

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 94 No. 27

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org



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Summer print schedule continues

Digital email Aug. 26; weekly print schedule resumes Sept. 6

Virtue-building through mentorship flourishes at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



Provided by Linda Landrigan

The principle of brotherhood with a faith element that's deeper than that of a sports team is what drew St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishioner Dan Landrigan to bring the Fraternus virtue-building program to Fort Wayne. Here, a group of boys prays together after a Fraternus activity last fall.

BY JENNIFER BARTON

In Genesis, God created male and female. He gave them different interests and struggles. That's why Dan and Linda Landrigan wanted to bring a program specifically geared toward each gender to the Fort Wayne area.

Four years ago, Dan began searching for something to draw teenage boys at their parish, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, deeper into their faith.

"One of the things we were struggling with is that so many

friends of our kids' had drifted from the faith. They needed something to give them a Catholic identity at this critical time — middle school and high school," he said.

Through the advice of his son, Deacon Benjamin Landrigan, a seminarian at Mount St. Mary's in Emmitsburg, Maryland, he decided to look into something called Fraternus — a male-centric program that uses mentorship to instill virtue in young men from sixth grade through high school.

"We looked at the website and I was immediately interested," Dan related. "I could immediately

see that it was geared for men and boys. And it was all about a challenge," a challenge to live a genuine Catholic life.

Although he was unsure if he would find other men willing to give their time every week to the program, Dan forged ahead with the full backing of his pastor, Father David Voors. To his amazement, they were eager to get involved. In the first year, the program flourished.

With the success of Fraternus, the parish turned toward the young women. Linda began researching an organization complementary to Fraternus, called

Fidelis. She, too, sought out women of the parish who would help organize the program and was immediately rewarded with many volunteers.

"This was really out of my comfort zone, and it was really the work of the Holy Spirit that I was able to approach people and for them to respond the way they did. It was kind of mind-blowing that it happened," Linda confided. Using Fraternus' model "with a feminine perspective," she moved forward. The first Fidelis meeting brought out 45 girls.

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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

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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:
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Volunteers put pro-life beliefs into action for home

BY JENNIFER BARTON

When God lays an idea on a person's heart, He often provides the manpower to see the task to completion. This was and continues to be the case for A Mother's Hope in Fort Wayne, a transitional home for pregnant women who find themselves homeless.

A Mother's Hope opened in 2018 to its first residents, but began three years prior based on a need that Stasia Roth saw in the community.

When she felt God calling her to establish a home in Fort Wayne similar to Hannah's House in Mishawaka, Roth said she felt unworthy and overwhelmed. After speaking to homeless shelters and crisis pregnancy centers, she realized how desperate was the need for such a home in the Fort Wayne area.

"Part of what I had to learn was how important this was to Him. He showed me how much He loved every single woman who would ever be here. And He wanted this so they would know how loved they were."

Roth also knew she needed help — not only to make the vision a reality, but to keep it going. In the beginning, a board of "like-minded people who wanted to work hard to get this started" — all volunteers — began the process of finding a suitable house and preparing it to welcome women and babies. Roth said the renovation of the house was "the largest volunteer project we've ever done," but that God provided the laborers. The generosity of companies such as Shambaugh and Son and Hagerman Construction turned the 1950s-era structure into a modern, comfortable home for the residents.

Numerous other businesses and individuals also have given of themselves to help save mothers as well as babies. "Really, the community just wrapped its arms around it and ran with it," said Terri Ferro, volunteer at A Mother's Hope.

The need for help continues. Today, Pelkington and Sons concrete contractors takes care of snow removal in the winter, a daunting task considering the property's long, narrow gravel driveway. In the summer, Bruce Cadwell helps maintain the grounds.

Cadwell, a 41-year member of Knights of Columbus Council No. 11353 at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, saw A Mother's Hope as "a perfect fit" for the pro-life values espoused by the Knights. He became a liaison between Roth and the council. As facilities manager for St. Vincent, Cadwell had permission to use the church's equipment to mow the home's lawn, a task he has continued since his retirement. The job was made easier



Provided by Stasia Roth

The operation of A Mother's Hope house in Fort Wayne relies heavily on volunteers. Among the individuals who donate their time to support the critical resource for homeless mothers-to-be are members of a small faith community from St. Vincent de Paul Parish, who beautify the exterior of the house each year with flowers, shrubs and mulch.

with a zero-turn lawnmower donated specifically for this use.

He shared how he and his fellow Knights have also helped move residents to new apartments after the birth of their children and prayed over them afterward.

"Without hesitation, (Roth) can call on us; we have a whole group of people who support her," he said. In the council's 26-year history, Cadwell stated, "we have had the most interest in members wanting to serve this organization than any other." The council was awarded the Mother's Hope Diamond Award last year for volunteer service.

Inside the house, Ferro helps tend to the material needs of the residents. She became interested in the apostolate four years ago when she heard Roth talk about her vision.

"When I heard her speak, it just touched my heart ... I said right then that I would keep in touch and volunteer when they were ready."

She eventually created the Hope Boutique, a space where the mothers can use points they earn through duties and classes on needed baby items. Ferro took what used to be the garage and cleaned it up, added lighting and shelving and put out a call for donations, which came pouring in. She now maintains the boutique, buys pillows for the mothers and assists with the A Mother's Hope annual gala fundraising event.

Another group from St. Vincent de Paul Parish, called Micah 6:8, informally adopted the organization. Ferro is a member of the group, and said it

started as a small Christian community and morphed into a Bible study.

The women in the group are given a small stipend from the annual budget for A Mother's Hope to spend on flowers to beautify the yard. "Then they usually blow the budget and end up covering the rest anyway. They do that every year," Roth said with a joyful smile. "It makes it homey. It's supposed to look homey and comfortable."

Beautifying the property might seem like a small contribution, but for the residents, who may never have had a real home, it can make a tremendous difference. And the volunteers' giving of their time demonstrates God's love to the women in need.

Roth is a parishioner of Our Lady of Good Hope, from which she has received much support for her work — particularly from its two priests, Father Mark Gurtner and Father Daniel Whelan. The Life Teen group from Our Lady as well as students from Bishop Dwenger High School often come to assist with yardwork and cleaning or to provide other assistance Roth needs.

Roth emphasized that since faith life is essential in the home, she and the other employees don't shy away from speaking about Jesus' love and their devotion to Him. She encourages residents who might have a Christian background to connect with their faith, and she also has built relationships with Protestant churches to meet those needs.

"I know if we're always asking Him, He will provide what we need. I believe that whole-

heartedly. And He always has. Anytime we needed something, it's always been there," Roth said. The home is always in need of monetary donations and material goods like children's board books and toys, but for Roth, prayer is the most crucial need at A Mother's Hope.

What touches her most deeply are the caring people who wrap the home and its residents in those prayers, particularly during times of spiritual attack. Through a Facebook presence, Roth can also request prayers for a resident and almost immediately obtain intercession for that person.

Ferro remarked on the beauty of the ministry and the aid it provides in giving mothers the confidence to change the course of their lives. "While they're saving a beautiful baby's life, they're making these women feel strong and beautiful and capable."

A Mother's Hope does this through classes in everything from baby care to managing finances. Additionally, they provide help and support even as mothers move out and onward. During the COVID-19 pandemic when they were able to provide food boxes to past residents.

"That's the joy, the mission — helping people, giving them hope," said Cadwell.

Volunteers are proving the power of one person's vision when God is behind it. God has brought laborers to Roth's field; those passionate about defending lives of the unborn and supporting the mothers to choose new lives for themselves and their children.

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

BY JULIE ASHER

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 was 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 was: "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."

SIGNIS is "urging our members to see as a moment of grace this unique passage: Faced with a pandemic, we are called to create a narrative that can change lives and history itself," Osman continued. "With their fellow Catholics and all people of goodwill, they can weave a story worth telling those who come after us, one that will stir their hearts and give them courage when they inevitably face their most difficult times."

"Our Catholic tradition is an ongoing story that must be renewed with each generation," she added.

Osman offered several questions for bishops to reflect on, in hopes they "will be of use to you pastorally" and in telling the story of the Catholic Church. These questions, she said, flow from the pope's message for World Communications Day and SIGNIS members are reflecting on them as well, she added.

First, she said, Pope Francis "notes that 'not all stories are good stories.' In our time there are those who seek to exploit others or to confuse so that the very notion of truth is in doubt. Their technological savvy pro-



CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn

The mastheads of numerous Catholic newspapers are seen in this photo illustration.



Catholic Communication Campaign

CONNECT WITH CHRIST

duces damaging false narratives that do great harm."

So, "what are the basic tools we offer our people to be able to spot these false stories, which spread like a virus themselves?" Osman asked. "And better, how do we tell stories of faith and hope so they become the enduring narrative, the antibody to a plague of deception and lies?"

Osman pointed to stories that blame the pandemic on a "Chinese virus," which has led to attacks on Asian people, and that spread "rumors of dangerous fake cures" for COVID-19.

"The poor and the marginalized, especially migrants and other people on the move, suffer the most, as they are exploited and literally put in harm's way so that others may be spared the brunt of the pandemic and our efforts to mitigate its effect on economic life," she said.

Next, "if we believe, as the Holy Father says, that the great storyteller became flesh in our human history, then every person has the potential to be a vital character in the story of salvation," Osman stated.

"We are seeing that in our day in the heroic actions of doctors, nurses, first responders, and in the seemingly mundane actions of those we often have failed to even notice: sanitation and cleaning workers, grocery clerks, and farmworkers. All of them risk their lives to keep us healthy and fed," she said.

On this point she offered these questions for reflection: "What are the stories in your diocese of these heroes that you can hold up as examples of Christ's love incarnated in your communities? And how do you spread these stories? What

media is at our disposal to make them known?"

She continued, "The pope reminds us that the Holy Spirit writes the story of God's love on the human heart."

"Many of the stories that relate to the experience of people today are told in secular media, printed and otherwise. In some cultures, the role of traditional storytellers serves the same role," Osman said. "In all cases, their power derives from their affirmation of deeper truths of the human condition, especially the enduring strength of love."

"How do you offer guidance to your people to see and reflect on the truth where it may be found in the media, arts, and in local traditions, perhaps in places they may not expect it?" she asked the bishops.

Osman acknowledged many dioceses had "robust plans to celebrate World Communications Day," but hoped the questions she raised "may further enhance these initiatives."

She said SIGNIS has resources at its website to help with diocesan celebrations, www.signis.net, and also urged bishops to look at how their diocese might collaborate with local organizations and educational institutions that foster media literacy.

These organizations "share with the Church the desire to embrace the truth that sets us free," Osman added.

Editor's note: The annual Catholic Communications Campaign collection, which furthers the work of Catholic media outlets around the world, is Sept. 13 in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, August 23: 10:30 a.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, LaGrange
 Tuesday, September 1: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Most Precious Blood Parish at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Fort Wayne
 Wednesday, September 2: 6:30 p.m. — Vespers and Meeting with Knights of Columbus Leadership Team, St. Peter Church, Fort Wayne
 Thursday, September 3: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Hungary Church, South Bend
 Friday, September 4: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass for St. Michael, Plymouth, and St. Mary of the Lake, Culver, Parishes, at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
 Saturday, September 5: 1 p.m. — Priesthood and Diaconate Ordinations, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame

St. Anthony Parish mourns loss of Father Kiene

BY JENNIFER BARTON

A priest's calling in life is to go where God sends him, and Father Joseph Kiene, OFM Conv., spent many years following God's will before he was called home on July 17. Father Kiene is fondly remembered for his pastoral manner at each place he was assigned.

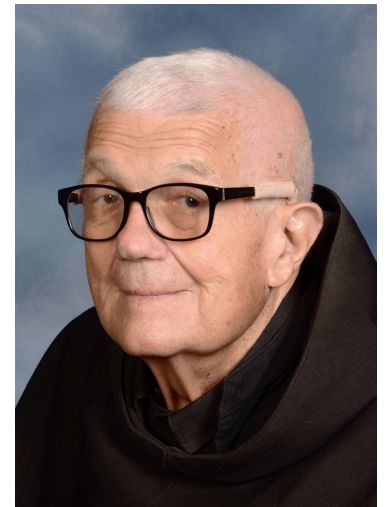
Born in Lima, Ohio, Father Kiene joined the Order of Friars Minor Conventual (Conventual Franciscans) through Mount St. Francis minor seminary in southern Indiana. He was ordained on Feb. 22, 1964, at St. Paul Cathedral in St. Paul, Minnesota. A few years after his ordination, he took on the role of naval chaplain, spending seven years in the Pacific, including Guam and California.

During his time serving the U.S. Navy, he built relationships with military members, bringing the love of Christ to them. He was credited with increased attendance at Catholic Masses during the time and was available to anyone in need, regardless of religious affiliation. Father Jim Kent, OFM Conv., said that "when he arrived, Father Joe visited every individual and family on the chaplain office list, whether they were Catholic or not."

The desire to serve the military did not leave Father Kiene. After a two-year stint as a prison chaplain for the Wisconsin State Prison, he was moved to Indianapolis to serve as chaplain at the Veterans' Administration Hospital. He was there for 30 years, with a dual chaplaincy for the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department.

"He was very much respected there," said Father Kent. "From the clerical staff to the security guards to the other chaplains, he was known and well loved by all."

Retired from active ministry in 2013, Father Kiene had been in residence at St. Anthony of Padua in Angola, visiting nursing homes in the area and meet-



FATHER JOSEPH KIENE, OFM Conv.

ing the spiritual needs of the residents.

As the regular celebrant of 7 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Father Kiene became well known and loved by those who attended that service. When he went to live in the nursing home during the latter months of his life, many of the altar servers from that Mass came to visit him.

Patti Webster, office manager at St. Anthony, recounted a story that sums up Father Kiene's service. She stated that Father Kiene took daily walks on the sidewalk along U.S. 20, and one day a man called the office desperately seeking a priest for confession. Webster told the man that there were no priests in the church at that time, but the caller spotted Father Kiene sitting along the highway on his walker and stopped and ask to give his confession. The sight of the man kneeling in the grass at Father Kiene's feet while cars sped along the highway remains imprinted in Webster's mind as the holiest event she has ever witnessed.

Father Kiene was 83 years old at the time of his death. Funeral services took place July 30 at St. Anthony of Padua. He will be returned home to rest at Mount St. Francis.

Holy Spirit moves at healing services

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Father Andrew Curry, parish administrator of Most Precious Blood in Fort Wayne, had long been open to the charismatic renewal within the Church that gave birth to healing services. During his time at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, Father Curry became involved in the Catholic charismatic renewal.

The history behind the charismatic renewal dates to the early 20th century, when Blessed Elena Guerra of Italy wrote to Pope Leo XII asking that he consecrate the 1900s to the Holy Spirit — which he did. During that century, a “bursting forth of the Holy Spirit” began across that nation, inspiring a new movement within the Church. Appropriately, Duquesne University of the Holy Spirit in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, became the epicenter of the Catholic charismatic renewal in the U.S. during the late 1960s. In 1975,

St. Pope Paul VI officially welcomed charismatics into the Church.

Priests from outside the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend have occasionally been brought in to conduct healing services. But within the last two years, several diocesan priests, including Father Benjamin Muhlenkamp, Father Mark Gurtner and Father Terrence Coonan Jr. have begun hosting their own healing services, praying over attendees.

The healing can take many forms. Justin Aquila, director of Campus Ministry at the University of Saint Francis, has been involved in healing services both on campus and at Most Precious Blood. He stated that many of the young people who attend seek healing for mental health issues. “One of our students said healing nights are the best thing that’s happened for mental health on campus,” Aquila said.

Father Curry was amazed to



Photos by Jennifer Barton

Father Andrew Curry leads a healing service at Most Precious Blood Parish, Fort Wayne, in early March. During a healing service, a priest and others who are present pray over those who wish to ask God for healing from a physical or mental affliction.



Father David Huneck prays with a worshipper during a healing service earlier this year. The power of the Holy Spirit is invoked mainly through intercessory prayer at healing services.

discover that “anybody can do this.” Parents, he said, have particular power to pray over their children’s physical, mental and spiritual health. “We think no one can pray for healing for others,” he stated, but pointed out that in his studies he came to realize that healings were part of the early Church and necessary for evangelization.

All people have the God-given gift of intercessory prayer. Aquila discerned this as one of his charisms and spends hours praying in person over others. He takes these occasions personally, going to confession and ensuring that he is in a state of grace so that he can withstand any potential spiritual attacks. At the end of the evening, he goes home tired but joyful. “I think praise is usually the thing that comes out of me afterwards. When you’re praying over someone, you don’t know what they’re receiving ... you don’t know the fruits. You kind of have to praise the Lord for whatever you think happened.”

Prayer warriors work in teams to support the priests at healing services. Tony Moore, a parish-

ioner at Most Precious Blood, recently found himself called — literally — to serve on a healing service team that Father Curry put together. Moore had never been to a healing night and was unsure what to expect. He even confessed to a bit of skepticism, but he prayed and delved into both Scripture and the writings of Mary Healy, professor of sacred Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.

“To me, the experience was awesome and joyful,” he recounted after his first healing night. “You don’t do anything; it’s all Christ. It’s all Him working through us, the Holy Spirit working through us ... Three and a half hours passed in a blink.”

Moore’s role is simply to add his prayers to the priests’, and he stresses that the priest is the one doing the praying, but Christ is the One who heals.

“I’m a believer. There is no doubt in my mind between Scripture, what Christ Himself said, and what I’ve seen so far — that all He wants to do is heal people and He uses us to do it. It’s a God thing that I don’t understand.”

Most people have questions regarding healing services. Foremost is whether everyone will receive a miracle. Father Curry encourages everyone to “go with the expectant faith that Jesus does heal,” but he cautions that human beings cannot put demands on God and that healing may not come in the form one expects. “Not all healings take place the same way. Healing is a process.” Sometimes healing can come instantly, sometimes it is gradual. Sometimes it doesn’t come at all. “But give it to God.”

Aquila added that: “Physical healing takes faith. There’s a certain boldness in asking the Lord for something ... The more humble I am, the more bold I become because I have to trust Him for everything.”

Another question frequently asked is whether everyone who is prayed over faints, as is often seen in Protestant healing services. Aquila explains that no, not everyone will “rest in the Spirit,” as it is referred to.

He does point out that there are people specifically engaged to catch anyone who does fall. However, he believes God does not work outside of the desires of His children. There seems to be an openness within some people that may induce them to resting in the Spirit, he said.

All of those involved in healing services have an understanding that this was a way that the Apostles themselves spread the Gospel message throughout the world. Moore noted that “they went out and healed, and that’s what brought people to Christ — that authentic healing ministry.”

For the healing to continue, Father Curry believes parishes should offer regular healing nights. Equally important is to praise God for His gifts, particularly any healing that might have been occurred.

Father Curry intends to hold healing nights on a regular basis, as well as praise nights to continue evangelization and spiritual growth within his parish. A healing service or healing night takes place outside the context of the Mass and should not be confused with the eucharistic liturgy.

Father Coonan, pastor of St. Therese, Little Flower Parish in South Bend, has also conducted healing services in the past and is considering offering more in the future, though no dates have been set.

Whether or not one receives healing, a night of prayer can be life-changing. “To see how people respond to how Christ was working in a real way was just a powerful thing,” Moore stated. Father Curry said the night is truly about “encountering Jesus; letting Jesus encounter me.”



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God Bless!

Catholic Charities pandemic assistance totals nearly \$400 million

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

CLEVELAND (CNS) — Scott Milliken has seen a lot of people come through the doors at the Father English Center's food pantry during his years as CEO of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Paterson, New Jersey, but not like the numbers since the coronavirus pandemic hit in March.

"We are feeding more people than ever," he said.

Whereby in a typical month before the pandemic the program served between 5,000 and 7,000 people, agency statistics showed, the numbers rose significantly in the spring. In April it was 11,000, in May 21,000 and in June 25,000.

In terms of quantity, the amount of food distributed between March and July totaled 940,000 pounds, far beyond a typical month before COVID-19, the illness caused by the novel coronavirus, arrived. Milliken estimated the food to be worth about \$1.6 million.

Milliken said the agency has seen demand for short-term utility payment and rental assistance and other needs skyrocket by 60% a month from pre-COVID-19 times. Since March the agency has distributed \$1.8 million — on average about \$1,500 per household.

The agency leader doesn't expect things to change any time soon, especially since the July 31 end of the temporary unemployment benefit of \$600 per week that was included in legislation passed early in the federal response to the pandemic.

"The increase just on Monday (Aug. 3), the phone was just ringing off the hook of people who need services," Milliken told Catholic News Service. "They're worried about losing their homes. Their worried about feeding their families."

The response in the Paterson diocese is part of nearly \$400



CNS photo/Chaz Muth

A Catholic Charities' worker places a sandwich in a bin at the St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families facility in Avondale, Md., July 14, to be packaged in boxed meals for needy residents of the greater Washington area. Catholic Charities USA agencies have provided nearly \$400 million in assistance during the first four months of the coronavirus pandemic.

million in emergency aid and services that Catholic Charities agencies nationwide have provided since March in response to the pandemic-induced economic recession.

"There are a lot of food and housing-related issues being met," Dominican Sister Donna Markham, CEO and president of Catholic Charities USA, said.

Information gathered over the last two weeks by the umbrella agency for U.S. Catholic Charities operations showed that the clients seeking assistance comprise a broader demographic than low-income and poor households that traditionally walk through the doors.

Sister Markham said that among the 50% to 70% increase in the number of clients are people from middle-class families who lost their jobs as the pandemic surged during the spring. "And they are trying to figure out how they are going to eat and pay their rent or mortgage," she told CNS.

Similar requests are being made beyond Catholic Charities, Sister Markham added.

"The whole charitable sector is being stretched to the limit. How long can that be sustained without some significant government support?" she asked.

Some of the need has been met by corporate donors and small companies that have stepped in to provide food in particular.

Jessica Sillaro, owner of The Bread Gal in Paterson, New Jersey, has provided bread, rolls and other baked goods to the Father English Center, the agency's addiction recovery program and its Department for Persons with Disabilities as well as other charitable outlets in the city 22 miles northwest of New York City.

"We did anything we could. We reached out to some people who we thought would be in need," Sillaro told CNS.

Even though from the start the pandemic had cut into

Sillaro's ability to sell products to local businesses and restaurants, she said she wanted to continue forming a "strong bond with our community."

The diocese reported that at the peak of the pandemic Sillaro was providing 10,000 individual bakery products weekly.

"We're just trying to do our part. Nothing special," she said.

Sister Markham said elsewhere corporations such as Golden West Food Group in California and the Idaho-based Albertsons grocery store chain have provided millions of dollars in food donations.

At Catholic Charities of San Antonio in Texas, requests for food jumped from between 300 and 400 families per week to an average of 3,500 per week from April through June, said Antonio Fernandez, the agency's president and CEO.

"It's just never-ending," he told CNS Aug. 4.

Through Aug. 1, the operation had distributed 490,000 pounds

of food, much of it donated from grocery stores and corporate partners, Fernandez said. Agency staff members are planning to distribute food to 5,000 people — another 70,000 pounds — Aug. 8.

Food is just one area that has seen a sharp rise in demand. Rising numbers of people have sought legal services, assistance with income tax filing, emergency shelter and counseling, Fernandez said. Overall, the added needs have cost slightly more than \$10 million, according to agency statistics.

Elvira Ramirez, executive director of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Stockton, California, said the rising number of cases in the largely agricultural region the agency serves has led a burgeoning need among military veterans and working families who face losing their homes.

"They are coming from all different directions. It's definitely because of COVID that existing problems are getting worse. And now it's about working families who are getting behind and their ability to support their families," Ramirez said.

"It's mostly agricultural and restaurant workers and domestic workers. It's people who were probably on the edge and living paycheck to paycheck," she said.

The agency has received support from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as well as local foundations to meet the increased need. However, Ramirez wonders how long the funds will last as the pandemic resurges in California.

Despite the difficulties, the agency leaders are maintaining a positive attitude.

"I tell our folks, 'Let's not get overwhelmed. Let's see how we can help,'" Ramirez said.

Fernandez stepped in at his agency's food center after 100 employees had to be placed in quarantine after a volunteer tested positive for the coronavirus even though the full range of safety precautions recommended by Texas officials was implemented.

"You show the others we have to step up," he said.

Milliken in New Jersey said he sees "light in the people" who provide assistance as well as those seeking help.

"The people that we're serving, they know that people care. There's light in people who are providing donations to use so we can do what we do. There's light in the staff. They're essential employees. Our staff is on the front lines feeding and helping people, putting their own lives at risk, too," Milliken said.

"Everybody's worried, but there's light in the good people of the world. The history of Catholic Charities has shown we come together as people and as a Church to help those who need help."

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Pope extends Loreto jubilee to 2021

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Since many of the celebrations of the Our Lady of Loreto jubilee year were grounded because of the coronavirus pandemic, Pope Francis has extended the celebration to December 2021. “In this difficult time for humanity, Holy Mother Church has gifted us another 12 months to start again from Christ, allowing ourselves to be accompanied by Mary, a sign of consolation and certain hope for all,” said Archbishop Fabio Dal Cin, the pontifical delegate for the Shrine of Our Lady of Loreto, Italy. The jubilee year began Dec. 8, 2019, to mark the 100th anniversary of the declaration of Our Lady of Loreto as the patron saint of aviation, aviators and air travelers. According to pious tradition, Mary’s house in Nazareth was flown by angels to Italy in 1294 after a brief stop in Yugoslavia. Special pilgrimages and prayer services were scheduled for the Loreto shrine, but also at military air bases and in civilian airport chapels around the world. The jubilee celebrations were to conclude this year on the Dec. 10 feast of Our Lady of Loreto, but many of the events never took place.

Teens hide in cellars: Aid official tells of conditions in eastern Ukraine

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A senior Catholic aid worker said humanitarian conditions are deteriorating in eastern Ukraine and urged Western governments and churches not to forget the continuing six-year conflict. “We thought we’d overcome war in Europe, but a whole growing generation here now knows only war — teenagers who look like teenagers everywhere but will tell you how they routinely hide in cellars to escape gunfire,” said Andrij Waskowycz, president of Caritas in Ukraine. He said with multiple world crises, officials of the Catholic charitable agency did not expect attention to stay focused on Ukraine, “but it’s crucial European countries, institutions and churches continue showing solidarity with the Ukrainian people in its suffering.” He said supplies had been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and drinking water was also running short because of infrastructure damage.

Rising gun violence amid pandemic points up bishops’ call for commonsense gun laws

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, prayed for the dead on the first anniversary in early August of the mass shooting at a Walmart in his city, he made that

NEWS BRIEFS

At Beirut Parish, signs of hope, demands for accountability after blast



CNS photo/Doreen Abi Raad

Maronite Father Elia Mouannes baptizes Simon Charbel Nader Aug. 15 at the blast-stricken Mar Mikhael Maronite Catholic Church in the Beirut, as the baby’s godparents — Sua Ellen Eid and Joseph Nader — and father — George Nader — look on. Sunlight streamed through the rotunda roof of the church, damaged when a massive explosion in the port ripped through the city. “Life must continue,” Maria Nader, Simon’s mother, told Catholic News Service as she held her 2-month-old son. “We already had the baptism scheduled. We didn’t want to cancel it” after the Aug. 4 blast. “Despite what happened, which is so devastating to everyone, I think the message is that we have to spread hope, that there is still hope for everyone,” Nader said.

solemn tribute in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, which has kept much of the U.S. public in social-distancing mode. The level of gun violence, however, has not been reduced in the five months that Americans have sheltered in place and reduced public activity. Those numbers have actually risen, according to statistics released by the Gun Violence Archive, a nonprofit research group that catalogs every incident of gun violence in the United States, with 56 mass shootings reported in May. “We cannot simply accept it as the new normal,” Bishop Seitz told Catholic News Service. Firearm deaths rose by 16% in April and 15% in May, compared to the same months in 2019, with urban areas — experiencing increased unemployment and the stress of spikes in COVID-19 cases and deaths — bearing the brunt of the violence, data from the Gun Violence Archive shows.

Like schools, religious ed programs must plan ways to teach amid pandemic

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — Just like schools, parish religious education programs have been forced to figure out how to provide instruction in the midst of a pandemic. The Diocese of Nashville’s Office of Faith Formation has issued a framework to help parish religious education programs proceed this fall while protecting students and teachers from the spread of the COVID-19 virus. “One thing my office really wants to do is to allow the parishes to approach this in the best way for them,” said Joan Watson, diocesan director of faith formation. “There’s no one size fits all because our parishes are so different” in terms of size, demographics, resources and

facilities. “My office has offered a framework for reopening, without imposing a lot,” she told the Tennessee Register, newspaper of the Diocese of Nashville. The elements of the framework have become familiar during the pandemic: If the classes are meeting in person, deep clean the rooms; encourage frequent hand-washing; maintain social distancing in the classrooms; catechists will have their temperature checked when they arrive at the parish; and parents should monitor their children for symptoms and check their temperature before bringing them to class.

Catholic baker’s sweet treats make occasions ‘a little more meaningful’

BROOKLYN, N.Y. (CNS) — Genevieve Alejandro never expected her future in the baking entrepreneur-

ial world to begin with a bishop. But in April, she made her first batch of sugar cookies, shaped as priests with their Roman collars, for the birthday of Bishop Steven J. Lopes, who heads the Houston-based Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter. “I did not want to mess them up!” Alejandro said in an interview from Texas with The Tablet, newspaper of the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York. “Not many people have the opportunity to make cookies for a bishop.” She credits her new business venture as a result of two distinct, unrelated factors: the free time in lockdown due to the global pandemic and being rooted in faith and service within the traditions of her loving Mexican Catholic family. On June 29, her brother, Armando, was ordained as a priest for the ordinariate. Alejandro’s gift to the church and her brother was sweet — 90 treats that included customized priest-shaped cookies, vestments and all, and chalice-shaped cookies representing the Eucharist. “I’m very honored to be his sister,” she said. “Making cookies for his ordination was ... out of love.”

Letter: Democrats must make room for pro-lifers, ‘moderate’ abortion position

WASHINGTON (CNS) — About 100 current and former Democratic lawmakers from several states urged the Democratic Party’s Platform Committee Aug. 14 “to moderate its official position on abortion,” saying many party leaders support abortion policies “radically out of line with public opinion.” “Many Democratic leaders support abortion at any time, for any reason; this position is opposed by 79% of Americans,” said the letter, posted on the website of Democrats for Life. It was sent three days ahead of the start of the virtual Democratic National Convention Aug. 17-20. Originally, scheduled to be held in downtown Milwaukee at the Wisconsin Center, all sessions were to take place virtually due to the pandemic. “We respect the pro-life leanings of our constituents,” said the letter’s signers. Current and former elected Democrats from many states, they said they represent “millions of Americans.” “We are members of Congress, state legislators and local officials,” they added. They said they are “united by three major concerns”: “We are concerned that many Democratic leaders support policies on abortion that are radically out of line with public opinion”; “We are concerned that, due to this wide disparity, the Democratic Party is alienating voters”; “Finally, we are concerned about the betrayal of Democratic Party values.”

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Preparing to receive the Holy Spirit



Lindsay Klinker

To prepare themselves before their confirmation, on Wednesday, Aug. 5, candidates at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, took time from their regular EDGE youth group program for a few moments of socially distant eucharistic adoration led by Father Jay Horning. Afterward, they enjoyed some evening outdoor recreation. St. Vincent's candidates were confirmed at Masses that took place the following Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

Do-it-yourself demo



Provided by Father Jason Freiburger

Work has started on a new gathering space for St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Elkhart. In order for the top-to-bottom renovation to begin, confessional area and restrooms had to be gutted – a project to which pastor Father Jason Freiburger lent some muscle last week.

New Ave Explores series looks at diversity of Catholic family life

NOTRE DAME — Family is the focus of the next multimedia Ave Explores series, "Ave Explores: Catholic Family Life," which kicked off Aug. 19 with podcasts, an article, social media exclu-

sives, and Facebook Live events each week through Sept. 11.

The Ave Explores podcast is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Google Play Music.

Sign up to receive limited-time, weekly emails about new stories, podcasts, and Facebook Live events for "Ave Explores: Catholic Family Life" at avemari-apress.com.

Thanking God for His gifts brings joy, pope says

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Taking time out each day to be thankful for God and His gifts will lead to greater joy and mark a great step forward for humanity, Pope Francis said.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, "acknowledges that she is small and exalts the 'great things' the Lord has done for her," the pope said before praying the Angelus Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption of Mary.

With her assumption — body and soul — into heaven, she "gives us hope," he said.

"We understand that we are precious, destined to rise again. God does not allow our bodies to vanish into nothing. With God, nothing is lost!" he said to those gathered in St. Peter's Square.

"In Mary, the goal has been reached and we have before our eyes the reason why we journey: not to gain the things here below, which vanish, but to achieve the homeland above, which is forever. And Our Lady is the star that guides us," he said.

In fact, Mary's assumption into heaven represents "an infinitely greater conquest" than putting a man on the moon, he said.

The pope recalled the famous phrase by Neil Armstrong when he became the first human being to set foot on the moon, saying, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

With that event, the pope said, "humanity had reached a historical goal. But today, in Mary's assumption into heaven, we celebrate an infinitely greater conquest" in which Our Lady has "set foot in paradise."

"She went there not only in spirit, but with her body as well, with all of herself. This step of the lowly Virgin of Nazareth was the huge leap forward for humanity. Going to the moon serves us little if we do not live as brothers and sisters on Earth," the pope said.

Mary wants people to "magnify" God by putting Him first, and not focusing first on one's problems or difficulties, he said.

This approach leads to great joy, he said, not because problems have vanished — they

don't — but because one knows that God is present, close and can help.

"The Lord works wonders with those who are lowly, with those who do not believe that they are great but who give ample space to God in their life. He extends His mercy to those who trust in Him, and raises up the humble," the pope said.

Just as Mary praises God for this, people should remember to praise and thank God for the great things He does and for each day He gives.

The pope asked if people remember to thank God for always loving and forgiving them and "for His tenderness? In addition, for having given us His mother, for the brothers and sisters He puts on our path, and because He opened heaven to us?"

If people forget all the good things in their lives, their "hearts shrink," but if, like Mary, they remember and "magnify" God with praise, "then we would take a great step forward" and "our hearts will expand, joy will increase.

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Diocesan seminarians instituted as acolytes, lector

BY JODI MARLIN

Moving ever closer to the day they will commit the whole of their lives in service to Christ and His Church, eight diocesan seminarians were instituted Aug. 3 in the ministries of lector and acolyte.

When seminarians receive the ministries of lector and acolyte, which differ slightly from ministries of the same name exercised by lay persons, the Church recognizes the formation that has occurred in them and their willingness to embrace the ministries as another sign of their preparation for ordination.

The Mass with Institution of Acolyte and Lectors for most seminarians of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is usually celebrated at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, but this year had to be postponed. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at St. Martin de Porres Church, Syracuse, instead and attended by some of their family members and friends. Vince Faurote, Brian Florin, Bobby Krisch, David Langford, Jacob Schneider, Ryan Timossi and Brian Kempkiak have completed their first year of theology studies and were instituted as lectors. Fellow first-year Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend theologians Samuel Anderson and Zane Langenbrunner were instituted as lectors this spring at Pontifical North American College in Rome.

The institution of seminarian Brian Isenbarger as acolyte also was postponed from the spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He has finished his second year of theology study at Mount St. Mary's Seminary. Fellow second-year theology student Mark Hellinger received the ministry at Pontifical North American College in early 2020.

During his homily, Bishop



Photos provided by Deacon Michael Ammer

At a Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades Aug. 3 in Syracuse, seven diocesan seminarians were instituted in the ministry of lector. Brian Isenbarger was instituted as acolyte. Pictured following the Mass, from left, are Father Andrew Budzinski, director of vocations; Msgr. Michael Heintz; Ryan Timossi; Jacob Schneider; Vince Faurote; Brian Kempkiak; Deacon Paolo Degaspero; Bishop Rhoades; Deacon Michael Ammer; Brian Florin; Bobby Krisch; David Langford; and Isenbarger.

Rhoades reminded those present that the life of the first Christian community in Jerusalem centered around the teaching of the apostles and the fellowship, or communion (koinonia) with one another, experienced especially through the breaking of the bread (the Eucharist) — as well as their prayers together.

“Their spiritual sharing was then the foundation for their material sharing of goods,” he told them. “All these things remain crucial for the life of the Church. I mention this today since two elements of the Church’s life are highlighted in this Mass with the institution of lectors and an acolyte: the commitment to the teaching of the apostles, which comes to us through the Sacred Scriptures, and the celebration of the Eucharist, the breaking of the bread, the very heart of the



A Mass with Institution of Acolyte and Lectors was celebrated Aug. 3 at St. Martin de Porres Church, Syracuse.

Church’s life.”

Addressing the seminarians who would be instituted as lectors, the bishop said that during seminary the Church wants them to learn to love the Word of God.

“But besides your study of the Scriptures, you are called to a profound personal relationship with God’s word, particularly in lectio divina. I hope you are learning to see the relationship between your Biblical studies and your prayer with the Scriptures. It’s only when we ‘abide in the Word’ that we become better disciples of the Lord.”

He encouraged them to devote themselves to the prayerful reading of the Scriptures, to carefully and prayerfully preparing to read the readings and remembering that Christ is present to His people when the Scriptures are read at the liturgy.

Regarding the institution of the ministry of acolyte, the bishop noted that there is a “profound unity between the Word of God and the Eucharist.”

“The early Church was devoted to both the teaching of the apostles and the breaking of the bread. In the Emmaus story, after Jesus explained the Scriptures to the two disciples, He broke the bread with them whereupon they recognized it was Jesus. ‘The presence of Jesus, first with His words and then with the act of breaking bread, made it possible for the disciples to recognize Him.’ (Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini* 54)

“There is this unbreakable bond, Pope Benedict taught, between Scripture and the Eucharist. The Order of the

Lectionary says, ‘It can never be forgotten that the divine word, read and proclaimed by the Church, has as its one purpose the sacrifice of the new covenant and the banquet of grace, that is, the Eucharist.’

He highlighted the importance of the priest’s bringing holy Communion to the homebound, the sick and the dying, to strengthen their relationship with Christ and the Church.

Bishop Rhoades concluded by praying for all diocesan candidates to the priesthood, that these steps would deepen their resolve to follow the Lord’s call.

“May your hearts burn within you as you are more deeply immersed in God’s word; and may you experience joy and wonder in recognizing Jesus every day in the breaking of the bread!”

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC



Joshua Schipper

Mass and confession will continue to be offered on the campus of Purdue Fort Wayne, with diocesan and school guidelines in place to keep students and faculty safe. Socially distanced Bible study is planned as well and may take place outdoors.

College ministry adapts to pandemic

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

As college students in Indiana return to school, they do so behind masks. With several state, university and diocesan mandates dictating how to approach the COVID-19 pandemic, on-campus Catholic ministry has had to shift to comply with these new rules.

Purdue University Fort Wayne

Students at Purdue Fort Wayne will return to a campus where they cannot use certain entrances and exits, study rooms and even water fountains. The Catholic ministry on campus, Mastodon Catholic, has adapted.

"With the changes necessitated by reopening the university, there are a number of factors affecting how we usually minister to the campus," said PFW junior Michael Langford, incoming president of Mastodon Catholic. "Naturally, this will be a highly dynamic situation as the semester unfolds, and we will be working closely with the university to both cooperate with their requirements, and yet still effectively reach the student body."

"Mass and confession beforehand will still be held on campus," Langford continued, "though with both the diocesan and school measures in place to keep students and faculty safe. We will attempt to offer it outdoors as much as possible as well to simplify social distancing logistics and keep everyone safer."

Langford added that



Richard Storey

Student leaders gather for a physically distanced meeting during a welcome weekend at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, this month.

Mastodon Catholic will offer socially distanced Bible study as well, which will be outside if possible.

"We will also be encouraging students during the pandemic and at all times to keep one another accountable to prayer, even when apart."

Father Thomas Zehr assumes a new role as chaplain of Mastodon Catholic this semester.

Manchester University

The Catholic ministry at Manchester University, Manchester Catholics, will institute similar adaptations.

"I think that the biggest change in moving forward will be how we conduct our meetings and how often we will meet," said Benjamin Miles, a sophomore who is secretary of the ministry. "I think there will be plans to meet in outside locations so that it will be easier to

maintain social distancing."

"The Manchester Catholics club has been keeping a sense of positivity and unity as we all go through these trying times," he noted. "I think that as we get closer to the start of the upcoming school year, we're noticing that our prayers for a safe return are being answered and that we will all be together again soon."

Father Dennis Di Benedetto will continue as chaplain of Manchester Catholics this fall.

Holy Cross College, Notre Dame

Campus Ministry at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, will pay close attention to the handling of hosts and other sacramentals before and after consecration to ensure that there is minimal contact that could spread the novel coronavirus. Additionally, St. Joseph Chapel

on campus is carrying out regular cleaning guidelines instituted by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

"By wiping down the chapel after Mass and adoration, we are attempting to keep germs at bay," said junior Isabella Parrish.

As an intern, Parrish will plan several retreats and parishes for her fellow students. "I will plan a total of three retreats, which will be spread out over six weekends to allow for more people to attend each time. These retreats are called Spes Retreats and take place over the weekend," she continued. "Along with these retreats I will be planning pilgrimages to both Montreal, Canada, and Lourdes, France, assuming we are able to travel outside of the country."

Parrish noted that the pandemic has required campus ministry to split the retreats into two weekends, with a limit of 30 retreatants each weekend.

Dane Litchfield, a student at Holy Cross, involves himself with several ministries on campus and believes that campus ministry at the college has "been a leader throughout the pandemic."

Litchfield participates in the liturgical choir and is a lector and altar server. He is also a member of the campus hospitality team as well as the "Saints for Life," among other groups.

As an altar server, Litchfield has observed some changes in how they prepare for the liturgy this fall.

"Mainly, the choir of servers has been reduced and only the master of ceremonies assists the priest in the offertory, since there is no procession of gifts. The candle bearers also must distance themselves out more when standing by the ambo for the Gospel. Mainly logistical things. The spirituality of the altar servers is still vibrant and present at Holy Cross College."

"Holy Cross College has shown true leadership through this entire year, with an especially vibrant and devout Catholic identity being expressed across campus," he added. "I don't think anywhere else could someone say 'happy feast day' to an acquaintance, form those bonds with someone you see on a constant basis, or witness to Christ in the manner that Holy Cross College does in its pursuit to develop scholars, citizens, leaders and disciples for today."

Through an unprecedented worldwide pandemic, college students in the diocese have persevered, finding ways to continue worship while socially distanced.



Photos by Jennifer Barton

Several priests who served on the northwest side of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are interred in the priests' section of St. Joseph Cemetery in Mishawaka.

Faithful spirits

Cemetery tour honors Catholic forefathers

BY JENNIFER BARTON

A sense of peace and other-worldliness encompasses a grassy, tree-filled, square lot in the heart of Mishawaka. Cars and trains roll by on three sides without realizing the significance of what the wrought-iron fence contains; the final resting place of hundreds of Catholics who advanced the faith life in Mishawaka.

This is St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, and Pete De Kever is determined to tell the stories of those who lie therein.

De Kever, a former high school English teacher and athletic coach, was appointed historian laureate of Mishawaka by Mayor David Wood in 2019. His interest in the history of the cemetery goes back to his childhood, when his father would bring him to St. Joseph to maintain the family's graves. Through his work as a historian, De Kever has dug up many stories of those who were laid to rest at St. Joseph, Fairview and Mishawaka City cemeteries, which are all located in the same city square.

Three years ago, he began giving tours of the gravesites. The St. Bavo parishioner wanted to give a strictly Catholic tour of the final resting places, however, the idea finally took form on Aug. 15.

"By studying the history of the cemetery, we are studying the development of Catholic churches in Mishawaka," De Kever stated.

The importance of these graves to the local Catholic community cannot be overstated. Many of the families De Kever has profiled gave much of themselves to help establish St. Joseph, St. Monica,

St. Bavo and even Queen of Peace parishes, donating money for stained-glass windows and the manpower to lay the foundations of these churches.

Founded in 1863, St. Joseph Cemetery boasts the largest crucifix in Mishawaka, installed by Schumacher Construction. The cemetery actually belongs to St. Joseph Parish and is maintained by a committee there, though burials have not been limited to members of the parish. Most of the graves in the cemetery are old and new burials are limited due to space constrictions, though the St. Katharina Kasper columbarium has allowed for a few more resting places.

Politicians, businesspeople, sports legends and even an actress take pride of place in De Kever's tour. Additionally, an entire section of the cemetery is dedicated to priests and religious sisters who faithfully served the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and built the Church in Mishawaka.



Pete De Kever, Mishawaka historian, stands by the grave of Father August Oechtering, an early pastor of St. Joseph Church who served in the parish for 36 years. De Kever frequently gives tours of the cemeteries in Mishawaka, teaching participants the history behind the gravestones.

Two of the prominent families De Kever speaks of during the tour are the Kamm and Schellinger clans. These families were linked, as patriarchs Nicholas and Adolph were not only as business partners but also brothers-in-law twice over, marrying each other's sisters. They owned a brewery called Kamm-Schellinger. The Kamms donated the altar at St. Joseph, and Adolph served on the building committee for the church. The family also financed many stained-glass windows at the three parishes.

Several of the people buried at St. Joseph impacted the world beyond Mishawaka.

Richard Caleal designed the

1949 Ford — the car that "saved" Ford — in his Mishawaka kitchen. A member of St. Monica Parish, he was interred at St. Joseph after his passing in 2006.

Virgil Van Dinter met with Gen. Jimmy Doolittle prior to his famous raid and was asked to design fuel tanks to equip the B-25s for the mission.

Actress Irene Vergauwen Vernon played in the television series "Bewitched" for two years, returning to South Bend prior to her death.

And no Catholic cemetery tour in the region would be complete without a University of Notre Dame athlete. Achille "Chick" Maggioli played halfback on the 1943 national championship team before being called up for military service in World War II. He served in the Marine Corps in Okinawa and returned home to play on the University of Illinois' 1946 Rose Bowl championship team. Afterward, he played professional football for a few years before settling down in Mishawaka as an entrepreneur. De Kever knew Maggioli

from times they both came to St. Joseph to maintain their family's graves.

The more De Kever learns about the stories behind the graves, the more his interest increases, he said. He hopes to continue coming to the cemetery and uncovering more stories of the people buried there. Through his research he has been able to discover where some of them lived, as some of those houses are still part of the neighborhood. A portion of the Fairview Cemetery, located across the street, was once owned by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and is now the Catholic part of that cemetery.

De Kever offered a reminder that Catholics are members of the communion of saints, so there is a connection with the deceased — even if they are not blood-related. "Whenever we receive Communion, we are spiritually connected to people in the cemetery. In the act of us receiving, we experience a unity with those people that goes across time and space."

His work in this area fits neatly into the mandate to perform corporal and spiritual works of mercy; namely, burying the dead and praying for their souls. He hopes that prayers will continue to be offered for any souls who may still be in purgatory.

De Kever also works hard to keep the memories of Mishawaka residents alive through his writing. He has written several books on the city, including "Walking Mishawaka," which features many of the individuals highlighted in the tour; because "if these people are forgotten, it's like they died twice."

What the world needs now: holy heroes

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

At age 16, Nicholas Becker has already achieved a great deal. He serves as an acolyte at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, spots when his brother Crispin lifts weights, and had a busboy job at Chick-fil-A restaurant before the pandemic shut things down. He has spoken at several area right-to-life events and was elected vice president of his freshman class at Marian High School, Mishawaka, last year. Now he's a YouTube personality, too.

The sixth of seven children of Rick and Nancy Becker, Nicholas is proud of his siblings who have studied at the University of Notre Dame, Purdue University and Ball State University, and worked in computer science and data management. His married sister is studying library science. Nick is hopeful one of them will make him an uncle someday.

Rick and Nancy met at Franciscan University of Steubenville and moved to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend when Bishop John M. D'Arcy invited Rick to fill a position in the Office of Catechesis. Inspired by Rose Hawthorne Lathrop, O.P., who became a religious sister and served the poor who were suffering from incurable cancers, he wanted to do something more hands-on and directly involved with people.

Rick earned a nursing degree, worked in oncology and now teaches nursing at Bethel University in Mishawaka. Nancy loves working part-time at Sacred Heart, Notre Dame, where she keeps sacramental records for the crypt parish. She's also a Notre Dame sports fan, a role she took on partly for the sake of her sons.

Like his brothers and sisters, Nick was born at home. Knowing the Beckers' pro-life values, the midwife who attended Nick's birth gave them time to get to know their new son before confirming that he had Down syndrome. But in this large family there was plenty of love to go around; in fact, when Nicholas' younger sister Katharine arrived, the five older children were a tad disappointed that she didn't also have special needs.

Except for heart surgery that was performed on him at a year old, Nick has been strong and healthy and is very articulate. When he reached school age, the principal at St. Matthew Cathedral School encouraged Rick and Nancy to enroll Nicholas there, and he became something of a pioneer for diocesan efforts to fully integrate students with disabilities. He subsequently followed his siblings to Marian, where he is enrolled in the Bernadette Scholars program.

On his own initiative, during the pandemic, Nick started a private Facebook group to



Screenshots from YouTube

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, left, laughs with Nicholas Becker as Nick interviews him remotely in early August about the feast of the Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major. To keep himself occupied during the pandemic, the student at Marian High School, Mishawaka, created a YouTube channel on which he shares fun facts about Catholic saints and feast days.

which he posts almost every day. Sometimes he proclaims the readings from the day's Mass and offers insightful commentary, something he's been known to do since he played Mass as a child.

Nick has recently created a YouTube channel, "Fun Facts About Saints," to which, as often as possible, he posts interviews with someone about the saint of the day. His dad or a family friend in appropriate garb are

frequent guests. So he was excited but only a little nervous, he said, when an opportunity came up to talk to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades about the Aug. 5 feast of the Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major. The virtual

interview posted Aug. 5 and has more than 200 views.

Nurturing his faith through personal prayer, the sacraments and a family rosary are important to Nicholas. "I believe someone out there really loves me, and that makes my faith grow," he testified. His hero is St. Joseph, whom he chose as his confirmation saint last year, and he also admires Pope St. John Paul II.

Nicholas' ambition in life is to be an actor, like the pope. He has been in several plays in grade school as well as "Shakescenes" at Notre Dame and was disappointed when he didn't get to act at Marian in the spring because the school closed. A self-taught drummer, he likes to make music — something he practices with his dad and brother on bass and guitar. Along with his new Facebook and YouTube presence, the activities have allowed him to stay busy and continue developing his interests and skills during the hiatus in his school career.



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Let action speak

In a previous column, I spoke of the shame and scourge of inaction as a tragedy greater than the racial injustice and brutality we have witnessed. As a counterpoint, this column highlights actions undertaken by two organizations to address systemic barriers to economic mobility.

Touted as a one-of-a-kind learning model, Purdue Polytechnic High School, founded in 2017, combines project-based learning with a personalized curriculum that focuses on STEM — science, technology, engineering and math — while cultivating skills in time management, self-discipline, teamwork, communication and accountability to self and others.

Working with faculty coaches, business and nonprofit organizations, students have engaged in coding, robotics design, study of viruses, debates on ethics and equity, electronic music and game production as well as developed hydroponic systems for growing food in homes or water filtration devices for zoo conservation.

While the innovative model is noteworthy, more relevant to this column is that the high school was established specifically to increase the enrollment of low income and underrepresented minority students from the Indianapolis Public School system at Purdue University.

Indianapolis Public Schools is comprised of 22% white students, and the median family income is \$37,827. As a baseline, only 12 minority and an

equal number of first-generation students from the Indianapolis Public Schools system are enrolled in the university's 2019 freshman class.

Of the Indianapolis Public School 10th graders in both groups, only 4% demonstrate sufficient academic preparedness, as calibrated in state tests, to qualify for the university. Finding this historical low representation unacceptable, the university worked with the school system to create an urban charter school open to all families in the system. The purpose is to strengthen the preparation of students and to guarantee automatic admission into Purdue University when minimum criteria are met. As of this writing, about one-third of the rising senior class of 115 students have qualified.

As college success does not depend solely on academics, Purdue Polytechnic High School students make frequent treks to Purdue University to make presentations and meet with faculty. The qualified rising seniors spent part of this summer at the main campus to get a head start on college life, culture, networking and the services available to them.

Taking another step toward student access and success, the university has made a pledge that costs would not be an obstacle for attendance and a scholarship fund is being raised.

Another organization targets higher education costs which exceed the financial capacity of many underrepresented minor-



CAROLYN WOO

OUR GLOBAL FAMILY

ity students and their families. Social Finance, a Boston-based nonprofit organization works with business, government and philanthropic partners to create innovative financing solutions for these students.

Its career impact bond enables students to pursue training for midlevel skill professions without first paying tuition. Loan repayment only takes place after the graduate reaches a specified income threshold within a period of years after graduation.

The agreement also specifies the percentage of income, number of years of repayment and a cap on total payment. The loan covers not only tuition but other living and child care expenses.

Career impact bonds fall under the category of income sharing agreements, which are popular in Latin America and are increasingly being used at American universities.

It does not provide a free college education but does shift the financial risk from students to investors with repayment and returns only available upon the success of the students. The latter becomes a mutual objective.

WOO, page 13

Making the most of masking, Catholic style

Cloth face masks: They're the unexpected fashion trend of 2020. We're making them, we're buying them, we're wearing them (hopefully). TV news reporters and members of Congress have such perfectly color-coordinated masks, it's like they've been collecting them for decades to pair with their pandemic-era outfits. I, myself, have made a few (including a Scooby Doo themed one for our 3-year-old) and bought a few (thank you Washington Nationals MLB Online Team Store).

We can probably all agree that wearing masks isn't the most fun. It's hard to take deep breaths, and it's strange not being able to see the facial expressions of the person with whom you are speaking. Wearing a mask can play psychological games, too — making us feel like we're arming ourselves for battle, even though it's really the other way around. Whenever I put on a mask, I find it helpful to remind myself: "I do not wear this mask out of fear. I wear it because I love and wish to protect my neighbor from germs I may not even know that I have. Relax, and take a deep breath ... or not."

With a majority of states now requiring masks to be worn in public spaces to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus, face coverings are becoming more and more ubiquitous. Since they are part of life as we know it for the foreseeable future, I've



GRETCHEN CROWE

GUEST COMMENTARY

made it a personal mission to make the most of them. Forget lemons and lemonade. When life gives you a mask-wearing mandate, you might as well find some cute fabric.

That's not hard to do these days, as private individuals and bigger companies have sprung into action to create masks that appeal to all personality types. There's your basic solids and flower motifs. There are the Darth Vader look-alikes. And, for the funny guys, there are those featuring quips like, "If you're reading this, you're standing too close." My sister, who recently was married, wore a "bride" face mask, and she provided personalized, wedding-themed coverings for those in attendance.

One of the unintended benefits of mask-wearing is the ability to use them to shout our Catholic pride. And the options are plentiful. For the DIY hobbyists among us, Abigail Halpin's Marian-inspired patterns are subtle yet stunning and would make for enjoyable crafting time. (Personal aside: My

CROWE, page 13

Faith allows us to see who Jesus is



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 16:13-20

The first section of the Book of Isaiah provides this weekend with its first reading.

The author of this section of Isaiah lived when the southern Hebrew kingdom, or the kingdom of Judah, still existed. Only later was this kingdom and the other Hebrew kingdom, the northern kingdom of Israel, overwhelmed by outside invaders.

As has been and is so often the case of national rulers, the king of Judah governed the country with the assistance of aides and subordinates. The principal assistant wore a special uniform to indicate to all that he acted on the king's behalf. This distinctive

clothing verified his authority.

In this reading, God, speaking through the prophet, stated that a chief minister should be selected to serve the king and to carry out the royal will. This official would wear the uniform of his high office.

Basic in this reading is that God very much intervenes in human lives and uses human agents to accomplish the divine will and to communicate God's words to people.

The prophet, the king and the chief minister all were human agents ultimately commissioned to bring God to the people, and the people to God.

St. Paul's letter to the Romans again is the source of the Church's second reading. Romans has been read for the past several weekends. It is a great testimony to the majesty of God, an eloquent profession of Paul's own faith.

God needs no counselor or informer, but unlike the Roman deities, God is not aloof, conniving and at times vengeful. He knows us. He hears us, willingly, mercifully and with love. We can communicate with God with

assurance of being heard, our needs understood.

For its third reading this weekend, the Church offers us a passage from St. Matthew's Gospel. It is an especially descriptive and enlightening reading.

The occasion occurred at Caesarea Philippi, a place northeast of Capernaum. At the time of Jesus, this place was a resort. The Jordan River forms here from springs, and small creeks flow from it. Still picturesque, it is a modern, popular place for relaxation and for delighting in nature. It is part of the Golan Heights, where so much warfare occurred not that long ago.

Central to the reading is Peter's confession of faith in Jesus. The Lord asked Peter, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" Jesus identified with the "Son of Man," of the Old Testament, who was God's special representative.

Peter replied that the people were confused. Some saw Jesus as a prophet, such as John the Baptist or even Elijah.

Jesus pressed the question, and Peter declared that he him-

self saw Jesus as the "Son of the living God," a profound proclamation of the Lord's own divinity. Peter had faith. Faith gave him insight, wisdom and the courage of conviction.

Reflection

Before accepting Christianity, two steps are necessary. First, realize that God exists. Second, believe that God communicates with people, and that people may communicate with God, if they choose. Neither is easy in our culture.

God is not boisterous. He does not shout divine revelation at us. He does not thunder divine decrees. Indeed, humans often cannot comprehend the divine message unless they have faith. Otherwise, it is puzzling or even nonsense.

These readings build upon the basic thought that God exists, a Supreme, eternal Being, great and unique in power, wisdom and mercy. Such stated Paul in the letter to the Romans, read this weekend.

The readings from Isaiah and Matthew clearly indicate that

God speaks through human instruments, such as Isaiah, such as the king and his servant.

What about Peter? His great faith gave him extraordinary wisdom. In his faith, he saw Jesus as God. What about us? Does our faith allow us to see? Are we confused? Or are we secure in our knowledge of God?

READINGS

Sunday: Is 22:19-23 Ps 138:1-3, 6, 8 / Rom 11:33-36 Mt 16:13-20

Monday: Rv 21:9b-14 Ps 145:10-13ab, 17-18 Jn 1:45-51

Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17 Ps 96:10-13 Mt 22:23-26

Wednesday: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18 Ps 128:1-2, 4-5 Mt 23:27-32

Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9 Ps 145:2-7 Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25 Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11 Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31 Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21 Mk 6:17-29

Mary: queen mother of our souls

Mother of Jesus is one of the most common titles given to Mary. It holds the basic truth of her identity but is also the key to an often-forgotten, feast day: Aug. 22, the Queenship of Mary.

The jump from everyday, humble mother to the queen of heaven and earth might seem a bit extreme, yet it is precisely the reality that the Catholic Church proclaims about Mary and celebrates on the octave after her assumption into heaven Aug. 15. The Queenship of Mary is ordered eight days after she is brought into heaven by the power of her Son, Jesus. Here she is crowned by God's own power, following in the tradition from ancient Israel as described in Scripture.

In the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 1, we read about Mary as mother of Jesus; and later, in Rev. 12:17, as the crowned woman laboring in birth to a male Son. She is the queen mother; the Ark of the Covenant, as she bore Jesus, the very living presence of God, in her womb. She became the temple, the place where God came to dwell. On this feast we celebrate the closeness and intimacy that a spiritual mother with us, as well as the loyalty and respect that a queen holds.

We ponder both of these mysteries when we pray the fourth and fifth glorious mysteries of the rosary, living part of a cosmic struggle between good and evil. By acknowledging Mary as queen of heaven and earth, we, her spiritual children, are offered a choice to live and fight the good fight for her Son — or for the other side.

Her queenship was given not for her own power, for her own sake, but rather to humbly serve her God and His children, you and I. Scripture describes this in John 2:5, at the wedding feast of Cana, when Mary tells the wedding servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

This New Testament example follows the Old Testament tradi-

tion of "gebirah," queen mother, whose intercession on behalf of the people was the strongest and most powerful. It is not because of marriage or her own will that she is queen, as we see in today's society, but rather from her very nature as woman, giving birth to new life. She oversees her children's education and sees to their well-being.

In 1 Kings, Chapter 2, Bathsheba sits at the right hand of Solomon and pleads on behalf of his people. Mary, too, is seated by God's grace at Jesus' right hand. She is our greatest advocate, guiding us ever closer to her Son.

St. Louis de Montfort, a French priest with a great Marian charism, explained in "True Devotion to Mary:" "Mary is the Queen of Heaven and earth by grace, as Jesus is the King of them by nature and by conquest. Now, as the kingdom of Jesus Christ consists principally in the heart or the interior of man — according to the words, "The kingdom of God is within you" [Luke 17:21] — in like manner the kingdom of our Blessed Lady is principally in the interior of man; that is to say, his soul. And it is principally in souls that she is more glorified with her Son than in all visible creatures, and so we can call her, as the Saints do, the Queen of All Hearts."

Each day, Jesus builds the kingdom of God person by person inside of us. Thus, Mary's role as queen is to reign with Him over our souls, connecting and binding us, conforming us every day closer to her Son. Her own life and example followed this same configuration, patterned after Christ.

Allowing God's grace to live and work within her, the Holy Spirit transformed Mary into a true handmaid of the Lord. "Let it be done to me, according to your word" is the fiat of Mary. She didn't say it coyly, somehow to withdraw it later, or with resignation, as if she has no will;



JENNIFER MILLER

LIVING THE LITURGICAL LIFE

but rather simply and humbly, knowing full well her part and God's role, both distinct and well-defined. She is a creature and God is God. Mary's humility never puts herself down or thinks less of herself, but rather acknowledges her unique role and God's grace in making that manifest.

True humility doesn't shy away from truth; rather, it works and submits itself to it, allowing the individual to flourish in the proper space and time. Like any Christian, Mary knows her talents and abilities are not for her own sake, but rather to serve others.

It is this simple and yet profound subtlety, living the gift of humility, which allows Mary to remain ever "full of grace" and the mother to Jesus, John, the disciples, the Church and now to you and me. Her role of queen of our hearts and our souls flows from that role as most humble mother.

Together, as we choose to live for Christ in Our Lady's advocacy, we can offer ourselves, our little lives and everlasting souls to her guidance, praying a litany to our dear own queen mother, Mary.

"Hail, holy queen, mother of mercy..."

- Queen of angels, pray for us.*
- Queen of patriarchs, pray for us.*
- Queen of prophets, pray for us.*
- Queen of apostles, pray for us.*
- Queen of martyrs, pray for us.*
- Queen of confessors, pray for us.*
- Queen of virgins, pray for us.*
- Queen of all saints, pray for us.*
- Queen conceived without original sin, pray for us.*
- Queen assumed into heaven, pray for us.*

CROWE, from page 12

husband got me several yards of her fabric for Christmas, and I love it.) For those who prefer someone else to do the work, artist Jen Frost offers beautiful homemade face masks at her online shop Faith and Fabric. And Courtney Freiburger offers simple and lovely Catholic-inspired face masks at Hardy Design and Photography. For clergy, Tonini Church Supply Company, based in Louisville, Kentucky, sells face masks made with "vestment style print" in every liturgical color. Even the Knights of Columbus have created a branded face mask that proclaims: "Leave no neighbor behind."

A Google search will uncover plenty more, and it's fascinating to see the designs that touch on so many aspects of our faith.

So while no one likes to be in

the middle of a pandemic, and no one really likes to have to wear masks, who knows? Maybe your Catholic-inspired face covering will prompt a (socially distanced) conversation with someone about the faith? Or maybe it will bring you a sense of peace, reminding you to set aside any worries and anxieties, and instead trust in the Lord.

These are hard times, and more uncertainty lies ahead. But, several months into this thing, we know wearing cloth face coverings can help reduce the spread of coronavirus germs. Why not support Catholic artists and companies, get a little crafty, and join me in making the most of it?

Gretchen R. Crowe is editorial director for periodicals at OSV. Follow her on Twitter @GretchenOSV. Reprinted with permission.

WOO, from page 12

Actions, not intent, break through obstacles embedded in our current systems. The examples highlighted above can be scaled and sustained as more organizations adopt similar approaches tailored to their contexts and opportunities.

Actions teach us and invite our imagination. They engage us when we participate in advocacy, funding or implementation. They challenge our cynicism and indifference. What is faith without action?

Carolyn Woo is the distinguished president's fellow for global development at Purdue University.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for August 23, 2020

Matthew 16: 13-20

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: mountain-top light. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

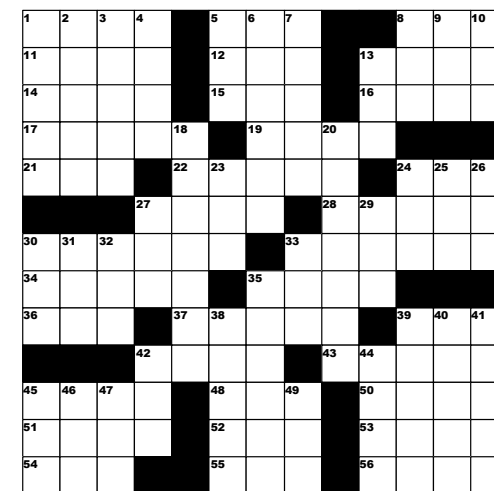
CAESAREA	DISCIPLES	PEOPLE
OTHER	ONE OF	SIMON PETER
SON OF JONAH	FLESH	BLOOD
REVEALED THIS	CHURCH	THE GATES
PREVAIL	AGAINST IT	GIVE
THE KEYS	BIND	ON EARTH
HEAVEN		TO TELL

KINGDOM KEYS

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

The Cross Word

August 16, 23 and 30, 2020



- 48 "___ this rock"
 49 Executive
 50 Central nervous system
 51 Lairs
 52 St. Boniface chopped one down
- DOWN**
- 1 "Do what is ___"
 2 Computer ___ name
 3 The narrow ___
 4 "Master of the Palace"
 5 "Scraps that fall from ___"
 6 Lotion ingredient
 7 ___jour
 8 God's justice will be
 9 Payable
 10 "___ and Sidon"
 13 Mass at Easter ___
 18 "Blessed are the ___"
 19 "___ of the Living God"
 21 Chest
 22 "Blessed ___ you"
 23 Kid
 24 Computer copiers
 25 Married
 27 Anger
 28 Kangaroo abbrev.
 30 Garden tool
 31 Lymph ___
 33 Time zone
 34 Letter to the ___
 36 Purple berry
 37 "Tyre and ___"
 38 Baby powder
 39 Ancient Persia
 40 Act dejected
 41 Mexican sandwich
 42 Notion
 43 Chef
 45 Cow's chow

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Readings: Is 56:1, 6-7/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28 AND Is 22:19-23/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20 AND Jer 20:7-9/Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27

- ACROSS**
- 1 Container
 4 Pierce
 8 Molder
 11 N. American nation
 12 Angel's head ring
 13 Wet
 14 Scene
 15 Black
 16 Allege
 17 Quaver
 19 Swedish citizen
 20 Vane direction
 21 ___fide
 22 Afloat (2 wds.)
 25 God triumphed
- 26 "Sea" in Old Irish
 29 Peter was called
 30 Jinx
 31 Fiddling emperor
 32 Airport abbr.
 33 The living ___
 34 Cowboy show
 35 "The ___ of the Lord"
 37 Grass with soil
 38 Tint
 40 Related to mimicry
 44 Realm
 45 Musical repeat
 46 Flurry
 47 Money in Republic of Georgia

Answer key can be found on page 15

Cathedral becoming minor basilica 'great blessing'

CINCINNATI (CNS) — Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr of Cincinnati called it "a great blessing and honor" for all living and worshipping in the archdiocese to have Pope Francis elevate the city's Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains to the status of a minor basilica.

It is the first such designation for any church in the Cincinnati archdiocese.

Archbishop Schnurr announced the designation Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption of Mary, at the beginning of Mass he celebrated with Father Jan Schmidt, the rector, and Father Ray Larger, parochial vicar of what is called the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains. It is the 89th basilica in the United States.

"Let us pray on this day, as we honor Our Lady in her Assumption, that the Church of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, her clergy and faithful, along with all the people of this great city, may benefit from this blessing and give thanks for all that the Lord has brought to fruition," the archbishop said.

The Mass was open to the public but included social dis-

tancing and other safety precautions due to COVID-19. The Mass was also livestreamed.

The title of minor basilica is given to churches around the world in recognition of their historical or cultural importance, artistic beauty and significance in the life of the Catholic Church. The title denotes a closer relationship to the pope. Such a church also must be a center of active and pastoral liturgy with a vibrant Catholic community.

An application for basilica status must come from the local bishop and include a description of the church, its history and unique nature, and an ample number of detailed interior and exterior photos.

In 2018, with Archbishop Schnurr's permission, Father Schmidt, requested the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments grant the title of minor basilica to the historic church in Cincinnati.

The cathedral, which will celebrate its 175th anniversary in November, is the oldest cathedral, built as a cathedral, that is still in use in the United States.

Its designation as a minor basilica is both an honor for the region and a reason for the local faithful to celebrate, said Father Schmidt, who has been the cathedral's rector since 2017.

"It's the quality of the cathedral's structure, the absolute beauty of its architecture, the biblical symbolism throughout, the quality and prayerfulness of its liturgy and ecclesiastical significance as a cathedral that make it very important and very special for the archdiocese and in the American Catholic scene," he said.

Designed by Henry Walter, architect of the Ohio Capitol in Columbus, the cornerstone of St. Peter in Chains was laid May 20, 1841. It was formally dedicated Nov. 2, 1845. Its single spire, constructed of pure white limestone and soaring 220 feet above street level, was the tallest man-made structure in the city for many decades.

The cathedral's interior is dominated by a large mosaic portraying three scriptural events from the life of St. Peter. Its design style also incorporates artistic inspiration from diverse

sources, including Art Deco, ancient Greek, Eastern Christian and early Roman Christian basilica architecture.

A significant renovation of the structure, overseen by well-known Cincinnati architect Edward Schulte, was completed in 1957.

"The Catholic Church and the large number of Catholics in our region have helped make the Greater Cincinnati area the great place it is to live, work, play and pray," said Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley, who was at the Mass with his family when Archbishop Schnurr made the announcement.

"From starting the major hospitals that have cared for the sick, to feeding the hungry and helping the poor, to educating generations of Catholics who have risen out of poverty and to the heights of civic and business leadership," he said in a statement, "the Catholic Church has provided a living testament to its core beliefs, and this basilica has served as beautiful physical embodiment — a sort of Statue of Liberty — of these good works and serves as an ever-present reminder to Catholic

Cincinnatians that they have a proud spiritual home."

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and his wife, Fran, congratulated Archbishop Schnurr and the entire archdiocese on the honor, calling the cathedral "a historic place special to Cincinnati and to Ohio. "(It) is an honor that the Catholic faithful across Ohio should celebrate!" he said.

Prior to the decrease in Mass schedules due to the pandemic, over 1,000 Masses a year, including the archdiocesan liturgies, were celebrated at the cathedral basilica. It is a pilgrimage site for many local Catholics and has hosted many tours.

A special Mass of thanksgiving will be celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains Nov. 7 to mark the 175th anniversary of the church. During the Mass, the symbols granted to the church because of its new status, will debut for the first time and be enshrined in the cathedral basilica.

One of those symbols is a "conopaeum," a canopy resembling an umbrella with silk panels of red and yellow carried in processions or placed over an altar.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. View more Catholic events and submit new ones at www.todayscatholic.org/event. For additional listings of that event, please call the advertising sales staff at 260-399-1449 to purchase space.

St. Charles Knights of Columbus council FORT WAYNE — The St. Charles Borromeo Knights of Columbus will sponsor a men's tools and toys garage sale at the parish office garage, 4916 Trier Rd. New and used shop and lawn tools and sports/recreation equipment will be for sale. Hours are: Friday, Aug. 28 and Saturday, Aug. 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Sunday, Aug. 30 from noon to 4 p.m.

Labor Day chicken sale
AVILLA — St. Mary Parish, 228 N. Main St., will have a carryout rotisserie chicken and bake sale on Labor Day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church parking lot. Chicken halves will be \$7 with the Rosary Society providing home-baked goods for sale as well. Pre-order available by calling Mike at 260-410-0301. Cash or check accepted, no credit cards.

Online date night for couples
MISHAWAKA — Just Desserts is going virtual. From 8-9:30 p.m. Sept. 12, couples in their 20s and 30s can join in on a free "date night" over Zoom. Valerie Galbraith, LMHC, will give a presentation on attachment theory and how fostering healthy attachments can help deepen a marriage. Following the talk will be an opportunity to participate in a small group discussion with other participants. While unfortunately desserts can't be provided for an online event, some recipes that can be made at home before the date night have been compiled so couples can enjoy an extra something sweet. Register to get the Zoom link and password. Contact Caty Burke burke@diocesefwsb.org or visit <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=lijkwkrab&oeidk=a07eh84orrs4b1a9812>.

Anniversary Masses for 25, 40, 50 or 60 years of marriage
FORT WAYNE — Anniversary Masses for couples married 25, 40, 50 or 60 years will be in Fort Wayne Sunday, Sept. 20, at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and in South Bend Sunday, Oct. 11 at 2 p.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral. There will be no reception after either Mass. Contact Thea Marie Burns at 574 234-0687 or tmburns@diocesefwsb.org for information.

Friends of the Poor Walk/Run with Bishop Rhoades
FORT WAYNE — The local Friends of the Poor/St. Vincent Society 3-mile walk/run will take place Sunday, Sept. 27 at Parkview Field. Sign up to walk or run, then collect sponsorships; or sponsor someone who plans

to participate. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will be among those who participate this year. Check-in begins at 1 p.m., event begins at 2 p.m. To register to walk with the bishop visit <https://www.fop-walk.org/event/2493>. To sponsor the bishop, visit <https://www.fop-walk.org/walker/54804>. T-shirts and prizes available for those who pre-register.

St. Jude sponsors dialogue on racism
FORT WAYNE — St. Jude Parish is sponsoring a dialogue to address racism. It will be led by members of the diocesan Black Advisory Board: Deacon Mel Tardy and Annie Tardy. Participate in this discussion Aug. 27 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the church. All safety protocols will be in place. Please RSVP to www.stjudefw.org.

REST IN PEACE

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Angola
Father Joseph Kiene, OFM Conv., 83, St. Anthony of Padua | Ron Wallace, 86, St. Pius X | Audrey J. Frank, 91, St. Jude |
| Fort Wayne
Michael Bonahoom, 88, St. Charles Borromeo | Huntington
Phyllis A. Ness, 89, SS. Peter and Paul | Thomas Frank, 91, St. Jude |
| Charles L. Christman, 89, St. Vincent de Paul | Wyatt A. Schmaltz, 9, SS. Peter and Paul | Paul M. Hill, 90, St. Jude |
| Consuelo Cosculluela, 75, St. Vincent de Paul | Lakeville
Alvera Walker, 96, Sacred Heart of Jesus | Jacqueline Hoblik, 80, Holy Cross |
| Vincent Kapocius, 92, St. Charles Borromeo | Mishawaka
Martha Laczai, 97, St. Bavo | Thomas S. Olkowski, 74, St. Jude |
| Granger
Jeremy Bush, 41, St. Pius X | New Carlisle
Linda Foster, 68, St. Stanislaus Kostka | Loretta Spsychalski, 88, Holy Family |
| Williams Graves, 69, St. Pius X | New Haven
Mary E. Morris, 77, St. John the Baptist | Sharon Vanderheyden, 80, St. Jude |
| Jeanne Gutschenritter, 99, St. Pius X | South Bend
Fred Baker, 89, St. Jude | |



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The Crossword

August 16, 23 and 30, 2020

J	U	G	S	T	A	B	R	O	T
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C	N	S		D	E	N	S	O	A



BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL

HALL OF FAME AWARDS
DINNER AND CEREMONY

PLEASE JOIN US!

Saturday, September 19, 2020

Alumna of the Year: Holly (Winkeljohn '87) Brady
Alumnus of the Year: Tom Niezer '78

Arts & Letters: Annette Offerle '10 and Luke Offerle '12
Athletics: 1990 and 1991 State Football Championship Teams
Citizens of Two Worlds: Sandy Tone

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT BISHOPDWENGER.COM

FRATERNUS, from page 1

Fraternus and Fidelis have been going strong since 2017 and 2018 respectively, drawing combined numbers of over 100 kids on an average week. Most of the young people are St. Elizabeth parishioners, but Father Voors and the Landrigans were adamant about including nearby parishes, too. About a third now come from other parishes in the city as well as from Arcola, Huntington and even as far away as Berne. "They're convinced it's a good program," Dan stated.

It is, according to the participants. Julia Langford has been involved in Fidelis for two years and is now in high school. Fidelis taught her how to live out specific virtues in a practical way through video clips, group discussions and the "King's Message," delivered by an adult mentor or an older member that ties the discussion and movie clip together with that virtue.

Langford said, "Fidelis has brought me closer to God, and I can tell that it has brought my friends closer to God as well."

Brothers Dominic and Tyler Minnich have both been in Fraternus for three years. Dominic, the elder brother, said first it was the "games that brought me in, then it was the prayer, the brotherhood, the community ... those fill us and strengthen us." He urges any boys interested to "at least try it."

Tyler has seen the spiritual fruits growing in his own life through Fraternus. "The leaders are constantly refreshing the faith, reminding us about the battle between the devil trying to take your soul. They're always putting you on the right track to draw closer to God."

Fraternus and Fidelis are not youth groups. The focus of each is virtue-building through mentorship. In fact, Fraternus was developed when a group of men saw the need for strong male father-figures in modern society, men who could exemplify the Catholic faith. The Fraternus website states that "boys can only learn to be men from men, and men are fully men when they live the fatherly mission that is uniquely theirs."

This mentorship aspect requires a great deal of adult assistance – nearly one adult for every two to three youths. But Dan commended the team that has stepped up. "The men who became involved ... feel like they get as much out of it as the boys."

As they grow and mature, older students are given greater leadership opportunities, such as giving the weekly "King's Message" and modeling the faith for younger members.

Aside from the weekly meetings, one of the most powerful aspects of Fraternus and Fidelis is the yearly Challenge Ceremony. Here, the young men and women commit in front of their family and peers to make living virtuous lives a priority. As the young men come forward and kneel at the altar, the Fraternus sword is placed across their upraised palms, signifying their acceptance of the challenge placed before them. This symbolism is used because "Fraternus" is Latin for "brotherly" and is represented by a sword. "Fidelis" means "faithful," depicted by a crown.

The young women similarly kneel and are asked if they accept their inheritance as daughters of the King. Linda explained, "It's kind of a way of getting them to think about



Photos provided by Linda Landrigan

Several members of the girls' group Fidelis attend a summer retreat in Tennessee known as "Inspire" in 2019. Daily Mass was one of the most uplifting aspects of the retreat, they said, with the mountains of Tennessee providing a beautiful backdrop to the liturgy.



A group of Fidelis members enjoys their yearly Christmas party at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne. Fidelis is a virtue-building program for young women.

where they are in God's eyes and as a woman."

Each group has a yearly retreat to Tennessee — "Ranch" for Fraternus, "Inspire" for Fidelis — which, similar to the weekly meetings, incorporates faith and fun in a weeklong camp setting. Both Minnich brothers attended Ranch this year, and declared it was an exceptional experience. They particularly enjoyed celebrating daily Mass in the Tennessee hills. "We've seen the retreats and the summer camp have allowed some kids who were shy and quiet to blossom," Linda stated.

Keeping boys and girls separate is essential to the success

of the programs. As Linda put it, "it's hard enough to speak out among your friends. When you don't have that element of the opposite sex, I think that's been beneficial for the program."

Langford said much the same thing. "I really like that it's all girls, because then the activities and talks can be meant more for us ... I really like having the sisterhood that Fidelis offers."

The need for boys- or girls-only ministries has not gone unnoticed. In dioceses across the country, participation in both groups has expanded during the last 10 years. Aside from a large presence in the south, where they began, they have spread as far north as New York state on

the East Coast and Washington on the West Coast. There are now over 15 chapters in the country, with parishes often jointly coordinating Fraternus and Fidelis groups.

The simplicity of the program appeals to leaders who work full-time too, as a corporate chapter creates the content and leaders simply follow it. For anyone interested, Dan eagerly welcomes visitors to come and see the groups in action when they resume at the end of August.

They are more than happy to oblige visitors, even hosting Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. He interacted with both Fraternus and Fidelis last fall.

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