

St. Peter's challenge to graduates
In Truth and Charity
Page 2

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 94 No. 21

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

Deacon Ervin Kuspa
Life of service honored
Page 3

Father Alles heads home
Sri Lankan priest values pastoral experience he gained
Page 12

Vals and Sals
High school valedictorians, salutatorians recognized
Pages 16-20

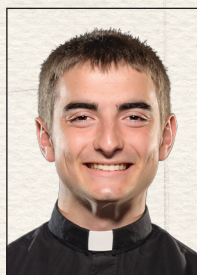
Receiving the Lord's body
First Communion Masses celebrated
Page 24

Summer print schedule continues
Digital email June 6; next print issue June 14

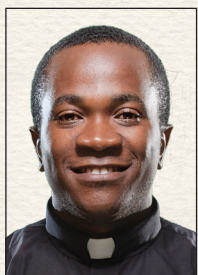
VOCATIONS



DEACON STEPHEN FELICICHIA



LOGAN PARRISH



AUGUSTINE ONUOHA



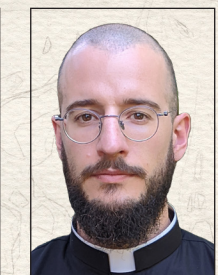
MICHAEL AMMER



BENJAMIN LANDRIGAN



KEETON LOCKWOOD



PAOLO DEGASPERI

Seven answer the Lord's call

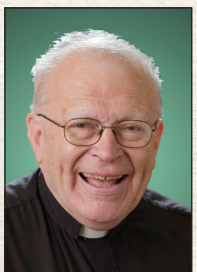
See pages 13-15



FATHER PHILLIP WIDMANN



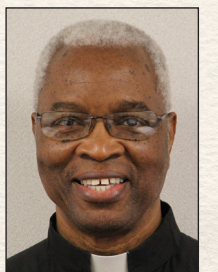
FATHER PAUL MCCARTHY



FATHER DANIEL DURKIN



FATHER GARY SIGLER



FATHER LAWRENCE TETE

Five retire from selfless service

See pages 9-12

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

(ISSN 0891-1533)
(USPS 403630)

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

PUBLISHER: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Editorial Department

PUBLICATIONS MANAGER: Jodi Marlin
STAFF WRITER: Jennifer Barton
PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan
ADVERTISING DESIGN: Molly Gettinger
NEWS SPECIALIST: Mark Weber

Business Department

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

Website: www.todayscatholic.org
260-456-2824

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

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

MAIN OFFICE: 915 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Telephone 260-456-2824. Fax: 260-744-1473.
BUREAU OFFICE: 1328 Dragoon Trail, Mishawaka, IN 46544. Telephone 260-456-2824. Fax 260-744-1473.

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

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



Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/todayscatholicFWSB

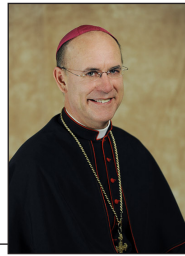
Follow us on Twitter

@diocesefwsb

Follow us on Instagram

@diocesefwsb

Giving a Reason for our Hope

IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

The following is the text of the homily given by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in a livestreamed Mass on May 17, the Sixth Sunday of Easter:

We're in the midst of graduation season. I feel sorry for our college and high school graduates who aren't able to celebrate their graduation ceremonies, unable to gather with their classmates and receive their diplomas together because of the pandemic. Our four Catholic high schools hope to celebrate these ceremonies in late July, if it is possible. I miss celebrating their Baccalaureate Masses, but hopefully it will be possible at that time. In any event, let's be sure to congratulate our young men and women on their graduations. To the graduates who are watching this Mass, we are proud of you!

In the Gospel today, Jesus speaks of the Advocate that He will give to His disciples to be with them always. He is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. So I'm praying that the Holy Spirit will be with our graduates as they go into the world, a world where many do not believe or can even be hostile to believers, especially Catholics. I pray that our young graduates will stay firm in the faith.

I hope we have prepared our graduates well, to go forth not with fear, but with hope and courage. I pray that their faith will remain strong and will grow, not become weak or disappear. I hope that when they sit in a class where a professor is attacking religion or Christianity and particularly Catholicism (a favorite target today), that their faith will not only not be shaken, but that they will be able to stand up for our faith.

This brings me to today's second reading, the wonderful passage we heard from the first letter of our first pope. St. Peter wrote: "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope."

Are we able to give an explanation for the hope that is within us, the hope that springs from faith? Of course, our hope is Christ. Are we ready to give a good, articulate and intelligent explanation of our beliefs? Are our young people able to do so? I hope so — that's why our Catholic high schools and our parish youth ministry programs must be excellent in catechesis. And that's why it's so important that parents are practicing and living the faith, giving good witness to their children. Parents need to be able to give a reason for their hope and be able to explain the faith to their children. This is effective only when parents are authentically living the faith, living in a way that is consistent with the faith.

St. Peter doesn't say that we should be ready "now and then" to give an explana-



Wikimedia Commons

St. Peter as Pope, by Rubens.

tion of our faith or reason for our hope. He doesn't say "sometimes." He says: "Always" be ready to do so! I invite you to ponder these questions:

Are you ready and able to explain why you believe and hope in Jesus Christ and why you are His disciple?

Are you able to intelligently speak to an atheist why it is reasonable to believe in God or to a Muslim or Jewish friend why you believe that Jesus is God or why you believe that God is a Trinity of three Divine Persons?

Are you ready and able to explain to a Protestant friend why you believe that the Catholic Church was founded by Jesus and has preserved the fullness of the apostolic faith?

Are you ready and able to explain the importance of the seven sacraments and the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist?

Are you ready and able to explain why we confess our sins to a priest, why we venerate the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints, why we believe in the authority of the Pope and bishops and why we believe in the doctrine of purgatory?

Are you able to explain and defend our belief in the sanctity of all human life, in the dignity of the child in the womb, of immigrants and refugees, of the sick and the dying, and, therefore, why we oppose abortion, xenophobia and euthanasia?

Are you able to explain and defend why marriage is a

union between one man and one woman, why some reproductive technologies are harmful to human dignity and why sex should only be within marriage?

Are you ready and able to explain why the option to follow Christ in the Catholic Church is a positive option, one that brings joy and human fulfillment, "a yes" to life and love, and a path to true freedom?

Are you able to articulate why you believe that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and how this belief has given meaning and purpose to your life?

I get a lot of questions on my weekly show on Redeemer Radio. I love trying to answer the questions people call in about many teachings of the Church, questions about doctrines like the Holy Trinity and

other mysteries of the faith, questions about moral issues, about prayer and about the Christian life. I'm happy to receive the questions. They show me how people are truly seeking to better know and understand our faith. If we're going to be able and ready to give an explanation to others of the reasons for our hope, we must know our faith. If you feel you're not able to explain some aspects of our faith or to answer some of the questions I've proposed, I encourage you to study the question, to seek answers, to delve more deeply into the what and the why of what the Church teaches.

There's something else very important that St. Peter wrote that we find at the end of the sentence I've been talking about. He says: "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear...". I can't emphasize enough the importance of the latter part of this sentence. In explaining our faith and the reason for our hope, we must never do so in an uncharitable way. So much harm is done by Catholics who claim to be orthodox or even super-orthodox in their faith, but they turn people off, even away from Catholicism, because of their self-righteousness, their anger, judgmentalism, or pride. We must not be modern-day pharisees. If we're not proclaiming the truth in charity, we're not really orthodox, we're not really proclaiming the truth, because love is central to the truth of Christianity and Catholicism. We must always treat others with love and respect, "with gentleness and reverence," as St. Peter teaches us.

When we share or defend our faith, it's not about just winning arguments. Good apologetics is not polemical. It's not trying to pick a fight. Yes, there may be arguments, but debates and arguments should not degenerate into attacks on people or lack of respect for those who disagree with us. Our purpose, after all, in bearing witness to the truths of our faith, is not to win an argument. It's to win souls for Christ, to bring them to the peace, joy and fulfillment that is found in Christ and His Body, the Church.

Back to our graduates! I am often edified when I see and get to talk to some of our young people when they are home from college. I'll ask them how it's going and about their faith life. Some will share with me the challenge of forming good relationships and friendships in the midst of a hook-up culture or an alcohol-centered social milieu. Some share the challenges they encounter in some classes where they might be the only practicing Catholic, the only one who challenges a professor putting down Catholicism or Catholic teaching. Some tell me it's sometimes hard to do. Some say they feel support from other like-minded students through their involvement in Catholic campus ministry. Some tell me that the challenges and questions they get have made them better Catholics, made them study and delve more deeply into the faith. That's such good news. We sometimes become better Catholics when our faith is ridiculed, challenged, or attacked.

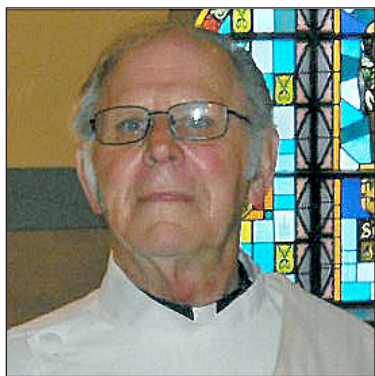
A final word to parents with sons and daughters in college or going to college: try not to worry too much. My advice: pray every day for your children. Entrust them to the Lord; ask the Holy Spirit to guide them and our Blessed Mother to protect them.

To all who are watching this Mass and especially to our graduates, may you take to heart the challenge from St. Peter: "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear."

Deacon Kuspa bids final farewell to family, South Bend parishes

BY JENNIFER BARTON

The first married deacon in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Deacon Ervin Kuspa, passed away on May 10. Ordained in 1971 by Bishop Leo A. Pursley, he served at St. Adalbert, St. Anthony de Padua and Our Lady of Hungary parishes, all in South Bend.



DEACON ERVIN KUSPA

Though health issues compelled him to retire from the diaconate in 2014 after 43 years of service, Deacon Kuspa "hated when he had to give this up," his daughter Debbie Kuspa stated of his ministry of service.

He was very involved in both his faith life and his community. Among other things, Deacon Kuspa led a Boy Scout troop, was active in the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Holy Name Society and Knights of Columbus, along with the American Legion.

Aside from his duty to the Church, Deacon Kuspa managed the paint department at Sears and later retired from the South Bend Water Works. He and Veronica Kuspa, his wife of 64 years, had three children together, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Deacon Kuspa was proud of his Polish heritage; he played Polish music after Sunday dinner with the family and was known as "Dziadzia" to his three grandchildren. He served 12 years in the U.S. Army during the Korean War: Debbie stated that he "saw so much death, he wanted to help people." That was what led him to the diaconate, though becoming the first married dea-

con in the reinstated permanent diaconate was not always an easy path to pave.

His dedication to the calling had always been strong. Deacon Kuspa quit his job to pursue diaconate studies at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Michigan, northwest of Detroit. During those two years his wife remained in the South Bend area with their three children, though Debbie recalled that he came home to visit every weekend. As a deacon, he started a Bible course at Our Lady of Hungary that continued for 20 years and was like "another little family for him." She remembered that he often came late to family events because of his many obligations.

Love of family was foremost for Deacon Kuspa. When his grandchildren came to visit, they would head straight for the basement — grandpa's "cave" — and spend hours playing with him and watching him draw pictures of Army trucks and fire trucks. One grandchild even became a

firefighter.

As they grew older, the they would ask him to pre-side over their weddings and baptize their children. "My niece would always say 'I'm the only one who can say that Dziadzia baptized me, gave me first Communion, helped at my Confirmation and I was married by him, and he baptized my son.'"

He was greatly loved in return. Debbie shared how she discovered scrapbooks full of thank-you notes and letters from schoolchildren, friends and parishioners whom he had helped through the years. She believed that families often came to him because he related so well to the troubles of married and family life.

He taught religion at Marian High School, Mishawaka, and St. Adalbert. Debbie related another story from when she was young and someone came to the door late on a Friday night: It turned out to be a handful of Marian football players who had simply wanted to talk to Deacon Kuspa.

A deep devotion to St. Padre Pio marked the life of Deacon Kuspa. Even when life was difficult for the family, he always told them, "God will provide for us; He will always take care of us."

Veronica passed away in November. "He was ready to go be with her," Debbie said.

Surrounded by family at his South Bend home, Deacon Kuspa peacefully went to his final reward. His funeral service took place on May 15, the same date as his ordination to the Sacred Order of Diaconate.

In the memory of horror and pain, Salvadorans overcome massacre with faith

BY RHINA GUIDOS

SAN JOSE LAS FLORES, El Salvador (CNS) — They greet each other like family members who haven't seen one another in a while, a big smile when one of them walks into the room.

Felipe Tobar talks about his uncle, quiet and tall, a man "who loved to go to Mass." Miriam Ayala talks about her 16-year-old sister who used to sing with her in a hammock. She was shot that day, her body carried away by the river.

When they began meeting almost 10 years ago, said Julio Rivera, 48, it was as if they'd always known one another, even though for many of them, their only shared history was a horrific event: survivors of a

massacre where many children were among the more than 600 killed or driven to their deaths into a river by Honduran and Salvadoran government forces, the two countries that straddle the body of water known as the Sumpul.

Some of them, like Rivera, were children back then. He was just 8 and, accompanied by his 60-year-old father, he managed to dodge bullets and cross the waters of the Sumpul (pronounced soom-pool). By then, his mother and brothers all had been killed, and he and his father were the last of the family.

The place where the Rivera family lived, the department of Chalatenango, is a rural region in the northernmost part of El Salvador, where government officials periodically carried out

brutal attacks on the peasant population, killing, raping and pillaging the rural towns, justifying the actions by saying the residents were rebels or rebel sympathizers.

The Sumpul River massacre isn't the only massacre Rivera and others in the group survived, it was just the most brutal one.

Chalatenango is said to have been the setting of more than 50 such mass killings during the country's 12-year civil conflict, and almost all of the Sumpul survivors lost family members in other attacks. The Sumpul River massacre, however, is the most well-known in the department, though little is spoken about it at the national level because,

SALVADOR, page 5



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

- Saturday, May 30: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Bluffton
- Monday, June 1: 5:30 p.m. — Meeting of Diocesan Review Board, Wyndham Garden Hotel, Warsaw
- Tuesday, June 2: 11 a.m. — Blessing of A Mother's Hope House, Fort Wayne
- Wednesday, June 3: 10:30 a.m. — Meeting of Presbyteral Council, Wyndham Garden Hotel, Warsaw
- Friday, June 5: 3 p.m. — Baccalaureate Mass for Northeast Indiana Catholic Educators, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Saturday, June 6: 11 a.m. — Priesthood and Diaconate Ordinations, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Fort Wayne
- Sunday, June 7: 2 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Immaculate Conception Church, Auburn



Priest appointments

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following assignments of priests, effective June 23, 2020:

- Reverend Jonathan Agbedo**, to temporary Parochial Vicar, St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne.
- Reverend Craig Borchard**, from Parochial Vicar, St. Michael Parish, Plymouth, to Pastor, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elkhart.
- Reverend Matthew Coonan**, from Pastor, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elkhart, to Pastor, St. Therese Parish, Fort Wayne, and Pastor, St. Henry Parish, Fort Wayne.
- Reverend Louis Fowoyo**, from Parochial Vicar, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, to Pastor, St. Louis, Besancon Parish, New Haven.
- Reverend Robert Garrow**, from Pastor, St. Anthony de Padua Parish, South Bend, to Pastor, St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish, New Carlisle.
- Reverend Patrick Hake**, Parochial Vicar, St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne, to Pastor, St. Peter Parish, Fort Wayne, and part-time Chaplain, Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne.
- Reverend Msgr. Michael Heintz**, to temporary summer Administrator, St. Patrick Parish, Walkerton.
- Reverend David Huneck**, from Parochial Vicar, St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, to Pastor, St. Paul of the Cross Parish, Columbia City, while continuing as part-time Chaplain, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne.
- Reverend Wimal Jayasurya**, from Parochial Vicar, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, to Pastor, St. Mary Mother of God Parish, Fort Wayne, while continuing as a Judge in the diocesan Tribunal.
- Reverend Paul McCarthy**, from Pastor, St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish, New Carlisle, to retirement.
- Reverend Benjamin Muhlenkamp**, from Pastor, St. Louis, Besancon Parish, New Haven, to Pastor, St. Anthony de Padua Parish, South Bend.
- Reverend Luke Okoye**, to Parochial Vicar, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne.
- Reverend Peter Pacini, CSC**, from administrator of St. Bavo Parish, Mishawaka, to pastor of St. Bavo Parish, Mishawaka.
- Reverend Gary Sigler**, from Pastor, St. Paul of the Cross Parish, Columbia City, to retirement.
- Reverend Spenser St. Louis**, to Parochial Vicar, St. Michael Parish, Plymouth.
- Reverend Phillip Widmann**, from Pastor, St. Mary Mother of God Parish, Fort Wayne, to retirement, while continuing as Director of the Diocesan Museum.
- Reverend Thomas Zehr**, from Parochial Vicar, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, to Parochial Vicar, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne, and Priest Chaplain at Purdue University, Fort Wayne, while continuing to serve as Priest Chaplain at Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne.
- Reverend Eric Zimmer**, from Pastor, St. Patrick Parish, Walkerton, to President of the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne.

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has also made the following assignments:

- Reverend Donald Davison, C.P.P.S.**, to Pastor, St. Patrick Parish, Walkerton, effective August 20, 2020.
- Deacon Dan Koehl**, to diaconal ministry, St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, effective June 1, 2020.

Called to serve: Tebbe exemplifies a life of witness for the Church

BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

Glenn Tebbe has always viewed his life as a calling. And most of the time, according to his wife of nearly 49 years, the calls have been quite literal.

Laura Jo Tebbe recounts how shortly after earning a master's degree in history from Xavier University in Cincinnati in 1972, her husband received an offer for a job he never sought — teaching seventh-grade social studies at St. Lawrence School in Lawrenceburg in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis — and launching a career he never anticipated.

A few years later, teaching at St. Louis School in Batesville, he got an unexpected phone call from the pastor of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg offering him the role of the school's principal. In an era when most Catholic school principals were nuns and at the very least individuals with much more experience, 26-year-old Glenn answered the call and served faithfully for the next 18 years.

Fast-forward two decades, to when Tebbe was the leader of the Indiana Non-Public Education Association, an organization he helped build from the ground up. One day, in the halls of the Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis, then-Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein called him by name with another opportunity: taking the reins of the Indiana Catholic Conference, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. Again, Tebbe answered yes — a response that would reverberate throughout the state for the next 16 years and result in numerous advances for the causes the Church holds dear, especially helping the most vulnerable.

On May 14, just ahead of his 71st birthday, Tebbe officially retired from the ICC, but not before one more surprise happened: He received the state's highest honor — the Sagamore of the Wabash — from Gov. Eric Holcomb for his distinguished record of service to the people of Indiana.

"To have a job where you can try to make the world a better place is perfect," Laura Jo Tebbe said. "Glenn has always approached his life and his work very much as a vocation."

Close friend and colleague John Elcesser, who has served 13 years as executive director of the INPEA, the organization Tebbe once led, has witnessed that firsthand.

"Glenn has dedicated his entire adult life to serving the Church and being an advocate for the less fortunate," Elcesser said. "You can see that in his involvement with school choice — enabling families no matter what their income to choose a school that's the right fit for their kids. You can see it in his tireless



Photos by Natalie Hoefler

Glenn Tebbe peeks in on a hearing at the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis Feb. 8, 2017. On May 14, after 16 years as executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference, Tebbe has stepped down from the position.

efforts in protecting the unborn, or trying to prohibit predatory lending, or being an advocate for immigrants. All of those who typically don't have a voice — or at least not a voice in the political process — Glenn has spent his life being their advocate."

"Working with him side by side at the Statehouse all those years, I know that he's incredibly well-respected by people on both sides of the aisle," continued Elcesser, who said he considers Tebbe not only a friend and colleague but a mentor and role model. "I always say that he's not only respected because of his passion and skill, but because of the person he is. He doesn't just talk the talk; he walks the walk."

'Chasing down' legislators

And walk he did at the Indiana Statehouse — often at a brisk pace. During his busiest months at the beginning of every year, when the Indiana General Assembly was in session, he was always on the go. There were bills to track, hearings that required his testimony and legislators to meet and persuade. In fact, his dogged determination earned him a special moniker from his longtime colleague and friend.

"My nickname for him is Tebbe Terrier," Elcesser said with a laugh. "Because if you saw him at the Statehouse chasing down a legislator, he's just like a terrier. He knows what he's got to do and he'll chase them all over the place until they understand how important a particular issue is."

School choice is one such

issue and an area in which Tebbe and Elcesser collaborated closely. The INPEA, originally an ad hoc group that gained formal structure and influence under Tebbe's leadership and has continued to grow with Elcesser at the helm, represents Catholic, Lutheran and other non-public schools around the state. Along with the ICC, the organization was instrumental in the passage of groundbreaking school choice legislation that has served as a model for other states. The School Scholarship Tax Credit and the Indiana Choice Scholarship (voucher) programs, passed in 2009 and 2011, respectively, ensured that low- and middle-income Hoosier families could select the right school for their children.

"I remember our late hours at the Statehouse counting votes — who was in support, who wasn't in support and who we needed to talk to," Elcesser recalled. "That was a big victory, but you don't always win. That's the challenge with a job like Glenn's. You lose a lot, and you've got to be able to take those losses and come back and fight the next day, on another issue or the same issue. Glenn was always able to be resilient. There were days where the job was not easy at all. But Glenn always handled it with class."

'He could work with anyone'

Nel Thompson, who served as the ICC's administrative assistant from 1974 until her retirement last year and worked closely with



GLENN TEBBE

Tebbe throughout his tenure, echoed those sentiments.

"He always had a good working relationship with legislators and with other organizations we worked with," Thompson said. "Even when we would be working with legislators who didn't hold our view, he could always explain the Church's position and people respected him and sought him out for support or information. He could work with anyone."

Always underlying his actions, she and others say, was Tebbe's respect for people and his deep knowledge of and commitment to the Catholic Church and its teachings.

"Glenn was effective because he was very dedicated and knowledgeable — about how the legislature works and about the Catholic Church," Thompson said. "Not only that, he had the heart for it — a true love for the Church."

Four years ago, on the occasion of the ICC's 50th anniversary, Tebbe reflected on his role as the organization's fifth executive director. "My job is to make sure the Catholic perspective is part of the discussion," he said. "I try to be the voice of our five bishops, and also to enable the Catholic faithful and all people of good will to help shape public policy for the best interests of the common good."

According to Archbishop Charles C. Thompson of Indianapolis, Tebbe has fulfilled that mission exceedingly well.

"Glenn's many years of dedi-

INDIANA
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE



cation, expertise and experience have been indispensable for so many in our state," Archbishop Thompson said. "He has enabled the Catholic Church to be most effective in addressing multiple issues that impact education, families, poverty, the sacredness of life and the dignity of persons. Most people will never know all that he has done behind the scenes."

The ICC's work will continue under the leadership of Angela Espada, who was named executive director of the organization effective on Jan. 1 of this year. Tebbe stayed on to acclimate Espada to the new role and work alongside her through the 2020 legislative session.

Now, the Tebbes — high school sweethearts who graduated in 1967 from Brookville High School, married shortly after graduating together from Marian College in Indianapolis and raised four children together — look forward to what's next.

"It'll be different," Laura Jo Tebbe says of her husband's suddenly free schedule. A long-time teacher herself until her retirement, she has been her husband's biggest supporter and partner in his life's work. "We always said that his job was like our fifth child. He would come home and we would talk about it, and worry about it, and nurture it."

Spending more time with their 10 grandchildren surely will be on the agenda going forward, as well as staying involved with their longtime community of Greensburg, including St. Mary Parish. And she said she is certain her husband would want to continue supporting the archdiocese in any way he may be of service.

"We've always laughed about how we are very literally called by God to do the things we are doing," Laura Jo Tebbe said. "Glenn is just waiting for the next call."



Tebbe leaves the Indiana Statehouse after a day representing the voice of the Indiana Catholic bishops during the General Assembly Feb. 8, 2017.

SALVADOR, from page 3

even today, its remote setting, deep inside a mountainous area, makes it difficult for many to access the site where it happened and where annual commemorations take place.

Survivors say on May 13, 1980, the day before the massacre, hundreds of armed soldiers on the Salvadoran side of the river began invading towns around the Sumpul, driving terrified residents toward the river, toward a demilitarized zone known as Las Aradas, a hamlet on the riverbank where locals regularly had flocked to seek safety.

Soldiers on the Honduran side, in the meantime, began combing for Salvadorans who had been hiding in the brush near their side of the border, driving them, too, toward the Sumpul. At 7 a.m. the next day, when soldiers on both sides had trapped a large group of peasants in a perimeter, they opened fire on them. Some died by bullets, as the assault included an attack from two helicopters, with soldiers shooting from above and members of a paramilitary group on the ground. Some victims, including many children, drowned in the river because they couldn't swim and were carried away by the current.

When Rivera and his father managed to hide in thick brush, it proved to be a front seat to "barbarity," he said. He remembers watching soldiers order the men to line up, then opened fire on them. Children were taken from the arms of their mothers and some babies thrown in the air and caught on the way down on bayonets, he said.

"We could hear the women scream, crying, asking for clem-

ency, 'Kill me but not my children,'" Rivera said in a January interview with Catholic News Service.

While still in the brush with his father following the massacre, he remembers seeing dogs in the distance and being horrified when he realized that what some of them were gnawing, along with vultures that had descended on the river, were the remains of the dead.

"Dead, dead, dead," for as far as you could see, was what Rivera said he remembers about the river that day.

Forty years after the killings, no one has been convicted of the crimes.

"Sometimes I get demoralized," Rivera said, but then he remembers what St. Oscar Romero, El Salvador's first saint, had suffered. The saint was fatally shot as he celebrated Mass March 24, 1980, seven weeks before the massacre.

"Those of us who have faith have that advantage," he said. "We hold on to God with all the strength we can. When you read the Gospels and you see all that the apostles suffered, what our martyrs like Romero went through, then you say to yourself, if they were capable of going through all of that, I can also go on. If they could overcome all of those difficulties with the help of God, I can, too."

Faith is a strong pillar to lean upon, he said, and "it really helps me to overcome this reality."

After all, suffering has taught him to put solidarity into practice, he said.

In a particularly low moment after the massacre, he remembers being so hungry that when he and his father came across

bread that had been strewn on the street, he threw some sticks at a group of hungry dogs eating it, so that his father and others could get their hands on it.

"That moment marked me," he said. "To be fighting over bread with dogs. We didn't care that it had dirt on it, that it had (the dogs') saliva on it, that it had been on the street. We were so hungry. I remember the solidarity of those times when there was no food, and once finding a (big piece of candy made from sugar cane), splitting it with a rock and sharing it with happiness, happiness and profound satisfaction."

But 40 years later, survivors are drawing on that solidarity and their experiences to call the perpetrators to justice. Though their annual commemoration was postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic, they will go online to draw others to hear the truth of what happened to them and their loved ones along the river that May 14, participating in a Mass the Diocese of Chalatenango will air via radio.

"You can't explain it to yourself ... but having lived through the same history, having been through the same Via Crucis (as survivors), it made us feel as if we'd always known each other. It's something beautiful," Rivera said. "We are convinced that if this history is forgotten, that if the facts of what happened are forgotten, this will be repeated."

"We stand for peace. We stand for justice and that means fully understanding the brutality of what happened so that those things that took place, won't be repeated ... and we're convinced that true peace is only possible if there's justice and truth, and that's what we're after."



CNS photo/Rhina Guidos

Julio Rivera, 48, speaks in San Jose Las Flores, El Salvador, Jan. 10 with other survivors of the May 1980 Sumpul River massacre. Rivera, who also survived other mass killings in his home region of Chalatenango, said he sometimes feels demoralized by the lack of justice for the country's war crimes, but El Salvador's Catholic martyrs and support by the Church have taught him to seek God's help.



FINANCIAL WELLNESS

PUTTING OUR COMMUNITY FIRST

Whether you want to review your current financial plan or help creating a new one, we are here for you.

Meet with a 1st Source banker to get started today.



1stsource.com | Member FDIC

JOIN THE MISSION
www.todayscatholic.org/subscribe



Dr. David J. Moran, MD
 Nicholas M. Lesch, PA-C

Dr. Andrew J. Mullally, MD
 Cassie A. Herber, FNP-C



CREDO
 FAMILY MEDICINE

(260) 4- FAMILY

credofamilymedicine.com

PRIVATE • INDEPENDENT • PRO-LIFE

Wonder at gift of creation opens human hearts to prayer, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The mystery and wonder of God's creation can open the hearts of men and women to express their gratitude through prayer, Pope Francis said. During a live broadcast of his weekly general audience from the library of the Apostolic Palace May 20, the pope said that human beings are "the only creature aware of such a profusion of beauty" and cannot help but "wonder what design of love must be behind such a powerful work. The prayer of man and woman is closely linked to the feeling of wonder," he said. "Human greatness is miniscule when compared to the dimensions of the universe. The greatest human achievements seem to be few and far between" when compared to God's creations. The pope's reflection coincided with the observance of "Laudato Si' Week" May 16-24. The week-long event was promoted as an occasion for Catholics to look at steps they have taken to protect the environment and assist the world's poor people. Before concluding his talk, the pope said that in contemplating God's creation, Christians can be inspired to give thanks to God through prayer. "We are children of the great King, the Creator, capable of reading His signature in all of creation, that creation which we don't care for today. But in that creation, there is the signature of God who made it out of love," he said.

Pandemic may lead to changes in the way schools operate, say educators

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — It's been a strange year for Catholic schools. "In all my years of teaching, I've never experienced anything like this," said Marsha Wharton, principal of St. Edward School in Nashville. "But you try to make the best of it." Schools in the Diocese of Nashville were forced to send their students home in mid-March and finish the year with distance learning, due to precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. "The hardest thing about all this is every week it's changed," said Michael Deely, headmaster of Pope John Paul II High School in Hendersonville, Tennessee. "It's the constant anxiety of the unknown." Schools have had to adjust not only how they deliver an education to students confined to their homes, but also a host of traditional end-of-the-year events, including graduation. "We're monitoring state guidelines" for when and how large groups will be permitted to gather, said Rebecca Hammel, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Nashville. "Everyone

Cyclone Amphan strikes Southeast Asia



CNS photo/Rupak De Chowdhuri, Reuters

A man salvages his belongings from the rubble of a damaged shop in the Indian state of West Bengal May 21, a day after Cyclone Amphan made its landfall there and in Bangladesh. Sheltering people from one of the strongest storms in more than a decade required convincing affected Indians and Bangladeshi that evacuation centers would have masks and other coronavirus protections in place, a Catholic Relief Services representative said. Cyclone Amphan slammed into low-lying areas of India and Bangladesh May 20, bringing winds of up to 115 miles an hour and surging waters as high as 16 feet.

hoped to have face-to-face graduations, but in Davidson County that's not possible to do that for a while," she said. "We're looking at different options and opportunities," she said, including rescheduling graduation ceremonies to June or July. "We really hope conditions allow us to do something face-to-face."

Pro-lifers say Planned Parenthood must return \$80 million in PPP funds

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The head of National Right to Life and other pro-life leaders criticized

Planned Parenthood affiliates for applying for and receiving funds under the Paycheck Protection Program, created by Congress to provide relief for small businesses with fewer than 500 employees. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act, designed PPP "to protect small businesses not behemoth organizations with over 16,000 employees," Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life, said in a May 20 statement. A Fox News report May 19 said that 37 Planned Parenthood affiliates applied for and received \$80 million, which Tobias said the organization "should return." PPP, which is administered by the Small Business Administration,

is a nearly \$700 billion business loan program to help certain businesses, self-employed workers, sole proprietors, certain non-profit organizations, and tribal businesses continue paying their workers. Critics of the monies going to Planned Parenthood affiliates include Russell Moore, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, the public policy arm of the Southern Baptist Convention. "We must remain focused on defeating this virus and saving lives," Moore told the Baptist Press. "Planned Parenthood's actions show it is not interested in the former because it has never cared about the latter."

The quiet pandemic victims: those grieving death

TORONTO (CNS) — The quiet victims during the worldwide coronavirus pandemic have been those grieving the death of a loved one. A different aspect of grieving has been introduced to a lot of people due to public health restrictions keeping people from properly sharing their grief when a loved one dies, as social distancing measures mean large-scale celebrations like funerals are forbidden, and the accompanying visitations and other processes surrounding death are just not possible. For many, there is no closure. These are integral parts of the grieving process and largely hidden as the world focuses on getting through the current crisis. "The ritualized grief experience ... for the most part has been taken away," said Deacon Curtis Boone. As a grief counselor, Deacon Boone sees this on a daily basis. He sees the heartbreak, where even visiting the gravesite of a loved one is forbidden as cemeteries are locked. He shares the pain he has encountered when dealing with the bereaved.

SIGNIS: Catholic media vital for accurate news, stories of faith, hope

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The president of SIGNIS urged the world's bishops as the "chief storyteller" in their diocese to use all media at their disposal to "make known" stories "of faith and hope" and of local Catholic heroes who exemplify Christ's love to give people courage in "difficult times," like this current pandemic. Catholic media outlets also can provide "basic tools" to the faithful "to spot" false stories, such as the narratives about the "Chinese" virus causing the pandemic and rumors of "dangerous fake cures," said Helen Osman, who heads SIGNIS, the World Catholic Association for Communication, based in Brussels. She made the comments in a statement issued ahead of World Communications Day, which is May 24. A former diocesan editor and former communications secretary for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Osman is currently a communications consultant for the Texas Conference of Catholic Bishops in Austin. Pope Francis' message for this year's World Communications Day is: "That you may tell your children and grandchildren" (Ex 10:2): Life becomes history." The pope "reminds us of the importance of the stories we tell, especially in the midst of the din of media that leave us feeling dislocated," Osman said. "The narratives that we live by must reflect the vision of the interconnectedness of all human life."

Holy Cross College Rhoades Fellowship recipients named

NOTRE DAME — Academic, social and spiritual growth is at the heart of Holy Cross College's mission, and this tradition will continue with this year's recipients of the Rhoades Fellowship: Marian High School senior Neema Kwangu and Saint Joseph High School senior Stephanie Nunez.

"As Holy Cross has risen in academic caliber — we are now No. 7 in student quality among Midwest colleges — this award recognizes those who are taking us to that next level," said Senior Vice President of Holy Cross College Michael Griffin, Ph.D. "Bishop (Kevin C.) Rhoades has been such a strong supporter of our commitment to the combination of rigorous intellectual inquiry and vibrant Catholic mission. This award, in his name, celebrates those students who have unique strengths in both areas."

All student applicants from the four diocesan high schools are considered for a Rhoades Fellowship if they receive one of Holy Cross College's prestigious Signature Scholarships, the Blessed Basil Moreau or St. André Bessette awards. Recipients receive a full tuition scholarship to Holy Cross College.

Kwangu was born in Tanzania, spending her early years there until she moved to the United States her sophomore year of high school. She has transitioned into life in America apart from her family with the help of her local host mother. Despite the significant life change and natural culture shock, Kwangu has received the highest academic honors at Marian for the past three years. She is active in athletics, service and clubs, and has taken on leadership roles in campus ministry and varsity quiz bowl.

Her academic interest includes business with the intent to go on to law school and eventually be an international lawyer of human rights. Other interests include studying the humanities and she plans to get involved with campus ministry, the Psychology Club, Business Club, and to study abroad while at Holy Cross College.

Nunez, of Saint Joseph High School, was born in Chicago and has a heart for service. She is active serving the elderly, working with religious sisters, participating in her church youth group serving as a youth group leader, singing at Mass and other special events, and participating in the prayer blanket ministry at the high school. With a passion for art, she has an impressive portfolio with works in a variety of mediums including pencil, charcoal, colored pencil and watercolor.

Nunez is a first-generation college student with many academic interests. Her primary interest of study is studio art; however, she

AROUND THE DIOCESE

St. Stanislaus parishioner attains rank of Eagle Scout



Provided by Msgr. John C. Fritz, FSSP

Gregory Fitzmaurice, a parishioner of St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr Parish, South Bend, achieved the rank of Eagle Scout April 29. Eagle Scout is the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America. To attain the prestigious Eagle award, a Scout must earn 21 merit badges and demonstrate leadership by planning, coordinating and overseeing a public service project from start to completion. Fitzmaurice earned 25 merit badges and successfully coordinated the building and installation of a large firewood shed at Pottawatomie Wildlife Park in Tippecanoe, Indiana. Troop 572 will hold an Eagle Court of Honor this summer to honor Fitzmaurice and celebrate his achievement.

is also very interested in pursuing elementary education, English, psychology, Spanish and theology. Her intended major is visual arts with a studio art track. While on campus, she would like to take part in intramural sports, campus ministry, Latinos Unidos, the First Generation Student Club and to study abroad.

Summer training in evangelization to African Americans offered online

SOUTH BEND — The Institute for Black Catholic Studies is a graduate theology program and school of pastoral ministry that meets each summer on the campus of Xavier University of Louisiana. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IBCS will take its collaborative learning environment, rooted in academic study, community

life, prayer and worship, online for 2020.

The institute's mission is to form culturally competent Christian disciples — scholars, administrators, clergy and religious, seminarians, parish and diocesan ministers, church volunteers and the faithful — to effectively evangelize African Americans in the 21st century. Past faculty include the late Father Cyprian Davis, OSB, and Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman.

The dates of this year's institute are June 28-July 17. To find out more or to register, visit www.xula.edu/ibcs or call 504-520-7691.

Scheiber Family Endowment awards scholarships, grants

HUNTINGTON — The Huntington County Community Foundation

has announced Jessica Hartmus, Graham Scher and Gracey Linker as the 2020 recipients of the Donald E. and Lou Rayne Scheiber Catholic Education scholarships totaling \$4,500.

Scher will attend the University of Indianapolis majoring in electronic media with a career goal of broadcasting. He is the son of Christi McElhaney and Kevin Scher.

Hartmus will attend Indiana Tech majoring in mechanical engineering. She is the daughter of Julie and Kenneth Hartmus of Roanoke.

Linker will attend Ball State University majoring in elementary education. She is the daughter of Megan and Jace Zahm of Huntington.

Also awarded were Donald E. and Lou Rayne Scheiber Charity Grants to support Huntington Catholic School.

Created in 1997, the Donald E. and Lou Rayne Scheiber

Catholic Education and Charity Fund accomplishes dual purposes. First, the fund promotes educational opportunities for Huntington County students who are members of one of three local Catholic parishes — St. Joseph in Roanoke and St. Mary and SS. Peter and Paul in Huntington. Second, the fund provides charitable grants to Catholic organizations that promote the accepted teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

For more information regarding this endowment and other endowments held at HCCF, visit www.huntingtonccf.org or on Facebook at [huntingtonccf](https://www.facebook.com/huntingtonccf).

Deadline to apply for grants is July 1

HUNTINGTON — The deadline for applying for 2020 grants from the John Joseph Sigstein Foundation is July 1.

From the founding of their order in 1922 by Father John Joseph Sigstein, Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters have been dedicated to living the mission of Jesus. They proclaim the Word of God, foster justice, stand in solidarity with those living in poverty and oppression, and promote the development of leaders. The John Joseph Sigstein Foundation was created to offer grants to organizations that will extend their approach to mission.

Victory Noll Sisters have served the people in mission centers across the United States. Through this foundation, they continue to have a presence in these areas. The foundation is established to promote and sustain the mission of God according to the charisma of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters in solidarity with all persons, especially those living in poverty and oppression.

The grant process is underway and applications are currently being accepted. Organizations applying for a grant must have 501(c)(3), or equivalent, status and be geared toward effecting systemic change.

Characteristics on which programs eligibility for funding will be judged include promoting justice for those living in poverty and oppression; empowering persons to contribute to a more just and peaceful society; protecting and sustaining the environment, God's creation; and contributing to the well-being of families.

The foundation is not intended to fund such things as scholarships, building projects, medical programs, existing well-funded organizations, foreign organizations or direct service programs.

Grant applications are available for download at www.olvm.org/jjsfoundation. For more information, check the website or contact the foundation by email at jjsfoundation@olvm.org or by regular mail at John Joseph Sigstein Foundation, 1900 W. Park Dr., Huntington, IN 46750.

'Remarkable Woman' a model of service for younger generations

BY JENNIFER BARTON

God, country and community are probably the core values that best sum up Eve Peters' life. A 28-year veteran and retired lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve, Peters was recently honored by television station WANE-15, Fort Wayne, as its 2020 Most Remarkable Woman winner.

She has long lived her life in service to others and to her community at a level that goes far above the call of duty.

Hard work is ingrained in Peters' ethos, as evidenced by the many tasks she has taken upon herself. During her Army career, this mindset landed her in a support position during the Bosnian war and in Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom, among numerous other duties. Nowadays she is found in the classroom, teaching special education mathematics at Wayne High School. Of greater impact, perhaps, is her yearning to impart the trait to younger generations.

She does this both through her generous example and her role as youth group leader at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Avilla.

When she became the youth group leader, Peters decided that the young people had a good background in religion, coming from either St. Mary of the Assumption School or Bishop Dwenger High School; so she focused instead on service to the community.

Many of the youth group's service projects benefit Catholic organizations. For example, in October, the participants collaborate with the school's Home and School Association to set up games for the students at trunk-or-treat. The next month, the group makes gifts for resi-



Provided by Eve Peters

Eve Peters of Fort Wayne, right, speaks to St. Mary of the Assumption youths at a park in Avilla after a community service project in which the group painted curbs throughout town. Peters has led the parish youth group for seven years, teaching about the value of service to others.

dents at Presence Sacred Heart Home in Avilla, delivering them in December when they visit for caroling. In January, they make tie blankets to donate to Gibault Children's Services in Terre Haute, a home founded by the Knights of Columbus for at-risk youths.

Her strong work ethic and desire to give back have been the driving force behind her volunteerism. "When I'm involved, I'm involved. How do I get involved? I don't know, it just kind of happens." One opportunity that "happened" was helping with 4-H, not only by assisting her children with their projects but also running concession stands and serving on the township board. All of her children, even those past the age to participate, are still involved in various ways with 4-H events.

Often, volunteering was not in her plans: but the desire to be involved in her children's

lives led to the opportunities. Washing dishes during her son's youth group meetings eventually led to her taking over the program. Working preview night for Saints Alive led to co-chairing the Bishop Dwenger fundraising event for two years. Peters joked, "You just put a toe in and all of a sudden your whole leg is there."

Her husband, Tom, and two sons joined the Knights of Columbus, with Tom serving a stint as Grand Knight for the council. Naturally, Eve became involved with the Knights as well, helping in any way she could. "I'm a true believer of 'you support,' so I supported him."

When daughter Katie became a freshman at Bishop Dwenger, Eve looked for ways to become involved with Saints Alive. Two years later, she was asked to step in as co-chairman. When that happened, Tom told her that meant the couple would be

attending the dinner and auction as well. Eve balked, but her military training kicked in. "When you get to a certain position in the military...you go to those events. He said, 'you're a chair, we're going.'"

Even though the tickets were costly on a schoolteacher's salary, by saving \$5 and \$10 at a time in an envelope, Eve has had the money to pay for the seats when tickets went on sale. The couple has also begun attending the annual Diamond Dinner in October as an anniversary present to themselves.

Eve said she never expected to be nominated for the Most Remarkable Woman award, much less beat out very distinguished competition to win.

Katie wrote the entry to nominate her mother. It came as a surprise to Eve when she received a call from the station manager stating she was one of the finalists. After listening to

the incredible stories of the other three nominees, she was even more shocked to find out she had won. The public reveal took place on March 8 at Wayne High School.

Through all of her volunteer hours, Eve admits she doesn't know how she managed to do everything that she did — coaching soccer, taking classes toward a master's degree, working and raising children, along with her military obligations. Yet, she is pleased by all she has accomplished and the example she set for her children.

"I couldn't have gotten as far in my career and gotten to do the things I've done with the Army if I hadn't been in there doing," she stated. And she has been blessed to do and see many unique things, one of which happened during a six-month duty in Milan, Italy, in support of the efforts of the American military in Bosnia. While there, she was able to secure tickets to the Easter Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome during Pope St. John Paul II's pontificate.

As a lifelong Catholic, she appreciates the significance of the opportunity. "The one very comforting thing about being Catholic is that even though the Mass was in Italian, and I knew very little Italian... it doesn't matter what country you are or where you are in the United States, when you go to Mass, it's Mass."

Eve is also proud of her connections to St. Mary and the town of Avilla. Her strong work ethic seems to run in the family: She shared that "My ancestors helped build the church. I have a picture of my great-uncle as they were putting the cement steps in. A lot of our ancestors were carpenters, so they helped build the town. My children are the 10th generation to live here."

“

PRAY EVERY DAY.

AS A HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORE, THIS SIMPLE INVITATION TRANSFORMED MY LIFE.

I BEGAN PRAYING A DECADE OF THE ROSARY EACH DAY.

THROUGH GRADUATION, DATING, STARTING COLLEGE, AND SUMMER JOBS,

MARY CONTINUES TO INVITE ME TO SAY "YES."

”

Logan Parrish

www.diocesefwsb.org/Pentecost-Collection



Five parish priests plan summer retirements

Father Gary Sigler —

Being a priest the hardest, 'yet the most wonderful thing'

BY JANET PATTERSON

When asking a priest about his mountaintop experiences in ministry, it should come as no surprise that it might be on Mount Tabor. That's one of the spots Father Gary Sigler names when thinking over his more than 40 years as a priest.

Father Sigler, who is scheduled to retire from parish ministry on June 23, didn't have to think long to answer that a trip to the Holy Land was one of the highlights of his life as a priest.

"Yes, right there at the site of the transfiguration of Jesus," he said. Father Sigler was one of two priests on the pilgrimage several years ago, and it was his turn to preside at the Mass. "I stood there thinking about the words of God, and I just sort of belted out 'this is my beloved Son.'"

While travel has always appealed to the affable pastor of St. Paul of the Cross Parish in Columbia City, he didn't have to travel halfway around the world to find joy in his priesthood.

When he arrived at his new parish in 2012, he was tasked with building a proposed \$1.1 million parish community center. "I waited a year and listened to people, and indeed they wanted that center," he recalled. The price, however, was a bit steep, so he told the architect that if they could build it for \$975,000, the plan could proceed.

After 10 years of fundraising under former pastor Father Larry



FATHER GARY SIGLER

Kramer, groundbreaking for the center took place on the feast of St. Paul of the Cross, Oct. 20, 2013, and one year later, the parish dedicated its new building. "And what a blessing that has been," Father Sigler said.

The center has served the parish in many other ways. Father Sigler named monthly Knights of Columbus pancake breakfasts held in conjunction with Red Cross blood drives, the annual parish St. Patrick's Day party, as well as basketball and volleyball leagues, and voting in local and national elections. "It really brings in the community."

Father Sigler's call to the priesthood came early in life. "I decided I wanted to be a priest in fifth grade." By seventh grade he had joined the Capuchin's St. Anthony's Vocation Club,

and left his parents and nine siblings in Canton, Ohio, to attend a summer retreat at St. Fidelis Seminary High School in Herman, Pennsylvania, about 40 miles north of Pittsburgh.

"I went back after eighth grade for another retreat, and by Sept. 1 of that year I was a freshman at the school."

His four years under the direction of the Capuchin fathers and brothers steeped him in the Franciscan tradition and sealed his resolve to continue his preparation for the priesthood after graduation. "The atmosphere there was so warm and loving. We had a very close connection with the priests."

Since the family lived in the Diocese of Youngstown, Father Sigler's next step was St. Gregory Seminary in Cincinnati. After one semester, the young seminarian began to reconsider his preference for parish ministry.

The year was 1965, and the country was embroiled in the war in Southeast Asia. Father Sigler was summoned by the local draft board to take the physical prior to being drafted into military service. "Well, I failed," he said. While a blood clot doctors discovered in his eye had never impaired him, the military decided he was not a good candidate for service.

Out of school and unemployed, Father Sigler enrolled at the Kent State University extension in Canton and began his studies for a bachelor's degree in history. At the same time, he worked in a grocery store and in

construction with his father.

For the first five years after leaving the seminary, Father Sigler was resolved that he probably wasn't called to the priesthood. In addition to going to school and working, he, his mother and his younger sister spent some time in England visiting his mother's family and touring the country.

It wasn't until his classmates from St. Gregory were ordained that Father Sigler's vocation to the priesthood was reawakened. "I went to a friend's party, and his mother asked me when I was going back."

Returning to the seminary in Cincinnati was a completely different experience than the first time. "The atmosphere was very

different. In those seven years there had been changes in both the Church and the seminary."

Since his degree from Kent State was in history and he had not met the philosophy requirement, Father Sigler said his first year in the seminary was dedicated to studying philosophy. The young man who had decided he was finished with school, admits this "was one of the happiest years of my life."

At that point, he was ready to study for five more years to achieve the long-ago call. "If I had gone straight through, I would have been ordained at 25 and not had the experiences I

SIGLER, page 10

Fr. Gary Sigler



We wish you a happy retirement with sincere appreciation for your faithful service. May you start the next chapter of your life filled with blessings of good health, joy of good friends and loving family and the contentment of a job well done.

Love, your St. Paul of the Cross Family

Father Daniel Durkin —

A half-century of sacred priesthood

BY JODI MARLIN

Celebrating his golden jubilee as a priest of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is Father Daniel Durkin. And although he is now retired from active ministry, after those 50 years, Father Durkin said he intends to look for ways in which he can continue to serve those seeking to grow in their relationship with Christ.

His formation for the priesthood began at Our Lady of the Lake Seminary, which formerly stood on the shore of Lake Wawasee in Syracuse and served to prepare high school-aged young men for ministry. After graduation he attended Saint Gregory's Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio, and finished his formal education at



FATHER DANIEL DURKIN

Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. His ordination took place May 26, 1973. His first parish assignment

was at Queen of Angels Parish, Fort Wayne, while he was a deacon. There, he said, he learned from the examples of Father David Carkenord and Msgr. William Faber.

Holy Family Parish in South Bend was his first post-ordination assignment. It was followed by St. Jude Parish, also in South Bend, where Father Durkin said he had the privilege to serve with Father Ed Narcovich. "I learned much of what I know about being a priest from Father Ed," he remembered.

The first time he pastored a parish was at St. Joseph and St. Catherine in Roanoke. "It was during my time in Roanoke that I worked with Msgr. Robert Schulte to create the training

DURKIN, page 11

Father Daniel Durkin

You have:

Brought us Christ in the Eucharist.
 Stood in persona Christi to forgive our sins.
 Baptized our children.
 Witnessed our wedding covenants.
 Comforted our loved ones in their last days.
 Laughed with us.
 Cried with us.
 And been the face of Christ to us.

We at St. Henry's are forever grateful for your service to our parish community. We know wherever God calls you as you enter into retirement, you will have Him by your side, doing His will.

Father Paul McCarthy —

'Like a breath of fresh air'

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

“God has a plan for every-
one’s life,” explained
Father Paul McCarthy,
who will retire in June as pastor
of St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in
New Carlisle. “When I felt His call
strongly, I responded, ‘If that’s
what I’m supposed to do, I’ll do it.’”

Father McCarthy first heard
that call as a 12-year-old attend-
ing St. Therese, Little Flower
Parish in South Bend. The oldest
of nine children, he credits his
parents’ devotion to the Holy
Family as an important influ-
ence. Each of the eight boys has
the middle name Joseph, and his
sister’s name is Mary.

However, he didn’t enter the
seminary until he was 28, after
being drafted into the U.S. Navy.
He worked his way through col-
lege by serving at restaurants
and filling stations after attend-
ing Michigan colleges but even-



FATHER PAUL MCCARTHY

tually graduating from IUSB.

After being ordained in
1984, Father McCarthy served
at St. Matthew Cathedral under
Bishop Joseph Crowley. His other
assignments have included St.
Mary Parish, Huntington; St.

Mary of the Assumption Parish,
South Bend (which subse-
quently merged with St. Jude);
and St. John the Baptist Parish,
New Haven. Parishioners
from those
places still call
or stop in to
see how he’s
doing, he said.
He has been at
St. Stanislaus
Kostka for 13
years, where he
is also much
beloved.

Besides
being active
in the pro-
life move-
ment, Father
McCarthy serves
as chaplain for
the Serra Club and the areawide
Legion of Mary. The most satisfy-
ing aspect of his parish ministry
in recent years, he said, has been
visiting the homebound and those

in care facilities, celebrating Mass
weekly in nearby nursing homes.
“It’s part of the living and dying
process,” he said simply.

Each of his
parishes has
been blessed
with a school.
One of the most
challenging
things for Father
McCarthy about
overseeing a
school, he said,
has been school
parents who
aren’t engaged
with their own
faith. However,
that point of
frustration has
been balanced
by his work
in preparation

classes for the Rite of Christian
Initiation of Adults with people
eager to join the Church.

Recent health struggles have
led to Father McCarthy’s retire-

ment, but parish administrator
Diane Oudhuis noted, “Pain
never slows him down; he
just keeps plugging away with
a good sense of humor. I’ve
learned so much from him about
kindness, patience and compas-
sion for others.”

She shared, “Father Paul
was like a breath of fresh air to
this parish ... It didn’t remain
quiet for very long after Father’s
arrival. He brought parishioners
together again and brought so
many new faces and activities
for the young and old to our par-
ish. It was heartwarming. You
can feel the love he has for the
Church and his parishioners.”

While at his new home in
residence at St. Elizabeth Ann
Seton Parish in Fort Wayne,
Father McCarthy plans to con-
tinue serving as much as he can.
Hobbies that may occupy more
of his time in retirement include
coin collecting and following his
favorite Chicago teams, the Bears
and the White Sox.

*“You can feel the love
he has for the Church
and his parishioners.”*

DIANE OUDHUIS

SIGLER, from page 9

did,” he said. Instead of being in
the seminary, he had travelled,
worked in the secular world,
gone to school to become a his-
tory teacher, met presidential
candidate Hubert Humphrey and
became involved in his run for
the White House. “I also ran for

(Canton) City Council. I won in
the primary but lost in the gen-
eral election.”

All of these experiences, he
said, helped to prepare him for
the challenges of parish minis-
try.

On June 16, 1979, Father
Sigler was ordained with two

others at the Cathedral of the
Immaculate Conception in Fort
Wayne. Since then, he has
served the diocese at St. Vincent
de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne,
and as pastor at St. Joseph
Parish in Garrett, St. Mary Parish
in Huntington and Queen of
Angels Parish in Fort Wayne.

When asked what he would
tell a young man discerning the
priesthood, Father Sigler said
with a chuckle, “If God wants
you, God will get you.”

Being a priest, he said, “is the
hardest and yet the most won-
derful thing you’ve ever done.”
Although he said he felt unpre-
pared to be a pastor, he knows it
was what he was meant to do.

“I thought I wanted to be a
missionary when I was a fresh-
man and sophomore, until I
found out what it was like to
be a missionary. I even thought
about teaching at the seminary
or going into hospital ministry.”

Retirement will mean new
challenges but also a new
freedom from the concerns of
administering a parish. “I’m
moving to Fort Wayne, and I’ll
make myself available to help at
parishes when priests are vaca-
tions or ill.”

He plans to dive into his col-
lection of cookbooks to rekindle
his culinary skills. “I love to
cook,” he shared.

Father Sigler also hopes
to be able to visit his siblings
who are scattered from Canton,
Columbus and Cincinnati, Ohio,
to Chattanooga, Tennessee, and
Tampa, Florida.

Father
PAUL MCCARTHY

As you enter into retirement, there
are not words to describe how much
you will be missed at St. Stanislaus

Because of you, our lives,
our relationships with God,
and our relationship as a
parish community are forever
changed.

May God bless you
abundantly as you
enter into this new
chapter of your
priestly vocation!

Congratulations

Fr. Gary Sigler

Thank you for your years of service! We wish
you a happy retirement. You will remain in
our prayers!

Always, Your Queen of Angels
Parish and School family

THE SERRA CLUB OF SOUTH BEND
offers our deepest congratulations to

Father Paul McCarthy

with hearts full of gratitude for your
work as our chaplain and
prayerful best wishes as you
enter into retirement.

Father Phillip Widmann —

Retiring priest will continue to preserve unique Catholic artifacts

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Father Phillip Widmann has been the pastor at St. Mary, Mother of God Parish, Fort Wayne, since 2005. He will retire from active priestly ministry this summer and looks forward to spending his retirement with his Persian cats, Fiona and Bonnie Bleu, and going antiquing when he can.

"I like to go out and walk through antique malls and see what's around, but I don't buy much anymore. I've got too much stuff the way it is," he said.

Father Widmann was ordained a priest by Bishop William McManus at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, over 40 years ago.

He said he has not had any second thoughts about his decades as a priest, and that if given the chance, he would do it all over again.



FATHER PHILLIP WIDMANN

"As life has gone on, I've learned to accept every day as a new challenge," Father Widmann said. "Obviously, saying Mass and making Christ present on the altar, hearing confessions and

forgiving people, those are highlights."

Father Widmann did not enter seminary until age 30. He had a "late vocation," as he put it.

"I just think that I've been blessed in so many ways. I would do it all over again if I could — if I had to — but I probably would have done it earlier than I did."

During retirement, he will continue as the director of Diocesan Museum, which he founded in 1980.

"History's always been a joy of my life," Father Widmann said. "I just find holding things that other important people have held — or even nonimportant people — interesting, to see what they did. They did the best that they could at the time with what they had."

"All [of] that goes through my mind, and I just really feel blessed to be able to handle this stuff and to preserve it as best as I can."

Father Widmann finds many aspects of the history of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend particularly interesting, especially the circumstances and people by which certain parishes came to be founded.

"It's all interesting in its own way," he said, "but I would say the establishment of the diocese back in 1857, and what happened right before that [is particularly interesting]. And, of course, the Civil War after that. And then the influx of all the various ethnic groups, most often [in] the South Bend and Gary area."

"Many people belong to parishes [and] don't even know what their history is," he said. Most people don't know that St. Joseph Parish out on Brooklyn [Avenue] in Fort Wayne was the original Italian parish."

Father Widmann said that he firmly believes the famous words of George Santayana, an early 20th-century Spanish Catholic philosopher, who said that those who do not remember history are doomed to repeat it.

"I think that is so true, I've always lived by that principle."

Among his favorite pieces on display at Diocesan Museum is the True Cross, a fragment of the

cross upon which Jesus was crucified, and some of the early artifacts from the cathedral itself.

He also finds particular interest in an old, handwritten scholar's Bible from A.D. 1250.

"I just think that I've been blessed in so many ways. I would do it all over again if I could."

"It must have taken someone a lifetime to do that," he said.

He added that since the Second Vatican Council, the meeting of world bishops that changed several aspects of Catholic worship practices, the history of the diocese was opened to a

"new chapter, a new history and everything."

After over 40 years of ordained life, 11 parish assignments and several ministries that he led, Father Widmann is now about to open the next chapter in his own history.

"All the people that have helped me along the way, [I'm] very grateful for them," he said. "I probably didn't tell them so at the time, but I truly am."

Although retiring from active ministry at St. Mary, Mother of God, it seems Father Widmann looks boldly to his future.

"I've learned that every day is a new adventure, and every day is something to be grateful for," he said.

Congratulations
on your Retirement
Father Phillip A. Widmann

Thank you for all you have done over the years for all of us here and for those in the community. You will remain in our hearts and prayers always!

From:
The Parishioners,
Volunteers,
and Staff of
St. Mary Mother of God
Church and Soup Kitchen

DURKIN, from page 9

program for the permanent diaconate ministry in the diocese," Father Durkin said. "Later, I made sure that St. Joseph and St. Catherine were among the first parishes in the diocese to institute the Christ Renews His Parish Program."

At his next assignment, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Avilla, a welcome challenge presented itself: St. Mary had a parish school that was exceeding its capacity. Father Durkin oversaw the construction of an expansion to the school to address the need.

His most recent assignment was as pastor of St. Henry and Sacred Heart parishes, until Sacred Heart was designated a personal parish at which the Latin Mass was celebrated.

"I was especially pleased to be pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, since it was started by my uncle, Msgr. Durkin, in 1947," Father Durkin said.

"Being the last parish I served at as pastor, St. Henry is also special to me. During my time at St. Henry the parish gardens, greenhouse and thrift center

were opened. Through these ministries the parish is able to reach out in to the community and bring Christ to the people as their corporal needs are met."

During his six months of retirement, Father Durkin has spent time with family members and friends in the Fort Wayne area. He said he has also reflected extensively on his years of ministry and those whom he helped to be able to serve and to grow in their relationship with Christ. He feels fulfilled in his contributions, he said, and hopes to continue contributing in whatever way possible, wherever there is a need.

Father Lawrence Tete —

Retirement means a return to Nigeria

BY JENNIFER BARTON

One of his greatest joys as a priest has been the opportunity to bring smiles to the faces of his parishioners through his sense of humor. But after serving as a missionary priest in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for over 18 years, Father Lawrence Tete, C.S.Sp., will return to his home country of Nigeria this summer, having reached this diocese's retirement age of 75.

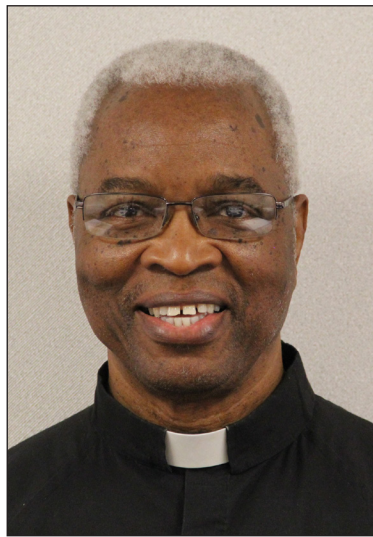
"Being a priest is a very high and noble calling and should be lived accordingly, knowing that the priest represents Christ for people," Father Tete said.

He has lived that calling to members of St. Therese Parish in Fort Wayne, where he has been pastor for the last nine years. Very active in parish activities, he has attended the annual parish festival and even played the harmonica and celebrated "Mass on the Grass" for attendees. Father Tete also has often been seen greeting parishioners with his ever-present smile and interacting with the children at school.

His first assignment upon arriving in Indiana was at Our Lady of Hungary Parish, South Bend, from 2001-11, where he served as parochial vicar and later as administrator and pastor. Prior to coming to the diocese, Father Tete worked in different capacities in Nigeria, including as a teacher and principal, chaplain in campus ministry and lecturing in a college setting.

He shared that he had been a priest for 30 years before coming to the Fort Wayne-South Bend area.

"I came over to the diocese on a sabbatical leave, but wished to work purely in the pastoral area, having been recommended by a



FATHER LAWRENCE TETE

priest and then invited by Bishop John M. D'Arcy," he recounted. Though Father Tete admits that each parish he has been in has had its own challenges, he is proud to have been able to manage the two faith communities, both of which have grade schools attached to the parish.

Father Tete is a religious priest in the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, otherwise known as the Spiritans or Holy Ghost fathers. The Spiritans were founded in France by Claude Poullart des Places and became missionaries in many French-controlled colonies throughout the world, particularly in countries in Africa.

Father Tete's vocation to the order came in 1958. When he was finishing primary school, the director of the Holy Ghost Juniorate came to speak to the boys in his class about the mission and work of the Spiritans. "He came with a very young aspirant seminarian. I decided there and then to join them. I was 14, then."

One of 11 children, Father Tete is from the southeast

region of Nigeria, an area that is predominantly Christian and boasts many religious vocations. "My father was a schoolteacher and catechist. This influenced me a lot to choose to be a priest and a missionary."

Education has been a large part of his life. Aside from working in a school setting he spent many years on his own education, earning two bachelor's degrees — one in theology, one in philosophy — as well as a master's and doctorate in educational fields. "Most of my life has been spent either in the classrooms as a student or as a teacher before I settled to complete pastoral ministry," he summarized.

One of the more challenging aspects of serving in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for Father Tete has been adjusting to a vastly different culture. And of course, he has had to adjust to the colder weather of Northern Indiana. Many a parishioner will chuckle in remembrance of his jokes about returning to 40-degree weather after enjoying a long vacation in the 80- and 90-degree temperatures of Nigeria. There will also be fond memories of the fur-lined hat he often wore during winter days.

Parishioners at St. Therese showed their appreciation for Father Tete by undertaking a renovation of his house in the winter of 2018-19. Funded by money raised by parishioners and school families, the work was completed entirely by volunteers. The remodel took six weeks and included the kitchen, bathroom and living spaces, in order to make Father Tete's home more comfortable in addition to completing necessary repairs.

Last fall, Father Tete led a group of pilgrims from St. Therese to the Holy Land, saying Mass every day and teaching the group about each site they visited. He also ensured that those who were unable to travel overseas were still able to take part through a "virtual pilgrimage" in which photos and information about the sites visited were posted to the St. Therese Facebook page.

After his retirement from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Father Tete will return to his religious community. Due to his age, he expects to be assigned to a more advisory role within his religious community.

When asked what he will miss most about the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, he replied, "I certainly will miss, but very fondly recall, the warmth of both the parishioners and school kids in both parishes."

Father Tyrell Alles to serve in homeland of Sri Lanka

BY DEB WAGNER

Father Tyrell Alles, OSB, will return to his home diocese of Sri Lanka in the next few months. He has served in the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese for the past five years. His time serving the diocese was the result of an agreement with his religious community and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, a short-term assignment that allowed him to gain pastoral experience before returning to academic and spiritual instruction. He is currently serving as the pastor of St. Peter Parish in Fort Wayne.

Father Alles was born and raised in Sri Lanka, where his parents still reside. He is the oldest sibling to a brother and sister.

He said he heard God's call to become a community priest at a very young age. Father Alles completed his college education and later found employment with a private company in order to gain some experience in the world. After much prayer and contemplation, he joined the Order

of Saint Benedict, Sylvestro Benedictine Congregation, in 1987 and served his community as a religious brother. A short time later, he began his monastic formation in a Benedictine Monastery in Sri Lanka while attending the national seminary there for his philosophical and theological studies.

Prior to coming to the U.S., he spent his priesthood studying and later teaching sacred Scripture at the national seminary and other theological institutions in Sri Lanka. In addition, he was involved in the academic and spiritual formation of seminarians. He celebrated his 25th anniversary to the priesthood while assigned to St. Peter Parish in 2018.

Father Alles was ordained to the priesthood on Aug. 28, 1993. He says his studies at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome; learning other languages in Germany



FATHER TYRELL ALLES

and France; his doctoral studies in Sacred Scripture at The Catholic University of American in Washington, D.C.; and, meeting Pope St. John Paul II in Rome on three occasions are the most memorable parts of his priesthood thus far.

It has been a couple years since Father Alles celebrated his 25th anniversary of becoming a priest, but his faith remains steadfast. He is

He is prayerfully grateful to God

for the gift of his priesthood

and for all the blessings he has

received over the years.

prayerfully grateful to God for the gift of his priesthood and for all the blessings he has received over the years. Father Alles hopes that every Mass is a memorable event for those participating in it.

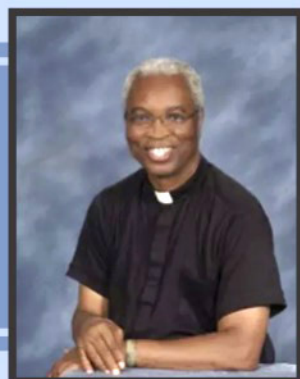
He also continues to reflect on the

various experiences he has had in life, the lessons he has learned, and how he can further grow to become not only a holy priest, but one who is also pleasing to God.

Father Alles recalled that teaching and forming seminarians to the priesthood, celebrating the sacraments and being a friend to the parishioners at St. Peter have been among his favorite moments of being a priest serving in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. "Thank you, Bishop Rhoades and the parishioners of St. Peter, for your love and concern," he said.

Congratulations
FATHER LAWRENCE TETE, CSSP

With hearts of gratitude, we praise God for your many years of service in our Diocese and especially at St. Therese. We will miss you, but wish you a very happy and restful retirement!



Love, Your St. Therese Parish Family

ORDINATION

Deacon Stephen Felicichia to receive sacrament of holy orders

BY DEB WAGNER

There is a saying that the only constant in life is change. Deacon Stephen Felicichia has seen a fair amount of change and adaptation during his life through his years of service in the U.S. Army and most recently in this last year as a deacon.

With the blessing of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Felicichia will receive the sacrament of holy orders on June 6 at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne, where better social distancing can be practiced due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In mid-March, the novel coronavirus began sweeping through the United States. The administration at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, closed its campus, switched to online courses and sent Deacon Felicichia and his brother seminarians to their home dioceses. Deacon Felicichia recalled that the parting of ways was rather rapid and did not afford the time for the expected reminiscing and time for good-byes. He said it mimicked the "nature of life, its simple uncertainty."

Everything that was routine

changed rapidly and tested a person's mental toughness. Finishing classes online allowed him to truly see the benefit of being physically present with professors and fellow classmates. But he said that he felt a little comfortable with the scenario of having to react quickly to rapidly changing circumstances, because it was reminiscent of his U.S. Army days.

After graduating from Bishop Luers High School in 2004, Felicichia was accepted at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He graduated in 2008 as a second lieutenant, U.S. Army Field Artillery, and was stationed at Fort Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska. He served two tours in Afghanistan and completed his five years of service, attaining the rank of captain.

Six months into his first deployment in Afghanistan, a fellow soldier was killed by a mortar round. Felicichia awoke from a sound sleep, sat up in his cot and began thinking about his own mortality, realizing that at any moment he could be killed. It was in that frightening moment he knew he really did want to be a priest. He prayed to God saying that if God allowed him to survive his remaining tour of duty, he would look into



DEACON STEPHEN FELICICHIA

the priesthood.

Deacon Felicichia's military and civilian experiences will impact his ministry as a priest. He attested, "If my life was just a cookie-cutter copy of someone else's path to salvation, it would make for a rather dull existence. We learn from the saints, from the teachings of the Church, from our friends and family. God loves both order and diversity, and so you take the challenges and the suffering that are given you, pray for grace and act with prudence. How we respond to the unfolding of events is the great story of existence, each life becoming

another beautiful thread in the tapestry that is salvation history."

Even though Deacon Felicichia would have preferred an easier, more common road, he is so grateful that God has given him such a unique path to struggle through. He said, "We must be grateful to God that He doesn't let us choose our crosses, or we would not stand a chance of becoming what He hopes for us."

The Church has not been together in the same physical sense for the last couple months, an unprecedented time for someone who awaits his priestly ordination. The quarantine has greatly helped and enhanced him spiritually. "I have never been so blessed with the real confrontation of what I would trade to be close to Jesus Christ," he said.

He was allowed, at first, to remain at his parents' house. Secondly, he was blessed that Father David Violi, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Bluffton, offered him the opportunity to work with him, as well as stay at his parish. Deacon Felicichia said, "While I love my parents, the opportunity to deacon at Mass and preach almost every other day pulled me into a great consolation that the Lord had prepared

for me. To preach the name of the Savior, Jesus Christ, so often and constantly during the Easter season was a dream come true, even if it was only into a webcam."

Deacon Felicichia understands that parishioners might be in a different place physically, mentally or spiritually than they were in late February. He said that priests and other clerics have been praying with the Divine Trinity in the name of Jesus Christ through this entire time of pandemic for the people of God. He trusts and believes that the Lord has heard those prayers.

Jesus Christ chose Peter and Andrew, James and John, Saul who became Paul, fishermen and a Pharisee — all who had past and particular skills for His greater glory. But they wouldn't have been able to save a single soul all on their own.

"I am much the same," said Deacon Felicichia. "My time in the Army gave me skills and perspective, primarily in facing adversity and challenge. But of course, none of it matters if I do not turn it all over to Him. He is the vine; we are the branches. I entrust it all to Him. And I can't wait for His surprises, for they are always better than our own plans."

'God can call you in simple and ordinary ways'

BY JENNIFER BARTON

For Benjamin Landrigan, candidate for ordination to the diaconate on June 6, there was no aha! moment, no lightning-bolt call to the priesthood that he could no longer choose to ignore. He knew from an early age that he wanted to become a priest. "Most people don't think about it their whole life," said Landrigan.

"The earliest I remember thinking about it was when I was in grade school, and I read these lives of the saints books we had at home." Landrigan recalled being drawn to the saints from that time on, fascinated by the purpose in their lives and by their holiness. He knew he wanted to be a saint, to go to heaven, and he saw that many of the male saints he admired were priests. "So that was when that idea started in my head. I never stopped wondering about it after that, I was just always thinking about it."

As the sixth of seven children, he grew up in a household that was deeply Catholic, although Landrigan couldn't elaborate about what made his home life unique. He spent his

life surrounded by Catholicism, including nightly family dinners, discussing topics concerning the faith throughout the week and watching movies about saints. He remembers how the family began praying the rosary together daily when he was in middle school. Faith "was part of the atmosphere at home."

His parents, Daniel and Linda Landrigan, as well as his older siblings, served as living models of their Catholic faith. The family is involved in ministry at their home parish of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Fort Wayne, and Landrigan has always loved being an altar server. Being around the holy sacrifice of the Mass in a closer way helped deepen his connection to the priesthood.

This deep love led him to volunteer to serve at Masses and weddings whenever a server was needed. For about 15 years, he served at every Easter Vigil Mass at St. Elizabeth, the only exception being the year he served for the bishop instead.

By the start of his senior year of high school, Landrigan had known he wanted to apply to the seminary. After graduating from Homestead High School in 2014, he was immediately



BENJAMIN LANDRIGAN

accepted, under the guidance of Msgr. Bernard Galic, former vocations director for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. He credits the guidance of former St. Elizabeth pastor Father James Shafer, with whom he met almost monthly, with developing his vocation; as well as the influence of young priests such as Father Andrew Curry and Father Benjamin Muhlenkamp, who served as pastoral associates at St. Elizabeth. "Father Drew was the first priest I had interacted much with on a personal level," Landrigan stated.

Of the saints close to his heart,

two priestly examples stand out: St. Edmund Campion, a Jesuit priest and Catholic martyr in England under the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, and Maximilian Kolbe, saint of Auschwitz. Landrigan first read about St. Edmund as a child in the adoration chapel at St. Elizabeth. St. Maximilian had such an influence on him in middle school that he chose Maximilian as his confirmation saint.

Landrigan's time in the seminary has cemented his devotion to the priestly life, he said. Throughout his time at Mount St. Mary's in Emmitsburg, Maryland, he has grown closer to his seminarian brothers, and makes it a point to keep in contact with them outside of school through regular phone calls.

The biggest challenge he has had to face in seminary was not the rigorous academics but accepting the knowledge that he was ready to fulfill many of the priestly duties. "I was very intimidated by the ideas of visiting someone who was dying or someone who had dementia, or teaching in a classroom full of kids," Landrigan confessed. But he feels his experiences in the seminary have prepared him for the more difficult aspects of

priesthood.

Seminary formation has helped shape him into the instrument that God has called him to become. "Over the years, I've grown to love those things that used to intimidate me."

While the priesthood is still a year away, what he most looks forward to as a priest is bringing the sacraments to other Catholics. "Ultimately, that's what it's about: living a life of purpose and meaning that is only found in God. That's what everyone wants; everyone looks all over the place, but we've got the real answer here, in the Church."

Both Landrigan and his parents eagerly await the day of ordination to the diaconate, though it does feel a bit surreal to him, since he has been waiting to commit his life to God for so many years.

There were times he wondered if his call was from God or simply his own longing. "I've always thought it was good for people to know that God can call you in simple and ordinary ways. A lot of times people are looking for the extraordinary sign, and they can really wrestle with the idea that God can work in their ordinary life."

'The Lord has already given us a vocation'

BY JENNIFER BARTON

A simple appeal to pray daily began the call to the priesthood for Logan Parrish.

Very sports-oriented while a student at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne, he was involved in cross-country, rugby and wrestling. In the fall of his sophomore year, Parrish felt a change in his spiritual life during a retreat at his home parish of St. Vincent de Paul. "At the end of the retreat, one man said, 'you guys should pray every day' and it just seemed so reasonable that I thought 'OK, I guess I could do that.' So I started praying a decade of the rosary every day in the chapel at Dwenger."

From that first step, he began inviting friends to spend time with him saying a decade of the rosary before lunch. That was the beginning of the school's Decade Club. By the end of his senior year, Parrish stated that 70-90 students would come to pray before the three lunch periods.

This time of prayer brought immense joy to Parrish. "That sort of devotion and fostering of

love for the Lord was beautiful."

During his senior year, then-chaplain Father Jacob Meyer began asking the school's altar servers if they had ever considered seminary and said they should follow any perceived call if they felt even the slightest nudge. Parrish joked, "I think I received an application like four times," including one from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. "I was really running from it, if anything," Parrish recalled.

Although he had strongly considered applying to seminary his senior year, he also began to date a girl he had met at a retreat. That relationship carried into his first year at Holy Cross College. "I was still pretty set on marriage, really happy with this woman, and it was a very healthy relationship." So when he met with her to attend Mass together during a break from college, a breakup was the last thing he had expected.

While driving home afterward, he felt a nudge to go to the Mary alcove at St. Vincent. So he stopped at church and knelt before the statue of Mary. There he gave Mary not only his joys, but the pain of his breakup.

When he finished his rosary,



LOGAN PARRISH

the weight was lifted from him.

"I've heard it said that the Lord takes our good to give us better," Parrish reflected. "That really rings true. Never could I have imagined a better candidate for motherhood, a woman that I would have desired to start a family with — that image of marriage. Never would I have thought that the Lord would have wanted to give me something better than that."

But He did. That summer, the call to priesthood returned, greater than before. On a hike in Vermont with a friend, Parrish

was praying his rosary when the realization hit him that he had pushed seminary to the back burner for too long. Parrish emphasized that he was not looking for a replacement for his previous relationship, nor was he running to the seminary as a means of escape. He was finally following God's calling.

He transferred from Holy Cross to Mount St. Mary's Seminary in 2015, two years after graduating from Bishop Dwenger. The friendships he had made in high school stayed with him, and whenever he saw them he spoke to them about the seminary, urging some to reconsider the vocations they had felt called to in high school. Three of those classmates are now at seminary with him and another is preparing for religious vows.

Crucial to discernment is the people one surrounds themselves with. The friendships fostered on the sports teams and in the chapel at Bishop Dwenger were the same ones that helped Parrish recognize his vocation to the priesthood. He imparts this wisdom to young men when visiting schools, pointing out that who they spend their time with is equally as meaningful as how

they spend their time.

His parents, Bill and Mary Jo Parrish, are supportive of his vocation and eager to attend his ordination to the diaconate June 6 at St. Vincent de Paul Parish. Parrish is the oldest of 10 children, and the spiritual growth that he has witnessed within his own household over the years impacted him deeply, he said — particularly watching his father's faith journey.

Many holy men influenced Parrish throughout his life. He particularly credits "the energy and invitation of Father Jacob (Meyer)," the "stability" and priestly image of Msgr. John Kuzmich and the holiness of former Bishop John M. D'Arcy in helping him to make his decision.

Parrish is deeply drawn to the fatherhood aspect of the priesthood. His devotion to St. Joseph as spiritual father and the examples of other young priests give him a greater desire to become a spiritual father to young people. "Certainly, the means of fatherhood is the sacraments, but I think that as Father Daniel (Scheidt) says, 'You can't get any title better than father.'"

Trading religious robes for a Roman collar

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Fort Wayne is a far cry from the Alps of Italy, yet Paolo Degasperi formed a strong bond that prompted him to seek ordination as a deacon for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Degasperi first came to Northeast Indiana to join the community of the Poor Brothers of St. Francis at Our Lady of the Angels Oratory in Fort Wayne. After nearly 10 years as a Franciscan brother, Degasperi, who had been known as Brother Felice, decided it was time to move in a different direction.

Born in Trent, the city in which the ecumenical Council of Trent, the event that spurred the Catholic counter-reformation, took place, Degasperi was raised as the youngest of four children in a household that had already produced two religious vocations.

The Franciscan tradition appealed to him because of the influence of his older brother and sister, both of whom joined a Franciscan order. "My brother became a friar when I was 10 or 11. So I think they were — especially my brother — very

instrumental both in helping me grow in my faith, and to know my faith well."

Degasperi spent most of his high school and college years resisting the call to the religious life. But by the end of college, he had to make a decision.

"At this point, it's becoming a serious thing. And so, I just started to pray again, to be open to the possibility. When I did that I just knew," Degasperi stated. He joined a Franciscan order in Italy at age 22.

That order, however, began to experience disunity. Degasperi knew he needed to find a better fit. "I was losing the enthusiasm, losing the conviction about my call because of that situation. In order to preserve my vocation as a whole, I started to look around to see if there was another place I could go." He knew about the community in Fort Wayne and, although it was a long way from his home, when he was invited to spend a summer there, he did.

The fraternity of the Poor Brothers was what Degasperi had been looking for, so he transferred to Fort Wayne. St. Therese of Lisieux, to whom he has a strong devotion, played a part in the decision. When he



PAOLO DEGASPERI

arrived at the community's former home at St. Andrew Church, he found a small statue of a female saint in his cell.

At first, he couldn't tell who she was. "I saw the cross and the roses. It was St. Therese ... So that was little sign that I was supposed to be here for this time."

Degasperi and several of his religious brothers had already begun studying for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio, when the community agreed to disband due to personal discern-

ments. The bond he had formed in Indiana led him to remain here, rather than return to Italy.

The influence of diocesan priests he has encountered in Fort Wayne played a strong role in helping Degasperi discern his new vocation to the diocesan priesthood. "The good thing about coming to Fort Wayne was to experience very faithful priests — very normal, very young. Their life can be appealing to young men," he said. Part of this realization came about during a summer assignment at Most Precious Blood Parish in Fort Wayne, where Degasperi served among the laity, "comforting them and helping any way I could."

His years as a Franciscan brother have given him a strong foundation for the priesthood. He points to his own transformation in the last 10 years and how the "intense spiritual life" ingrained in him as a Franciscan has increased his ability to be a good priest. "Sanctity, for a priest, is not just about himself; it's not for his own sake so much, but it's always for the sake of others. A holy priest changes lives more than a lukewarm one." Preaching and sharing the

wisdom he has gained in his time as a brother are two areas Degasperi looks forward to in his vocation.

Living in the Midwest has been a vastly different experience for Degasperi. He felt a great welcome in Fort Wayne, he said, rather than the suspicion that often accompanies religious men and women in Europe. "The majority of people are not judgmental, not weirded out" when they saw him in his Franciscan robes, he said.

He has been asked if he was a Jedi or a monk. He took it in stride, viewing the honest questions as an opportunity to evangelize, to provide a positive example of religious life. "The witness of someone wearing a religious habit or clerical garb is just a sign that speaks a lot to the presence of God."

Although his discernment process is unusual, Degasperi still sees the essence of the diaconate as a matter of service. "That's really the priesthood for me, the most exciting thing: the fact of becoming — unworthy and unprepared as I am — an instrument in the hands of Jesus."

Congratulations!

And thank you for your 'yes'

Ammer anticipates ordination to the diaconate

BY COLLEEN SCHENA

After months characterized by worldwide uncertainty and sudden change, Michael Ammer is incredibly excited for his next big shift: his ordination to the diaconate. He affirmed that he has “been looking forward to this for about five years” after a gradual, patient journey to hearing God’s call in his life.

Hailing from New Haven and a supportive Catholic fam-

ily, Ammer originally wanted to teach physics, he said. But in high school, he began to appreciate “the reality of diving deeper, figuring things out, understanding how things work” and the critical thinking abilities that accompanied this science. His drive to learn was not only applicable to his degree, but to his life as a disciple of Christ.

Ammer’s education at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne introduced him to friends of varying faith traditions and denominations. When



MICHAEL AMMER

he saw a need to articulate his own faith, he dove into learning it seriously and deeply. The idea of a priestly vocation quietly surfaced; he recalls it following him as he pondered his path after graduation.

Ultimately, Ammer decided against teaching physics with his new degree and began to wrestle with a subsequent aimlessness. He said he considered pursuing engineering but did not find peace in the decision. At the conclusion of the summer after graduation, “everything opened

up. I had no school, no job, no girlfriend, no nothing. That’s when God really hit me over the head and said, this is the time to really consider the priesthood.”

Ammer briefly taught mathematics at Northrop High School, Fort Wayne, while his decision to answer to the call became clear. He wanted to further discern the priesthood and, seeing the present moment as the most acceptable time, dedicated himself to daily prayer and adoration.

AMMER, page 20

Growing into God’s call

BY JENNIFER MILLER

In the sixth grade, Keeton Lockwood first heard God’s call to consider the vocation of religious life. He just moved from Auburn to Fort Wayne and joined St. Vincent de Paul Parish. There he met Msgr. John Kuzmich and began going to daily Mass.

“The way he would celebrate Mass and draw people to God opened my eyes, heart and soul to Him,” said Lockwood. “Seeds were planted within me then.”

Lockwood continued on to high school at Bishop Dwenger and also continued going to Mass regularly and praying every day. His prayer was ordinary, he said, just “talking to God, sharing the joys and frustrations of the day, thanking Him, spending 15 minutes in the morning or evening,” but at the same time it was extraordinary, considering what teenage years can sometimes look like.

His family supported his calling to the priesthood, “giving him real-life examples in how they loved others, person to person in relationship and carried themselves through life.”

After high school, he applied

to enter the seminary, wanting to respond and answer God’s call. He asked instead to wait a few years, go to college, gain some more life experience and grow.

It was this time of growth that Lockwood now can look back on with particular grace. He shared, “This is when I really became active in my parish, at St. Vincent. I served as a sacristan and joined a discernment group with Father Andrew (Budzinski), who really helped me hone my desires and work through my thoughts and feelings of a vocation.”

He also studied computer information systems for two years at Ivy Tech College, learning the business side of the computer tech industry by taking accounting and management classes.

In 2014, he reapplied and was accepted by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades as a seminarian for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. He was sent to Seminary College at the Josephium Pontifical College in Ohio for the next three years. His mother passed away his first year of studies, at which time St. Vincent parish truly became a second home for him.



KEETON LOCKWOOD

Lockwood returned to Columbus and continued studying theology and philosophy, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy. He then spent three more years of growing and learning at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, studying morality and Sacred Scripture. Analyzing the Pentateuch and Gospels and how they connect has been one of his favorite courses. In June 2021, Lockwood looks to graduate with a master’s in divinity.

His prayer takes a variety of forms now, from a daily holy

hour in front of a tabernacle or exposition of the Eucharist, to Lectio Divina, a daily rosary and the Litany of the Hours five times a day. Sometimes his prayer is communal, such as the Divine Mercy Chaplet or rosary; at other moments it’s individual. Both allowing Lockwood to delve deeper into relationship with God who created, saved and sustains him, he said.

The last two months have been unique for Lockwood, as for the rest of the faithful, because of the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. He returned home to St. Vincent and completed his studies online along with three other seminarians and four priests. Their “homeschooling” community of eight engaged in Zoom meetings, online e-learning classes, and an hour a day of calling parishioners — something recommended by pastor Father Daniel Scheidt.

Lockwood is currently serving at St. Joseph Parish, Fort Wayne, where he will assist with baptisms, preach at Mass and speak with children completing the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children this summer. He is looking forward to preaching both in English and Spanish, through

which “I can connect with people in a large group and share our faith.” His first homily will be on Trinity Sunday, and he is already preparing.

On June 6, he will grow into a new stage of his vocational life, that of a deacon. At his home parish he will be ordained to the first degree of holy orders by Bishop Rhoades, along with five other seminarians, all from Fort Wayne.

Excited for this next stage of growth, Lockwood is grateful for all that he has been given. He particularly hopes to be able to minister and share God’s love with His people. The examples of St. Benedict Labore, his confirmation saint, and St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata are both models of how Lockwood feels called to serve, with a special love for the poor and homeless.

He recalled riding along with his mom when he was young, and asking, “Can we help them?” upon seeing someone begging on the side of the street. She always would share some groceries or money to buy some fast food, planting the good seeds of service and God’s charity and love — which now are clearly flourishing in her son.

Seminarian’s vocation realized across the globe

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Seminarian Augustine Onuoha’s yearning for the priesthood came to him after only a decade of life. Now, thousands of miles away from his home country of Nigeria, he prepares to be ordained a deacon.

“I can remember that it was at the age of 10 that I felt God’s call to the priesthood,” he said. The third of four children, Onuoha felt the call to the priesthood after continued devout attentiveness and participation at Mass. Not only did he serve as an acolyte, but he “would always sit at the front pews of the church, admiring how my pastor celebrates the Eucharist with so much love and dedication.”

Onuoha attributes his lifelong devout faith to his upbringing.

“My parents are very devout Catholics, and my upbringing was deeply rooted in Catholic tradition.”

His father, Patrick Onuoha, died when Augustine was 4 years old. His mother, Felicia Onuoha, is a nurse and teacher.

Although he wanted to become a teacher or a medical practitioner like his mother, Onuoha said that the “zeal for the Catholic priesthood” was still present in him.

“Having discussed this with my home pastor, who sent me on a vocation discernment retreat, my strength and courage of becoming a Catholic [priest] was reinvigorated,” he said.

Augustine attended Assumpta Minor Seminary and St. Paul’s



AUGUSTINE ONUOHA

International Secondary School in Imo State, Nigeria. After high school, he proceeded to attend St. Joseph Major Seminary in Ikot-Ekpene, Nigeria, studying

philosophy from 2009-13.

Only a few years later, Augustine’s pursuit of vocation to the priesthood brought him to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, thousands of miles from home.

“After first-year theology in 2015, I proceeded to University of Dayton, Ohio, to acquire [a] master’s degree in theology before I was accepted by His Excellency Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades,” he said. “I am sure that God brought me to this diocese to serve God and our people. In my prayers, imagination, daydreaming and the reading of the Gospels, I find myself remaining in this desire of becoming a Catholic priest,” Augustine said.

He is “really looking forward to serving our people in love, sincerity, docility and disposition”

as a deacon.

“As a deacon I will be configured to Christ as servant. When ordained a deacon, I will be able to proclaim and preach the Gospel, baptize, witness marriages, take the Eucharist to the sick, celebrate funeral and burial services and pray the divine office for the intention of the Church and her members,” he said.

He thanks his mother, siblings, relatives and friends who God have put into his life. “I have met very wonderful people and priests in my life who have encouraged me in this journey thus far.”

Augustine currently serves at Sacred Heart Parish, Warsaw, for a summer assignment.

Bishop Dwenger High School —

Valedictorian David LaMaster

The development of a strong spiritual life is one of the blessings of attending a Catholic high school like Bishop Dwenger, an opportunity for which valedictorian David LaMaster is deeply grateful.

"Dwenger has not only given me a top-notch education, but it has also gifted me with a chance to experience my faith from a new dimension," he said. "Every semester, I was shown a different angle of Fort Wayne through service in the city. Whether it was at Community Harvest Food Bank or Franke Park, I was able to help those who were not as lucky as I have been. Dwenger has inspired me to put my faith into action, and even now they are setting a fantastic example in the city of Fort Wayne by con-

ducting coronavirus testing in their parking lot.

"Even when there is no school in session, they serve as an example of what it is like to show your faith to the world."

The St. Jude School graduate and parishioner has been a Scout since first grade. Last year, he earned the rank of Eagle Scout. LaMaster has been captain of Bishop Dwenger's math academic team for the last two years, having been a member throughout all of high school. Last year, the team placed fifth at the state competition.

He has enjoyed membership in National Honor Society for two years and was elected president of National Honor Society this year. He has been a member of the Future Business Leaders



DAVID LAMASTER

of America since his sophomore year; he is also a senior editor

in the Newspaper Club, in which he has participated since his junior year, and in his senior year was vice president of the Spanish Club, in which he was also participating for the second year. Outside of school, LaMaster is a member of the Mayor's Youth Engagement Council, and he has been an Euell A. Wilson Community Center tutor for four years.

The formals he attended and "Junior Day" were memorable events of LaMaster's high school experience. "Now that I'm in quarantine, though, the things I miss the most about high school are just the day-to-day classes. I really have loved all of my classes at Dwenger, as each one was a fantastic opportunity to spend time with my friends.

"While I may be valedictorian, that did not stop me from having as much fun as possible during school. The most memorable moments that I have are the ones made with friends during classes," he added.

LaMaster will graduate with a 4.517 GPA, landing him first out of 252 students. He plans to attend the University of Notre Dame this fall to major in economics.

Among his hobbies, LaMaster loves to go biking, skiing, and hiking. "I enjoy seeing different parts of the world, and I can't wait for the next part of my life where I am able to explore. I find any outdoor activity to be lots of fun, so I hope I can study abroad in a foreign country throughout my years of college to come."

Bishop Dwenger High School —

Salutatorian Shea Odle

Headed to Purdue Fort Wayne this fall is Bishop Dwenger salutatorian Shea Odle, a graduate who has embraced both her education and her faith to the fullest.

Odle attended St. Jude School and has been a lector at the parish since seventh grade. She appreciates having been able to continue her studies in a Catholic environment at Dwenger.

"Throughout high school, faith was my refuge. During my early years at Dwenger, I would find myself dwelling upon the looming decisions of the future and the wretched pains of the past. I worried about the college I would get into, what career I would assume, and if my life would be successful in my own eyes or in the eyes of others," she said. "Little did I realize then, all that time spent worrying was spent in vain. As St. Augustine wisely wrote in Confessions, "We could not measure things that do not exist, and things past and future do not exist."

"The profound truth in this statement set me free from all my concerns of controlling the future or fixing the past, for there is only now to act and to be."

Odle feels that she "hit the holy gold mine" with her final theology/philosophy classes at Dwenger, Dignity of Women and Great Catholic Thinkers.

"These classes have enriched my very soul and given me a greater faith and knowledge of truth than I have ever had in my 18 years. I now know, and will never forget, that my primary vocation and calling is to holiness," she said. "Only if I do not accomplish this will I truly be a failure, for there is no greater loss than to reach the end of life

and not be a saint. Any concerns of success in a job and having money have evaporated, for this is not my home I am just passing through."

Extracurricular activities interested Odle as well and made high school "a blast."

"For the first two years, I was on the tennis team and learned some patience and endurance. As a sophomore, I joined the varsity bowling team and had the time of my life; I remained on the team for the rest of my high school career and wept on the last day." The joy and vivacity of the team affected Odle deeply: She wasn't ready to give them up. "I did spell bowl all four years and became captain for the last two, a very luminous experi-



SHEA ODLE

ence for sure."

To continue stretching her brain, Odle said, she was a frequently losing member of the Scrabble Club sophomore year. "I competed on three of the academic super bowl teams during my junior year. In service for the community, I went to a club called Project Linus every Wednesday to make blankets for childhood trauma victims and the nursing homes, and I participated as a Euell Wilson tutor for underprivileged children."


At the end of her junior year, she became a writer and editor for the school newspaper, The Golden Trumpet. "I loved writing articles, both silly and serious, and I discovered a passion for puns and poetry that I had not


yet known. Junior and senior year, I was a member of National Honor Society and learned the importance of service and charity and integrity."

In her free time, Odle likes to read and write and listen to music. She also entertains many fond memories of high school, including screaming cheers in the football stands on Friday nights, hallway run-throughs for the students going to state competitions, and dancing at the dances and during physical education classes – "especially in lines and squares," she said.

Odle graduates with a 4.490 GPA, placing her second in the Bishop Dwenger Class of 2020.

DANIEL JAMES BOVIE





Congrats
as you graduate from
Leo High School

and prepare to study
Sports Marketing
and Management
at Indiana University
Bloomington.

BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2020



"VIRTUALLY"
THE BEST
CLASS EVER!

Bishop Luers High School —

Co-valedictorian Mary Braun

Seeing the many different ways holy people lived their lives has been one of the blessings Bishop Luers co-valedictorian Mary Braun feels she received during her education at the school. It has been an inspiration for her own faith life.

"I have enjoyed experiencing a variety of different faith perspectives at Bishop Luers, which has given me more confidence in my own beliefs," she shared. "I've also had many opportunities to put my faith into action, from participating in community service through my Sodalitas group to praying for an end to abortion to serving at Mass as a eucharistic minister. Bishop Luers has provided me with many opportunities to express my faith."

Braun came to Bishop Luers after graduating from St. Joseph

- Hessen Cassel School, Fort Wayne. She and her family are members of St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel Parish.

At Bishop Luers she was able to participate in many sports, clubs and service opportunities. She ran cross-country for four years and was selected by her coaches to be a captain during her senior year. She played tennis for three years, ran track her freshman year, competed in history Academic Super Bowl competitions for four years, and engaged in fine arts for three years.

Braun was a captain for extracurricular (ASB) history club activities her junior and senior years. She served as co-president of the school's Future Business Leaders of America club her senior year, having also been a



MARY BRAUN

part of the club for three years prior. She volunteered through Key

Club for three years, acting as treasurer her junior year and vice president her senior year. Through Key Club, Braun began volunteering at Big Brothers Big Sisters and made personal connections with her "Littles." She also is part of Knights for Life, a prayer group that meets every Thursday morning to pray the rosary for an end to abortion.

She was elected senior class senator in the school's student government. In addition, she offered her services as a peer tutor for her classmates.

Life is not all hard work for Braun, though. The future Purdue University exploratory studies major also loves to read and binges books "the way some people binge shows on Netflix," she said. "I also really enjoy proving pointless arguments,

such as the 'very important' issue that a Pop-Tart is most definitely a calzone, and that cereal is really soup. I love making puns, eating chocolate and drinking chai tea."

Braun graduates first in her class — along with co-valedictorian Mary Cicchiello — with a 4.49 GPA. She said some of her most treasured high school memories are simple things like conversations with her friends at lunch, struggling with her chemistry "family" and racing cars that she made with her friends in engineering classes. "I'll also never forget the memories of pasta dinners with my cross-country team, ASB competitions, and walking down senior hall with my friends as an upper-classman."

CONGRATULATIONS

CLASS OF 2020

BISHOP LUERS HIGH SCHOOL

ONCE A KNIGHT ALWAYS A KNIGHT!

CONGRATULATIONS

Nolan Cook

as you graduate from Bishop Luers High School and prepare to attend Franklin College to study creative writing. We love you!

Mom, Dad, Quinn, and Blane

Your life is your story and the adventure ahead of you is the journey to fulfill your own purpose and potential.

Kerry Washington

Yes, we love you and we are so proud of you!

Love, Mom and Dad

Congrats

PETER ANTHONY TSULEFF

We know this year didn't end like you would have liked, but we are proud of you and love you more than you can know.

Mom and Dad

Bishop Luers High School —

Co-valedictorian Mary Cicchiello

For seniors, the treasured memories of high school are many. For Mary Cicchiello, co-valedictorian at Bishop Luers High School, they included the suddenly quiet times in which she became aware of what God had provided for her. "It was the moments when I would stop what I was doing, look around and realize that I was surrounded by friends. In these moments, I would be overcome with a sense of how blessed I was."

Cicchiello enrolled at Bishop Luers after graduation from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School.

"My faith has become central in my life during my high school career," she said. Attending a Catholic school increased her knowledge of the faith and the presence of faith in her life. "In school, we prayed throughout the day, in every class and learned about the importance of praying in everyday situations. The rigor of my classes and the stress

that came from school activities caused me to slow down and rely on God when I felt overwhelmed or discouraged. It comforted me to know that God was with me and that I never had to do anything alone."

Bishop Luers also helped Cicchiello to live out the Catholic faith by offering her opportunities to participate in the Mass and sacraments and by exposing her to scenarios where she could put her beliefs about human dignity and respect into action.

"For example, we served the Fort Wayne community through our service programs, Key Club and Sodalitas. And in everyday moments, such as holding the door open for people in the morning or helping an opponent up off the ground in a game, I learned to live the faith that we share at Luers."

Cicchiello excelled in after-school and outside-of-school activities. She was a member of



MARY CICCHIELLO

the varsity girls soccer team for four years and captained the team her senior year. During her senior year, she was also vice president of student government and one of its four student founders; she was head of the prom committee,

co-head of the homecoming committee and the school voter registration drive committee.

During her junior and senior years, she was a member of National Honor Society and a group leader of Sodalitas, the schoolwide service organization. Cicchiello participated in Key Club all four years of high school, serving as the club's secretary her junior year and president her senior year.

In her four years of Academic Super Bowl, English team, she served as captain her senior year and was a state finalist her freshman and sophomore years. She was business manager and then co-editor of her senior year yearbook; a Student Ambassador her sophomore, junior and senior years; and a peer minister for four years, during which time she served as an altar server, lector and extraordinary minister of holy Communion at Mass. She was an altar server at St.

Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish as well for nine years and sang in the choir for four. In her spare time, Cicchiello said she enjoys art, sports, working out, spending time with her family and friends, and trying new things.

She shared that some of the other memories of her time at Bishop Luers include bus rides to soccer games, after-school meetings, Senior Parking Spot Painting Day, student sections at games and Academic Super Bowl competitions. "Moments in the classroom, hallways and lunchroom were also special because in these moments, we were all together, learning from each other and being inspired by our teachers to question the world and always seek more."

Cicchiello graduates first in her class with a 4.49 GPA, which ties her with co-valedictorian Mary Braun. She will attend the University of Notre Dame and major in biological sciences in the fall.

Marian High School —

Valedictorian Joseph Rice

High school can be a stressful time for young people. Marian High School valedictorian Joseph Rice admits he felt pressure a little too much at times, but it was then that he found comfort in his Catholic faith.

"I stress myself out too much. That's not something that I'm necessarily proud of, but it's the truth. In times of trouble, I've been able to cling to my faith — whether it be a comforting Bible verse or the ability to attend Mass during or after school."

In addition, Rice said, he enjoyed being in an environment where he was able to talk about and share his faith. "The closest bonds that I have formed during high school have been ones that are grounded in a strong and common faith. I feel that I finally took my faith as my own in high school, and this has helped me to grow, not just in knowledge about God, but more importantly in desire to live out God's will in the ordinary and everyday moments of life."

Rice, who is a parishioner of St. Pius X Parish, Granger, attended St. Thomas the Apostle School in Elkhart before coming to Marian. At Marian, he attained a 4.667 GPA that places him first in his class.

What he will remember most about his high school experience is the few close bonds he formed. "I have a number of people who I would call my friends in the student body, but there are a couple people who I have grown exceptionally close to that I am sure will be in my life for the rest of my life," Rice said.

Other treasured memories



JOSEPH RICE

include his time with the soccer team. "I'm positive that the team my senior season was the best team I will ever play on. I don't say that necessarily in terms of talent, even though we were a talented group of guys, rather, the camaraderie between the players and how much I enjoyed the season will always stand out to me."

"A couple other treasured memories include the midwinter dances during junior and senior years and the prom," he recalled. He also enjoyed spending a lot of time in his Ancient Greek class. "That group of people was a very fun and high achieving group, and we bonded a lot in that particular class."

In addition to playing JV soccer his freshman and sophomore years and varsity soccer as a junior and senior, Rice captained the team his senior year — the year they were Northern Indiana

Conference co-champions. He also ran varsity track.

He participated in Knights for Life all four years of high school, acting as the group secretary his senior year. As a freshman he performed in the spring musical, and for the first three years he was active in campus ministry.

His sophomore year, he co-founded the Greek Club. Sophomore and junior years, he played intramural basketball, and his junior and senior years he was a member of the National Honor Society.

Outside of high school, Rice enjoys traveling, spending time

with his family and cooking. He is an extraordinary minister of holy Communion at St. Pius and works refereeing matches for the Edwardsburg Youth Soccer Association. He plans to study biochemistry at Western Michigan before beginning medical school to become a doctor.

Congratulations

ON TWO AWESOME ACHIEVEMENTS!



Gregory Benedict
Fitzmaurice

Eagle Scout & Highschool Graduate










The Eagle has Graduated!

From Tiger Cub to Eagle Scout and from Kindergarten to 12th Grade—
you have worked hard to achieve your goals, and we are very proud!

—Dad, Mom, and John Paul

Marian High School —

Salutatorian Matthew Mielke

Attending Marian High School in Mishawaka helped teach salutatorian Matthew Mielke what it means for there to be one community of Christians on earth.

"It has also prompted growth within me to look for similarities and what unites all Christians. It is as Christ says in the Gospel of John, 17:21, 'that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me,'" he said.

A member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Elkhart, and a graduate of Trinity Lutheran School, Mielke's Christian faith has been impacted during his time at Marian by the fact that he was surrounded by people of faith,

which helped him to grow as a practicing Lutheran.

"I have found many similarities between Catholics and Lutherans in my time in high school, and I have been able to promote discussion with peers and teachers about similarities and differences, as well as growth in myself and those I entered into theological dialogue with. I found it to be an enriching experience talking to those people of a different faith tradition than mine," he shared. It also allowed him to meet individuals who helped him find Christ in the virtues of different traditions, Mielke added.

During all four years of his high school career at Marian, Mielke was part of the Knights for Life club and attended the



MATTHEW MIELKE

March for Life in Washington, D.C. The theater also attracted

him: He participated in shows and was a member of a local acting group. In Student Council he served as class secretary his sophomore year and as class president the last two years.

At church he serves as an acolyte, eucharistic minister and a prompter of the screens used during worship services.

Mielke enjoys academic discussions of theology, literature and history, he said, but he also likes to loosen up with friends and play sports and games. He has worked at Chick-fil-A at University Park Mall for about a year.

The time he spent with friends in Marian theatre productions are among the most treasured memories Mielke will take from high school. Another favorite

would be the time spent with his two closest friends, Joseph Rice and Rosa Trippel. "Specifically, some of my most dear memories are on the March for Life with them, where I became friends with them both," he remembered.

Mielke's GPA of 4.653 places him second in the 2020 Marian High School graduating class. He plans to attend Hillsdale College in fall to study history and English as a double major, "assuming I have the ability to take on that much paper-writing," he joked. He would like to achieve a doctorate in one or both fields or possibly pursue graduate schooling for archaeology.

Saint Joseph High School —

Salutatorian Bridget Stockrahm

The University of Notre Dame is the destination this fall of Bridget Stockrahm, salutatorian of Saint Joseph High School, South Bend. The accomplished senior graduates with a 4.367 weighted GPA, placing her second among her fellow 2020 graduates.

Stockrahm enjoys studying history and economics because of their societal impact, she said. She credited her Saint Joseph physics courses with changing her entire view of the world.

As a junior, Stockrahm was one of only two students at Saint Joseph to take both AP Chemistry and Honors Physics. She is passionate about Right to Life and enjoys learning different languages, as well as art, reading and musicals, especially "Les

Miserables." Reading, economics, history, foreign languages and art are among her interests.

At Saint Joseph, Stockrahm learned that faith is not a self-contained piece of life, but a vital foundation to be integrated throughout every academic, athletic, extracurricular and social activity in which she takes part.

"In attending the March for Life each year, for example, I have had the opportunity to act on my beliefs and been inspired by the thousands of others there who choose to do the same. At Saint Joe I have met some of the most faith-filled people I could hope to encounter who have challenged me both academically and spiritually. Most importantly, my faith has given me a sense of purpose over the



BRIDGET STOCKRAHM

course of my high school career by instilling in me the values of

service and compassion."

No stranger to perseverance, Stockrahm overcame two separate season-ending injuries to remain a leader for Saint Joseph cross-country during the fall, also becoming a leader for girls lacrosse in the spring. She participated in Euro Challenge and Fed Challenge economics competitions and was a member of National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and the student ambassadors. She spent six weeks immersed in Spanish language and culture in Oviedo, Spain, through the Indiana Honors Program in Foreign Languages. She has also served on St. Joseph Parish's Christian Formation Commission since August and has been the president of the school's Right to Life

Club since the beginning of the school year. She is a former student of St. Joseph Grade School.

"My favorite things about Saint Joe have been the friends I have made here and the teachers who have guided me," said Stockrahm. "Being named salutatorian validates all of the hard work I have put into academics over the last four years."

Her most treasured memories of high school are winning sectionals with the lacrosse team, getting lost at St. Patrick County Park during long runs, going to New York City with her friends for the Euro Challenge, attending the March for Life in Washington, D.C., and "laughing with my classmates during my short but sweet senior year."

Saint Joseph High School —

Valedictorian Rebecca Pan

Rebecca Pan's commitment to learning is evident in her love of science and chemistry, mixing math and other concepts to learn about why the world works the way it does.

The Saint Joseph High School valedictorian's commitment to hard work does not stop in the classroom, as she demonstrated her commitment to her team as a member of Saint Joseph High School girls swimming, mathletes and Fed Challenge.

"My favorite thing about Saint Joe is its sense of community. From the teachers who make time for every single student, to my classmates and friends who have cheered me on the loudest,



REBECCA PAN

I truly believe our family is the best and am incredibly proud to be an Indian," said Pan. "Being named valedictorian is a tremendous honor, and it serves as a testament to the hard work that I've put in the past four years. I'm extremely thankful for everyone who has supported and helped me get to where I am today. I remember looking up to valedictorians of the past as role models, and I can only hope to inspire others."


Pan attended Kennedy Primary Academy, LaSalle Intermediate Academy and St. Joseph Grade School before coming to Saint Joseph. Going to a

PAN, page 20

Congrats

Amy Ramona Vowles

Honors Graduate New Haven High School!
God Bless you while studying
Education at Purdue University
Parishioner, St John the Baptist New Haven
Love always, Grandma Gloria
John Vowles and Gretchen Vowles



Congrats

Gabby Joyce

as you graduate from Woodlan High School
May God bless you as you journey to
Defiance College to study Sports Medicine
Love always,
Great-Grandma Gloria & Grandma Mahlock



PAN, from page 19

Catholic high school has helped her through a lot of the tough times, she said.

"High school is not an easy time, especially when you're constantly being challenged by teachers, coaches, parents and peers, but having the love and support that comes from the faith and the members of the Church have truly helped me. Being more exposed to the faith through theology classes, monthly Mass, confession, etc., has allowed me to grow closer to God and learn much more about the faith. I have been fortunate enough to have questions answered and explained, especially in a class I am taking this year about great Catholic thinkers such as St. Augustine and Pascal. Every day we discuss readings and can pose questions to and build off of each other: just a representative fraction of my overall high school experience."

Throughout her four years of high school, Pan participated in competitive swimming year-round. She was a seven-and-a-half-year member of a USA Swimming club team and a four-

year member of the Saint Joseph girls varsity swim team.

"I have found some of my best friends through swimming, and it has been a pleasure to see my teammates grow too, especially as a senior captain. During her sophomore year, the swim team placed third at nationals. "I have also played the violin for 12-1/2 years and have been a member of the South Bend Youth Symphony Orchestra since seventh grade."

Another extracurricular in which she participated was Mathletes, the math club at Saint Joseph. "I have been a member for four years and served as captain my senior year."

"Through my extracurriculars, I have been able to meet so many amazing friends, teammates and mentors that I would not have crossed paths with if not for our common activities."

One of her most treasured high school memories is Euro Challenge nationals, an economics competition in which a team of three to five members prepare a presentation on the economy of the European Union as a whole and a specific country. She participated during her freshman and sophomore years.

For the Euro challenge she went to New York for the first time with some of her best friends and teachers. "I learned so much from that experience, about the world around me and myself. I will miss all my teachers and classmates dearly, especially independent study, AP Physics C, AP Calculus BC, and my AP Chemistry class. I will always treasure the memories of our midwinter dance, from always hearing 'Piano Man' to seeing all my friends dressed up."

Pan is interested in science and math, particularly STEM research and medicine. "I hope to pursue these interests throughout college and beyond."

She also enjoys playing the piano, going on walks, doing puzzles with her little sister, and baking. She has an ear for languages and is currently learning French during quarantine. Pan hopes to travel more in the future, especially to France, Spain and Portugal.

She will graduate this spring with a 4.381 weighted GPA and plans to attend Vanderbilt University to study engineering on the pre-med track.

AMMER, from page 15

Six months later, Ammer's outlook on his vocation had transformed. "God showed me where I needed to go and changed my heart to wanting the priesthood. I was willingly and happily applying to the seminary."

Reflecting on his journey toward ordination to the diaconate, he clearly pointed to God's hand leading him step by step.

Ammer looks forward to the new opportunities that will accompany his being a deacon, including preaching and administering the sacrament of baptism in his parish assignment.

Even within the ministerial context amidst the COVID-19 outbreak, Ammer is hopeful he will be able to use his critical thinking and patience to continue evangelizing and meeting the needs of the faithful.

During pandemic, film, books commemorate St. John Paul's legacy

BY CAROL GLATZ

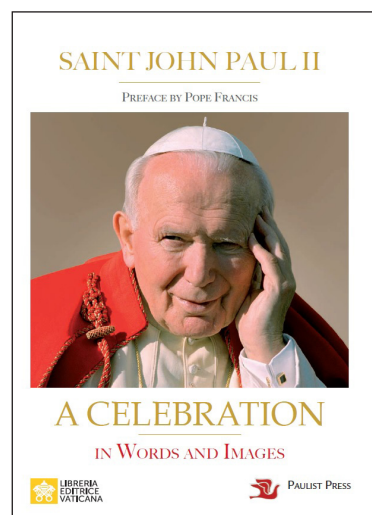
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pandemic restrictions upset plans for pilgrimages and major public Masses celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of St. John Paul II.

But it hasn't stopped book launches and an online film premiere about the life and legacy of Karol Wojtyla, who was born May 18, 1920, in Wadowice, Poland.

Spanish filmmakers released a new documentary, "Wojtyla: The Investigation," May 8 and Mario Enzler, a former Swiss Guard now living in New Hampshire, has a book out by Newman House Press titled, "I Served a Saint," reflecting on his service at the Vatican from 1989 to 1993.

While many people will be able to look back and remember key events, iconic images and inspirational teachings from St. John Paul's life and pontificate, the Vatican publishing house has released a book aimed specifically at the countless young people, "who still know very little or even nothing" about the saint, who died 15 years ago, said Alessandro Gisotti.

"We thought it would be wonderful with a very simple, very slick volume ... to be a gift, especially for the younger generation," Gisotti, the vice-editorial director of Vatican media, said in an online interview with the Catholic television station, Telepace, May 5.



Titled "A Celebration: In Words and Images" of St. John Paul, the 128-page book will also be published in English by Palust Press.

Pope Francis, who wrote the book's preface, called his predecessor "a great witness of faith, a great man of prayer" and a "trustworthy guide for the Church at a time of great change."

"So many times over the course of my life as a priest and bishop, I looked at him and prayed for the gift of being faithful to the Gospel as he himself gave witness to," Pope Francis wrote.

His 84 years of life and 27-year-long pontificate left a "living legacy" to the Church today, the pope wrote.

Gisotti said that Pope Francis wants people "to celebrate John Paul, but not in a self-referential

way, that is, with just something commemorative, but to tap into the wellspring of this extraordinary man, priest, bishop and pope."

What people risk forgetting, Pope Francis said, is how much St. John Paul suffered: losing his mother, father, sister and brother all by the time he was 21; living through the Nazi occupation then Stalinist persecution in his country; multiple assassination attempts; and the debilitating effects of Parkinson's disease.

Despite all that pain, he showed the world his strength rooted in faith, "his smile, the joy, being happy along the road of life despite the difficulties," Gisotti said.

St. John Paul trusted completely in God and, Pope Francis wrote, the hardships strengthened an already deep faith he received from his mother and father, whose sainthood cause was to begin May 7.

Pope Francis wrote that the message St. John Paul gave to young people during his lifetime needs to resound among young people today: "Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ."

Everything he did by teaching and living the faith concretely and resolutely at every moment in life, "this is why it was right to remember on the 100th anniversary of his birth this great holy witness of faith that God gave his church and humanity," the pope wrote.

IF CATHOLIC ADVENTURE HAS A NAME



IT MUST BE MCCRACKEN

MCCRACKEN AND THE LOST OASIS

A NEW NOVEL FOR YOUNG CATHOLIC READERS BY MARK ADDERLEY

MAY 2020

WWW.MARK-ADDERLEY.COM

TODAY'S CATHOLIC
YOUR NEWS. WHEREVER YOU ARE.

GET THE FREE DIGITAL EDITION
TodaysCatholic.org/Subscribe

To mask or not to mask

I've been a bit puzzled about all the debate and outrage over wearing masks. I know some of it is weirdly ideological, but some of it seems to be a misunderstanding of why we have been asked to wear masks in the first place.

The objection is often phrased as a personal right: "If I choose not to wear a mask, it's my own darn business whether I want to take that risk." It reminds me of the debate about motorcycle helmet laws. "If I want to go roaring down the freeway on two wheels and have the wind blowing in my hair, it's my own darn business."

When it comes to wearing helmets, there is a kind of logic to such a position, if one does not think of the first responders who have to clean up the mess. (I remember my motorcycle accident, when the nurse in the emergency room asked me if I knew what they call motorcycle accident victims? "Donors," she answered her own question, with nary a smirk.)

But asking someone to wear a mask to prevent the spread of a virus is more akin to asking someone not to leave a loaded gun on the coffee table. The idea is not that you might get hurt, but that someone else might because of your carelessness.

We wear masks to protect others because the vast majority of us don't know from day to day if we might be the contagious ones. It reflects our concern for the common good and our fellow men and women, and our hope that they have a similar concern for us.

This small sacrifice of wearing a mask in public settings is also a sign that we are all in this together, not just the first responders and the ER docs, the nurses and the morticians. That little strip of cloth is a flag of solidarity.

At times, it doesn't feel like we are all in this crisis together. We are approaching 2 million sick and 100,000 people dead who were alive three months ago, yet the stats are often treated like a box score. After 9/11, there was a rush of sympathy for New York. This time, there was a rush of discussion about how fast to open up, and other hot spots are getting far less national attention.

We really aren't asked to sacrifice much these days for greater goods. We have historically long wars, but it never really touches us unless we have family serving. We run up mountains of debt, but don't feel it should fall on us to pay it back.

The pandemic has exposed lots of social weaknesses, like the inequalities of our health care system and our educational system and even our access to the internet. Those who are weakest are the most vulnerable once again: Unable to afford not to go to work when the pandemic is in full flower. Unable to afford to stay home when they are called back to work while the risk is still great.

In thinking about the common good, we place ourselves firmly within the moral and social teachings of the Church, which in turn goes back to what Jesus taught: "Do to others what-



AMID THE FRAY

GREG ERLANDSON

ever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets." (Mt 7:12)

I don't know what the lasting effects of this pandemic will be: Whether we will rush backward to our old normal as quickly as possible, or whether we will learn new lessons from these few months of sacrifice. I for one am hoping that in our isolation, we've learned something about fellowship.

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

Life isn't a bed of roses

Sometimes you are going to wake up extra early to feed and take out the dog, take her to the first morning grooming appointment of the day, follow the protocol to stay in your car and call when you arrive, but keep getting busy signals for 10 minutes only to discover the groomer has you on the schedule ... tomorrow.

Sometimes you are going to go to the garage outside refrigerator to scoop up leftovers and plan a "Chopped"-type casual, easy meal, only to trip on the stoop up and tumble onto your already bad and once-replaced knees, shattering the CorningWare, swelling up the knee so you can't even stand on it, and cutting up your hand on shards of the ceramic serving dish, thus negating any leftover food possibility as you do so.

Sometimes you are going to be ambushed by a sudden pandemic that drastically changes every part of your life in a matter of days, making everything from going to the grocery store, doctor's appointments, school and even your mother's house drastically more difficult or impossible, canceling your kids' sports events and even once-in-a-lifetime events like prom and graduation. You try to keep your focus on the bright side, thinking maybe a quarantine might not be so terrible after all, as you imagine your already overworked and underappreciated husband getting a reprieve. You imagine a few home improvement projects you can spend time with him doing, only to discover the pandemic situation causes for



EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

THERESA A. THOMAS

him more work, more worry and more hours, including long interruptions on Saturdays and Sundays because he's deemed a so-called "essential" worker — not just to you and your family, but everyone else, too. Yeah, sometimes that happens.

Truth is, these challenging and frustrating events, a list to which I'm sure you can add, are precisely the times we must rise to the occasion and respond with dignity and grace. Our kids are watching. How will Mom and Dad handle an unexpected disappointment? Injury? Full-on crisis? What we model becomes their default mode for the future.

It takes a whole lot of patience and every ounce of strength, sometimes, to peacefully navigate long-term challenges, but it is precisely what God is asking of us and promises we can do with His help, if we trust Him.

Life isn't a bed of roses, as they say. Earth isn't going to be heaven. Wisdom is wrought through two things: experience and suffering. Pondering that gives perspective to the daily troubles and predicaments in which we often find ourselves. A prayer that helps me through difficult events, both large and

THOMAS, page 22

We are strengthened to go out in the name of the Lord



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Feast of Pentecost John 20:19-23

This weekend, the Church celebrates the feast of Pentecost, one of the most important feasts of the Church's liturgical year. It is richly biblical in its background, and it is profoundly educational both in its own message as well as in its place in the chronology of events commemorated these past weeks, Good Friday, Easter and the feast of the Ascension being the most important.

Once Christians chiefly were of Jewish origin, and therefore they observed the Jewish holy days. Very early in the history of Christianity, this fact changed. Missionaries such as St. Paul

himself took the Gospel far and wide, winning converts from paganism. Then, as a result of rebelling against the Romans in A.D. 70, the Jews themselves almost were annihilated.

Consequently, Christians stopped celebrating the Jewish holy days. An exception was Pentecost, although the Christian observance centers upon the distinctly Christian character of the day.

Nevertheless, the Christian character heavily draws upon the Jewish context of the past. In time, Pentecost had become for Jews a celebration of Jewish identity, rejoicing in the collective mission and identity of the Chosen People.

For Christians, Pentecost commemorates the formation by God of the Church. This process reveals the divinity of Jesus and the perfect union of the Holy Trinity not just in essence or being, but also in purpose.

Important in the first reading is the close community of the Apostles and of believers with them. Together, as one, they received the power of the Holy

Spirit, promised and sent by Christ.

The Holy Spirit comes as God. The imagery is strong with Old Testament associations. The divine Spirit comes as fire, an image so often used for God in the Scriptures.

Strengthened by the Holy Spirit, the Apostles have divine power itself. They are without fear. Fortified too are all the members of the community.

Composing the community were people from every place. Salvation is offered all through the love of God.

First Corinthians furnishes the second reading. This reading clearly states that belief in Jesus as Lord belongs to all. No accidental makes one person more worthy of salvation than another. The key is humility and a full and genuine acceptance of Christ.

St. John's Gospel provides the last reading. It is a Resurrection Narrative. The Risen Lord appears before the Apostles, the specially chosen and commissioned, and the special students. He is God, possessing the Holy Spirit, able to give the life and power of the Spirit. He gives this

power to the Apostles, specifically vesting them with the most divine of powers, the power to forgive sins.

Reflection

The Church concludes its brilliant story of the sacrifice and then Resurrection of Jesus, the Savior. In Jesus, all people have a place with God and eternal life in God. In Jesus, all have the guidance and strength to live amid God's Chosen.

In this great promise, the critical figure is Jesus the Lord. He lived a human life. While God in every sense, Jesus was human. It is the mystery and miracle of the Incarnation.

Jesus ascended to heaven, but we were not abandoned. To continue salvation, Jesus sent the Apostles. Specially taught, present when no one else was present, they had unique revelations from the Lord.

Their task was to assist us in overcoming our human limitations and in understanding the Gospel.

The community of believers

is not a happenstance of people standing side by side. In the Spirit they share one source of life, live and act in communion, ideally.

Pope Pius XII, three generations ago, masterfully told us that the Church is the "Mystical Body of Christ," no mere human institution. Holiness is not automatic, however, for its members. They must perfect themselves, transforming themselves according to the image of Christ.

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 2:1-11 Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 Jn 20:19-23

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20 Ps 87:1-3, 5-7 Jn 19:25-34

Tuesday: 2 Pt 3:12-15a, 17-18 Ps 90:2-4, 10, 14, 16 Mk 12:13-17

Wednesday: 2 Tm 1:1-3, 6-12 Ps 123:1b-2 Mk 12:18-27

Thursday: 2 Tm 2:8-15 Ps 25:4-5b, 8-10, 14 Mk 12:28-34

Friday: 2 Tm 3:10-17 Ps 119:157, 160-161, 165-166, 168 Mk 12:35-37

Saturday: 2 Tm 4:1-8 Ps 71:8-9, 14-15b, 16-17, 22 Mk 12:38-44

Accelerating vaccine development

Creating a new vaccine and bringing it to market typically requires more than a decade of research and clinical testing. Many companies and research groups are working overtime to shorten this timeline dramatically in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some have suggested it may be possible to develop a vaccine within a year or two, but such a feat would be a first, especially considering that no vaccine for any type of coronavirus has ever been successfully developed.

The former director at the Food and Drug Administration's Office of Biotechnology put it this way: "Scientists have tried unsuccessfully for decades to develop a vaccine to prevent HIV/AIDS and a 'universal' flu vaccine that wouldn't need to be reformulated and readministered every year. All have been duds."

Another specialist in the field of infectious diseases, when asked about the prospects of a quick COVID-19 vaccine, demurred, saying it would require a "home run" and "nearly everything to go right."

Some vaccines end up taking so long to develop that the original threat disappears by the time they become available, as happened, for example, with the Ebola vaccine after the original viral outbreak in Africa.

Nevertheless, scores of laboratories are now urgently working to develop a COVID-19 vaccine. Their haste in trying not only to save lives, but also to beat their competitors, raises the concern that biomedical researchers may succumb to temptations to cut corners ethically in the research and development phases of their work.

One concern involves safety testing. The bar for safety has always been very high for vaccines that are to be administered to healthy people, and typically tens of thousands of people need to be systematically tested before a new vaccine receives approval and becomes widely available. The first rotavirus vaccine

(RotaTeq) was tested on 72,000 healthy infants, while the newest shingles vaccine (Shingrix) underwent safety testing on about 29,000 people. And those tests were done only after extensive testing on animals had been completed.

Such large-scale testing is a formidable and meticulous task requiring a good deal of time and expense so that the purported treatment doesn't unintentionally harm those it intends to help. In terms of COVID-19, the concerns about safety are even greater, since some developers are looking at novel and largely unproven technologies, like mRNA vaccines and DNA vaccines, raising further safety questions that may require additional time to sort through during the phase of clinical trials.

Another concern involves the proposal to shorten the timeline by soliciting young, uninfected volunteers who would be intentionally infected with the virus after having been given either the potential vaccine or a placebo. This "challenge trial" approach would enable researchers to assess the effectiveness of a proposed vaccine more rapidly than a traditional clinical trial, which would require waiting for some of the participants to become infected in the course of ordinary life.

Experts who favor this approach say that they have already heard from many people willing to volunteer. Carrying out a challenge trial for a virus with no known cure clearly involves risk. There is no way to predict what kind of reaction a volunteer may have from either the virus or the proposed vaccine; even the young and healthy could end up hospitalized or dying.

While it is not intrinsically unethical to take actions with a degree of risk for the good of the community, provided that it comes with the patients' full and informed consent, questions about whether it would be prudent to do so need to be carefully addressed. Given the significant



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

competitive pressures arising from many dozens of companies and research teams trying to get to the finish line first, "Big Pharma" needs to remain vigilant about over-stepping the boundaries of reasonable risk.

A final concern in attempting to speed up vaccine development involves the use of human cell lines derived from abortions. A variety of cell lines are available for COVID-19 research and vaccine development, some originating from hamsters, mice or other mammals, some from insects and some from humans. The cell lines from humans may come from acceptable sources, like human skin, or from problematic sources, like direct abortions. Regrettably, several of the COVID-19 vaccine candidates that are being developed today have relied on cell lines that were harvested from aborted fetuses. Scientists have a duty to avoid the use of such unethically derived cell lines and should instead select available alternatives as they ramp up their research programs.

Vaccines, of course, are real "game changers" in public health. As a society, we must continue to insist that vaccine development and production be held to the highest ethical standards. This is especially true during the accelerated push arising from the present pandemic, lest we foster practices meant to save lives by risking the lives of other vulnerable human beings.

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

Friends, that can be all of us if we accept all events from the hand of God.

So, some days you're going to leave out the flowers and get an unexpected frost, your toilet is going to overflow, you'll burn a dinner. Your toddler will break out in spots just before you and your husband are leaving for a highly anticipated night out. You might get sick.

You'll have rain on your parade but try this strategy: Take a deep breath. Take your time to think what you need to do next. Say a prayer of acceptance and offer it up. Then muster up a determined smile and press on. I promise it's going to be all right.

Theresa Thomas is the wife of David and the mother of nine children.

same joy with which we receive the greatest benefits, and we would bear them without ever complaining or showing signs of weariness." St. John of the Cross said, "Love consists not in feeling great things but in having great detachment and in suffering for the Beloved." St. Augustine of Hippo said, "Trials and tribulations offer us a chance to make reparation for our past faults and sins. On such occasions the Lord comes to us like a physician to heal the wounds left by our sins. Tribulation is the divine medicine."

Finally, let us ponder the words of St. Josemaría Escrivá: "Those who pray and suffer... will not shine here on earth; but what a radiant crown they will wear in the kingdom of life!"

THOMAS, from page 21

small is simply, "I offer this to you, Lord. You know my needs."

Every living, breathing human being is going to suffer in this life, just as our Lord did. God allows suffering, large or small, ultimately for the benefit of our souls, and we simply cannot afford to waste it. Each suffering is an opportunity to grow in holiness. And if we are destined to face suffering in this world, we may as well use it for our own benefit and "offer it up."

The Venerable Fulton Sheen once said, "Sometimes the only way the good Lord can get into some hearts is to break them." St. Vincent de Paul stated, "If only we knew the precious treasure hidden in infirmities, we would receive them with the

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for May 31, 2020

John 7:37-39 and John 20: 19-23

Following is a word search based on the Gospel readings for both the Vigil and the Feast of Pentecost. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

JESUS	LET ANYONE	DRINK
RIVER	LIVING	WATER
SPIRIT	RECEIVE	GLORIFIED
EVENING	DOORS	FOR FEAR
PEACE	DISCIPLES	REJOICED
LORD	FATHER	SENT ME
BREATHED	FORGIVEN	RETAINED

BEING SENT

```

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

```

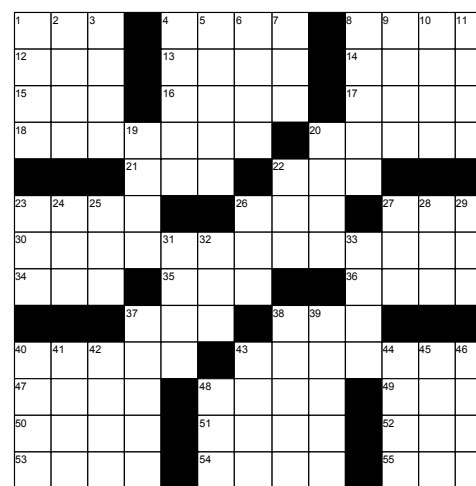
© 2020 TRI-C-A Publications; tri-c-a-publications.com

The CrossWord

May 24 and 31, 2020

54 "In a few ___ you will be baptized"
55 Sister for short

DOWN



- 1 Horsefly
- 2 American state
- 3 Cain's brother
- 4 Inscribed pillar
- 5 Theophilus means "___ of God"
- 6 Canal
- 7 New Jersey's neighbor
- 8 Jesus was presented ___ after his death
- 9 "Tongues as of ___"
- 10 Muslim ruler
- 11 Compass point
- 19 Small particle
- 20 Air (prefix)
- 22 Facial twitch
- 23 Sacrificial sheep
- 24 Terminal abbr.
- 25 Shifty
- 26 Jesus had to _ to rise
- 27 Nativity month
- 28 Horse grain
- 29 Central nervous system
- 31 Without feeling
- 32 Cooking measure
- 33 Fish
- 37 Tiny amounts
- 38 Days from Easter to Ascension
- 39 Prods
- 40 Streetcar
- 41 Water tube
- 42 Ravage
- 43 Food fish
- 44 "___ of your hearts"
- 45 Restaurant
- 46 Trees of Mamre
- 48 Evil

Readings: Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20 and Acts 2:1-11; 1Cor 3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

ACROSS

- 1 Intelligence Agency
- 4 Sledge
- 8 Not many (2 wds.)
- 12 Tennis hit
- 13 Temple veil ___ in two
- 14 Green citrus fruit
- 15 Female sheep
- 16 Devil is
- 17 Mary's sword flower
- 18 "Men of ___"
- 20 Prevent
- 21 Rowing tool
- 22 Ball holder
- 23 Sleep
- 26 Directory (abbr.)
- 27 MD
- 30 Water between Europe and U.S.A.
- 34 Marian month
- 35 To consume
- 36 ___ of the Apostles
- 37 Small devil
- 38 Pet hair
- 40 Hurt
- 43 Sub's weapon
- 47 Resounding defeat
- 48 Small town
- 49 Congressional vote
- 50 Where Pontus was located
- 51 Wager
- 52 Moose relative
- 53 Not women's

Answer key can be found on page 23

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Drive-thru only fish fry

FORT WAYNE — A drive-thru only fish fry will be Friday, June 5, from 4:30-7 p.m. at St. Patrick Church, 12305 Arcola Rd. Full meal dinner \$10, all-fish \$12.

Fish fry sponsored by Knights

SOUTH BEND — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521 is having a fish fry at 61533 S. Ironwood Rd. on Friday, June 5, from 5-7 p.m. Drive-thru style carryout (remain in your car) with limited dine-in seating available. Fish, shrimp or chicken nuggets meal: adult \$10; children 6-12 \$4. Includes baked potato or fries and coleslaw or applesauce.

Called by Name: A gathering for women discerning their vocation

FORT WAYNE — Annunciation Vocation Discernment House, 2508 Chestnut St., will offer a talk followed by discussion and fellowship on Saturday, June 20, from 3-5 p.m. Vespers at 4:30 p.m. Contact Erin Wells at 614-359-6741, AnnunciationCDH@gmail.com or visit www.franciscanvocationhouse.com



ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP FOR THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED

MISCARRIAGE, STILLBIRTH OR INFANT LOSS

3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH | 7:00-8:30 PM EDT

Email leverett@diocesefwsb.org for the Zoom meeting link and password

www.diocesefwsb.org/avasgrace



Living choices for every age and every stage

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

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



© Ascension 2020. All rights reserved.

REST IN PEACE

Fort Wayne

Don Pruden, 85, St. Charles Borromeo

Patrick Ripley, 61, St. Vincent de Paul

Angeline Weins, 93, St. Vincent de Paul

Decatur

Wanda L. Gilliland, 89, St. Mary of the Assumption

Granger

Raymond Niedbala, 79, St. Pius X

Joseph Pataluch, 94, St. Pius X

Mishawaka

Mark Huffman, 62, Queen of Peace

South Bend

Edward K. Anderson, 90, Christ the King

Donald Andrzejewski, 87, St. Anthony de Padua

Irene D. Chwalek, 87, Holy Family

Daniel Custer, 73, Holy Cross

Kathi Lu Gill, 66, Holy Cross

Colleen Hopkins, 92, St. Matthew Cathedral

Chesterine Kuchowicz, 100, Holy Family

Richard Miller, 87, St. Matthew Cathedral

Joseph C. Neuklis, 82, Christ the King

James Oleksak, 70, St. Matthew Cathedral

Martha Pilarski, 87, Holy Family

Abraham Plummer, 3 days, Holy Family

Alphonsena Ruskowski, 94, St. Anthony de Padua

Marcia Ann Sekendy, 75, Holy Family

Evelyn Shilts, 83, St. John the Baptist

Norma Wlodarek, 79, Holy Family



ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND DIACONATE

Watch the livestream of the ordinations. 11 a.m. June 6 Visit www.diocesefwsb.org



Watch for more events at todayscatholic.org

The Crossword
May 24 and 31, 2020

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



DIÓCESIS DE FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

DE LA MISA A LA MISIÓN
Orando con las Escrituras y Viviendo la Eucaristía

Sábado 6-20-20

Retiro virtual para los que quieran servir al Señor dentro y fuera de la Misa

¡3 videos de pláticas inspiradoras! También habrá momento de Adoración al Santísimo.

diocesefwsb.org/RetiroVirtual

Acompáñanos en línea sábado, el 20 de junio, a las 9:00am o participa cuando puedas en cualquier momento después.

¡Gratis!
Pláticas y materiales en español

FROM MASS TO MISSION
Praying with the Scriptures and Living the Eucharist

Join us Saturday, June 20 for a virtual retreat for those who want to serve the Lord in Church and in the world. The day will include 3 inspiring talks as well as moments of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Talks are in Spanish, and all are welcome to participate in this free retreat! Join us online on June 20 beginning at 9 a.m. or participate when you can any time after.

First Communion lead way for public Masses to resume

BY JENNIFER MILLER

“I felt excited, like a little kid myself, to be able to receive Jesus today. In a way, it was a ‘first Communion’ for most of us, after missing the sacrament for two months. I guess it’s true that absence makes the heart grow fonder, though I hope we won’t have to do without for such a long time ever again!” said Liesbeth Cremers. Cremers’ son, Benjamin, received his first holy Communion at St. Joseph Parish, South Bend, May 17.

The weekend of May 16-17 Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades permitted first communicants in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to receive the sacrament. Guidelines were given from the Office of Liturgy and Worship about to how to safely and respectfully proceed during Stage 2 of returning to Hoosiers’ normal lives.

Cremers, the mother of six, said of her son’s first Communion Mass: “It was wonderful! Oftentimes we don’t appreciate what we have until we have to do without. I just always took for granted that we could go to Mass and receive the Eucharist. It’s not that I thought receiving Communion wasn’t special, but it was just a given that you could. ... I felt really blessed to have a first communicant in our family and grateful that the bishop immediately had those second graders in mind when churches were allowed to open again, albeit with restrictions and precautions.”

Cremers and other second

grade parents from St. Joseph Grade School, South Bend, were offered three options for their children’s new first Communion date: May 17, a Sunday in early June or another weekday Mass, where the first communicant could join with their family and receive the Eucharist for the first time.

“I picked the first available option because we were all so eager to attend Mass again,” Cremers joyfully responded. “It was very short notice; I had thought that first Communion Masses would probably be postponed until school reopened in the fall, so this was a great surprise and it was very exciting.” She and her husband, Martjin, continued to prepare their son and teach him at home, since school had shifted to remote and electronic-learning since March 16. “We talked about it all week, since it was hard to believe and so exciting that it was actually happening, and we prayed for Benjamin at bedtime. Of course, preparation has been a lifelong process, both in the family and at school. So even though Benjamin missed the first Communion retreat, I think he was ready.”

John and Demetra Schoenig, the parents of Cormac, also a St. Joseph second grade student, found him also ready to receive the sacrament. They were especially grateful to Father Kevin Rousseau, CSC, for his leadership during this unusual time. They were excited about returning to their parish. “St. Joe is a community that makes it easy to live in gratitude. Over the course of the past few weeks, we’ve found



Denise Fedorow

St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish, Bristol, celebrated first holy Communion May 16. After Mass, the new communicants gathered along with their pastor, Father Robert Van Kempen, for a socially distanced group photo. Family groups like the Sandoval family, second to the right — Asheley, Maria, Maria and Hector Jr. — were able to be closer. Their mother, Maria, said being able to receive the Eucharist that day, “Meant everything to us. We know it will help in our lives and bring us all closer.”



Jennifer Barton

First communicants at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne are invited by pastor Father Daniel Scheidt to stand and renew their baptismal vows. The parish is one of several across the diocese that acted on the permission given by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades to celebrate first Communion Masses the weekend of May 16-17.

ourselves falling into the trap of allowing our isolation to give us permission to focus inward and take inventory of our inconveniences. As we looked around during the Mass today, we were so grateful to be back together with so many people who have been so important to our family,” Schoenig shared.

“Cormac’s grandmother attended Mass with us today. At the end of the liturgy, she remarked that this was the longest she had gone without receiving Communion, since she and her family were living in Turkey many years ago. She said that this recent experience was much more challenging than that time abroad, because this time she didn’t know when she would be able attend Mass again. We just love that her first

time back to the sacrament was Cormac’s first time ever.”

Dan and Jenica Cory, the parents of son Henry, also found themselves grateful and full of emotions. After receiving the Eucharist, Jenica reflected, “I had a hard time falling asleep last night. I felt emotional and nervous and was holding back tears throughout the Mass for both Henry’s excitement and my gratefulness for receiving Jesus again after so many weeks. My heart felt more fond of Christ after the absence.”

In the Cory’s domestic church, “our family streamed Mass each Sunday morning and have been praying a near-daily family rosary,” Jenica said. “We have also been going to adoration at St. Joe almost each week, trying to stay as close to Jesus as we could

with the limitations. So when I asked Henry if he would like to receive his first Communion next Sunday, he was really excited and said, ‘Yes! Definitely! Right away!’ I was so pleased that he was so enthusiastic about it so we went for it, even though it felt a bit last-minute. I wanted to make the day special for him like I was able to do for my older daughters, when I had time to plan.”

“I was scared at first, but while I was taking Communion I realized that there was nothing to be scared of besides being the very first communicant,” Henry shared.

“I felt good because we could finally be back!” He added that he was excited to “finally receive Jesus, instead of just watching everyone else.”



Jennifer Miller

Second grader Eleanor Collins receives her first holy Communion from Father Kevin Rousseau, CSC, at St. Joseph Parish, South Bend, May 17. Surrounded by her parents, siblings, aunt, uncle and grandparents, and wearing her mother Emily’s first Communion dress, Eleanor’s smile exuded her inner happiness and peace.