agreed to settle down and worship at St. Michael.

The couple had been established at St. Michael for two years when they decided to get married. Going through marriage preparations with Father David Carkenord was the beginning of the end of Laura's previous objections to Catholicism. She described him as "awesome," stating, "He started to break down some of my Catholic mental barriers. He didn't treat me differently because I wasn't Catholic." In her point of view at the time, though, the Catholic Church was still "a hard church to walk into and feel at home and a part of, because there are



Provided by Laura Van Roessel

Joris and Laura Van Roessel baptized their infant daughter, Rebecca, last year at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Waterloo. This Easter, Laura will enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.



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so many things that are unique to the Catholic faith."

When the couple wanted to have children, they turned to Dr. Christopher Stroud's Fertility and Midwifery Care Center to learn about the Creighton Model of natural family planning. There, Laura felt more nudges toward Catholicism. She found learning about the "Theology of the Body" fascinating and wished that the beauty of the female body had been taught in her younger years. Her Creighton instructor was also Catholic. Laughing, Laura said, "I felt like everywhere I was running into Catholics."

When their daughter, Rebecca, was born, it was an obvious decision to have her baptized at St. Michael. Since none of Laura's family members were Catholic, she chose as godparents a close friend from college, Alisha Schwertner, and her husband. Her friend had married into a devoutly Catholic family and converted to her husband's faith. Schwertner had already begun evangelizing Laura through numerous conversations over the phone.

"For the last five years, we've been having these conversations," Laura said. "She's not been pushy, but says things like 'I think if you would open your mind a little bit to this, you might enjoy it.' And she's been really supportive." So supportive, in fact, that when Laura decided

to take the leap and join the Catholic Church, Schwertner was her sponsor.

Schwertner teased her by saying that it had been just a matter of time, and that she didn't know what had kept Laura from joining the Church earlier.

Listening to "The Catholic Feminist" podcasts, reading a book called "Waking Up Catholic" and a phone call from the director of religious education at St. Michael finally helped her overcome her hesitancy to begin preparation classes for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. "There've been enough nudges in that direction that I needed to say yes."

Laura is the only candidate for full communion at St. Michael this year, "which at first was very intimidating, but we have some very open conversations because you can't hide in the back." The process has given her a greater appreciation for the teachings of the Church and the aspects of the Mass that she once found confusing. "When you look at the Catholic faith, it seems like they do a lot of silly things, but when you understand why they do that it's like 'oh wow.' Everything has a purpose."

RCIA class continued to topple her preconceived notions about the faith. She learned more about the things she had previously questioned. One element she had not understood was the

uniformity of the Catholic Mass, or lack of "originality," as she put it. Now she accepts the Mass as "perfect," and appreciates that it is an experience shared across nations throughout the world. Her sponsor lives in Texas, so there was some concern about the distance, but due to the universal nature of the Mass, that was easily overcome. Laura said, "We experience the same Mass ... we are unified in the Body and Blood of Christ."

Another barrier had been the beauty of Catholic churches and the opulence of some of them. Now she understands that "it's because Jesus is there." She also understands that while a beautiful church isn't necessary to worship God, the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist calls for an environment that shows Him honor.

Even visiting the type of parishes that Laura used to frequent feels vastly different to her now. "If they understood what Catholics believe about the Eucharist, I think a lot of things would fall into place. It's what makes Catholics different. It's not a symbol. It is not just bread and wine ... [the Mass] is more solemn and purposeful, because the Eucharist is served there."

Laura's demeanor appears energized when speaking about the traditions of the Catholic Church. She is excited to receive the Body and Blood of Christ at Easter Vigil, and to become a full member of the Catholic faith.

Suspension of Masses historically rare, but not unprecedented

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Although the celebration of daily or weekly public Mass does not take place in some regions of the world even today, for decades the regular celebration of the eucharistic liturgy has taken place in most cities across the United States. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the absence of public Mass and limitation to other sacraments has occurred only during extreme circumstances.

During the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918, administrators of the city of South Bend forbade all public gatherings, including the celebration of Mass. According to local newspapers at the time, after city officials caught wind that Father John Kubacki planned on celebrating an open-air Mass, a police officer was sent to St. Adalbert Parish to shut down the liturgy.

One historical instance of the absence of Mass is partially remembered in old maps of downtown Fort Wayne. In 1835, it took the compassion of a lay fur trader to bring the holy sacrifice of the Mass back to his fellow citizens.

Francis Comparet, a prominent Catholic in early Fort Wayne, founded the city branch of the American Fur Company. His name may be familiar to local residents, as two downtown streets are named for him.

Comparet hosted Father Stephen Badin, the first priest ordained in the United States, whenever the priest made visits and ministered to the area. Father Badin was instrumental in the purchasing of the southwest portion of the present-day Cathedral Square. He assisted in buying some of the Cathedral grounds from another historic family in the area, the Hanna family.

Not only did the priest minister to Fort Wayne, but he also ministered to a diverse flock of Catholics from several ethnicities who were building the Wabash and Erie Canal.

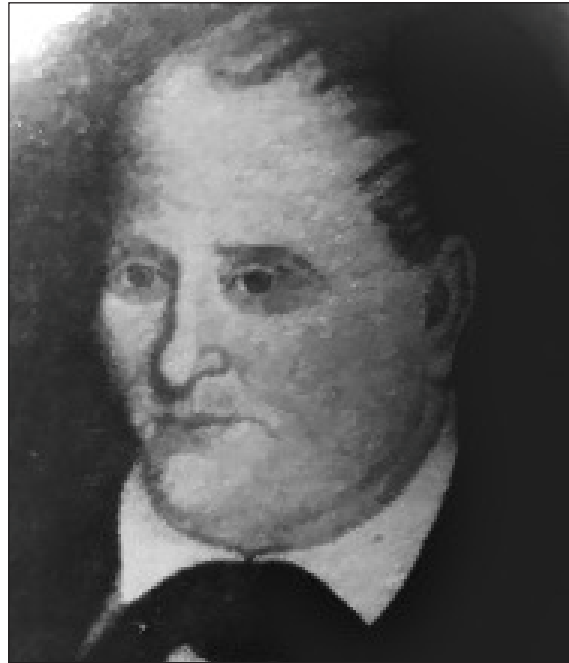
However, as Badin aged, his health rapidly declined. His doctor instructed the traveling priest against riding on horseback, which was his main medium of travel to and from the young city. With Father Badin unable to return to the area, Comparet noted a seven-month absence of Mass and sacraments in the area. He decided to act.

In early 1835, Comparet notified Bishop Simon Bruté of the Diocese of Vincennes that the nearly 600 Fort Wayne Catholics and an estimated 2,000 Catholics working on the nearby canal had been without the sacraments for over half of the year. Bishop Bruté notified Bishop Frederic Rese from the Diocese of Detroit about the lapse occurring in Northeast Indiana and asked for a priest who could speak both English and German to be sent. No priest would arrive until



University of Notre Dame

Father Stephen Badin made frequent visits to early Fort Wayne. Badin was instrumental in the purchase of parts of the present-day Cathedral Square in the city, but his declining health and a shortage of priests in the region forced the faithful to be without Mass and other sacraments for over seven months.



Findagrave.com

Francis Comparet, a Catholic fur trader, brought Mass back to early Fort Wayne after an extended period without the sacrament. He is remembered in two downtown streets that are named for him.

ful from November until year-end.

Bishop Bruté continued to send priests to the area. In a book on diocesan history, Joseph M. White writes that at this time in Church history, priests did not grow as attached to a "missionary diocese" as they would a well-established diocese. So, although the turnover rate of priests in Northeast Indiana remained high, the absence of Mass proved occasional compared to the monthlong absence that originally concerned Comparet.

The fur trader with such concern that he and his fellow Catholics would have access to the Eucharist would die in 1845 at the age of 46. He is interred at Catholic Cemetery in Fort Wayne.

Catholics today can observe Comparet's determination and apply that to the growing pandemic.

Praying for the sick and for medical workers is just one example of the kind of charity that parallels Comparet's compassion almost two centuries ago.

May of that year, and he only ministered to the city of Fort Wayne and the canal district for three weeks.

Another priest was sent in August, but he left by mid-October. A priest from Cincinnati, Ohio, would minister to the faith-

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Coronavirus and 'The Hollywood Squares'

The novel coronavirus that began in Wuhan, China, late last year has affected higher education like nothing I have experienced in my time as a university president.

We have called students home from overseas programs on five continents. We have canceled international spring break trips to Israel, Greece and the Caribbean.

Last week, we decided to suspend classes on campus and teach them online, at least for the next few weeks.

We are not alone. Harvard, MIT, Duke, Fordham, Princeton, Stanford, Ohio State, Indiana, Middlebury, Vanderbilt — colleges and universities large and small, private and public, told students to go home. Nearly all of them propose to continue teaching courses online.

As recently as a couple of years ago, this would have been unrealistic.

But today, the ubiquity of laptops, the quality of embedded cameras and good conferencing software have made it the default solution.

Microsoft reports a 500% increase in use of its Teams software in China since the end of January. The stock market has tanked, but stock in Zoom, a popular conferencing product, is up 20% in the last month. Google is offering free Meet usage for users of G Suite for Education.

I teach a very low-tech course, "The Virtues," to two dozen freshmen in our honors program. The materials are mostly films, novels, essays and some art.

It's a seminar, so the students do most of the talking. And to make sure they are prepared, I require them to write 500 words before each class on several questions I pose about that day's material.

Two weeks ago, anticipating our move to online instruction and wondering what we might be getting ourselves into, I tried doing a class on Zoom.

If I gave lectures, I could have just filmed myself and posted my talk, a kind of third-rate monologue. But I worried about conducting a discussion across 25 laptops.

It worked a lot better than I thought it would. The screen looked like "The Hollywood Squares," but with more people. I could mute everyone except the student I called on. And her square would light up, so people knew where to look.

It's not the only tool you need to run a class. We have another program called Blackboard, which allows me to post a syllabus, hand out assignments, make announcements, put up documents and post grades. And students can send me their daily reflections and term papers as email attachments.

Of course, this stuff is of no use for teaching dance or chemistry lab. Even in my course on the virtues, there are things we've had to cancel. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas was scheduled to teach a class at the court. The chairman of our art department often takes my students to the National Gallery of Art.

Students' ability to learn from



INTELLECT AND VIRTUE

JOHN GARVEY

one another is significantly diminished. People in the honors program live together in two dorms; they discuss the reflections they write before we meet, and they often continue the class discussion over lunch, which follows.

"The Hollywood Squares" conversation is a bit clipped and stilted, too. You don't get nonverbal cues, and people on mute can't talk over one another or communicate laughter or disagreement.

As we send the students home, I find myself thinking about what Cardinal Newman said in one of his university sermons — that the most effective means of communicating the beauty of virtue "is holiness embodied in personal form." Online instruction, however handy, can't provide that kind of education.

Editor's note: John Garvey announced March 19 that he has tested positive for COVID-19. He is currently in self-quarantine.

John Garvey is president of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Catholic University's website is www.cua.edu.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for March 29, 2020

John 11: 3-7; 17, 20-27, 33b-45

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

HEARD	ILLNESS	DEATH
GLORY	SON OF GOD	MARTHA
LAZARUS	THE TOMB	FOUR DAYS
COMING	LORD	NOT HAVE DIED
EVEN NOW	YOU ASK	BELIEVE
CHRIST	WORLD	JESUS WEPT
A CAVE	STONE	LOUD VOICE

LAZARUS' DEATH

S J E N O T S W O R L D
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 H L N D E V A C A O J I
 R A A O H C D K L W E D
 I Z H H F Y R O L G S E
 S A T C O G U N I N U V
 T R R U Y D O M S A S A
 L U A D V F F D I R W H
 E S M O W O N N E V E T
 K U I L L N E S S A P O
 C C X E B M O T E H T N
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Those who believe will see the glory of God



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Fifth Sunday of Lent John 11:1-45

The Book of Ezekiel provides the first reading for this weekend. Even a quick reading of the history of ancient Israel shows that there were very few periods of prosperity and calm. Indeed, only the reigns of David and Solomon properly might be considered as truly good times.

Some periods, however, were more trying than others. Certainly, the generations spent in Babylon were miserable. Confined in Babylon in wretchedness, and a minority, surrounded by paganism and surely unwelcome, the Jewish

exiles yearned for the day when they would be able to return to their homeland.

Ezekiel built upon this theme of hope and expectation. As did all the prophets, he saw a release from Babylonian bondage not as an accident or a coincidence. He regarded it as a result of God's mercy and of fidelity to God. So, in this reading, the Lord speaks through Ezekiel, promising to breathe the new life into the defeated, dejected people.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans furnishes the second reading. Rome was the absolute center for everything in the first-century Mediterranean world. It was the political, economic and cultural heart of the empire. Its inhabitants came from everywhere, having brought with them a great variety of customs and beliefs. It was a sophisticated city. Paul wrote to the Christian Romans, among whom eventually he would die as a martyr.

This passage highlights two spiritual realities. A Christian is linked with God through Christ. Therefore, a Christian possesses

the very life of the Holy Spirit; a life, of course, that will never die.

For its third reading, the Church this weekend presents the Gospel of John. Jesus went to Bethany, then a separate community but now a part of greater Jerusalem. He had been summoned by Martha and Mary, who were anxious about their brother Lazarus, the Lord's friend, who had died.

When Jesus at last arrived, Lazarus had been dead for several days. He was in the tomb. Putrefaction had begun. Responding to the sisters' faith, the Lord restores Lazarus to life.

Several important themes occur in the passage. First is the powerful, life-giving love of Jesus. In the mystery of the incarnation, Jesus knows and expresses human love. Secondly, the faith of Martha and Mary is unqualified.

The evangelist sees a parallel between the resurrection of Jesus and the restoration of earthly life to Lazarus. In each account, mourning women are essential parts of the story. Stones seal the tombs. The bodies are dressed,

and face cloths, customary in Jewish burials of the time, covered the faces. Finally, in each story, faith and human limitation have important roles.

Reflection

Next week, on Palm Sunday, the Church will invite us to learn, and to worship, in the most intense liturgical days of the year. Calling us to Christ, and with ancient drama and the most compelling symbolism, it will proclaim Jesus as Savior and as risen Lord.

This weekend, the Church prepares us for the experience of Holy Week, giving us the beautiful and wondrous story of Lazarus.

Foreseeing the Lord's own resurrection, today's message is clear. If we are united with Jesus, as Lazarus and his sisters were united, then in God's power we will have everlasting life.

Eternal life will occur only if we seek Jesus, with the faith uncompromisingly shown by Martha. It is the faith that believes that Jesus alone gives

us life.

The other readings reinforce this theme. For everyone, life can be hard. Death awaits all. Ezekiel assures us that God will give us true life, a life of holiness, a life that never ends and a life of peace and joy.

St. Paul reminded us that this life abides only in Jesus. As Lent progresses toward its culmination, the Church calls us to Jesus, the Lord of life.

READINGS

- Sunday:** Ez 37:12-14 Ps 130:1-8 Rom 8:8-11 Jn 11:1-45
- Monday:** Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 Ps 23:1-6 Jn 8:1-11
- Tuesday:** Nm 21:4-9 Ps 102:2-3, 16-21 Jn 8:21-30
- Wednesday:** Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 (Ps) Dn 3:52-56 Jn 8:31-42
- Thursday:** Gn 17:3-9 Ps 105:4-9 Jn 8:51-59
- Friday:** Jer 20:10-13 Ps 18:2-7 Jn 10:31-42
- Saturday:** Ez 37:21-28 (Ps) Jer 31:10-13 Jn 11:45-56

North American College decides to send all its seminarians home



CNS photo/courtesy of the Pontifical North American College

The staff and 92 seminarians at the Pontifical North American College in Rome pose for a photograph March 15, 2020, on the steps leading to the seminary chapel. A week later, the college informed the seminarians that they should return to the United States because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

BY CINDY WOODEN

ROME (CNS) -- With more than half of its seminarians already back in the United States, the Pontifical North American College in Rome is sending its students home.

"In consultation with our board of governors and the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See, we have asked all students at our two campuses to return to their home dioceses in the United States," said a notice posted on the seminary's Facebook page March 23, the day after students were informed.

The post said students "will undergo a 14-day quarantine once they arrive home and will continue to pursue formation via the online courses that have been in place for the last few weeks."

The U.S. State Department March 20 issued a "Global Level 4 Health Advisory," urging U.S. citizens to avoid all international travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "In countries where commercial departure options remain available, U.S. citizens who live in the United States should arrange for immediate return to the United States, unless they are prepared to remain abroad for an indefinite period," the State Department said.

Particularly after Italy closed all schools and universities March 5 and then ordered a nationwide lockdown March 9, many dioceses already had called their students home, especially transitional deacons who are to be ordained to the priesthood in June.

As of March 16, only 92 of the 192 seminarians remained on the campus on the Janiculum Hill, Father Peter Harman, the rector, had told Catholic News Service. He did not say how many priests, doing graduate studies, were still living at the college's separate facility, the Casa Santa Maria.

The notice said one of the factors influencing the decision to send all students home was Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte's announcement March 21 closing all "nonessential" business throughout the country.

Conte's announcement, the NAC post said, raised questions "regarding the production of goods and the further restriction on the movements of workers."

"While disappointing," the post said, the decision to send all the students home "is based on our desire and responsibility to assure that, at this time, our students are closest to the emotional support systems of their diocese and families."

The ban on travelers from Europe entering the United States was announced by President Donald Trump March 12 and went into effect the following day. U.S. citizens living in or visiting Europe are exempt from the ban, although many flights to the United States have been canceled and planes coming from Europe may land only at designated airports equipped to do a health screening of passengers entering the country.

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Fort Wayne

Neil O'Brien, 83, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Lon M. Ternet, 49, Our Lady of Good Hope

Huntington

Cletus Miller, 94, SS. Peter and Paul

Notre Dame

Brother Jerome F. Matthews, CSC, 85, Chapel of Mary

South Bend

Robert Gray, 81, Holy Family

Virginia M. Kusmiez, 91, Holy Family

Warsaw

Dorothy R. Brown, 95, Sacred Heart

James J. Nowak, 69, Sacred Heart

Waterloo

Jo Anne Williams, 69, St. Michael the Archangel



TOTUS TUUS | DIOCESE OF GARY

Now Accepting Missionary Applications



WHAT IS TOTUS TUUS?

A weeklong summer parish mission for 1-12 grade students. In its fifth summer in the Diocese of Gary, we foster Eucharistic and Marian devotion while having fun!

HOW DO I APPLY?

We are seeking college-aged missionary mentors to hand on the Catholic faith. \$2000 stipend, meals and housing provided. May 27-July 26, 2020 Apply: dgary.org/totustuus



Left to right: Sara Hoeffel, Mary Didier, Todd Busick, Casey Miller, Bob Jesch, Stephanie Zelt, Monte Freeze

Our years of experience are exceeded only by our care and compassion.

When making funeral and cemetery arrangements, you won't find a more experienced and compassionate team to guide you through the process. At Divine Mercy, we listen closely to your preferences and assist you thoughtfully and professionally. Together we have more than 180 years of experience in assisting area families with affordable funeral and cemetery arrangements.

Also, if you have already preplanned with another funeral home, you'll be pleased to know that you can quickly and easily transfer those arrangements to Divine Mercy if that is your wish.

Call 260-426-2044 or visit us for more information.

Fort Wayne's only locally owned, not-for-profit funeral home.

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NEW FORT WAYNE TV MASS TIMES

Sunday 7 a.m.

WPTA MY TV 21.3
Frontier 9 and 509
Comcast 252, 1024, and 1172
DirecTV 22

Sunday 10 a.m.

WISE CW 33.1
Frontier 6 and 506
Comcast 19 and 1033
DirecTV 33 | Dish 34

diocesefwsb.org/TV-Mass

Mass viewing opportunities abound

Although public Masses in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are currently suspended, opportunities for worship and spiritual communion via TV and the internet abound. Following is a list of livestream, audio and television Masses collected by the diocesan Secretariat for Communications and Redeemer Radio.

SUNDAY MASS WITH BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- 10 a.m. every Sunday by visiting the diocesan YouTube or Facebook page

TELEVISED SUNDAY MASS

• South Bend area:

10:30 a.m.: WNDU Ch. 16, Comcast Ch. 8

Noon: MyMichiana will be airing a taped Catholic Mass from St. Pius X, Granger, on WMYS 69.1, Comcast 15/HD 194 or 1034, Xfinity 15 or Dish 69

• Fort Wayne area:

7 a.m.: WPTA Ch. 21.3 (MyTV) Frontier: 9, 509 Comcast 252, 1024, 1172; DirecTV, 22

10 am: WISE CW Ch. 33.1, Frontier 6, 506; Comcast 19, 1033; DirecTV 33, Dish 34

10:30 a.m. through April 12: WFFT TV, FOX Ch. 55, Frontier 5, Comcast 12

Watch current and past Sunday Masses from Heart of the Nation on demand anytime at heartofthenation.org/online-

mass/sunday-mass. These televised Sunday Masses are offered year-round.

DAILY MASS FROM EWTN

- Monday through Friday at 8 a.m., noon and 7 p.m. or stream online at ewtn.com/tv/watch-live or watch on your local cable/satellite provider.

- Daily Mass can be found on demand at video.ewtn.com/daily-mass.

REDEEMER RADIO

8 a.m. every day broadcast of live EWTN Mass.

Fort Wayne area: 106.3 FM NE Indiana

South Bend/Napanee area: 95.7 FM Michiana.

Online at RedeemerRadio.com or the Redeemer Radio App

PARISH LIVESTREAMS

Many parishes in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and across the country are providing livestreams of Mass (as well as other devotions).

- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne: 9 a.m. on Facebook
- Our Lady of Good Hope, Fort Wayne, Sunday at 8:30 a.m. on YouTube

- St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne: 6:30 a.m. on Facebook, Stations of the Cross on Facebook

- St. Monica, Mishawaka: Daily Reflections on Facebook by Father Jacob Meyer

- St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne: 8 a.m. daily on Facebook Sunday at 9 a.m. on Facebook

- Queen of Peace, Mishawaka: 10 a.m. Adoration, 11 a.m. Mass daily; Sunday at 10 a.m. on Facebook

- St. Pius X, Granger: 8:45 a.m. daily on www.stpius.net, Sunday at 10 a.m. on website. Rosary at 3 p.m. everyday on Facebook

- Basilica of the Sacred

Heart, Notre Dame: 11:30 a.m. on campusministry.nd.edu, Sunday at 10 a.m. on Website

- St. Jude, Fort Wayne: 5 p.m. daily on Facebook; Sunday at 9 a.m. on Facebook

- St. Louis Besancon, New Haven: Saturday 4 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. on Facebook

- Sacred Heart, Warsaw: 8 a.m. daily on YouTube; Sunday at 9 a.m. on YouTube

- St. Joseph Chapel, Holy Cross College: Sunday at 7:30 p.m. on Facebook; Adoration at noon on Fridays

- Christ the King, South Bend: Pre-recorded posted on YouTube; Reflections posted on YouTube,

View updates to these listings at redeemerradio.com.

OTHER VIEWING OPTIONS

TRIDENTINE RITE (IN LATIN)

Streams five times each week-day and eight times each Sunday

To view the schedule, go to LiveMass.net and click "schedule" in the bottom, righthand corner.

LiveMass.net is an apostolate of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter.

SPANISH / ESPAÑOL:

- Sunday, 12:30 p.m. at www.olacathedral.org/live, Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Archdiocese of Los Angeles

VIETNAMESE / TIẾNG VIỆT:

- Sunday, 7 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at <https://chungnhan.org/broadcast>, Church of the Vietnamese Martyrs, Diocese of Richmond, Virginia



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