

# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 94 No. 16

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

## He is risen!

Livestreamed Triduum Masses  
celebrated across the diocese

Pages 6-7

## Balancing faith and safety

Essential Catholic services like  
health care, funerals go on

Page 3

## Divine Mercy Sunday is April 19

The Lord's mercy extends  
far and wide

Page 5

## Franciscan Vocation House

Community of women  
forming in Fort Wayne

Page 10

## Easter: the Death of Death

The following is the homily  
of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades,  
delivered during a livestreamed  
Mass in the Cathedral of the  
Immaculate Conception, Fort  
Wayne, on Easter Sunday, April  
12, 2020.

The Easter Vigil always begins in darkness. In fact, the Church does not allow the Easter Vigil, the first Mass of Easter, to begin until after the sun sets. The darkness of our churches reminds us of the darkness of the tomb of Jesus. This darkness also reminds us of the darkness of history and even the darkness before the dawn of creation. Creation only begins when God says: "Let there be light."

At the beginning of the Easter Vigil, in the darkness of the church, a light appears — the light of the Paschal candle. It is the light of a new creation. When He raises His Son, Jesus, from the dead, God is saying again "let there be light." The darkness is driven away the moment that Jesus rises from the grave. Light is created anew.

Jesus is God's pure light. At the Easter Vigil, the light of the Paschal Candle is passed to everyone in the church as their candles are lit. The Risen Jesus draws all of us into the new light of the resurrection. He conquers all darkness.

When we were baptized, the Lord said to each one of us: "let there be light." We became children of God and children of the light. We are to live as children of the light in the midst of the darkness that still threatens us. Evil still exists and the devil and his minions still seek the ruin of souls. But we walk through life illumined by the light of Christ, the light of faith. Even though we know that earthly death still awaits, we walk by the light of the One who conquered death, by the light of the Risen Christ, who is our hope.

During this coronavirus pan-



Provided by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

This painting by Father Marko Ivan Rupnik is titled "Resurrection of Christ."

demic, we are keenly aware of the danger of death. We don't yet have a cure or a vaccine to protect us. And, even when we do, there won't be a cure for death. We pray that our scientists will soon develop the vaccine for the virus, but they will never develop a medicine for immortality. Actually, this medicine has already been developed. We received it at our Baptism.

When Jesus rose from the dead, death was conquered. The tomb was thrown open. The light of Christ erupted and it has spread throughout the world and throughout history. Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the true

light, more than the physical phenomenon of light. He is pure light. He is God Himself, God who causes a new creation to be born in the midst of the old. He enlightens us with the truth. In Christ's light, we can recognize what is true and what is false, what is right and what is wrong.

The flame of the Paschal candle gives forth light. Christ the light illuminates us with the truth, the truth about life, about the dignity of every human person and the truth about God, who is Love. The flame also gives forth heat. Christ not only enlightens us, He gives us warmth: the warmth of His love,

the love that is stronger than death. The light of the candle is a fire. The fire of Christ's love burns up evil. It is the fire of God's warmth and goodness. The Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles at Pentecost in the form of tongues of fire. The Holy Spirit strengthens us to spread the fire of God's love, His warmth and His mercy — that transforming fire we received deep within us when we were baptized, the fire that was then enkindled within us when we were confirmed. We must protect that light and that

HOMILY, page 3

## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

(ISSN 0891-1533)  
(USPS 403630)

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

**PUBLISHER:** Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

**Editorial Department**

**PUBLICATIONS MANAGER:** Jodi Marlin  
**STAFF WRITER:** Jennifer Barton  
**PAGE DESIGNER:** Francie Hogan  
**NEWS SPECIALIST:** Mark Weber

**Business Department**

**BUSINESS MANAGER:** Jennifer Simerman  
**BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION:** Geoff Frank  
circulation@diocesefwsb.org  
**BUSINESS SALES MANAGER:** Erika Barron  
ebarron@diocesefwsb.org

**Website:** [www.todayscatholic.org](http://www.todayscatholic.org)  
260-456-2824

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Find us on Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/todayscatholicFWSB](http://www.facebook.com/todayscatholicFWSB)

**Follow us on Twitter**

@diocesefwsb

**Follow us on Instagram**

@diocesefwsb

# Disappointed but hopeful, thousands unable to join Church at Easter

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The disappointment of not being able to celebrate Easter Mass in churches across the country this year might have been most strongly felt by the thousands who planned to join the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

The vigil Mass — which starts in darkness and is brightened by an outdoor flame that spreads to the Paschal candle and individual candles — is rich in liturgical symbols about darkness and light, doubt and faith, old life and new. It highlights not only the resurrection of Jesus but the new life experienced by believers that is visually demonstrated by the baptism of those joining the Church.

The Mass includes the baptism, confirmation and first Communion of catechumens joining the Church after preparing for several months through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA. Candidates, those who are already baptized, receive confirmation and first Communion at the vigil to enter full communion with the Church.

This year, amid the coronavirus pandemic and state restrictions to curb the disease's spread that prevent gatherings of 10 or more, Catholic churches in the United States have been closed for public Masses. Many parishes and dioceses are livestreaming their services with simply the celebrant and maybe a lector or cantor present.

As this has been the new normal for parishes across the country, RCIA coordinators and diocesan leaders realized in late March that they would very likely have to postpone rites of initiation. Many started setting their sights on Pentecost, which is May 31, but they also have said no date can be set, obviously, because no one can predict when churches will reopen.

"It is very disappointing to be in this process for a long time and have the finish line in sight, and now the line has been moved," said Sara Blauvelt, director of catechesis for the Archdiocese of Washington. "It's hard not to be discouraged, but we have to remember there is great hope in Christ, and that is what we have to cling to."

As far as a rescheduled date, she too is hoping for Pentecost but said: "We can't promise anything at this point other than to promise they will receive the sacraments when it is the right time." She said this is a sad time for the Church, but she also believes "new life will come after the pandemic, and new life in Christ will come for our candidates and elect."

That's the hope of Dustin



CNS photo/Mihoko Owada, Catholic

**People at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington participate in the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion March 1.**

Pollock, who planned to join the Church and receive sacraments of initiation at St. Rose of Lima Church in Layton, Utah, this Easter.

Pollock's parents were baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but they did not practice the faith, and he grew up without any religion. He found the Catholic Church through his second wife, who is a practicing Catholic. After attending Mass with her, initially so she wouldn't have to go alone, the faith began to mean something to him personally and he started the RCIA process.

In recent weeks, he and his wife have been watching Masses online, but they are looking forward to the day when they can go to Mass in person and receive the Eucharist together. For now, Pollack said he is determined to wait and "stay in touch with the Lord through prayer and meditation, but it's hard."

As a service provider at a tire store, Pollock is performing essential work and as such still goes in every day and interacts with many people. Not knowing if he is unintentionally being exposed to the virus is difficult.

"Silently, in my head, I am constantly praying," he said. "It's so stressful every day; if I didn't have my faith, I would be going crazy. I couldn't make it through without it."

"I definitely look forward to

moving forward in this. I will forever be in this faith," he added.

And in this waiting period, candidates and catechumens have been encouraged to keep up with the faith they've been studying and discussing for weeks via Zoom conference calls and Google hangouts.

Michael Bayer, director of evangelization and adult formation at St. Clement Catholic Church in Chicago, said that since the parish has finished all of its RCIA formation classes, program leaders are encouraging participants to become involved in broader parish ministries, even though for now these ministries are all virtual, such as couples groups or weekly Bible studies.

He said the RCIA participants are very understanding. "Several work in health care, including a couple of nurses, so people certainly comprehend the gravity of what we are facing with the coronavirus threat."

Sister Rosanne Belpedio, a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet, who is director of the Office of Worship for the Los Angeles Archdiocese, said the pandemic similarly challenges the faith of those in the Church and those waiting to be a part of it.

She has encouraged RCIA directors not to lose momentum and to urge participants to reflect on what they are going through by asking: "Where is God acting

in my life in this unusual circumstance?" and also "What do these times require of me?"

"We don't know what life will be like" after restrictions are lifted, she said, but she also said the Church can't lose sight of this opportunity to deepen faith and to bring the community together, reminding everyone of their obligations to one another.

The faith lessons learned now will certainly carry over for those who have started their journey to the Church in this unexpected year. In the Los Angeles archdiocese alone, there are more than 1,600 catechumens and nearly the same number of candidates.

In the meantime, Blauvelt, from the Washington archdiocese, said the whole Church should be disappointed about the delay in welcoming new members.

"Every parish is enriched by new family members. Every time someone joins the faith — comes to Christ in the Catholic Church — we are richer. So, we are impoverished as we wait with them," she said, adding: "We are serious about welcoming them."

*Contributing to this story was Richard Szczepanowski, managing editor of the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington, and Linda Petersen, a reporter for the Intermountain Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Salt Lake City.*

# Works of mercy lived by many workers during pandemic

BY JENNIFER BARTON

All human lives have dignity, according to Catholic teaching, even in the midst of a crisis situation, and they are deserving of respect. Catholic service organizations practice both corporal and spiritual works of mercy by visiting the sick, comforting the afflicted, praying for the living and the dead, and burying the dead. All of these must be done regardless of the state of the world.

While COVID-19 has limited person-to-person interaction, the call to live the works of mercy has only intensified in areas of care such as medical, assisted living and funeral services.

Certain needs cannot be rescheduled or put aside. Divine Mercy Funeral Home in Fort Wayne continues to hold funeral services for families who have lost loved ones, keeping safety as a main priority. Executive Director Casey Miller said, "We are trying to maintain the Catholic aspects" of Catholic funerals, "such as the rosary and vigil" while following safety protocols. For the foreseeable future, Divine Mercy is only allowing 10 people in the visiting room at a time and has asked that visitations be limited to family only.

"Families have been beautiful and very understanding," Miller said. He shared that in general, visitation attendance has decreased exponentially as people also follow the social distancing guidelines of their own accord. Even when Divine Mercy hosts a larger family gathering, the staff is still able to maintain those guidelines by utilizing the entire facility. "Funerals are social things," Miller shared. "When we have a funeral, we give the family the entire home."

This includes use of the visitation room plus a family room and other gathering spaces, as well as the lobby.

The funeral home also has many pieces of artwork on loan from Father Phillip Widmann, curator of the Diocesan Museum, which family members can view and enjoy. Miller explained that the collection encourages people to move around the home, rather than remaining in the visitation room. If the 10-person capacity is reached, staff have been directed to ask mourners to wait until others leave and will then escort them in.

Priests from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend have been coming to Divine Mercy to say the rosary with families and even celebrating funeral Masses at the person's parish if safety measures are met. In fulfilling their mission of burying the dead in a respectful manner, at Divine Mercy the use of graveside tents has been discontinued, as it encourages people to gather together rather than to maintain distance. Families are also offered the opportunity to return at a safer time for a larger memorial service. "We will do that gladly," Miller stated.

The funeral home also has the capability to stream the rosary so that other mourners can join their prayers to the family's, though Miller said that no one has asked for that service yet. Intense cleaning and staggered worker schedules, along with automatic doors on the building, all contribute to Divine Mercy's efforts to help prevent the spread of the virus while serving the grieving.

St. Joseph Hospital in Mishawaka is blazing new trails when it comes to caring for the physical and spiritual well-being of patients, both those in isolation and in regular care. "This



CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

**A medical worker in Stony Brook, N.Y., flashes the peace sign outside Stony Brook University Hospital April 8, during the novel coronavirus pandemic. She had participated in a "Caravan for Heroes" salute, an event that provided an opportunity for medical personnel and first responders to express their mutual support and appreciation for one another.**

is a ministry — it's a Catholic ministry," said Sister Carole Langhauser, PHJC, director of mission integration.

While the health and well-being of patients is a high priority, St. Joseph staff members have not neglected their spiritual needs. Sister Carole stated that St. Joseph has chaplains on duty 24 hours a day, who are busy "meeting the needs of patients, employees and families (by phone)."

She is proud to share how the chaplains have been working hard to care for those in need. "Trying to be calmness in the storm is a calling to us. The chaplains are doing a wonderful job. They're becoming family to the patients. It's edifying."

If the need arises, Catholic chaplains are able to bring Communion and the anointing of the sick to patients, though using proper procedures for those

in isolation is sometimes tricky. Nursing staff help the chaplains "suit up" properly, and both are willing to provide this service. One chaplain has begun a podcast, and the hospital has some technology devices such as iPads that can be used to bring Mass podcasts to Catholic patients in isolation who would like to make use of this service.

Patients are not the only ones in need. Measures are taken to care for staff members, too, ensuring their physical, emotional and spiritual health. Sister Carole called these workers "superstars" — hospital staff who are "going beyond the job description" to aid others. She said that many of these doctors, nurses and others work long hours and have made connections outside the hospital to meet their needs.

The community has jumped in to help, with some restaurants providing food for staff. Hotels have offered free stays and

many people have volunteered to make masks. Monetary donations to the foundation have also increased.

For elderly people in residential care, one of the biggest sacrifices is not being able to visit with loved ones. Saint Anne Communities in Fort Wayne and Huntington is finding ways to keep residents' spirits high in the middle of this time of sacrifice. "It's definitely very difficult for our residents," said Annie Budenz, admission and marketing director for Saint Anne Communities. The staff has been working hard to care for residents while following guidelines set out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the state of Indiana for their protection.

In lieu of large gatherings of residents, the staff has been working one-on-one with them — helping them write letters, send pictures and arrange FaceTime and video chats with loved ones. One staff member has been making Easter Bunny visits to residents. "We're doing anything little to get smiles from them and keep their minds busy."

Budenz said that they have had instances of family members "visiting" relatives' windows. Within the local area, people outside Saint Anne have been making cards and cloth masks for residents, which have been greatly appreciated. Saint Anne has a Catholic chaplain who lives in the building to help see to the spiritual care of the residents.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines the works of mercy as "charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities." The Catholic service organizations within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are living the example of these works of mercy during an incredibly difficult time.



CNS photo/Jeenah Moon, Reuters

**Men in New York City carry a body into a funeral home April 5 during the novel coronavirus pandemic.**

## HOMILY, from page 1

fire from being extinguished by sin. The Lord calls us to walk as children of the light and not fall back into darkness.

Our faith is often put to the test. It is put to the test during this pandemic. It is tested by suffering, evil, injustice and death. Some people can lose faith because they have a false concept of God. We must look at the true face of God, the God who, in Christ, took upon Himself all the wounds of humanity. The God we believe in still carries the wounds of His passion and death. Like Jesus pointed out His glorious wounds to the doubting Thomas, He points them out to us in the trials and sufferings of this life. Those wounds show us who the true God is: the God who loves us to the extent of taking upon Himself our wounds and our pain. This is the God we

believe in amid the sufferings and tragedies of life. This is the God we believe in during this pandemic, not a god who desires the suffering and death of the innocent. Many ask why God has allowed this pandemic. It is important to remember that "the Lord does not take away suffering and evil from the world, but He has vanquished suffering and evil at their roots by the superabundance of His grace." (Pope Benedict XVI)

The Risen Lord gives us the love that does not fear death as the way to peace and joy. This is the peace and joy of Easter. The Risen One promises us a share in His Resurrection. This is the hope of Easter, the hope that does not disappoint. May we be witnesses of this hope during this crisis and witnesses to the love that destroys sin and is stronger even than death!

## Dominicans donate beds to overflow facility for COVID-19

DETROIT (CNS) — The Dominican Sisters of Peace were putting their affairs in order, getting ready for their final act of service in Oxford, Michigan. In September 2019, the congregation voted to sell its motherhouse and grounds, including the St. Mary's Retreat House it has been operating for 60 years. The sisters closed the retreat house March 8 — but God wasn't quite done yet. Dominican Sister Rita Birzer, director and administrator of the retreat center, said the community was set to donate the center's beds and linens to the Ann Arbor-based nonprofit House Into Homes, until she received a phone call from Dave Raymond from Trinity Health. "(He) also works with the group that provides homes for the homeless," Sister Birzer told Detroit Catholic, the online news outlet of the Archdiocese of Detroit. "He knew about our beds, and knew they were trying to supply a place for an overflow facility for St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti, but they didn't have any beds." On March 30, St. Joseph Mercy arranged a team to pick up the beds from the retreat center. After a brief check for bedbugs, the hospital system claimed 60 beds, bed linens and desks from the retreat center to be used in St. Joseph's auxiliary facility in Ypsilanti for overflow COVID-19 patients.

## Appeals court lifts lower court ruling blocking federal executions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A federal appeals court decision April 7 lifted a lower court ruling that had prevented the execution of federal death-row inmates. And although the decision sided with the Trump administration's attempt to resume federal executions after a 16-year break, it does not allow these executions to resume immediately because it sent a legal challenge against the means of execution, filed by a group of inmates, back to a lower court for further review. The 2-1 decision was handed down by a panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Each judge on the panel also issued separate opinions about the legal guidelines for federal executions that U.S. Attorney General William Barr had announced would resume last summer. In November, just weeks before the first scheduled execution, Judge Tanya Chutkan of the U.S. District Court for D.C. issued an injunction blocking four scheduled executions. A fifth scheduled execution was separately stayed by a different court. The federal judge said the lethal injections to be administered to federal death-row inmates in December and January went against the Federal Death Penalty Act.

## Easter Sunday at the Vatican



CNS photo/Reuters

Pope Francis celebrates Easter Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican April 12. The Mass was celebrated without the presence of the public due to the coronavirus pandemic.

## Pandemic is prime time for conversion, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The COVID-19 quarantines, lockdowns and stay-at-home orders are the perfect opportunity for conversion: for individuals, for the Church and for governments, Pope Francis said in an interview. "What we are living now is a place of 'metanoia' (conversion), and we have the chance to begin," Pope Francis said. "So, let's not let it slip from us, and let's move ahead." The pandemic crisis is an opportunity to reflect on how people use their time and resources, how the Church responds to new pastoral needs, how society has allowed the economy to be the first consideration when making decisions about people's lives and how governments still spend billions on weapons when they cannot provide adequate health care to all their people, the pope said in the interview published April 8 in the U.S. magazine *Commonweal* and the British journal *The Tablet*. Austen Ivereigh, an author and journal-

ist, submitted written questions to Pope Francis; the pope sent an audio recording of his responses, in Spanish, April 3. Asked how he is living the lockdown, the pope responded, "I'm praying more, because I feel I should," and he is trying to focus on the needs of other people because "it takes me out of my self-preoccupation."

## Canadian priest volunteers to be incarcerated rather than leave inmates

TORONTO (CNS) — With the federal prison system shutting down all visits, a Catholic priest has volunteered to be incarcerated rather than leave inmates without spiritual care. "He offered to go there and live in the institution 24-7," said Bishop Gary Gordon of Victoria, British Columbia. "For a bishop to hear that from a priest, you say 'OK, this is what it's all about. This is the vocation — lay it on the line.' It's really beautiful." As COVID-19 infections begin to emerge in prisons, spiritual care for inmates has dwindled amid

growing anxiety over the dangers faced by inmates and prison staff alike. Bishop Gordon, who is the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' representative for prison ministry, said the priest who volunteered to remain with inmates has a deep and long commitment to prison ministry. For privacy reasons he would not divulge the name or location of the priest to *The Catholic Register*, Canadian Catholic weekly based in Toronto. As the official Canadian bishops' liaison with Corrections Canada, Bishop Gordon hopes to persuade federal officials not to completely cut off prisoners from their chaplains. "If someone is gravely ill, then the priest should be allowed to bring them the holy anointing of the sick and viaticum," he said.

## On Holy Thursday, pope thanks God for world's priests

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Unable to invite Rome's priests to mark Holy Thursday in St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis thanked all priests for their service and called those who died ministering to the

sick and health care workers part of the community of "saints next door." More than 60 priests have died of COVID-19 in Italy after contracting the coronavirus while carrying out their ministry helping others, he said during the Mass of the Lord's Supper, broadcast on Vatican media April 9. Because of the pandemic, liturgical celebrations with the pope have been pared down to the essential, eliminating or postponing optional rites and celebrations. For Holy Thursday, the usual morning Chrism Mass with Rome's priests was postponed to a later unspecified date; the optional foot-washing ritual was omitted; and the traditional procession with the Blessed Sacrament at the end of the Mass was also omitted, with the Eucharist placed directly in the tabernacle. In the past, Pope Francis celebrated the Holy Thursday Mass in detention facilities, rehabilitation centers and with refugees. This year, the pope presided over the Mass in a vast and empty basilica with a handful of assisting deacons and priests, a reduced choir and a small congregation of about a dozen people, including Cardinal Angelo Comastri, archpriest of the basilica.

## Bishop, faith groups urge Trump to support debt relief for poor nations

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two leading proponents of debt relief for developing countries urged the White House to lead the call for a moratorium on debt payments for poor nations so they can devote funds to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. The request came in an April 8 letter from Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Illinois, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace, and Eric LeCompte, executive director of Jubilee USA Network, an alliance of faith-based development and advocacy groups. The letter said a moratorium would aid the 76 poorest countries while safeguarding U.S. economic interests. "The leadership of the U.S. government is vital to ensuring that our world will emerge from this pandemic with greater resilience and a renewed understanding of the greater interconnectedness of humanity," the letter said. A decision to suspend debt payments would allow for a better way to assess debt sustainability and vulnerabilities and, if necessary, open a process to restructure debt, the letter added. The request comes as the Group of 20 finance ministers and central bankers from the European Union and industrial and emerging market nations were preparing to discuss the issue during meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank starting April 14.

*Divine Mercy Sunday* —

# The Lord's mercy extends to all people and to all sins

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Each year, on the Second Sunday of Easter, the Church celebrates the Sunday of Divine Mercy. On this day, Catholics contemplate the fullness of the Paschal Mystery — Christ's Passion, death and resurrection.

The basis of the whole Easter Mystery is the merciful love of God. From the beginning of creation, throughout Scripture and most perfectly in the life, Passion, death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus, God is revealed as love itself. In that infinite love, God desires nothing more than to forgive our sins and offer His mercy.

The world's need for the message of Divine Mercy took on new urgency in the 20th century. It was during this time that the world witnessed the rise of Nazism and communism and experienced the horrors of the world at war. Civilization was losing the understanding of the sanctity and inherent dignity of every human life.

As these evil ideologies were taking shape, Jesus appeared to a humble Polish nun known as St. Maria Faustina Kowalska. As He continued to appear to St. Faustina, she recorded His messages to her in her diary. On one such occasion, Jesus said to St. Faustina:

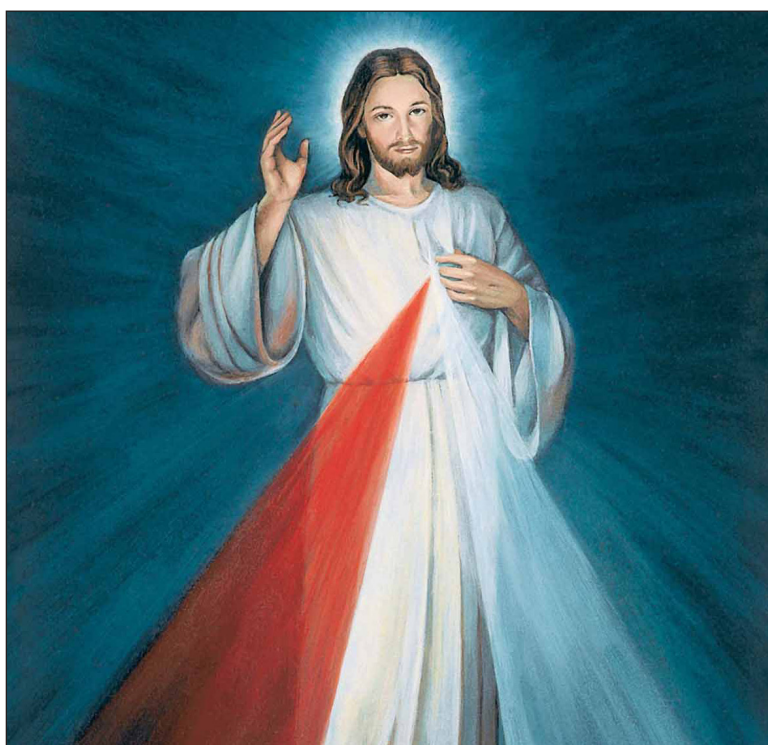
"My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy."

The celebration of the Easter Octave is also a celebration of the mercy and forgiveness that are now available to everyone, by virtue of Christ's resurrection. Mankind must only run toward the outstretched arms of Christ.



Bob List

**During a prayer service on Divine Mercy Sunday last year at Sacred Heart Parish, Warsaw, those present were given an opportunity to venerate the Divine Mercy image individually. Father Jonathan Norton explained that the image was painted according to a vision of the Lord experienced by St. Faustina 89 years ago.**



File photo

St. Faustina's diary records 14 occasions when Jesus requested that a feast of mercy be observed. On May 5, 2000, five days after the canonization of St. Faustina, the Vatican decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as the Sunday of Divine Mercy.

In the Gospel reading for this Divine Mercy Sunday, we hear the story of Jesus' appearance to the disciples after His death. Jesus comes to them and exposes the wounds of His hands and His side — the wounds He endured for our salvation. And as the resurrected Lord stood in their midst, the first words He spoke to them were, "Peace be with you." (John 20:19)

Many of these disciples had abandoned Jesus during His Passion. During Christ's moment of greatest need, they scattered, leaving Jesus alone in His sacrifice. Many might think what the disciples had done was unforgivable. Yet Jesus appears to them and offers them His peace. And then He breathed on them and gave them the power to forgive sin, to extend His own mercy.

Now, Thomas was not present when Jesus appeared, and he refused to believe the disciples when they told him the Lord had appeared to them. Thomas needed to see to believe, and so Jesus returned and revealed himself eight days later, on the Octave of Easter. Jesus showed Thomas His hands and His side, saying, "do not be unbelieving, but believe." This is also found in the Gospel reading for Divine Mercy Sunday, Verse 27.

How often have we doubted the Lord like Thomas? How often have we hidden in fear, unable to bear the shame of our mistakes and failures? What sins have we painfully buried in our hearts rather than exposing them to the healing light of God's mercy?

Have we failed to confess and seek reconciliation for sins of adultery, violence, hatred or participation in an abortion? Have we rejected the Church's teachings on contraception, sexuality or marriage? Have we hardened our hearts, giving ourselves over to envy, greed or dishonesty?

When we enter the confessional and seek God's forgiveness, in a way, Christ breathes on us as He did the disciples, wiping away our sins and offering us His peace.

Since the legalization of abortion in the United States, millions of women, men and families have been hurt by abortion. By the age of 45, as many as one in three women have had an abortion, and a similar number of men and family members have been involved. Many inaccurately believe that abortion is "the unforgivable sin." They need to hear that God forgives every sin of a repentant heart, even the sin of abortion.

Project Rachel is the abortion-healing ministry of the Catholic Church in the United States. It is a diocesan-based network of specially trained priests, religious, therapists and laypersons who provide a team response of care for those suffering in the aftermath of abortion. In addition to referring for sacramental reconciliation, the ministry provides an integrated network of services, including pastoral counseling, spiritual directions, support groups, retreats and referrals to licensed mental health professionals. For more information contact the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Office of Family Ministry at 574-234-0687 or visit [diocesefwsb.org/MarriageandFamily](http://diocesefwsb.org/MarriageandFamily).

*Information provided by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in the 2019-20 Respect Life Program.*

## The Franciscan Center: volunteers and supplies dwindling

FORT WAYNE — On April 3, the Franciscan Center released a program update to explain how the organization is adapting to the ever-changing COVID-19 situation for their clients.

As Tony Ley, executive director, explained, "our programs seem to lag the rest of the economy about a week. When the city was scouring store shelves for toilet paper, our Medicine Cabinet still had supplies thanks to the recent Pack the Pantry campaign. But this week, many of the usual staples are gone, donations have dropped, and we can't even purchase temporary replacements in the stores."

In addition, volunteer options

have dramatically dwindled. "When our food pantry is open, we rely on 30 or so volunteers to help us sort, pack, and distribute food to our clients. This week, we had one volunteer still willing to come in," explained Ley, who said he understands why volunteers want to maintain safe social distancing. "Many of our volunteers are retired, and we want to ensure their safety throughout this ordeal. We look forward to their return when this is all over."

To augment its small crew, staff that usually work at its two thrift stores on Coliseum Boulevard and West Jefferson Boulevard, that are temporarily closed due the governor's mandatory closing of nonessential businesses, have the option to take short shifts to maintain the donations that are still coming in, or can come to their Maple Grove Avenue location and help

fill the gap. "We are giving our staff as many opportunities to continue to work until we can't," added Ley.

To help fill the gaps, the Franciscan Center is seeking a matching gift donor to help encourage gifts through April. "It is times like these that I am amazed by the continued generosity of our donors and supporters," added Ley.

Donors can make an online donation at [www.thefranciscan-center.org](http://www.thefranciscan-center.org), or by mail to 1015 E. Maple Grove Ave., P.O. Box 10303, Fort Wayne, IN 46851. To donate product, call Ley at 260-710-3985 for safe options and a current list of needs.

Is there a special graduate in your life?

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

wants to help you recognize your student!

To place a congratulatory ad in the May 31

issue of Today's Catholic,

Contact Erika Barron at

[ebarron@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:ebarron@diocesefwsb.org)

260-399-1449

# ALLELUIA, HE IS RISEN

## *Holy Thursday*



Provided by Mary Ivanciscs

**Father Christopher Lapp kneels before a covered crucifix on Holy Thursday, April 9, during a livestreamed Mass at St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka.**

## *Good Friday*



Provided by Mark Hellingner

**Father Andrew Budzinski, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Fort Wayne, raises the crucifix during a livestreamed Good Friday service April 10.**

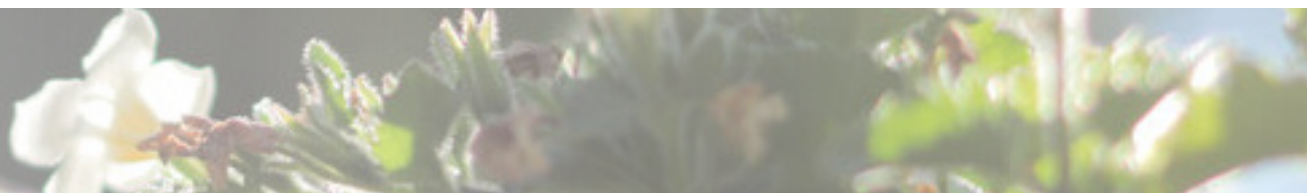
## *Chrism Mass celebrated on Holy Thursday*



Photos by John Martin

**Above, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades prays over the sacred chrism at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, during the Chrism Mass April 9. At right, the diocesan vicars forane concelebrate the Mass.**





### *Easter Vigil*



Provided by Kim Mauch

**Msgr. William Schooler celebrates the Easter Vigil liturgy at St. Pius X Parish, Granger.**



Provided by Bob Nicola

**The livestreamed Easter Vigil begins in darkness at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.**

### *Easter Sunday*



Jennifer Barton

**The Easter miracle was the "Death of Death," Bishop Rhoades said in his homily Easter morning, April 12, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.**



Provided by Mary Ivanciscs

**St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka, celebrates the joy of the Resurrection.**



Jennifer Simerman

**Accompanied by the faithful in their vehicles, Father Patrick Hake and Father Andrew Budzinski lead an Easter eucharistic procession around the Fort Wayne neighborhood adjacent to St. John the Baptist Parish.**



STAY WITH US

## Convenient grace

Profiles in the CCD/Religious Education setting

# Catechetical responsibilities increase for parents because of pandemic

BY TAMI DELUCENAY

For many families, the concept of a domestic church has taken on new relevance these past few weeks as they adjust and navigate their way through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Part three of the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule. The home is well suited for education in the virtues." (2223)

The Acierto family has embraced this role from the very beginning of their life together. Jonathon Acierto and Sophia (Hace) grew up in the Fort Wayne area. They met in 2004 at a young adult retreat in Syracuse. The couple married in 2008 and, at first, attended the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

"As our young family grew, we felt it was important to become members of our neighborhood parish, so we joined St. John the Baptist in Fort Wayne in 2015, explained Sophia. "As parents, we believe that it is important to be grounded in our faith so that we may give our children a good example as to what it is to be Catholic."

The Aciertos have three children: Cecilia, age 10, Peter, age 7, and Maximilian, age 4. "As primary catechists of our children's faith formation we try



Photos by Jonathon Acierto

**Sophia Acierto helps her son Peter make a card during their religious education time at home this month. Because of the stay-at-home order and the suspension of religious education classes at parishes, parents' catechetical efforts have become more extensive.**

and embrace our role through regular Mass attendance, use of regular confession as a fam-

ily and daily prayer," shared Sophia. "We teach our Catholic faith to our children by sur-

rounding our home inside and out with sacred images of Jesus, Mary and the saints. We have plenty of Catholic books in our home and we use the sacramentals of the church by wearing the brown scapular and the Miraculous Medal to help the children to learn and grow in their faith."

The Aciertos are now parishioners of St. Thomas the Apostle in Elkhart. Jonathon is an engineering manager and a job relocation brought him to the Elkhart area in 2018. Sophia homeschools the children, so that part of the daily routine was already in place.

"We've definitely been thrown off our family routine with this COVID-19. Jonathon has been placed on furlough, and our activities outside our home have greatly changed," stated Sophia. "It has been challenging for us as a family to keep our focus as we participate in Mass at home. We have set up some sturdy chairs in our den and I placed a sand sensory table in front of the television to keep the younger children from wandering around while we try to focus on Mass with Father Jason (Freiburger)."

The children are part of the religious education program at St. Thomas. Peter is preparing for his first holy Communion.

"When we attended his first-reconciliation service, Peter was so nervous all he was focused on was making his confession. As the catechists began to explain what was about to take place, and Father Jason

entered the confessional, Peter slipped out the side pew and was the first one. The catechists had a puzzling look on their faces as they wondered why the light was on already," laughed Sophia.

"When I had to tell Peter his first holy Communion wouldn't take place on April 26, he got teary-eyed because his birthday is on the 27th."

Peter expressed to his mother one evening during prayer time that he was going to work for God. "I asked him how he was going to do that and he promptly answered, 'I'm going to be a priest!'"

"Each one of our children has a servant heart," continued Sophia "Cecilia learned about the spiritual adoption of the unborn, and during our bedtime prayers, she memorized the prayer for the unborn and always reminds us that we need to pray it."

The Aciertos have found many resources to aid them in their responsibility of teaching the Catholic faith to their children. "The children like to watch the video series 'Holy Heroes' and YouTube channels for Catholic kids, and we use the resources sent to us by our director of religious education."

Sophia's advice to parents who are navigating through this time of change and uncertainty is to be patient with themselves and with their children. "Continue to ask the Holy Spirit to help you and to guide your family in practicing your faith together," she concluded.



Peter plays the "Little Saints Adventures" on an iPad.



Indiana's Premier Butcher Shop and Deli

CATERING, MEAT BUNDLES,  
PREPARED FOOD, AND MORE!

Make This Weekend Memorable

Feder's Own In-House  
Maker's Mark®-Infused Dry Aged Ribeyes  
Available at the Maplecrest Rd.  
& Calhoun St. Locations

4924 S. Calhoun St., Ft. Wayne | 260-456-9009  
2820 Maplecrest Rd., Ft. Wayne | 260-485-0003  
Mon-Sat 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. | Sun 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CUSTOM PROCESSING, WILD GAME, HOG ROASTS  
16619 Lima Rd, Huntertown | 260-338-0022



# An opportunity not to be missed

I'd love to be writing about something other than the coronavirus crisis, but it is hard to think of any other event that has so transfixed our attention. It is as if the entire world — well, maybe not Florida — has been forced to take a 30-day retreat to contemplate what really matters.

There have been small, unexpected benefits. Cities are quieter. The air seems cleaner. The roads emptier. We have time to read, to FaceTime with friends, to catch up on projects that were always delayed by the tyranny of the urgent.

We don't have Mass, but we certainly have time to pray. If we took the Eucharist for granted before, now we long for it, which is a blessing, too.

The negatives are undeniable as well. Start with the financial. The layoffs are mounting, and many are woefully unprepared. In 2018, a study by the Federal Reserve concluded that 40% of the population could not cover an unexpected \$400 expense. This crisis comes with a much higher cost than 400 bucks.

One of the many downsides to the wealth gap and wage stagnation has been a lot of people living close to the edge. And despite all the warnings from experts over the years, who really plans for a pandemic?

The crisis has also brought to the surface a bizarre kind of utilitarianism, suggesting that this huge group sacrifice we are making is not worth it. Why sacrifice the economy for the sake of the elderly and the vulnerable, who one tweeter described

as "expensive to maintain" and "not productive"?

We are also seeing other expressions of selfishness, a disregard for the common good by some who believe their desire to do what they want trumps any kind of larger social concern.

The pandemic has drawn attention to a moral crossroads we have been at for some time. Do we protect the weak and the defenseless, do we support the poor and the struggling, or do we disregard the nonproductive, the "drags" on the economy?

Father Julian Carron, writing in a northern Italian newspaper at the height of the crisis there, embraced the terrible moment Italy is enduring as an opportunity. "Often we live as if we were in a bubble," he wrote, "which makes us feel safe from the buffets of life."

This crisis, he said, has ruined our plans and forced us to take ourselves seriously. "The challenges that reality does not spare us can become our greatest allies, because they force us to look more deeply at what it means to be human."

In our hoarding, in our disdain for others, in our panic over the economy, we are acting out of fear. It is human to be fearful at this moment, of course. But for those of us who claim to be Christian, we hear the words the Lord repeatedly encouraged us with: "Do not be afraid."

"Our help is in the Lord, who made heaven and earth," we have mumbled many times. Now we must take seriously the faith we professed so easily in times of comfort.



## AMID THE FRAY

GREG ERLANDSON

Those who are willing to put at risk portions of the population, or who write off the few for the many, will make their cold calculations. For Christians, the challenge now is to live as we have preached, to find ways to help those in need, to make the sacrifices asked of us, to share our resources with others in greater need or to simply shelter in place, however inconvenient it is.

"What an opportunity this circumstance we are living could become!" Father Carron concluded his essay: "An opportunity you do not want to miss."

Greg Erlandson, director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service, can be reached at [gerlandson@catholicnews.com](mailto:gerlandson@catholicnews.com).

# SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for April 19, 2020

John 20: 19-31

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) Cycle A. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

FIRST DAY OF THE JEWS HIS SIDE RECEIVE THOMAS MY GOD CHRIST	DOORS SHOWED THE LORD HOLY SPIRIT TWELVE WRITTEN LIFE	FEAR HIS HANDS BREATHED SINS FINGER IN THIS BOOK NAME
---	---	---

## IN THIS BOOK

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

© 2020 TRI-C-A Publications; [tri-c-a-publications.com](http://tri-c-a-publications.com)

# Through Jesus' resurrection we have a new birth — a living hope



## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### Second Sunday of Easter John 20:19-31

As almost always in the Easter season, the Acts of the Apostles furnishes the Liturgy of the Word with its first reading.

Acts claims to be, and scholars assume it indeed to be, the work of the evangelist who wrote St. Luke's Gospel. Acts, therefore, may properly be regarded as a continuation of the story presented in Luke's Gospel. Luke's Gospel closes with the Ascension of Jesus. Acts then begins at this point.

As it progresses, Acts traces for some years the development

of the infant Church, describing the plight and behavior of its first members. It provides a fascinating insight into the formation of the Church's structure, as well as a powerful lesson in the basic beliefs of the early Christians.

Acts also gives great examples of unqualified faith, and of human ignorance and treachery.

In this weekend's reading, Acts presents the first members of the Church as being "of one heart and one mind." Love for, and adherence to the Lord, were central to their lives. They met for the "Breaking of the Bread," an ancient term for the Eucharist.

Love for others, in the model of Jesus, was more than a platitude or vague ideal. The first Christians assisted the poor so fervently that they sold their property and donated the proceeds to help the needy.

Since Jesus had called the Apostles and had commissioned them to continue the work of salvation, and because the Apostles literally had seen and heard the Risen Lord, not

surprisingly, the first Christians revered the Apostles.

The first Epistle of Peter supplies the second reading, defining what being a Christian means.

Through Christ, God has given us a "new birth" and reason for hope. Considering our human limitations, and the consequences of our sins, it is a most wonderful gift.

Each believer, however, must receive and confirm this gift, by loving completely, by trusting and by being faithful to, Jesus.

The epistle is frank. Even many of the first Christians never saw Jesus in the flesh. We have not. We must ask for strong faith.

The Gospel reading for this weekend is from St. John's Gospel. It is a Resurrection Narrative, a story with which most Christians are quite familiar, recalling the dismay among the followers of Jesus when they found the empty tomb. Where had the body of the Lord been taken?

This reading answers the question. The body of the Lord has been taken nowhere. Jesus

lives! The encounter with the doubting, demanding Thomas affirms this fact.

Resurrection from the dead is stunning, but Jesus further acts as God by conferring the very power of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, granting them the authority to forgive sins. He sends them to the four corners of the world to bring redemption to all humankind.

Passing through locked doors as if they were thin air, Jesus greeted the Apostles with "Peace be with you." Jesus makes clear that peace only is in God.

## Reflection

This weekend, the Church calls its people to have faith and to rejoice. Resurrection, and redemption in Jesus, refer not to memories of times long ago, but living realities for us to experience here and now.

It is time for us now to find consolation and strength in Jesus, the crucified and risen, living still.

We observe Divine Mercy Sunday on this date. In and

through Jesus, the risen, the Son of God, divine mercy is with us. It gives us hope, purpose, and strength.

While sin and human limitation present obstacles, often considerable, in our progress toward God, the Lord left us the Apostles and their successors in the Church. The Lord lives! He lives today, where we are, for us all, and for each of us individually.

## READINGS

**Sunday:** Acts 2:42-47 Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 1 Pt 1:3-9 Jn 20:19-31

**Monday:** Acts 4:23-31 Ps 2:1-9 Jn 3:1-8

**Tuesday:** Acts 4:32-37 Ps 93:1-2, 5 Jn 3:7b-15

**Wednesday:** Acts 5:17-26 Ps 34:2-9 Jn 3:16-21

**Thursday:** Acts 5:27-33 Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20 Jn 3:31-36

**Friday:** Acts 5:34-42 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 Jn 6:1-15

**Saturday:** 1 Pt 5:5b-14 Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 Mk 16:15-20

# New ministry allows women to focus on vocational discernment

BY SARAH DUSTMAN

A new ministry is unfolding in Fort Wayne for women discerning God's calling for their life: the Franciscan Vocation House. Women between the ages of 18 and 40 who are considering their vocation or another major life change, such as furthering their education, or a career change can apply to reside in the discernment house. Residing in the house will allow them to strengthen their spiritual life and join in community with like-minded Catholic women through volunteering, prayer and fellowship.

One of the most important aspects of being a resident will be volunteering. A woman can expect to participate in up to 10 hours of service each week. The residents will focus their service hours at their headquarters, the Confraternity of Penitents, also in Fort Wayne. A majority of the work at the headquarters is administrative-focused. Other volunteer tasks will include serving the headquarters' gift shop and other indoor and outdoor work.

Community will also be an important aspect of living in the discernment house. Residents will join in fellowship over community dinners offered every night. Each woman will be required to attend a minimum of two dinners per week.

The residents will also come together in prayer. They will pray the Divine Office morning, evening and night prayers, setting times that will accommodate every resident's schedule. Besides praying the Divine Office, the residents will participate in weekly Bible studies and monthly discernment conferences.

While the framework for the Franciscan Vocation House has been built, the discernment house is still in formation. There are hopes of it being ready to have up to four women move in on Sept. 1, with the possibility of having one or two women move in sooner.

Erin Wells, 27, has been building the framework for the discernment house and will transition into the role of house parent once residents arrive. As a house parent, her role will include coordinating community mealtimes and events, moderating the weekly Bible studies, conducting the monthly discernment meetings, managing day-to-day house tasks and assigning ministry duties.

Wells first learned about the Franciscan Vocation House — originally called the Confraternity of Penitents — while visiting the Poor Sisters of St. Clare in Fort



ERIN WELLS



www.franciscanvocationhouse.com

**Women between the ages of 18 and 40 who are discerning God's will for their vocation, their education or career can apply to reside at Franciscan Vocation House, a new community forming in Fort Wayne. Residents of the house will strengthen their spiritual life and join in community through volunteering, prayer and fellowship.**

Wayne, having recently left the monastic life. She decided to join the household as a volunteer in June. This allowed her to have more time to pray about joining the Poor Clares, as well as live near their monastery.

"I never anticipated being a house parent, just a volunteer for a time, then a nun again. But God had other plans," Wells said.

A few months after moving into the discernment house, Wells felt called to look at other religious orders. After a visit in October with a community, Wells discerned she wouldn't be enter-

ing. Then, the volunteer coordinator for the Confraternity of Penitents approached her about becoming a house parent. She said yes. The volunteer coordinator didn't know that Wells had been "hoping to do just such a ministry since I began discerning several years ago."

Wells explained that the importance of a discernment house is to get women away from the social pressures that can pull them away from what God has in mind for them. Distractions such as the constant noise of the media and "money,

success and climbing the career or higher education ladder" can make it difficult "to quiet down in prayer and really listen to God's voice." But living in the Franciscan Vocation House can help prevent those distractions through time of personal prayer and community.

"Simply being with other women who are on the same path can be uplifting and give one strength to overcome those obstacles," Wells said.

While the women will be on the same path of discerning their vocation or life change, sharing with the residents about their discernment will vary for each woman. Their purpose in being at the house won't be a secret, but Wells believes that there "should be a balance" of what the other residents know and what is kept personal to each woman. She said that in her own discernment of religious life, those close to her know of the religious communities she's been in contact with — along with visits she has made or plans to make, and the result of those visits. That's all she shares.

"If one is too open with others about her journey, she often receives a lot of unwanted advice," Wells said.

In this situation, a woman has to "sort through the additional voices to be able to hear

DISCERNMENT HOUSE, page 11

Expertise you can rely on.

Mike Kendzicky  
Michael Kendzicky  
Samantha Hengen, CFP®

Private Wealth Management  
4220 Edison Lakes Parkway, Suite 100  
Mishawaka, IN 46545  
574-247-6830 . 800-866-9022  
rwbaird.com

©2018 Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated. MC-260563.

**Advertise in Today's Catholic**  
Reach Catholics throughout Indiana digitally and in print. With a variety of options for web and print advertising, let us help you reach YOUR demographic. Call 260-399-1449 to see your business listed here.

**CENTURY 21**  
Bradley Realty, Inc.

**KATIE BROWN**  
260.437.5025  
katie@katiebrown.net  
www.katiebrown.net

Providing outstanding residential real estate services to home sellers and buyers since 2008!

Member FDIC LENDER

**USB UNION SAVINGS BANK**

**David Egts**  
Low Closing Costs & Great Rates  
"MORTGAGE CLOSING COST CRUSHER"  
260-418-6191  
CERTIFIED RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE PROFESSIONAL

**Jeremy Swonger**  
Financial Advisor

534 Union Chapel Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46845

(260) 637-6000  
Toll Free (888) 259-9175  
www.braunwealth.com  
Jeremy.Swonger@braunwealth.com

**BRAUN**  
WEALTH MANAGEMENT GROUP, LLC

Investment products and services offered through Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network, LLC (WFAFN). Braun Wealth Management Group, LLC, is a separate entity from WFAFN.

**W.C. BORCHELT Sons, Inc.**  
Established 1962

**PLUMBING  
HEATING  
AIR CONDITIONING  
ELECTRICAL**

www.borcheltheating.com | 260-485-3412  
6332 Maplecrest Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46835

**SHAWNEE**  
Construction & Engineering

COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL  
7701 Opportunity Drive, Fort Wayne 46825  
489-1234

**The Papers**  
INCORPORATED

Printers of  
TODAY'S CATHOLIC

206 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
MILFORD, INDIANA 46542

PHONE: 574-658-4111  
800-773-4111  
www.the-papers.com

**NOTRE DAME**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

**Matt Kaiser**  
Director of Business Services  
NMLS# 1087744

Business Development Direct (574) 400-4919  
P.O. Box 7878 Fax (574) 575-4538  
Notre Dame, IN 46556 mkaiser@NotreDameFCU.com

800/522-6611 • NotreDameFCU.com

# Cardinal: 'Our faith needs to kick in' amid pandemic crisis

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Appearing on the CBS news-magazine "60 Minutes," Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York said faith is key, even as people are in isolation from others as a result of the stay-at-home orders imposed to slow a worsening of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Just as you have faith that the person you love is still enjoying eternal life and is still with you, so our faith needs to kick in that even if we can't be next to Mom and Dad or Grandma and Grandpa and even if we can't embrace the family at a time of mourning, our faith tells us we're still united. We're still together," Cardinal Dolan said in the "60 Minutes" installment that aired on Easter, April 12.

"Faith, of course, doesn't depend on things physical. And we have faith these days that even though we can't sadly get to the synagogue or to our parish churches, we can still be in union with God through prayer, through sincerity, through earnestness, through charity to others," the cardinal said in the interview, a transcript of which was provided by CBS News.

"And, thanks be to God, so many are using the technological advances that we have, livestreaming, radio, TV, you name it. People are — are plugging in it, at overwhelming numbers to be part of a community at Easter."

Cardinal Dolan, interviewed by "60 Minutes" correspondent Margaret Brennan, said he has told those in mourning over COVID-19 deaths that "your



CNS photo/Jeenah Moon, Reuters

**New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan celebrates Easter Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral April 12 during the coronavirus pandemic.**

grief is complicated because not only have you lost someone you cherish, you were even unable to be next to them in their last moments. And you're unable even to, to mourn and cry and hug one another here at graveside."

He added, "This is an extended, enhanced, deepened sense of grief, which I hope whenever we got that loss, whenever we got that emptiness, you know, who wants to fill it: God. So I'm hoping it's an invitation from Him that as we're empty, He will fill."

Asked by Brennan what Pope Francis meant in a recent interview when he said that the time of coronavirus is "a time for integrity," Cardinal Dolan replied, in part: "When things come together and when that flows out to the way we love and treat other people, as we see so radiantly all over in our health care workers and our first responders and in neighbors who are looking out for one another, shop-

ping, checking on one another. I think we've got an integrity, a connectiveness, a unity of purpose. And I am rather confident that's what Pope Francis meant."

As for the reopening of churches, Cardinal Dolan said, "God gave us common sense, and God told us we have to pay attention to the common good. The decision that I would make about opening our churches and please God it's as soon as can be, is that we have to listen to the experts."

He added, "God gave us a brain. And part of the way he answers prayers is in the direction, the guidance, the illumination that we get from other people. ... And that's what I say to God's people who today are really missing (church) -- they want to get in the car and drive around until they find a church open. God is telling us use your brain. Use your prudence. Use your common sense. Don't tempt the Lord."

## DISCERNMENT HOUSE, from page 10

God's voice." Because of this, Wells will leave the openness of sharing a discernment journey to the discretion of each woman.

Wells is forming a book study for women interested in meeting other discerning women. The group will meet once a week to

read part or a whole chapter of Alphonsus Liguori's "Uniformity with God's Will." The women will have time for personal reflection and then a group discussion after the reading. Fellowship and vespers will follow the book study. Wells hopes to be able to offer the meetings virtually so

women who live outside of Fort Wayne can still join.

For more information about the book study and life at the Franciscan Vocation House, visit [franciscanvocationhouse.com](http://franciscanvocationhouse.com).

## REST IN PEACE

**Decatur**  
Max L. Bressler,  
76, St. Mary of the  
Assumption

**New Haven**  
Janice M. Doehman,  
81, St. John the  
Baptist

Lynn M. Wheeler, 80,  
Sacred Heart

**Fort Wayne**  
Clara Bloom, 97, St.  
Charles Borromeo

Bodie G. Henry, 2, St.  
John the Baptist

**Waterloo**  
Charlene Gremaux,  
89, St. Michael the  
Archangel

Gaylord Herb Widner,  
67, St. Charles  
Borromeo

Barbara Lagassie, 84,  
St. John the Baptist

**Warsaw**  
Kathleen Glunt, 75,  
Sacred Heart



## 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](http://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.

Divine Mercy — Serving all faiths and families.



*America's Choice in Homecare.*

# Visiting Angels

LIVING ASSISTANCE SERVICES

*Up to 24 hour care - Meal Preparation  
Bathing/Hygiene Assistance  
Light Housekeeping - Errands/Shopping  
Respite Care - Companionship - and much more!*

Now with three offices serving all of northern Indiana!  
Call toll-free  
**844-866 CARE (2273)**

BEST OF HOME CARE LEADER 2018

## THE BLESSING OF *our faithful mothers*

In honor of Mother's Day on May 10, Today's Catholic will feature a section that shares one of your memories of how your mother practiced her Catholic faith or made the faith meaningful to you.

If you'd like to share a memory, send an email (200 words or less) and attach a high-quality photo to [editor@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:editor@diocesefwsb.org) no later than April 27.

*It may not be possible for Today's Catholic to publish all memories.*



## April is Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month

WASHINGTON — To prevent child sexual abuse, it is important to keep the focus on adult responsibility while teaching children skills to help them protect themselves. Consider the following tips:

- Take an active role in your children's lives. Learn about their activities and people with whom they are involved. Stay alert for possible problems.

- Watch for "grooming" behaviors in adults who spend time with your child. Warning signs may include frequently finding ways to be alone with your child, ignoring your child's need for privacy (e.g., in the bathroom), or giving gifts or money for no particular occasion.

- Ensure that organizations, groups, and teams that your children are involved with minimize one-on-one time between children and adults. Ask how staff and volunteers are screened and supervised.

- Make sure your children know that they can talk to you about anything that bothers or confuses them.

- Teach children accurate names of private body parts and the difference between touches that are "okay" and "not okay."

- Empower children to make decisions about their bodies by allowing them age-appropriate privacy and encouraging them to say "no" when they do not want to touch or be touched by others—even in nonsexual ways.

- Teach children to take care of their own bodies (e.g., bathing or using the bathroom) so they

do not have to rely on adults or older children for help.

- Educate children about the difference between good secrets (such as birthday surprises) and bad secrets (those that make the child feel unsafe or uncomfortable).

- Monitor children's use of technology, including cell phones, social networking sites, and messaging. Review their friends lists regularly and ask about any people you don't recognize.

- Trust your instincts! If you feel uneasy about leaving your child with someone, don't do it. If you are concerned about possible sexual abuse, ask questions.

- If your child tells you that he or she has been abused, stay calm, listen carefully, and never blame the child. Thank your child for telling you. Report the abuse right away.

To report child abuse or neglect, please contact Childhelp USA at 1-800-4-A-Child (1-800-422-4453).

Remember: You can help protect your children from sexual abuse by being active in their lives and teaching them safety skills.

*This tip sheet was created using information from Prevent Child Abuse America, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, the Enough Abuse Campaign, and Stop It Now. At <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/resources/tip-sheets/>, you can download this tip sheet and get more parenting tips or call 800-394-3366.*



Good Shepherd  
BOOKS · GIFTS



# ORDER ONLINE



SHIP TO YOUR HOME  
OR PICKUP CURBSIDE

[www.GoodShepherdBookstore.org](http://www.GoodShepherdBookstore.org)  
Phone Orders: 260-399-1442  
Mon - Fri, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



## 5 FIVE WAYS

to protect your children from sexual abuse

*Parents play the primary role in educating their children about sexual abuse. Here are 5 tips for teaching safety to the little ones God has entrusted to you.*

**1 Keep it practical.** Teach your children the differences between safe touches and unsafe touches.

**2 Tell your children that saying "no" is okay.** Empower your children to say "no" if anyone makes them feel uncomfortable or touches them inappropriately.

**3 Give your children a way to alert you.** Tell your children they can use an excuse or share a special "code-word" with you to alert you about an unsafe person or situation.

4

**Tell your children to report an unsafe touch.**

Let your children know they should tell you if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe around any adult or peer. You can also identify other adults they can tell about unsafe touches.

5

**Tell your children you trust them.** If your child makes a report to you, believe him or her. Tell them it is not their fault and that you love them. Immediately bring the allegation to the attention of public authorities.



Promise to Protect

Pledge to Heal