

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Jennifer Barton

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades incenses a carved statue of St. Joseph at the beginning of a livestreamed All-Schools Mass May 1, the feast day of St. Joseph the Worker. At the conclusion of the Mass he joined bishops across the U.S. and Canada in reconsecrating the two nations to Mary, Mother of the Church, for protection and healing from COVID-19.

Bishop invokes protection of Mary and Joseph at All-Schools Mass

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Work, a natural part of everyday life, is not something that is often celebrated. But in 1955, workers received recognition when Pope Pius XII instituted the Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker on May 1.

This year, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated a livestreamed All-Schools Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on the feast day. During Mass he implored the protection of St. Joseph for all essential workers, as well as those out of work due to the COVID-19 crisis.

"We ask St. Joseph to pray for them and to protect them, just like he protected Jesus and Mary. St. Joseph was the protector of the Holy Family, and he is also the patron and protector of the Catholic Church," he said. "We can always turn to St. Joseph for his prayers and protection."

In addition to beseeching St. Joseph's aide, at the end of Mass Bishop Rhoades reconsecrated the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to Mary, Mother of the Church. This was done in union with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and in communion with other bishops throughout the U.S.

Because May 1 also begins the month of Mary, the timing of the reconsecration was exceptionally appropriate. The bishops of Canada reconsecrated their nation to Mary on the same day.

Bishop Rhoades consecrated the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to Mary on August 15, 2014, the feast of the Assumption. Now, in light of the spread of COVID-19, the bishops are seeking Mary's

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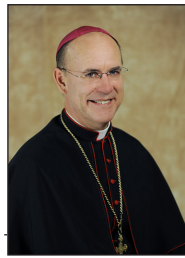
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Trust in the Good Shepherd

IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

The following is the text of Bishop Rhoades' homily on May 3, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, at a livestreamed Mass from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne:

I recently read about another epidemic besides the coronavirus pandemic, the epidemic of anxiety. I read that 20% of Americans suffer from anxiety disorders and millions more wrestle with worry and stress on a daily basis. I imagine that number has grown since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic because of the fear of becoming infected or because of financial distress. Those who have been laid off from work are naturally worried and anxious. Others are worried that they might get laid off.

As human beings, we all experience natural worries, but we can tend to worry too much. It is perhaps part of the human condition. We worry about our health. Parents worry about their children, and children worry about their parents. We worry about money and finances. We worry about the future. It seems we can worry about everything. And worry brings anxiety, lack of peace, sadness, and even depression. How much time do we spend worrying? We worry and ask ourselves, "what's going to happen?" or "how will this turn out?" The big problem is not that we experience some natural worries, but that we consent consciously to anxiety. This is when we willingly worry and then our minds become troubled.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, as people of faith, we must make a conscious effort not to worry. As Christians, when our minds are troubled and we feel anxious, we should very quickly make an act of confidence in the Lord.

One of the most beautiful acts of confidence in the Bible is Psalm 23, today's responsorial psalm. What a great prayer to say during this pandemic! "The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul... 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." Do we believe this? We probably do in our heads, but we also need to believe it in our hearts. We must let this truth that the Lord is our shepherd who watches over us, cares for us, and protects us penetrate our hearts as well as our minds. When we do, what happens? Worry dissipates. Anxiety lessens or disappears. The result, of course, is peace, interior peace, even in the midst of external violence, misfortunes, and suffering.

The very heart of the spiritual life is confidence or trust in the Lord. That's the little way that St. Therese, the Little Flower, teaches us. So does her namesake, St. Teresa of Avila who famously said: "let nothing trouble you; let nothing frighten you. Everything passes; God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone is enough."

Today, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, is Good Shepherd Sunday. The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is a beautiful image



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Jesus, the Good Shepherd, watches over us at all times, even during moments of misfortune and suffering.

that teaches us to trust in Him. Some images have Jesus tenderly carrying a lamb in His arms and others show Jesus carrying the sheep on his shoulders, especially reminding us of Jesus finding the lost sheep. This image should be our image of God. It was an image from the Old Testament — God as the shepherd of His people Israel. And it's an image from the New Testament — the Son of God, Jesus, as the good shepherd who not only seeks out the lost sheep, but also lays down His life for the sheep. This is the true image of God. This is who He is.

If we have faith in the true God, then we believe that He is a God of tenderness and love, of mercy and forgiveness. With this true image of God, why do we consent to worrying so much and allow ourselves to become troubled in our minds and hearts? Don't we believe that the Lord is at our side when we walk through the dark valley, as we pray in psalm 23? We need to really trust in the Lord as our shepherd. If you struggle with worry and anxiety, I invite you to pray with psalm 23.

God does not want us to be troubled. Remember Jesus' words to the disciples at the Last Supper: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God. Have faith also in me." God desires our peace. He sent us His Son, the Prince of Peace. What was the first announcement of Christmas? Peace! The angels proclaimed glory to God and peace on earth to people of good will! That was at the beginning of the Gospel. And then at the end of the Gospel, after Jesus rose from the dead, we hear the same message. When the Risen Jesus appears to the disciples, what does He always say? He says "peace," "peace be with you!"

The Risen Lord offers us this wonderful gift of peace today. But sometimes we don't feel it and we still worry and get stressed out and anxious. because our nature drags us down. Rather than placing our trust in our shepherd, we worry. Our minds become troubled. Maybe it's because we don't have an accurate view of God. I think of the Jansenist heresy. It's still around. The Jansenists' view of God was not as the good shepherd. They had a distorted view of God. Their view of God was not one of His holding a lamb in His arms, but a God with His arms raised to strike, a demanding God, a vengeful God. Many people were led astray by this heresy. This was a clever ploy of the devil, tempting people under the pretext of recognizing their sinfulness and unworthiness, actually lead-

ing souls away from Jesus.

The true God is the Good Shepherd who says with open arms: "Come to me; come because you are unworthy; come because you are sinful; come because you need to be saved." The heresy of Jansenism is still around today, the heresy which turned a God of love and mercy into a cold and vengeful God. When Jansenism was rampant a few centuries ago, Jesus did not endure it — He appeared to St. Margaret Mary and revealed to her and to the world His Sacred Heart as proof of His love. It is the Heart of the Good Shepherd whose love for every one of His sheep is infinite and whose mercy has no limits, except hardened hearts that are closed to His love and refuse to believe in His mercy.

I encourage you on this Good Shepherd Sunday to throw away worry. We have no right to worry. Anxiety is not good for us. The Good Shepherd is with us. He's always there. He watches over each one of us. He knows us each by name. He showed us His Sacred Heart, trying to convince us of His love, His tenderness, His mercy. What wounds the Heart of Jesus most is when we don't trust in Him, when we don't listen to Him saying to us: "Peace be with you."

When you feel worried and anxious, I invite you to listen to the shepherd calling your name, saying to you: "I'm here with you. I love you. Don't worry." When things are difficult and life seems threatening, it's natural to worry. But we shouldn't remain with the natural but turn to the supernatural. That's what faith is. In the midst of the storms of life, there is a peace that descends from heaven into the depths of our soul — the peace that St. Paul describes as surpassing all understanding. It's the peace of Christ. It's His gift to us. It's the gift of the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for us. It's the gift of Easter. It's the gift from the One who came so that we might have life and have it more abundantly.

When St. Therese was asked to summarize her little way, she answered: "It is to be disturbed by nothing." How is that possible? Trust and confidence in Jesus, whom St. Peter described in the second reading today as "the shepherd and guardian of our souls." May we follow Him who leads us to restful waters and refreshes our soul, who guides us in right paths, and who is at our side when we walk in the dark valley, with his rod and staff that give us courage!

ALL-SCHOOLS, from page 1

assistance for protection and healing.

"Today the Bishops of the United States are re-consecrating our nation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of the Church. We're doing so at this time because we want to entrust our country and ourselves to Mary during this challenging time," Bishop Rhoades said.

"As we remember today Mary's husband, St. Joseph, we also place ourselves in her arms. We ask both Mary and Joseph to intercede for us during this terrible pandemic."

In his homily, the bishop focused on the importance of work, expounding on the Gospel reading from Matthew in which Jesus was rejected in His hometown because He was the son of the Mary and Joseph.

"They did not have faith in Him. They didn't believe that this Jesus, whom they knew, could be that special. But Jesus was special. He was the Son of God, the Messiah, the Savior. And He indeed came into the world as the son of Mary and the son of a simple carpenter."

The reading from St. Paul's letter to the Colossians spoke of the spiritual gift of work. Bishop Rhoades taught the students that all work can be offered to God, and to pray before beginning their work, offering it up and asking for God's assistance to make the work successful.

He related how St. Joseph provided the greatest model of using work to glorify God. "He's a good example for us of the dignity of human work. He did his work for the glory of God and for the love of his family. He shows us that all the work we do, including your schoolwork, should be for the glory of God."

At the beginning of Mass, while he recognized all Catholic schools within the diocese, Bishop Rhoades gave a special shoutout to Saint Joseph High School in South Bend. Saint Joseph was the only Catholic high school in the diocese to which the bishop was unable to make a pastoral visit this year, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Of the event, principal John Kennedy said, "We deeply appreciate Bishop Rhoades celebrating the All-Schools Mass, and for recognizing the Saint Joseph High School community, especially on this feast day of St. Joseph the Worker. It means a lot to our school community. Bishop Rhoades has been an inspiration to students, teachers and really everyone in our diocese throughout this difficult time. We thank him for his prayers and pastoral leadership."

During pastoral visits Saint Joseph usually recognizes both its valedictorian and salutatorian, along with its Saint Joe scholars — students who have maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout the last four years. This year, there are 39 Saint Joe scholars, making up nearly 20% of the graduating class.



Jennifer Barton

Maintaining a safe distance from one another, students from Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, provide choral music for the All-Schools Mass.

Not only is Saint Joseph providing for the students' educational needs, but also for their spiritual and mental well-being. Pastoral ministry and counseling services have check-in and support systems to aid students in need, while the chaplains and others provide spiritual reflections along with their prayers. Faculty members have also taken this time of trial and turned it into a teaching tool to incorporate real-world scenarios into their lesson plans, such as principles of supply and demand and artistic representations of students' emotional states.

Additionally, principal Kennedy was recognized in the South Bend media for running one mile for each member of the graduating class, showing love and support for the seniors.

The staff at Saint Joseph are not the only ones who have found a way to give back during the pandemic, either. As service is a core principle at the high school, students have found creative ways to serve others: writing letters to people in assisted living facilities, providing meals and personal protective equipment to local health care workers and working with local food pantries to deliver food to those in need.

The Fort Wayne Catholic high schools were also represented in the All-Schools Mass. Bishop Luers provided a choir of six socially distanced students, and the lector was a student from Bishop Dwenger.

Bishop Rhoades recognized all the students who are preparing for graduation not only from high school, but from grade school as well. He also spoke to those who are still waiting to receive the sacraments of first Communion and confirmation, advising them to use this time of waiting to grow closer to God and increase their understanding of the Catholic faith. He invited any students who had not visited the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception to request a school tour and explained how the stained-glass windows throughout the church represent Mary's life.

He encouraged students participating in the Mass at home to continue working hard. "Though we're physically separated at this time, we are spiritually united — from 43 Catholic schools all over the diocese — we are united in our faith and our love. We are united in Jesus our Lord. May He bless us with His love and His peace!"

Church life to reflect safe practices when public Masses resume

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

CLEVELAND (CNS) — When public Masses and the celebration of the sacraments resume in dioceses where they were suspended, the look and feel of worship are not expected to be that which parishioners have been accustomed.

Social distancing in pews, requirements that Massgoers wear facial protection and even Masses without distribution of holy Communion or having distribution moved to the end of a liturgy or to another time are all possibilities depending on local circumstances and the prudential judgment of bishops.

Bishops are faced with having to balance public safety while maintaining the respect and reverence of the Eucharist and the liturgical and sacramental symbolism of Mass rites.

Don't expect a one-size-fits-all standard, advised the executive director of the Secretariat of Divine Worship at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"It isn't really possible to have national guidelines," Father Andrew Menke told Catholic News Service April 29.

"Circumstances are different in different places. Different places are in different stages in the evolution of the crisis. And you have practical differences in what's happening in urban areas than that in rural areas. So it's really hard to make guidelines for everyone," Father Menke said.

"Different bishops may have different thoughts on how best to serve their people in these odd circumstances," he added.

Individual bishops and state Catholic conferences have begun considering how they will proceed as state governors begin to ease stay-at-home orders, allow businesses to reopen and lift restrictions on public gatherings.

A few dioceses never suspended public liturgies, with the local bishop determining that the risk of spread of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 was minimal.

Entering into the mix is extensive guidance developed by the Thomistic Institute at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington. The institute's Working Group on Infectious Protocols for Sacraments and

Pastoral Care April 28 released guidance on a wide list of practices that would maintain the integrity of liturgy and the distribution of Communion.

The guidance, the 21-page document said, "aims to clarify how spiritual care, including public Masses, can be responsibly offered, especially as peak restrictions on public activities are beginning to be relaxed in phases."

It follows a White House plan issued in mid-April calling for the gradual reopening of U.S. society in three phases. A newer draft guidance offers more specific recommendations on how the country, including places of worship, increasingly can best reopen.

The working group document detailed the steps that parishes and dioceses can take through the various phases. It offered recommendations on the scheduling of Masses, the distribution of holy Communion and the role of priests at Mass.

The working group includes a mix of clergy and physicians who worked in consultation with others who have expertise in liturgical norms, theology and medical practices.

Representatives of the working group were unavailable for comment.

One specific provision in the guidance, whether under strict or eased limits on public gatherings, advised that the priest celebrant and other ministers should not wear masks or gloves during the celebration of Mass.

Under more strict limits, the guidance suggests that

all ministers stay at least six feet away from each other and prayer books could be placed on a stand so that Mass servers would not have to violate social-distancing standards.

As gathering restrictions ease, the guidance suggests that Masses could be scheduled more frequently, with attendance on a first-come, first-served basis or on a rotating basis among parishioners. It supported drive-in Masses, which have become an increasingly wider option for parishes and missions, with worshippers remaining in their vehicle.

Pews can be roped off to

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"Different bishops may have different thoughts on how best to serve their people in these odd circumstances."

FATHER ANDREW MENKE

Catholic Charities: providing positive role models for at-risk youth

BY KEVIN KILBANE

For 12-year-old Kallie, Catholic Charities' National Mentoring Program has been like a window opening to new possibilities.

"I have someone to talk to," the DeKalb County girl said of her mentor, Val Kline. "We go places. At home, sometimes we are just here, and I feel crazy."

The program, which Catholic Charities USA started five years ago, is funded through grants from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. It works to help youths ages 9-17 in disadvantaged areas to improve in school and to avoid delinquency, truancy, substance abuse, gangs, pregnancy and other risky activities.

The Catholic Charities organization in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend offers the youth mentoring program in DeKalb, Noble and Steuben counties.

"Like a lot of our programs at Catholic Charities, our goal is to strengthen families," said Nicole Kurut, the local Catholic Charities mission advancement coordinator. "This one focuses on the emotional side."

Catholic Charities recruits adult volunteers to serve as positive role models for youth, said Shirley Johnson, local program coordinator. Many young people in the program have seen their families fractured by opioid abuse.

The youths and their men-

tors can be of any faith, said Johnson, who is based at Catholic Charities' office in Auburn. The young people meet with their mentor one to two hours per week or six to eight hours per month. Mentors help youths with their homework, spend time talking and listening, and take them to fun activities and community events.

Johnson also organizes monthly group activities for the youths and mentors, as well as fun or educational field trips. In addition, youths and their mentors can assist with Catholic Charities projects that benefit others, such as a coat giveaway or packing up school supplies for children in need.

Johnson monitors each youth's school attendance and grades with a goal of seeing both improve. She also can see the mentoring program's impact in the young people. If a youth started out really shy and since has become more outgoing, that's a good sign, she added.

Currently, many mentoring program activities have been put on hold because of safety precautions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, mentors stay in contact with their young person through texting, phone or video chats and email.

For Kallie and other youths, the mentors become a stable and supportive presence in their lives.

Kallie came from a dysfunctional family, said Marlene Smith, her great-grandmother. Smith and her husband have raised Kallie since age 1, and they adopted her a few years ago.



Provided by Val Kline

Val Kline, left, and Kallie, 12, have had fun as a match in Catholic Charities' youth mentoring program. Catholic Charities offers the program for at-risk youths ages 9-17 in DeKalb, Noble and Steuben counties in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The Smiths learned of Catholic Charities' youth mentoring program from Johnson, who attends their Church of the Brethren congregation. Kallie's mentor, Kline, is the pastor. "It helps to know you have

the support behind us and praying for us," Smith said.

Kline has volunteered as a mentor with Catholic Charities' program since it began.

"I just love talking with young people," she said.

A former camp counselor and camp director for more than 30 years, Kline also has worked with youths for more than 20 years in her congregation's district of the Church of the Brethren.

"I'm a big kid myself," she said. "I enjoy the activities as much as the kids."

She believes she can help by being there to talk with and listen to young people.

"It sometimes is hard to find somebody who will actually listen," Smith said.

As of late April, the local Catholic Charities mentoring program had nine youths matched with adult volunteers. Johnson would like to serve more young people and hopes more will join the program. She previously received some youth referrals

from schools, but that diminished after schools had to move to online learning because of the pandemic.

Johnson also will need more adult mentors to match with youths.

To begin working with a youth, she needs contact information for the child's parents or guardians. Johnson also talks with the young person about personal interests, grades and future goals so she can connect the youth with a mentor who will be a good match.

Mentors must go through a criminal background check, tuberculosis test and training. Johnson can gather some of that information and answer any questions by phone.

For more information about the youth mentoring program, contact her at (260) 925-0917, email sjohnson@ccfwsb.org or send regular postal service mail to: Shirley Johnson, Catholic Charities, 107 W. 5th St., Auburn, IN 46706.

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allow for proper physical distancing, the task force said.

The guidance also offered options for the distribution of holy Communion under tight restrictions:

— Mass can be celebrated with only the priest and deacon, if present, receiving the Eucharist, with no distribution to the limited number of people in attendance. “Obviously, it is far preferable that the faithful would receive Communion, but at least in this case they would be able to attend Mass in person.

— Mass followed by Communion distribution with precautions. The task force said this option is preferred because it “respects the symbolic and liturgical integrity of Mass,” avoids practices in Mass that could lead to liturgical abuse, gives greater freedom to worshippers to receive Communion or not, and provides additional precautions to reduce risk.

Widespread use of hand sanitizer is recommended in the guidance before and even during distribution should a priest come in contact with a person receiving Communion.

— A “reasonable option” is Communion distribution during Mass as normal as long as special care is taken to maintain social distancing otherwise throughout the liturgy. The guidance said the minimal interaction among priest and communicant poses little risk based on federal health guidelines.

The guidance urged that Communion in the cup should not be offered at all even when limits on gatherings are lifted. Only people with a severe reaction to gluten should be allowed to receive Communion from the cup, the guidance said.

It stressed that anyone receiving Communion should do so without a mask in place and without protective gloves, and Communion cannot be distributed by anyone wearing gloves.

As limits on public gatherings ease, the guidance said, more restrictive practices for receiving holy Communion could also be eased as long as special precautions remain in place to limit contact between individuals.

The guidance said that Communion on the tongue could be allowed even under highly



CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, Long IslandCatholic

A man prays March 21 at St. Patrick Church in Huntington, N.Y., during the coronavirus pandemic. Church life is expected to reflect new practices when public Masses resume.

restrictive gathering limits. It called for appropriate precautions to be followed so that “it is possible to distribute on the tongue without unreasonable risk.”

Archbishops and bishops in several dioceses have temporarily suspended the reception of Communion on the tongue.

An hourlong webinar April 29 organized by GIA Publications featured a discussion by two members of Hartford, Connecticut-based Trinity Health of New England, who cautioned worshippers to wear masks when church services resume.

“No one should be in a Catholic church without wearing one of these,” said Jerry Galipeau, executive director for mission integration for the health system, while pointing to the surgical mask he was wearing. “That’s going to go on for a year.”

He and Dr. David Shapiro, a surgeon serving at the system’s St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford, acknowledged planning for a return of church ministries will be difficult in the

weeks and months ahead, given that social distancing will be key to keeping the coronavirus at bay.

“We have to start thinking like Costco in our churches,” Galipeau told webinar participants. That means church ushers may have to tell the faithful to maintain social distancing whether they are entering a church for Mass or in line to receive holy Communion.

Galipeau also suggested that hymnals, missalettes and “anything that people could have touched” be sanitized between liturgies. “This could be a new ministry of service. ... Maybe the youth group could do this.”

Such practices demonstrate that during the pandemic, pastors and lay pastoral ministers must rethink how to safely minister, they said. For example, during a baptism ceremony for multiple infants, Shapiro and Galipeau advised not allowing water to be shared. “What does that say about the Church’s call to unity?” Galipeau asked.

Further, Galipeau discouraged full immersion baptism for

— which would be impractical.

For the dispensing of chrism oil at baptism and confirmation, they suggested the use of cotton balls, with a separate one for each participant.

Shapiro, who is Jewish, questioned whether it was worthwhile to have live music at any service because the cloud of water droplets emitted during singing extends farther than when people are in conversation with each other. He called for choir members to remain at their individual homes with the music they are performing coinciding with the various rites of Mass.

Galipeau, disagreed, advocating for live music to be included at Mass with appropriate precautions in place.

The difference in thinking shows that the road ahead is long, the pair said. “We have to rethink every step,” Shapiro said.

“We do know that we want to get back to worship with our community,” Galipeau said. “But if you can’t do that safely and you’re not willing to take this seriously, then just stay closed. I’m sorry to be so blunt.”

Editor’s Note: The Thomistic Institute’s working group guidance document is available online at <https://thomisticinstitute.org/covid-sacraments>.

adults unless the water in the baptismal pool is changed and disinfected after each immersion



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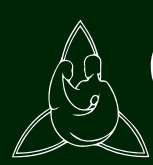
“The staff, professors, and administration have welcomed my daughter with open arms and made her feel at home.”
- Maria Del Carmen Alvarez
(Pictured above with her daughter Brittany Alvarez)

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Few sermons mention abortion in U.S. Christianity, Pew finds

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The percentage of sermons about abortion is in the single digits, according to a Pew Research Center study, the results of which were released April 29. Even a mention of abortion in a sermon is rare, according to the study. Pew analyzed nearly 50,000 sermons shared online or livestreamed by more than 6,000 U.S. churches and delivered between April 7 and June 1, 2019, a time frame that included Easter. Five percent of Catholic homilies analyzed during the study period mentioned abortion, which topped the national average of 4%. Other Christians were grouped into “mainline Protestant,” “evangelical Protestant” and “historically black Protestant.” Nineteen percent of Catholic congregations heard abortion mentioned in at least one sermon during the study period, which matched the national average. Evangelicals led the way with 22%, with mainline Protestants trailing at 10%. The percentage of Catholics hearing about abortion may be surprising, according to Dennis Quinn, the lead researcher for the study. The media length of Catholic homilies was 14 minutes — but 37 minutes for all sermons, with black Protestants topping out at 54 minutes.

Catholic women reflect on pregnancy, childbirth during the pandemic

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — At 8 a.m. on Easter, two days before giving birth, Jennifer Ratigan pulled into a hospital parking lot and waited for a physician's assistant — donning full protective garb, including a face mask and shield — to reach through a rolled-down window to swab her nose for a COVID-19 test. The hospital was preparing for a potential surge in coronavirus cases and was testing all mothers who'd likely deliver soon. Medical staff wanted to allocate equipment and health care workers properly. Ratigan, whose test results were negative, understood the precaution. But the contrast between the strange early morning outing and her soul's desire was acute and painful. She longed to be at Mass, to be among friends, to be watching her five children gleefully scramble for hidden eggs. “It was emotional,” said the 42-year-old, a member of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Northeast Portland. “I felt sad and lonely.” For pregnant and postpartum mothers, the pandemic has upended birth plans and altered expectations. It's caused heightened uncertainty and twinges of fear. At the same time, many women, Ratigan included, say it's intensified their awe of life and reliance on God. “This Easter I needed the

New York health care workers



CNS photo/Eduardo Munoz, Reuters

Health care workers in New York City rest near NYU Langone Hospital May 3 during the coronavirus pandemic. As of May 4, more than 67,000 people in the U.S. have died from the virus. Priests and doctors who gave their lives caring for the spiritual and physical well-being of others during the coronavirus pandemic are like Jesus, the good shepherd, who laid down His life for his flock, Pope Francis said during Mass on Good Shepherd Sunday, May 3.

surrender prayer, ‘Jesus, I turn it over to you,’” Ratigan said.

As lockdowns end, pope prays for prudence in behavior, judging others

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis began his early morning Mass praying that people would be prudent and obedient as governments begin lifting restrictions imposed to stop the coronavirus pandemic. And, in his homily at the Mass April 28, he prayed that people would be prudent in their judgment of others, refraining from gossip and not believing lies and “fake news” about

entire categories of people. “At this time, when we are beginning to receive instructions for coming out of quarantine, we pray that the Lord would give his people — all of us — the grace of prudence and obedience to the instructions so that the pandemic does not return,” he said at the beginning of the Mass in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae. The pope's comments came two days after the Italian bishops expressed concern that the Italian government's plan for easing the pandemic lockdown in stages through June 1 had not made provision for the resumption of public Masses. The prime minister promised to study the issue to see if there were ways to do so safely.

Chinese communist officials remove crosses from two church buildings

HONG KONG (CNS) — Communist authorities in territory covered by the Anhui Diocese removed crosses from the top of two church buildings, sources told ucanews.com April 27. The sources said they fear more such actions. Authorities removed the cross of Our Lady of the Rosary Church April 18, said a man ucanews.com identified only as “John, a source in the diocese.” He said the parish was registered with the government, but had no priests or

nuns to lead its religious activities. Lay parishioners managed parish religious programs. Five days before the incident, John told ucanews.com, parish leaders approached local authorities about repairing the building, but officials said the plan was to remove the crosses of both Catholic and Protestant churches in the area. On April 16, a local government official asked parishioners for the keys to the church. “They wanted to enter the church and remove the cross,” John said. The local official told the parishioners that officials were acting on the “directions from superiors.” However, no documents were produced to prove the claim. The parishioners reported the developments to Bishop Liu Xinhong of Anhui. He directed them to go to the local office of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association and ask for details, but local officials of the association denied having information on the matter.

Sainthood cause for Dorothy Day picking up steam in U.S.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The sainthood cause for Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement, believes it could have all of the documentation prepared at some point next year to send to the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes. It would represent the culmination of an effort begun informally in 1997, but in earnest in 2002. After that, the process is largely in the Vatican's hands — but also in God's. Robert Ellsberg, publisher of Orbis Books, a ministry of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, said the Claretian Fathers, through their magazines U.S. Catholic and Salt, began hailing Day as a saint shortly after her death in 1980. Ellsberg had included Day in his book “All Saints,” and he had given a talk shortly after its 1997 publication, which argued that she should be canonized. Cardinal John O'Connor of New York, who voiced opinions on Day's canonization in the 1980s, invited Ellsberg and his family to attend a Mass he was celebrating to observe the centenary of Day's birth. After the Mass, according to Ellsberg, Cardinal O'Connor approached him and asked whether he really thought Day should be made a saint. When Ellsberg said yes, the cardinal asked him to gather some others who knew Day for a conversation with him. “He really wanted to hear what people had to say. He didn't act like, ‘What a big favor I'm doing for Dorothy Day,’ Ellsberg told Catholic News Service. “He said, ‘I do not want it on my conscience that I did not do what God wanted done.’”

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Here's to the seniors



Jennifer Simerman

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, principal Jim Huth and the Bishop Luers High School graduation committee honored the Class of 2020 in a socially distant drive-thru recognition event April 28 in Fort Wayne. Teacher and staff cars lined the school's parking lot to welcome seniors with a honk, and Bishop Rhoades blessed Class of 2020 yard signs that were distributed along with a blessing from him.

Catholic Charities announces assistance for parishes, Catholic schools, business owners

FORT WAYNE — Thanks to new grants from Catholic Charities USA, Our Sunday Visitor Institute, the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation and multiple United Way agencies, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has announced it is making COVID-19-related assistance available to families and small-business owners connected with parishes and Catholic schools within the diocese.

The aid is available for basic needs such as food, utilities, rent, car payments, mortgage payments and transportation for any household that has experienced the loss of a job or been furloughed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated stay-at-home orders. CCFWSB is also providing assistance to small-business owners who are experiencing severe financial disruption.

"We are hearing from many families and small-business owners who have never needed assistance before and now find themselves struggling," said CEO Gloria Whitcraft. "We want to let people know that they can come to us for assistance and that all requests are held in strict confidence."

In Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells and

Whitley counties, call 260-422-5625, ext. 247. In Elkhart, Kosciusko, Marshall and St. Joseph counties, call 574-234-3111, ext. 60. No face-to-face contact is necessary if the client has access to a cellular phone or a computer.

Whitcraft also stressed that the pandemic has precipitated many mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, isolation and thoughts of suicide. She urged members of parishes in these circumstances to contact Catholic Charities Clinical Liaison Chris Nowak at (574) 234-3111, ext. 27, during the pandemic. Nowak can put people in touch with area mental health providers and provide callers with tips for managing anxiety, depression and marital and parental stress.

Hill: States have authority to disqualify abortion clinics

INDIANAPOLIS — States have the rightful authority to deny abortion clinics the status of being Medicaid providers, Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill said April 28, and the U.S. Supreme Court should overturn lower-court precedents holding otherwise.

Citing the federal Medicaid Act, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit recently prohibited South Carolina from terminating a Medicaid provider agreement with Planned Parenthood. Hill is co-leading a 19-state brief asking the Supreme Court to review that

decision.

"The Medicaid Act merely sets forth conditions under which states may receive Medicaid reimbursement from the federal government," Hill said. "This legislation was never intended to restrict the authority of states to manage their own Medicaid programs. It was never meant to establish enforceable rights among abortion providers and women obtaining abortions."

Nearly a decade ago, the Indiana General Assembly passed a law that abortion providers could not be Medicaid providers. Federal courts invalidated that statute under the Medicaid Act, and the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review the case. In the years since then, however, several Supreme Court justices have acknowledged inconsistencies in lower-court precedents involving this issue.

The brief filed by Indiana and the other states asks the Supreme Court to bring clarity to whether abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood may sue states to be deemed qualified Medicaid providers.

"The Medicaid Act is not a civil-rights statute imposing duties and restraints on States with respect to healthcare financing," the brief states. "Rather, it creates a program that States may use to finance their own healthcare benefits for the poor and disabled. . . . States have substantial discretion to design and administer their Medicaid programs within broad federal guidelines."

COVID-19 testing expands



Joshua Schipper

People line up to be tested for COVID-19 Thursday, April 30, at Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne. Kroger opened the testing site in conjunction with the Allen County Department of Health, and several hundred members of the general public took advantage of the free, drive-thru opportunity.

May crowning goes forward



Jacob Schneider

Continuing the annual parish tradition of a second-grade girl crowning the Virgin Mary, Father Thomas Shoemaker asked Gina Cavacini, a student at St. Charles Borromeo School, Fort Wayne, to crown Mary on the first weekend in May during a unique ceremony without a congregation.

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

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Contact Erika Barron at

ebarron@diocesefwsb.org

260-399-1449



God

'She truly desired the faith'

My mother converted to Catholicism before she married my dad. The significance of her conversion did not sink in until I got older and realized how much she truly desired the faith, and what joy it would bring to put God at the heart of their marriage. She has always been a constant for me, an unwavering woman of faith.



Not long ago, I had a conversation with her that I will never forget. She began to explain the ways in which being Catholic has touched her life. I sat there listening, soaking it all in, and watched my mother begin to cry in absolute wonder and awe at what a gift the Lord has given us — a chance for salvation — and how she longed for everyone to share in that. She proceeded to thank me for raising my own children in the faith and shared that nothing brings her greater joy than for our family to seek heaven together. I know that if I continue on the path of holiness and encourage others to do the same in the ways that she has, more and more people will experience a profound love for Jesus Christ and His holy Church.

~ Jenny Marchi

'Offer your day to Jesus'

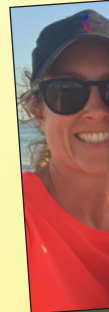
I was blessed to grow up in a beautiful Catholic environment. One of my fondest memories is having my mom say to me each day as I went out the door, "Offer your day to Jesus." As I had my own children, I would often give them a blessing as they left home or went to sleep at night to remind them that Jesus walks with them, just as my mom reminded me each day as I was growing up.



~ Carole Yaney, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

A faith-filled

"In retirement, my mom, Dorothy Penner, continues to model what it means to give to others and the Church. She has been a lector, a member of several parishes at a her holy hour, and made over 700 rosaries for two parishes. So many special family. What a special



Daughter, mother find joy in the Church

Theresa Ashe, my mother, did not become a Catholic until her early 60s. As children, my sister and I were raised in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion tradition. Yet, I knew the Catholic faith was important to my mother. Many a summer my sister and I attended St. Augustine Parish's Vacation Bible School in South Bend.



Growing up, I remember my mother always seeking the advice of a priest whenever she needed moral guidance. She spoke lovingly about Mary and the Catholic faith.

In my late 20s I was searching for God. I was invited to attend a baptism of a neighbor's daughter and I felt so at home at the Mass. After attending Mass for several months, I studied to become Catholic. When I told my mother I was joining the Catholic Church, she had the biggest smile on her face. Approximately 10 years later, my mother calls to tell me she was becoming Catholic. It was my turn to have a big smile.

~ Cheryl Ashe

Mass, family rosaries, prayer groups and spiritual discussions

Thinking of just one memory where my mother, Michelle Rupright, has made faith meaningful to me or in which she has practiced her Catholic faith, is a difficult task. There are so many, from the early years of being dressed up and trotted off to Mass every Sunday, helping my siblings and me to learn our prayers and encouraging and helping me in leading family rosary, to constant weekly involvement in parish spiritual activities or some diocesan prayer group and growing older and having discussions about different aspects of faith and our understanding of them as an adult versus a child.



My mother is a woman of faith who has shared that faith along with her love and God's love with her children. On behalf of my siblings Brett, Melissa, Matt and Aaron, we love you very much. Happy Mother's Day, Mom!

~ Elise Bohl, St. Aloysius

Strength and faith

Thank you, Mom for the strength and faith that you have practiced throughout our lives. We will forever remember your words of wisdom to "Do your best, and God will do the rest." Happy Mother's Day. With love, Tony, Amanda and Angie.



~ Amanda Davis

Catholic values in

I know my Mom, Mary E. Voors, as a really good person. She loves God, her Catholic faith, family, friends, and all. But, she is not the greatest mom. My mom always told me that the best of all moms is the Blessed Virgin Mary herself. Each Mother's Day my note to my earthly Mom says "To the 2nd best Mommy in the world!" I am so blessed and thankful for both Moms.

~Father D...

My mom, Mary E. Voors, had (and has) tremendous faith. I was growing up, she demonstrated this faith in her life through her devotion to the teachings of the Church — most markedly — by her lack of worry about problems big and small. She knew God would always be there on any path with her. Her faith in God gave her the strength to successfully raise a family of seven kids while modeling devotion to family and spouse. Her faith gives her the ability to live her life by serving God and obeying His commandments.

While my path in life is significantly different than I would like to emulate in my daily life; a desire to help those less fortunate to always find the good in people.

I am lucky to have a mom with such a strong belief in God, though she can still beat me at arm wrestling — this path has won — her true strength lies in her faith.

Happy Mother's Day, mom. And thank you for all you do.

On a whiteboard in my office you will find my core values and often from my mom. Whether it was the learning to pray at Baptist Parish, New Haven, or Bishop Dwenger High School, those core values at all times. Laughter, love, and our Catholic faith.

It is amazing how each of her seven kids took different paths but stayed true to a strong belief in Jesus as their guide — a strong belief.

Mom's memory is beginning to fade a bit now, but her love for her kids. Just like when I was a kid, our family's life revolves around the best Mom in the world!

bleSS our holy mothers

ed retirement



sh organizations, prays every week in the past three years she has s that she donated to prisons and look up to her, especially her own lady!"

~ Elaine Clayton

Before all, a faith home

I don't recall a time in my life when my mother, Margarita DeLaCruz, and I didn't have daily conversations. Whether we've lived five miles from one another or a time when we lived in different states, we've always made it a priority to stay in daily communication.



Many times in our conversations my mother would share stories of how her own parents' faith built her Catholic foundation. My grandparents were Mexican migrant workers living in southern Texas and my mother was their second born child of 17. A devout Catholic family! One of my favorite memories is listening to my mom share how their migrant work would take them to many places and how her father would make it a priority to find the local Catholic church of every community their work led them to, even before finding their temporary housing. The Church was so important to my grandparents and their teachings instilled in my mother how she and my father would build their own family's foundation in the Catholic Church.

I am so grateful for the love of Christ which was instilled in me and I pray that I will always model that love to all.

~ Lisa DeLaCruz-Thomas

An inspiration and role model

Living the Catholic faith could mean different things to each person. For my mother, Karen Orłowski, it means living each day, minute and second in faith. She is truly a role model! I love hearing my mom's stories, especially the heart stories.



My mom gives to the Lord in so many ways including daily Mass and praying the rosary. She also helps at Church whenever she is needed, and volunteers with the St. Vincent de Paul Society. My mom is such a special person. I'm so blessed. Mom, thank you for sharing your faith with everyone who surround you!

~ Chelsea

Growing up, we were raised in the Catholic Church. Our parents, Dennis and Karen Orłowski, would take my sisters and me to Mass every Sunday and there was never a day they missed. Decades later and my parents still never miss a day to praise God! Their faith is an example to live by. My mom loves God, you can tell when she speaks about Him and her eyes light up. She has traveled to holy places, met the pope, and is an aspiring saint. She loves to help others however she can, especially through the power of prayer. My mom is an inspiration and admired by many for her faith. I'm grateful to have a mother like her, inspirational and caring.

~ Chantel

Instilled early and often

faith-filled ends and days taught Mary her was always: ssed and



avid Voors us faith. As day-to-day urch, and oblems, both to walk ngth to ng a devo- ty to trust that everything will work out, as long as she is willing to live ents.

thers, there are many things that my mom modeled which I strive to fortunate than myself, a commitment to spouse and family, and a willing-

system and faith. She helped make me who I am today. And, even picture was taken in 2017 when she was 94 years old, and yes, she still

ou taught and teach me. I love you.

~ Mary R. Voors

any's core values: "Faith, Fun, Family." I learned these values early he Ten Commandment songs, or joining us for events at St. John the hool, Fort Wayne, and during family meals and Mass, Mom instilled atholic faith filled our house and our hearts.

nt paths in life, but that foundation remained solid. Each of the kids nd strong families and happiness have been their reward.

er values live on —in her kids, her grandkids and her great-grand- round our faith, our family and a lot of fun. I am so blessed to have

~ Jerry Voors

Mother's Day Sunday, May 10

Remembering a faithful servant

My mother was a devout Catholic and lived her life always doing for others. She set a wonderful example for our family to follow: Her faith in God was always evident.



In her later years, as she suffered from Alzheimer's, there were many things she could not remember. However, when she received Communion in the nursing home, she would make the sign of the cross and was able to say the Our Father along with the eucharistic minister. She was a faithful servant.

~ Sue Stack, St. Mary of the Annunciation

A 'prayer corner' tradition

The greatest gift my mother gave to me was instilling our Catholic faith and beliefs. She always encouraged all of her kids to pray and develop a meaningful relationship with God, Mary and all the saints.



One of the things she did for us was help us to set up "prayer corners" in our bedrooms. We got to pick out our favorite prayers cards, a statue of Mary, and other religious imagery to encourage us to have a special place of prayer. As a mom now myself, this is a tradition that I want to pass down to my children. I am so grateful for the example of my mom's faith!

~Erin Lynch

MOTHERS, from page 9

'Nothing is more important than striving to be closer to Jesus'

Our parents are a team in all things. Friends commented repeatedly as we grew up how united they are. Both worked together to catechize us and made sacrifices so that we could attend Catholic schools through 12th grade. In particular, our mom, Linda Wellman, prayed with us on the way to school each morning and before bed; read to us the lives of the saints; made sure we were dressed our best for Jesus each Sunday morning; and often took us to weekday Mass.

Her demeanor in prayer deeply impacted us. She always has her head bowed or eyes closed and is very respectful. She understands who she is talking to and isn't just reciting words. She is having a conversation with someone.

As adults, we are blessed to be able to turn to Mom during trials with complete confidence that God will listen to the prayers of this holy woman, and that even if things don't turn out like we want, we have a prayer warrior on our side.

Sacraments were the ultimate reason for celebration: cleaning, gathering family, pictures, beautiful food and plenty of cake. The baptismal gown each grandchild wore is the same one she was presented in for her own baptism. This tiny, fragile gown has become a sacramental to be preserved and cared for in our family — truly a sign of the faith that has been preserved and handed down through generations.

These days, she teaches her 11 grandchildren prayers, rosary, songs, the importance of Mass with the family, and about service to the Church. She still calls her children to ask, "When's the last time you've been to confession?" Because nothing in life is more important for her than striving to be closer to Jesus each day.

~Sarah Speer



'Go with the Lord, and be careful'

Our mother Irene Anne Panzica was truly one of a kind.

She was a patriot, born in July. After World War II broke-out during her nursing training, she signed up to serve in the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps.

Irene was true to the Catholic faith, passing that strong faith on to her children. No one ever left our home without a kiss and blessing: "Go with the Lord, and be careful!"



She was determined, being first in her family to achieve higher education. As a wife and mother of eight children she gave all unconditional love and kept us safe and well cared for. Raising a special-needs child at home, she worked with other pioneering parents to help make that the norm.

Irene was caring, always putting others before herself. Having a large family, her great capacity for caring was often put to the test. Many a bloody wound or injured spirit was healed by her mother's kiss and gentle touch.

Irene's faith in Mary had her twice travel 5,000 miles to Medjugorje to give adoration to Our Lady. She passed in November with loving children and grandchildren by her side. Surely, she was welcomed into Heaven by Mary's warm, motherly embrace.

~ Thomas Panzica, South Bend

Tireless prayer warrior

Many believe mothers are a reflection of God's love. My mother, Darlene, was no exception. Growing up, she wanted to be a nun. Luckily, for our sake, that wasn't God's plan. Instead, He took her devotion and used it to build other's faith.

She was a "prayer warrior." Anytime someone I knew needed prayers, she was always the first person I'd call. Between her daily rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet and countless other prayers, I figured God was bound to hear. She never denied anyone who asked her to pray for them, to the point that her rosaries would take an hour after all those intentions were said.

Unfortunately, my mom passed away last September. After her passing, several people came up to me and would say how much they loved receiving Communion from her. There was a light inside and she was always smiling. Along with that smile, she'd often have tears in her eyes. Overwhelmed and humbled by the gift she was giving others in the form of the Eucharist. And as much as she is missed, I know she is overjoyed to be with our heavenly Father. Her light still shining bright and she is praying for us all.

~ Melissa Smith



Mother of six has consistent message: Pray

Jean Castleman, our model and mother, like Mary, prays for our needs and has taught us to be true children of God. ~ Melissa

Mom puts others before herself, even with her silent sorrows and struggles, by living her Catholic faith. ~ Bob

When Grandma Jean babysat the grandchildren, she kept up on her daily prayers and the children would fall asleep in her lap. They lovingly called the living room the "Prayer Room." ~ Amy

After tucking in her six kids to bed, she would say night prayers; the Memorare, the Guardian Angel prayer, and she taught us to pray for each member of our family and to thank God for all He has done for us and all that we have. Those were her own special touches to teach her children to be grateful. ~ Ann Marie

Mom taught me that phone calls and visits to see my grandmas create special memories. ~ Dan

When discussing our day, whether good or bad, she would always tell us to say a prayer to God and whichever patron saint to help us with our frustrations or in thankfulness. ~ Diana

~ Melissa Skeens, Kendallville



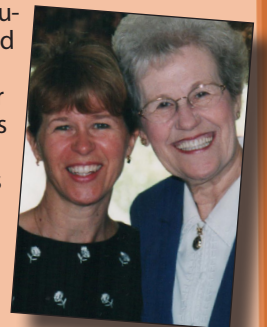
'He suffered for me'

Of all the beautiful things I could say about my dear mother, her powerful witness of devotion to her faith in Jesus in her suffering is the example that stands out to me. Julia Bennett suffered from breast cancer in acceptance and without complaint.

Years before, I had requested of Our Lord that whenever it was time for my parents to pass, could I please be with them? That prayer was granted in both cases. When it was time for my mother's passing, I was the only child of four to be in the hospital with my father, at her bedside. Even then, in her typical loving solicitude for others, she asked me to put a blanket over my father, who had fallen asleep in her hospital room.

The day before she passed, she was taken to occupational therapy. The nurse asked her to stand with her walker and asked what her level of pain was. My darling mother calmly stated that it was a 10. Despite that, they took her through the exercises. At the moment she stood up, my mother was the tallest she had ever been. She heroically stated as she pointed upwards, "He suffered for me."

~ Cindy Bennett Robertson



High schools, elementaries collaborate to feed students

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

While most schools in the U.S. have closed their doors for the remainder of the academic year and transitioned to online learning, some also have looked for a way to serve the physical needs of their students and the local community.

Marian High School, Mishawaka, which distributes food to several Catholic grade schools during the school year and serves meals throughout the summer, has developed procedures to ensure the nutritional needs of local students are cared for during this difficult time.

Led by Cami Whitten, food service director at Marian, a team of 12 employees gathers each morning to assemble more than 4,200 breakfasts and lunches to be distributed throughout the day. Once packaged, families can receive the meals through social-distancing-approved methods.

Whitten shared, "when the initial discussions about the possibility of school closings began, we were able to come up with a model for what we thought we could do. On March 13, they announced the closures. We had measures in place and started by the 16th. Since then we've served over 115,000 meals."

Regarding the pickup methods, she explained, "When people arrive to receive their meals, staff members bring them directly to the cars. We don't open their doors or trunk since we don't want any cross contamination. We also wear gloves and masks for everyone's protection. However, we don't require the children to be in the car when the parents drive through. The whole idea is social distancing; keep your kids safe."

Marian's participation in the Summer Food Service Program provided the legal standing to continue operations during the quarantine. It has also been able to maintain a practice of supplying thousands of meals to local Catholic schools.

St. Adalbert, St. Matthew Cathedral and Our Lady of Hungary schools in South Bend and St. Vincent de Paul School in Elkhart have faculty and staff on site who distribute the meals to parents who drive up. Volunteers from Holy Cross, St. John the Baptist, and Corpus Christi schools in South Bend have been delivering Marian's meals directly to their students' homes.

Whitten expressed her gratitude for the generosity of the many individuals who have made this endeavor possible. She revealed, "We have teachers that come in every afternoon and help prepare for the next day. We begin at 7 a.m. building the bags and transporting them. We serve the meals outside from 11:30



Photos provided by Cami Whitten

Above and below, meals stand staged for handing out to students at Marian High School, Mishawaka, and for delivery to local Catholic grade schools.



Molly Gettinger

a.m.-12:30 p.m., whether rain, shine, snow, sleet or hail. All of the staff is working full time to keep this going. We couldn't do this without their help."

The breakfast and lunch meals are served each weekday, with twice as much food given on Fridays to provide over the weekend. Marian's football coaches have come in on Sunday afternoons to prepare the bags for Monday morning.

The menu has varied based on what food was in store or provided by local establishments, often at discounted prices. However, the schools also needed adequate supplies to ensure meals were assembled and transported safely. Whitten stated, "We began with paper bags, and when those became unavailable, we bought plastic bags, until those ran out, too. Then we started asking people from the school if they had plastic bags we could use, but first they had to be cleaned. We kept the bags quarantined for five days and would then pull them out and use as needed. Additionally, Kroger, Martin's Supermarkets and Menards all gave us bags to help out. When no bags could be

found at Shelton's Farm Market, they contacted their grocery suppliers to get us some. We could always use more."

"Whole Foods was giving us boxes to use so we could make larger family packages. We were running out of the commodities we receive through the Indiana Department of Education; but they gave us more and didn't charge us since we are feeding all these kids."

Regarding the responses they have received, Whitten shared, "We've gotten thank-you cards, posters and more. The kids are all so happy! A mom was crying because she didn't know what she was going to do - this is how she's feeding her kids."

Carol Draeger Thomas, principal of Our Lady of Hungary School, remarked, "The drive-thru lunches have been an oasis of normalcy and nutrition for our families and the surrounding neighborhood. It's been a godsend."

The effort has also united both Catholic high schools on the west side of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, as faculty, staff, and administrators from Saint Joseph High School



Marian High School cafeteria workers celebrate in social-distance fashion another successful day of delivering meals and smiles to Catholic school students in the South Bend area.

in South Bend have been able to personally assist in the efforts taking place at Marian and deliver food to the grade schools. Whitten remarked, "In this effort we don't have rivals, it's not Marian vs. Saint Joe, it's Catholic schools working together. We're all in it for the kids."

Carl Loesch, diocesan secretary of Catholic education, expressed his gratitude for the project's efforts, the leadership of Marian principal Mark Kirzeder and the dedicated commitment of all involved. Additionally, he exclaimed, "Cami Whitten should be given tons of credit for her creativity, compassionate heart

and incredible work ethic."

What will happen to the program as quarantine measures begin to lift?

Whitten responded, "Right now we are set to go to June 30. I've contacted our grades schools and they are going to make the decision of whether they want to continue. We're more than willing to do it for them, but I see this continuing on until school starts again, if they start again in the fall. Should it end, we will transition to the normal summer program, but if not, we'll continue on. We're in for the long haul. It's an effort between all of us."



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'Thank you' is not enough

One of my routines in the early pandemic lockdown was to shop at a big-box retailer at 6 a.m. Along with food, a key purchase was fabric and supplies that allowed me to make face masks with my very rudimentary sewing skills.

Over the weeks, I struck up rapport with the fabric lady Lilly (not her real name) and probed a bit about her situation and concerns. Hesitantly, she opened up.

Lilly did not yet have a mask then and customers did not always respect social distancing guidelines. She volunteered for extra hours as her husband could no longer work because he suffered a stroke. Lilly was quite concerned about bringing the virus home.

Going to work was a daily worry. Exhausted, Lilly contemplated vacation days but did not want to deplete precious days off if disaster would hit later.

Lilly's employment placed her in a slightly better-protected position than many essential workers. She at least has a full-time position that comes with benefits including vacation and insurance. Many essential workers, particularly those in the lower wage brackets, are not so well protected.

Of the 30-plus million workers in "front-line industries" (grocery, convenience and drug-stores, public transit, trucking, warehouse and postal service, building cleaning services, health care, child care and social services), one out of four holds only part-time status.

Compensation of 30% of all front-line workers falls into

the near-poor (less than twice poverty-level wages) and poverty categories. Eleven percent do not receive health insurance. Of these industries, building and cleaning services scored the lowest with 37% in part-time employment, 58% earning near-poor and poverty wages and 29% without insurance. These individuals carry the responsibility of decontaminating our facilities.

COVID-19 presents a whole different set and level of risks and hardships to these workers: their own infection, increased exposure of family members, insufficient and subpar protective equipment, need for child care as schools are no longer physically open.

Policy recommendations for protection and fairness have called for proper safety standards relating to infectious diseases, additional or hazard pay, paid medical leave, access to free health care and testing, child care subsidies, accountability for implementation and access to unions to have a voice toward the design and enactment of these provisions.

I am sure all of us have made extra efforts to thank our front-line workers. But it is not enough to just say thank you. In gratitude, fairness and obligation to these workers who take the risks to protect us and enable us to do what we do, our response must be vocal and active.

We must express our outrage when workers are terminated for speaking out on hazardous working conditions and making demands for their well-being. We can call our elected representa-



CAROLYN WOO

OUR GLOBAL FAMILY

tives to highlight the priority and necessity of these policies and their rightful claim on the almost \$3 trillion rescue package. We can support groups that advocate for the workers. The placards we hold can say "protect our workers" in addition to "thank you."

Without such action, we are accountable to James as he questions, "If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,' but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it?" (Jas 2:15-16).

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

'Keep that hope machine running strong'

It started with the Italians, whose arias rose from the balconies. They were on lockdown, but their voices rang out down empty moonlit streets. Ballads, the national anthem, improvised ditties over the barking of dogs.

Cellphone footage of the singing went viral, offering hope amid the horror.

"Italians are like their opera characters: when they suffer, they sing instead of crying," one YouTube viewer quipped.

As the coronavirus traveled the globe, pictures of other music makers emerged. A man playing an accordion on his balcony in Hungary. A husband-wife duet on their balcony in Brazil, breathing their prayers for humanity through a flute and a bassoon — woodwinds for the weary. In New York City, a group of habited nuns singing "Lean On Me," a brunette on the end clanging two spoons in syncope.

"Spoon Nun's on my apocalypse team," one New Yorker tweeted.

In the face of a pandemic, people of every color and creed have responded the same way: by adding to the beauty. They perched teddy bears in windows, hung Christmas lights and colored driveways. They drew images that felt like an antidote to all the masks and morgues: hearts, butterflies, rainbows. They tried to tilt the scales of the universe with tempera paint and sidewalk chalk.



CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

TWENTY SOMETHING

Mo Willems, creator of the award-winning "Elephant & Piggie" series of children's books, offered Lunch Doodles, free online drawing lessons for kids in quarantine.

"You might be isolated, but you're not alone," Willems wrote. "You are an art maker. Let's make some together."

Meanwhile, The Okee Dokee Brothers, a family-friendly, Grammy-winning bluegrass duo, released an album early to help put a spring into social distancing. The first track, "Hope Machine," was written a year ago but feels tailored to our strange new reality: "Plan what you can plan, dance when you can-can. ...Keep that hope machine running strong."

"Songs go where they are needed," said the guitarist Joe Mailander. "Families need a hopeful message about getting up and trying to find some light right now."

Quarantine has been a productive time for the award-winning artist Brother Mickey O'Neill McGrath, a 63-year-

CAPECCHI, page 13

Actively loving others is the essence of our faith



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Fifth Sunday of Easter John 14:1-12

The Acts of the Apostles once more is the source of the first reading. The early chapters of Acts marvelously reveal to us the lives led by the early Christians. Obviously in this glimpse into events so long ago, is the critical place of the Apostles, and among them the equally critical place of Peter.

The Apostles led the community. The early Christians recognized the Apostles' leadership. They listened to the Apostles. Indeed, reverence for the Apostles was so deep that the people placed their possessions at the Apostles' feet,

allowing the Apostles to control even the material assets of the community.

Peter was the leader whom the Apostles, and the people, acknowledged.

In Acts, this community was situated in Jerusalem. Although the very heart of Jewish life and a city extraordinarily unique in meaning for Jews, Jerusalem was not Corinth or Antioch. It most certainly was not Rome. In the total scheme of things, it was not a very important city.

Actually, the Romans maintained as their capital for Palestine the city of Caesarea, a seaport on the Mediterranean Sea. The ruins of this city now are in the suburbs of modern Tel Aviv. It is interesting, incidentally, that the only relic of the administration of Pontius Pilate as governor, aside from mention in the Gospels, is a stone carved with his name, a stone discovered in the ruins of Caesarea.

The vast Roman empire, under one system of laws, allowed for movement from place to place. Thus, nationalities mixed. So Acts refers to

Jews, but also to "Greeks," as Jews of the time called foreigners.

Care of the needy and widows was urgent. The Romans had no social safety net as modern societies have now. The Apostles responded to this fact by reminding Christians that their task was to teach the Gospel and to care for the needy. Such was the example of Jesus.

The Apostles chose seven holy men to be deacons. Their action revealed not just a move to organize the Christian community, it also showed that the Apostles had the right to innovate in the name of Jesus.

First Peter provides the second reading, centering Jesus as essential in salvation. The reading urges Christians to be true to Jesus.

St. John's Gospel supplies the last lesson. It recalls the Lord's discourse with the Apostles, alerting them as to what they should expect in the future.

Trouble will come, but Jesus was with them, "the way, the truth and the life."

Reflection

Almost a month has passed since Easter. For weeks, the Church joyfully has told us of the Resurrection. He lives! Alleluia!

Before long, the season will end. We will return to life in 2020, with all its burdens and uncertainty, especially in economics and physical health.

The Church tells us not to lose heart. Jesus still is with us. He is our rock and our shield. He lives in the Christian community, if this community is the same as the community described in Acts.

Applying Acts to the present is most interesting. Which Christian community truly resembles the gathering of Christians in Jerusalem long ago, precisely in their reliance upon the Apostles with Peter at their head? Bluntly speaking, it is the Roman Catholic Church.

This modern community must profoundly be dedicated to the Lord by caring for the sick and the needy. Actively loving others is no charming sideline for Christians. It is of the essence of

the religion.

The Church tells us, as the Easter season concludes, that Christ is with us. He lives. We must draw ourselves into this community the Lord created by replicating the faith and compassion of the Lord in fact, not just as an ideal.

Being in the community is infinitely more than joining a club.

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 6:1-7 Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 1 Pt 2:4-9 Jn 14:1-12

Monday: Acts 14:5-18 Ps 115:1-4, 15-16 Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28 Ps 145:10-13b, 21 Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6 Ps 122:1-5 Jn 15:1-8

Thursday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26 Ps 113:1-8 Jn 15:9-17

Friday: Acts 15:22-31 Ps 57:8-12 Jn 15:12-17

Saturday: Acts 16:1-10 Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5 Jn 15:18-21

The rationing of ventilators

When ventilators are in short supply, several key ethical principles can assist clinicians:

1. Ventilators should not be rationed based on categorical exclusions such as a patient's age, disability (e.g. being paraplegic) or other secondary traits, but rather on the basis of clinical data including likelihood of survival, organ function and other clinically relevant medical data or test results. Various medical "scoring tools" can be used to objectively evaluate this information about a patient's status and to make comparisons among patients.

2. If two clinically similar patients arrive at the emergency room, the allocation of a ventilator to one patient over another can be done on a first-come-first-served basis, a lottery or another randomized approach.

3. It is generally immoral to take away without consent the ventilator of a patient still in need of it in order to give it to another patient who may die without it.

4. In situations where a patient on a ventilator is clearly deteriorating, and where COVID-19 and its complications can reasonably be expected to cause the patient's death even with continued ventilator support, dialogue should be initiated with the patient or his designated health care agent to obtain consent to remove the ventilator. Obtaining free and informed consent helps resolve nearly every problematic angle in the ventilator rationing process. Scoring tools can be used to decide which patient's health care agent should be approached first. Attention must always remain focused on establishing and maintaining honest and open communication with the patient, family and the health care agent throughout difficult triage situations.

5. Patients who relinquish a ventilator in triage situations, or who cannot be given a ventilator due to lack of availability, should receive not only suitable alternative forms of medical treatment

and palliative measures to manage their discomfort, but also spiritual support rooted in their particular religious tradition. This would include visits from a pastor, minister, priest, etc. where final requests, last sacraments and other needs can be attended to.

During the COVID-19 crisis, some commentators have recommended taking tough choices out of the hands of front-line clinicians and handing them over to dedicated triage officers or triage committees to decide. In a recent article in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, for example, Dr. Robert Truog and his collaborators offer this approach as a way to "protect" clinicians:

"Reports from Italy describe physicians 'weeping in the hospital hallways because of the choices they were going to have to make.' The angst that clinicians may experience when asked to withdraw ventilators for reasons not related to the welfare of their patients should not be underestimated — it may lead to debilitating and disabling distress for some clinicians. One strategy for avoiding this tragic outcome is to use a triage committee to buffer clinicians from this potential harm."

The main goal during triage, however, cannot be to "buffer clinicians" or "soften the angst" of what is clearly a difficult and challenging set of decisions. Nor is it to "save the most lives possible in a time of unprecedented crisis," as proposed in the *NEJM* article. Nor is it to favor those with "the best prospects for the longest remaining life," as others have suggested, by relying on a utilitarian calculus that favors the young and the strong.

The goal must instead be to make allocation decisions based on evenly applied practices, as fair as possible, across the spectrum of patients, without turning to biased "quality of life" assessments. Even in a pandemic, the first priority remains the provision of outstanding patient care.

Triage scenarios involve emergency situations. In an emer-



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

gency, as the plane's engines flame out, the captain should not be sidelined in favor of a remote "landing committee" working to bring the plane to a safe touchdown. Instead, passengers should be able to entrust themselves to a pilot with professional skills, instincts and expertise, somebody who is fully invested in the critical task at hand. The pilot's personal involvement in the fate of his passengers mirrors the physician's accompaniment of his patients in a time of crisis, with these front-line clinicians properly assuming a key role in making decisions about the allocation of limited medical resources.

Rather than trying to offload responsibility to a committee to "mitigate the enormous emotional, spiritual, and existential burden to which caregivers may be exposed," as the *NEJM* article phrases it, front-line clinicians, together with their patients and/or health care agents, should manage these critical decisions, with triage committees serving in advisory, rather than decision-making or adjudicating capacities.

If rationing becomes necessary, sound ethical principles not only enable responsible triage decisions to be made but can also help clinicians to avoid panic and calmly accompany each patient entering a health care facility, including those facing their final days and hours.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

CAPECCHI, from page 12

old Oblate of St. Francis de Sales who has been drawing in the second-story studio of a rowhouse in Camden, New Jersey.

"I haven't spent so much time here in years," he said.

The sought-after speaker had developed the habit of drawing a faith-based coloring page and sharing it in his e-newsletter once a week. But the pandemic has compelled him to do so on a daily basis.

The response has been overwhelming. Newsletter subscribers say it is calming to color each image and reflect on its meaning. "You're keeping me sane," one woman told Brother Mickey.

Brother Mickey understands the impact of an artistic ministry. "When we're in the presence of beauty, we're in the presence of God, so we pray best before beauty," he said. "It goes to a place deeper than words."

The Catholic Church has always led with beauty, drawing people in by building the world's greatest cathedrals, using gold leaf and stained glass to convey majesty and mystery. Historically, we were patrons of the arts and teachers of the faith — two functions that were intricately connected. The novel coronavirus has given that old approach new meaning.

Pope Francis expressed it on Palm Sunday, offering a message for Holy Week that continues to resonate: "This is what we need

today: the creativity of love."

The words struck Brother Mickey, who lettered them in neon green against a crimson red, drawing palm branches in the center.

"It's a human drive to create and to bring joy," he said. "That's how I see art. We're co-creating with God."

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for May 10, 2020

John 14: 1-12

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

YOUR HEARTS IN ME PLACES MYSELF YOU KNOW WE KNOW COMES	TROUBLED MANY PREPARE WHERE I AM THE WAY THE TRUTH EXCEPT	IN GOD DWELLING AGAIN MAY BE THOMAS NO ONE KNOW ME
--	---	--

BE WHERE I AM

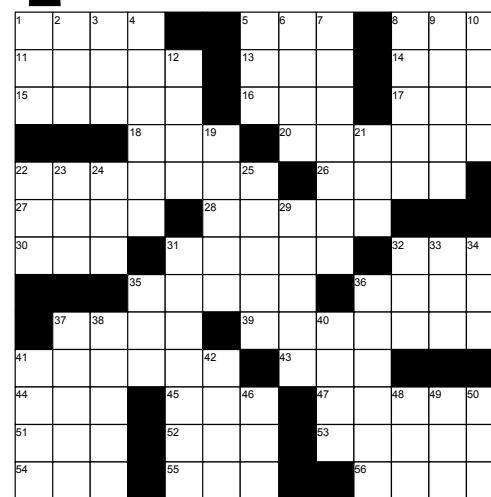
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W O N K U O Y A W E H T
T H O M A S O Y S D P E
R T E M N I U L E E N A
O U T R L W R I C I F N
U R G L E K H X A N L A
B T N L R I E G L O E J
L E I T K R A B P O S K
E H L J A P R M A N Y N
D T L P J H T L A E M O
R S E M O C S A W Y T W
O R W E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

May 3,
10 and 17, 2020



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Readings: Acts 2: 14a, 36-41; 1Pt 2: 20b-25; Jn 10:1-10 & Acts 6:1-7; 1Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12 & Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17; 1Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14: 15-21

ACROSS

- 1 Abbreviate (abbr.)
- 5 Type of spider
- 8 Reverence
- 11 Jesus healed more than one
- 13 Time frame
- 14 Doctoral degree
- 15 Music speed
- 16 Defeat
- 17 Big truck
- 18 End of Sale (abbr.)
- 20 Look up to
- 22 Coiled (2 wds.)
- 26 Quiet down

- 27 Pain
- 28 Matched, as in socks
- 30 Yang's partner
- 31 Vows
- 32 Kitten's cry
- 35 Computer language
- 36 Small particle
- 37 Permanently damage
- 39 Reporter
- 41 Key trait of a deacon
- 43 Evergreen tree
- 44 Deer relative
- 45 ___ Francisco
- 47 Fry briefly
- 51 Downwind
- 52 No room here

- 53 First among disciples
- 54 Solid-state drive (abbr.)
- 55 Bishop's turf
- 56 Tilt

DOWN

- 1 Alternative (abbr.)
- 2 Bumbling insect
- 3 Beats per minute
- 4 "___ and be baptized"
- 5 Stitch
- 6 Opera solo
- 7 Lighted on altar
- 8 Easter month
- 9 Eddy
- 10 Cliff rim
- 12 Crucifix
- 19 Berried shrub
- 21 Wet dirt
- 22 Reporter's question
- 23 French "yes"
- 24 Pot
- 25 British spelling for "paten"
- 29 Not the shepherd
- 31 Diffusion of water
- 32 Momma
- 33 Estimated time of arrival
- 34 Ashen
- 35 Succor
- 36 "House of ___"
- 37 10,560 feet
- 38 Requested
- 40 Thin strand
- 41 Lutheran church group
- 42 Horse hair
- 46 North northeast
- 48 Great Basin tribe
- 49 British drink
- 50 Sea eagle

Answer key can be found on page 15

Teacher's confirmation lets her lead the way for students

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Even in the midst of hardship, God can work to bring abundant goodness. This was the case for Emily Didrick, whose life was in a difficult moment when, she feels, God set her on a path He had laid out to bring her to greater happiness.

After teaching English for years at Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, she had decided to leave at the end of the 2016-17 school year to get married and move out of state. But things didn't work out the way she had planned, and her engagement ended abruptly. "It was one of the hardest things I've had to deal with in my life," Didrick admitted.

Bishop Luers High School, also in Fort Wayne, had a teaching position available in the English department that summer. "Fortunately, God provided an opening at Luers not even 24 hours afterward."

Didrick has found a home and happiness at Bishop Luers. "Upon my interview at Luers, I had what can only be described as a sense of peace regarding my decision to take the job. From day one, its faculty and students have demonstrated time and time again the Beatitudes of Jesus Christ. Their love and support helped me through a very challenging time."

Although Didrick was raised Catholic, she hadn't attended Catholic schools. This left a gap in her catechesis, and she had opted out of confirmation. "I missed out on a large part of the formation that occurs ... so I had no idea of the significance of confirmation."

When she was first hired at a Catholic school, she was advised to consider being confirmed. She put it off for years, though,

"because I wasn't finding a parish that was a good fit for me." Around the time she began to work at Bishop Luers, it was recommended that she attend Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. "I did and fell in love with the parish," she remembered.

To Didrick, the cathedral "mirrors the face of our global Church." The diversity and beauty of the church helps her to connect to her faith in a deeper way. She was also pleased to see many of her students from Bishop Luers at the cathedral's liturgies.

Throughout this time of searching, she felt God nudging her to complete her sacraments of initiation as well as join the parish. Within the next year, she did.

God wasn't finished with Didrick's love life, either. Three years after the breakup, she was introduced to Michael Ream through a mutual friend. Hindsight had helped her to see the flaws in her previous relationship, particularly her ex-fiancé's opposition to a Catholic wedding and raising potential children in the faith. As she started dating Ream, Didrick decided she would not make the same concessions for the sake of a relationship. She had found the strength to stand up for her faith. "I was very upfront with Mike about my religious beliefs and my hopes to raise children in the Church. While Mike isn't Catholic himself, he understood this desire and supports this for our marriage and family."

After working with former Bishop Luers Campus Ministry Director Beth Carlin, Didrick decided she would like to receive confirmation at the high school, standing as an example of faith for the students. She was confirmed by Bishop Kevin C.

Rhoades at his pastoral visit on Jan. 15. "I thought it only fitting that I would be confirmed in the place that ultimately made me feel so at home and loved," she explained. Carlin served as her sponsor and Ream was able to make the drive from Indianapolis to witness the rite.

Not only had God provided for Didrick's financial and spiritual needs with a career and a Catholic community, she feels, He brought Ream into her life — providing her with an exceptional relationship. "Mike knew that he would be asked to examine his faith life during this process. And he was up for the challenge."

Ream and Didrick are planning a wedding for October. They chose to be married at the cathedral, in part because Didrick's grandmother, as well as her brother and sister, had been married there. They are comfortably part of the parish and thrilled to work with pastor Father Jacob Runyon for their marriage preparation.

Didrick stated, "I can see how this desire to marry in the Church has been helpful in drawing Mike and I closer together in our faith." She related that they have been attending Mass together and that Ream has encouraged her to continue watching the Mass from home throughout the duration of the quarantine.

While the path of her life might have taken an unexpected turn, it seems as though God has used the twists and turns to bring Didrick back to a place of happiness, peace and love.



Provided by Emily Didrick

Emily Didrick, an English teacher at Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, was confirmed in January by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. Her fiancé, Mike Ream, drove from Indianapolis to be present at the Mass.

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Pregnant and parenting moms in need are in parishes and neighborhoods of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

As Pope Francis has said, parishes are called to be "islands of mercy in the midst of a sea of indifference." Everyone in the parish community should know where to refer a pregnant woman in need.

The 25th anniversary of "The Gospel of Life" by Pope St. John Paul II provides an opportunity to assess, expand and communicate resources to pregnant moms and families in need. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the diocese have joined together in a nationwide, parish-based campaign called "Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service." It began on March 25, the Solemnity of the Annunciation, and will continue through March 25, 2021. This campaign is a response to Pope Francis' repeated challenge to go to the margins to bring hope and help to those in need.

The diocesan website www.walkingwithmomsfwsb.com will launch on Mother's Day weekend. Please help spread the word.

**Walking with
Moms in Need**
a year of service



Indiana priests bring 'power of the sacraments' to the dying

BY SEAN GALLAGHER

RICHMOND, Ind. (CNS) — Robert Muldoon was close to death, infected with the coronavirus, as he waited for a visit from Dominican Father Patrick Hyde.

When the priest greeted him in his room at a nursing home in Bloomington, Muldoon was overjoyed.

"Father, I'm so glad you're here," he said. "Now I can go in peace."

Father Hyde, administrator of the St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington, recounted the graced encounter on Twitter without identifying Muldoon at the time.

"This is the power of the sacraments and why I'm a priest," he wrote.

For more than a month, churches have been empty. No baptisms, no weddings, no confessions heard. Priests celebrate Masses alone, livestreaming them on the internet. But they still go out to people who are dying to administer the sacrament of the anointing of the sick, even to those who are suffering from the virus.

A select group of priests across central and southern Indiana have committed themselves to ministering to people who are quarantined.

Such dedication in a time of social distancing and rigid quarantining is a solace for Catholics who yearn for the sacraments and for family members.

"It's very comforting to know that somebody will be there for him," said Paul Muldoon, one of Robert's sons. "That's a wonderful thing."

"It was beautiful just to be able to be there," Father Hyde told *The Criterion*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. "As we Catholics believe, the priest acts in the person of Christ when he acts sacramentally. So, being able to bring and to be Jesus for him in that moment was a powerful experience."

Being asked to be a priest to minister to the dying led Father Sengole Thomas Gnanaraj to prayer.

"I was praying for the ministry and preparing myself mentally so that, if someone called me, I would go," said Father Gnanaraj, administrator of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond.

In mid-April, that call came. Three people from the same family living in nearby Connorsville were sick. Two had tested positive for the coronavirus. A third was presumed to be infected. One was believed to be close to death.

Father Gnanaraj drove to their home, put on a protective suit and went in to anoint all three of them.

"It was a feeling that I've never had before," he said. "I couldn't describe what I felt. I was not scared."

It was also a moving moment for those who were anointed.

"They thanked me profusely,"



CNS photo/Sean Gallagher, *The Criterion*

Father Sengole Thomas Gnanaraj, administrator of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond is pictured April 22 outside Reid Health Hospital. He is among a select group of priests in the archdiocese who are ministering to the dying during the coronavirus pandemic.

Father Gnanaraj said. "Deep within myself, I was very happy to be able to do this ministry, giving God's mercy and sacraments when people are in dire need of it. We do what we can and God takes care of the rest. We are his instruments and his ministers, always serving the Lord."

Father Hyde said being asked to minister to the dying during the pandemic emphasizes the commitment that priests make at their ordination.

"Just like (Archbishop) Fulton Sheen said, the priest is not his own," Father Hyde said. "It's a commitment to be faithful to what the good Lord is asking of us in whatever situation in which we find ourselves."

He admitted that the prospect of ministering to people with the coronavirus gives him pause.

"It's scary. You just don't know. At the same time, I became a priest not so that I could go to heaven, although I hope and pray that I go to heaven, but because I felt called to lead other people to heaven," he said.

"(Anointing of the sick) is about giving people peace of mind and soul and preparing them to see God face to face."

Father Sean Danda, pastor of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg, has anointed people several times during the pandemic as a priest designated to minister to the dying in areas west of Indianapolis.

While on a retreat in Belgium before his ordination in 2009, he prayed at the tomb of St. Damien of Molokai, a Belgian missionary priest who ministered in a leper colony in the 19th century in Hawaii.

St. Damien has come to Father Danda's mind during the pandemic.

"I'm called right now in my priesthood to go amongst those who are considered untouchable

and to touch them," he said, "to minister to them, to put my life in harm's way to bring the healing hand of God to many people who are desirous to meet the Lord and his love."

Father Gnanaraj said his ministry is a way the Church reaches out to people on society's margins, which Pope Francis has emphasized during his papacy.

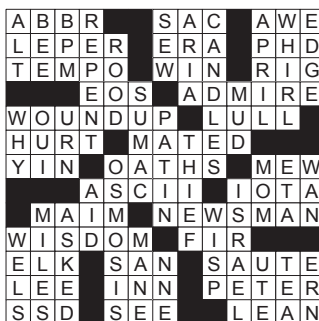
"Who is on the periphery now? I would say it's those people who are affected by this illness," Father Gnanaraj said. "They are on the periphery. They're quarantined. No one can go near them. The Church reaches out to them through the priests and the sacraments."

Father Danda, like the other priests across central and southern Indiana who are ministering to the dying during the pandemic, finds happiness instead of fear when reaching out to them.

"Providing the grace of the sacraments and bringing God's presence to them is an honor and a joy for the people who are dying or close to death," he said. "It also eases the minds and hearts of their loved ones."

Gallagher is a reporter at The Criterion, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

The CrossWord
May 3, 10 and 17, 2020



REST IN PEACE

Auburn
Margaret A. Ellert, 88, Immaculate Conception

Fort Wayne
Grace Gardt, 85, St. Vincent de Paul
John A. Kinder, 51, St. Vincent de Paul

Mishawaka
Janette Mickels, 89, St. Monica
Brian Siqueira, 71, St. Monica

Decatur
Norma C. Elzey, 93, St. Mary of the Assumption

James A. Schindler, 86, St. Peter

South Bend
Veronica Pawlak, 92, St. Anthony de Padua

David E. Tester, 68, St. Mary of the Assumption

LaGrange
Anne C. Patka, 70, St. Joseph

Rose Spalding, 100, St. Matthew Cathedral
Sharon Taghon, 78, Holy Cross

REMINDER: CHANGES TO FORT WAYNE TV MASS TIMES

EFFECTIVE APRIL 19

Sunday 7 a.m.

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DirecTV 22

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Mary gardens bring peace, comfort and inspire

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Flowers are one of the most popular Mother's Day gifts. And the month of May is the perfect time to honor not only earthly mothers, but the mother of Jesus as well. What better way to honor Blessed Mother Mary than with flowers, as Catholics have throughout the centuries?

Some churches crown Mary with flowers and offer bouquets to her during ceremonies that take place early in the month, but there is an even older tradition of planting gardens dedicated to Mary. According to fishaters.com, Mary gardens are "designed to be places of beauty that remind us of our Lord and Lady, allowing us to experience God's creation, and inviting prayer and contemplation."

Mary gardens are centered around a statue of the Blessed Mother, highlighting her roles as mother of the Savior and queen of heaven. While any flower can be used to honor Mary, some have particular significance in Catholic tradition. In the medieval times, many flowers native to Europe and even some discovered in America were given names that honored her.

One of the best-known Marian flowers is the rose. In the Litany of Loreto, approved in 1587, Mary is referred to as the "mystical rose." Our Lady of Guadalupe gave St. Juan Diego roses to prove the validity of her apparition to the local bishops, and even the word "rosary" has the same root word and implies a spiritual bouquet for Our Lady.

Rose colors also have significance in Mariology: white to symbolize her purity, red for the sorrow of Jesus and Mary and gold for the glory God granted to her. A rose bush blooms yearly, yet some types require extensive care.

Numerous other flowers have connections to Mary and to Jesus. The evolution of speech during medieval times merged the words "Mary's gold" into the commonly known name "Marigold," for example. These small flowers resembled coins and were offered at the feet of Mary statues by medieval Christians, who rarely had real coins to give.

Lily of the valley is highly fragrant, blooms around Mother's Day and is known as "Mary's tears" for its bell-shaped flowers. Lilies of the valley are aggressive spreaders, though, so they require space that they can freely take over.

Delicate columbine is known as "Our Lady's slippers" since the fallen spurs resemble slippers. There is a legend that columbine sprung from the ground beneath Mary's shoes as she went to visit Elizabeth. The shade-loving bleeding heart — which looks exactly like it

sounds — also brings to mind the wounded heart of Mary. Herbs such as rosemary, thyme and marjoram — among others — have Marian significance as well.

There are several factors to consider when planning a Mary garden. The first is space. With the use of pots, even a small porch or patio can become a prayerful space.

The second is plant type: annuals, which only live one season, or perennials, which come back year after year. Similarly, gardeners must consider hardiness zones before selecting flowers. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend falls into zones 5b-6a, which might necessitate more cold-hardy plants.

One enchanting example of a sacred garden space is the rosary garden at St. John the Baptist Parish in New Haven. Completed in 2014, the garden has become a neighborhood place for prayer and solitude.

Parishioner Michele Tutweiler maintains the garden, adding flowers and decorations each year. "It'll be (several) hours in the day that I'm here, and I love it," Tutweiler stated. "It's my time with Jesus and with Mary." Tutweiler has even enlisted her granddaughters' help in painting decorative rocks to give the space color in the winter months.

The pathway is made of bricks donated by members of the parish and situated in a rectangular pathway around the statue of Mary, which is at the heart of the garden. The sponsored pavers present the prayers of the rosary, so that one can follow them and physically recite



At-home Mary gardens can serve as a creative and visual means to instill devotion to Our Lady in young children, as well as bring beauty and a sense of peace to the home.



Donated by a parish family, the Holy Family mosaic stone sits at the entrance to a rosary garden at St. John the Baptist, New Haven. The prayerful space was built and is maintained by parishioners.

Photos by Jennifer Barton

the rosary. The statue itself was part of one young man's Eagle Scout project after the original statue fell and cracked.

The garden is truly a collaborative effort of the parish. The land for it and for the school playground was partially donated and funded by parishioners to give the church and school more space. Men of the parish poured the concrete and laid the paver stones. "Our Holy Name Society — a men's group in the parish — do the spring and fall cleanup here on the grounds. They donated the money for these privacy fence panels," Tutweiler said.

There are six rosebushes planted in the garden, two of which Tutweiler and her husband purchased. One is a yellow knockout, and the other is a lovely yellow-pink color. Another family donated a small tree for the garden. Many of the lilies, tulips and daffodils that are part of the garden were repurposed from the church's Easter decorations.

Tutweiler spoke of several people she knew who come to the garden to pray, one of whom sits at "her" bench every day to pray. "We have neighbors who aren't even parishioners, who aren't even Catholic, and they still come here just to sit for a quiet time," she said. She shared a story of one woman in the neighborhood who thanked her for having the garden space available. While the woman is not Catholic, she does believe in God and Tutweiler invited her to join the community at St. John. "She said she comes here often to pray and just to be with Mary and that this garden is absolutely beautiful. It brought tears to my eyes."

Though St. John's garden was mapped out, Mary gardens don't require a great deal of thought or preparation. Amy Schortgen, member of St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne, has her own sacred space on their property. "It wasn't well-planned," Schortgen stated. "We were gifted with a Mary statue from my in-laws, and my husband and I both like to have flowers and we wanted to showcase Mary."

The garden evolved, growing bit by bit with additions such as daylilies from her father-in-law, a seating area and pergola. They try to have flowers for every season, including spring and summer blooms and mums for fall.

For Schortgen, her Mary garden is a stress-reliever. "Probably not until I had my own house did I get into gardening. It's a great family project. Even the kids help us."

A resource for advice on creating a personal Mary garden is the website fishaters.com/marygardens.html or the Marian Library of the University of Dayton, which was founded by Marianist priests. Both list a multitude of flowers and their significance in Catholic tradition.