

# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

## Bishop Rhoades baptizes two infants at St. Matthew Cathedral

BY TIM JOHNSON



KEVIN HAGGENJOS

Celebrating the feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Jan. 13 at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades baptizes Giulia Lavinia Gianferrari, held by sponsor Nancy Cavadini. The child is the daughter of Filippo and Elizabetta Gianferrari.

SOUTH BEND — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades marked the feast of the Baptism of the Lord by baptizing two children during the celebration of Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.

"Today, on this feast of the Baptism of the Lord, I am very happy to have the opportunity during this Mass to baptize two beautiful babies — Josephine Elizabeth Burton and Giulia Lavinia Gianferrari," Bishop Rhoades said during his homily at the Mass.

"Christ's Spirit will come to dwell in their hearts," Bishop Rhoades said.

The bishop, who also marked the third anniversary of his installation of bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend on Jan. 13, said that the heavenly Father will say to the baptized babies as He said to Jesus and as He said to us at our Baptism: "You are my beloved children."

"Josephine and Giulia become members today of God's family — the holy, Catholic Church," Bishop Rhoades said. "We pray for them, their parents, Nicholas and Katie and Filippo and Elizabeth, as well as for their godparents and families."

Bishop Rhoades offered a blessing as he concluded his homily: "May the Lord bless you with joy! May He be with you as you raise your daughters in the way of the Lord Jesus, in the practice of the faith. By word and example, may you help your beautiful children to grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Today their

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## United to defend life, traditional marriage, religious liberty

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — More than 120 Fort Wayne area clergy announced a coalition called Shepherds United. The members of this coalition are dedicated to working together to reclaim humanity's inherent worth by defending innocent human life, traditional marriage and religious liberty.

Franciscan Father David Mary Engo, minister general of the Franciscan Friars Minor, originated the idea of the coalition. On hand for the press conference at the Allen County Courthouse on Jan. 9 was Msgr. Robert Schulte, vicar general of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend who read a portion of the statement, "Shepherds United: Reclaiming Humanity's Inherent Worth."

The statement is signed by more than 120 area clergy including Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and 22 Catholic priests. Several pastors from evangelical and several Lutheran

churches endorsed the statement and were present for the coalition's press conference.

Shepherds United was the idea of area clergy after witnessing a degrading of life, marriage and religious liberty in culture and by the government. While recognizing that theological differences exist among members of Shepherds United, the coalition is united in their shared values.

"Shepherds United came together after some local pastors recognized the necessity of creating a medium through which their voices could be heard," said Father Jason Freiburger, vice chancellor of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. "As individuals, they might appear scattered and disconnected while in reality the beliefs and values they hold in common are a source of great unity. In order to speak the truth more effectively they came together to show that a better option is available than the sometimes deceptive voice of the culture."

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## SHEPHERDS UNITED



JOE ROMIE

Priests, religious, pastors and ministers throughout the Fort Wayne region recently announced a coalition called Shepherds United. The clergy held a press conference on Jan. 9 at the Allen County Courthouse announcing the coalition, which is dedicated to defending innocent human life, traditional marriage and religious freedom.

## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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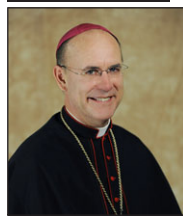
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# Praying for Bishop D'Arcy and Our Blessed Mother's intercession



IN TRUTH  
AND  
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

**T**hank you to all of the faithful who have been praying and continue to pray for Bishop D'Arcy as he continues to undergo treatment for the rare form of cancer that was found in his lung and brain. Your prayers mean so much to Bishop D'Arcy and, in our frequent telephone conversations, he has expressed to me his profound gratitude for our prayers.

We are hopeful that Bishop D'Arcy will be able to return to Fort Wayne after he completes the radiation treatments this coming week. He may receive chemotherapy treatments upon his return.

Bishop D'Arcy has said to me in each phone conversation that this is a time for him to trust in the Lord's goodness and love. He asks for prayers to help him to continue to trust in the Lord during this time and to receive the Lord's peace. As Bishop D'Arcy wrote in his January 9<sup>th</sup> statement: "Pray that I will accept this and whatever is to come with a full heart and a full 'Yes' to God." I have been so edified by Bishop D'Arcy's witness of faith during these weeks, a faith which he has taught and lived so beautifully as our shepherd through the years.

The radiation treatments have helped Bishop D'Arcy with his vision so that he is able to celebrate Mass each day and to pray the Divine Office. At his family home in Boston, he has been able to spend much time in prayer, in-between visits to the doctors and the hospital. It is through prayer that he, and all of us, experience the closeness of the Lord, especially in the hardships and sufferings of this life.

I ask for your continued prayers for Bishop D'Arcy, both at Mass and in your personal prayers.

In this Sunday's Gospel, we will hear the account of Jesus' first miracle at the wedding feast of Cana. In this scene, we see the courage of Mary's faith as she trusted in her Son's yet unrevealed power to perform a miracle, in this case, the transformation of water into wine.

Mary trusted totally in Jesus as she told the servants to "do whatever He tells you." Mary's words are an exhortation to all of us to trust in Jesus. Mary teaches us to hope beyond all hope, trusting always in the Lord's goodness.

In this first miracle of Jesus, we see not only the great faith of our Blessed Mother, but also the power of her intercessory prayer. Mary is with us in our journey of faith and we can have recourse to her for every kind of grace. We can count on her motherly interces-



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The wedding feast at Cana is depicted in a mosaic in the Holy Family Chapel at the Knights of Columbus headquarters in New Haven, Conn. The chapel has been decorated with mosaics by Jesuit Father Marko Ivan Rupnik and his team, incorporating touches of Eastern and Western art traditions.

sion to receive from the Lord what we need to grow in the life of grace. It is good to call upon her often, with confidence in her maternal love and affection.

Pope Benedict wrote the following:

*Mary, the Mother of the Lord, has received from the faithful the title of 'Advocate': she is our advocate before God. And this is how we see her, from the wedding feast of Cana onwards: as a woman who is kindly, filled with maternal concern and love, a woman who is attentive to the needs of others and, out of desire to help them, brings those needs before the Lord.*

With these thoughts in mind, I ask that we turn to our Blessed Mother in our prayers for

Bishop D'Arcy. Confident that Mary intercedes with Jesus on our behalf, I am entrusting my prayers for Bishop D'Arcy to her maternal intercession and also to Blessed John Paul II, to whom Bishop D'Arcy has been so devoted.

During these days, besides reflecting on Mary's presence at the wedding feast of Cana, I also think of Mary's presence at the foot of

the cross. There her sorrow was united with that of her Son, a sorrow full of faith and love. There she persevered in faith and in her union with her Son unto the cross. There Jesus gave Mary as a Mother to the beloved disciple, Saint John, and, in him, to all of us. Jesus entrusted us all to her maternal care.

From the cross, Our Lord said to Saint John: "Behold your mother!" Blessed John Paul II wrote that these words *express Jesus' intention to inspire in his disciples an attitude of love for and trust in Mary, leading them to recognize her as their mother, the mother of every believer. At the school of the Virgin, the disciples learn to know the Lord deeply, as John did, and to have an intimate and lasting relationship of love with Him. They also discover the joy of entrusting themselves to the Mother's maternal love, living like affectionate and docile children.*

I pray that all of us, with Bishop D'Arcy, may continue to learn at the school of Mary the love and the joy of faith in her Son. Let us continue to pray for Bishop D'Arcy and for all our brothers and sisters who are sick or suffering.

I invite you to pray the following prayer. It is the most ancient prayer to Mary (from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century in Egypt). It is called the *Sub tuum praesidium* (Under your protection).

*We fly to thy protection, O holy Mother of God; despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin.*

## Statement of Bishop John M. D'Arcy



January 9, 2013

I want to give all my beloved friends in the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese an update. I am receiving excellent care. I met this morning with my medical team. The oncologist and her associate are under Dana Farber, one of the top cancer treatment centers in the country.

I have a very rare form of cancer. Very rare. It is quick striking and came as a surprise, "like a thief in the night" as the Scripture says. I am now undergoing 15 days of radiation, which is palliative and has eased many symptoms. After that, there will be some consideration of chemotherapy. The doctors here are in close communications

with my doctor in Fort Wayne.

Now, most importantly, I ask everyone for your prayers. Pray that I will accept this and whatever is to come with a full heart and a full "Yes" to God. I am grateful to God for the extraordinary life He has given me and the graces He has poured out on me. I thank God for my family and that I was born in the Catholic faith, which has always defended and defends in these troubled times the dignity of life and of the human person and the nature, which God has given us. Over everything, I am grateful for the gifts of the Holy Priesthood. I never felt worthy of it. I thank God with all my heart that I was appointed by Christ through the Church as shepherd of our beloved diocese.

Pray that God will find my heart pure and holy and pray that I will trust God and rely, not on my own goodness, but on the merits and sacrifice of Christ our Savior.

Above everything, pray for me and for my soul and that I will be found worthy to enter into the heavenly place that God has prepared for all of us, where I hope to meet my dear parents and so many loved ones.

Please pray for me.

*John M. D'Arcy*  
Bishop John M. D'Arcy

## Pope baptizes, welcomes babies into a personal relationship with Jesus

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Sistine Chapel sounded a bit like a nursery Jan. 14, as Pope Benedict XVI baptized 20 babies, whose crying provided a constant accompaniment to the two-hour Mass on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Referring to the day's reading from the Gospel of St. Luke, which recounts the Baptism of Jesus by St. John the Baptist, Pope Benedict said that in choosing to receive the sacrament, Jesus showed He "was really immersed in our human condition; He lived it to the utmost — although without sin — and in such a way that He understands weakness and fragility."

The pope told the parents that their children's Baptism would bring them into a "personal relationship with Jesus" that would give their lives meaning: "Only in this friendship is the great potential of the human condition truly revealed and we can experience what is beautiful and what is free."

Reminding the godparents of their duty to assist parents in raising their godchildren in the faith, Pope Benedict noted that "it is not easy to demonstrate what you believe in openly and without compromise, especially in the context in which we live, in the face of a society that often considers those who live by faith in Jesus to be old-fashioned and out of date."

Contrary to a widespread view that Christianity is "detrimental to personal fulfillment," the pope said, faith in Jesus frees us from egoism and "keeps us from being turned in on ourselves, in order to lead a full life, in communion with God and open to others."



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

**Pope Benedict XVI baptizes a baby during a Mass in the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican Jan. 13. The pope baptized 20 babies as he celebrated the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The pontiff told parents that baptism would bring their child into a "personal relationship with Jesus" that would give their lives meaning.**

As in previous instances of the annual tradition, the baptized babies, who this year included a pair of twins, were all children of Vatican employees and were born during the preceding three months.

"It was a moment of grace and great simplicity," said Alessandro Gisotti, whose daughter Maria Teresa was one of those baptized. He said the event required no special preparation, apart from a rehearsal two days earlier, led by the pope's master of liturgical ceremonies, Msgr. Guido Marini.

Gisotti, a journalist at Vatican

Radio, and his wife Nicole were accompanied by their son Andrea Karol, 4, who received a special blessing from the pope after the Mass.

That evening the Gisotti family celebrated with friends at their parish in the seaside community of Ostia, about 18 miles southwest of Vatican City.

His pastor had happily given permission for Maria Teresa to receive the sacrament in another church, Gisotti said, since "of course, pope is the pastor of us all."



## PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Monday, Jan. 21, 10 a.m. — Meeting of Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
- Tuesday, Jan. 22, 1 p.m. — Meeting of Deacon Formation Policy Board, Blessed John Paul II Center, Mishawaka
- Tuesday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m. — Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service, Saint Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
- Thursday, Jan. 24, 7 p.m. — Kraft lecturer during Heritage Week, DeSales University, Allentown, Pa.
- Friday, Jan. 25 — March for Life, Washington, D.C.
- Saturday, Jan. 26, 9:30 a.m. — Mass for diocesan participants in March for Life, Saint Ann Church, Arlington, Va.

## UNITED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I support Shepherds United's statement on the right to life, the most precious gift, and I encourage all to adopt the same position," said Pastor Otha Aden of Southern Heights Baptist Church in Fort Wayne. "I also support traditional marriage as God-ordained in Scripture to be between a man and a woman."

"These are enormously challenging times, and these issues aren't going away any time soon," stated Dr. Peter J. Scaer, associate professor of Exegetical Theology at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. "In the meantime, we are here, and we will speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves. And, we hope to continue to encourage people to stand with us, and know that they are not alone in their convictions."

While reading the statement at the press conference, Msgr. Schulte said, "What does it say about our society that some children among us are tragically labeled as unwanted or that some pregnancies are spoken of as if they are a punishment? Too often children are valued not according to their inherent worth, but by how they will affect our lives and pocketbooks or whether they measure up to our standards of health and intelligence. Our land is further stained by the exploitation of human life through embryonic stem-cell research. Truly, a great darkness has fallen over this land."

Even as the youngest are endangered, the statement also raised concerns about the elderly and infirm.

The statement reads: "Those who receive a difficult or terminal medical diagnosis are encouraged to end their own lives in a growing number of states that have legalized assisted suicide. As society attempts to cheapen our humanity

and medical costs rise, euthanasia is becoming far too common and is a threat to all of us."

The statement continued, "As life is judged by its quality instead of its inherent worth, there's nothing to protect us from cost-cutting measures that treat life as a mere commodity. The frailest among us stand in danger of being marginalized. We must stand against a culture of death that attempts to reduce the care given to the prematurely born, the disabled, the elderly or any other individual considered expendable by society."

A portion of the statement was dedicated to defense of traditional marriage. "God, who is the author of life, is also the author of marriage," the statement reads. "From the beginning, God designed marriage to be a communion of lifelong love between a man and a woman. Marriage is more than negotiating a legal contract or establishing a business arrangement with which we may tinker. No government has the authority to alter its fundamental meaning. It is the foundation of the family, which is

**"These are enormously challenging times, and these issues aren't going away any time soon."**

DR. PETER J. SCAER

the basic cell of society. A society that denies the fundamental reality of God-ordained marriage cannot flourish or long endure."

The statement also references laws that take aim at religious freedom and notes, "The healthcare mandate from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services strikes at the heart of Christian conscience by limiting our free exercise of religion in the public sphere. Christian charities, schools and hospitals are required to choose between helping their neighbor and violating their conscience. Adoption agencies are forced to close because of their refusal to facilitate adoptions for same-sex couples."

The statement concludes, "These are momentous times. We call upon our fellow Christians in the City of Churches to stand with us and join us in defending these foundational principles."

# Numbers swell at Elkhart Rally for Life and march

BY DENISE FEDOROW

ELKHART — They came from all over Elkhart County — Elkhart, Goshen, Nappanee, Millersburg and more — to rally together in support for life and the end to abortion. The Rally for Life was held at the Lerner Theatre in Elkhart by The Elkhart County Right to Life organization. Representatives from RETA (Reason Enough To Act) and Hannah's House were on hand.

The emcee for the event was Chuck Freeby. Pastors from several churches who offered prayers throughout the event included Father Glenn Kohrman, pastor from St. Vincent de Paul Church in Elkhart, Pastor Mike Fisher of Grace Bible Church and Pastor Gregg Lanzen of First Baptist Church of Goshen. Organizers said the number attending has grown since last year. Many were first time attendees.

Julie Senger of Millersburg was there with her family — husband Jack and children Jamie, Jarrett and Jenna. The family attends St. John the Evangelist Church in Goshen.

"I wanted to be here to show our kids how important it is — that this is part of our faith and we need to stand up for what we believe in," she said.

Senger said she couldn't imagine life without any of her children and she believes the time is right to share this issue especially with her teenage sons.

Jane Hoover of Goshen also was a first-time attendee. Hoover said she was there to "affirm the sanctity of life. I want to pass on a legacy to my grandchildren that they are God's precious children."

She believes continuing to have such rallies is important "because society has become desensitized to what is now the norm in the U.S. Abortion will never be right," Hoover said. "It's time to bring back the sanctity of life."

Congresswoman Jackie Walorski spoke briefly to the crowd, saying, "This is a great day to declare life in Elkhart County. We're here for those who don't have a voice."

The keynote speaker was teacher, author and radio show host Peter Heck, who told the audience he believes this will be "the generation that will end the abortion holocaust."

"Fifty-five million lives taken since Roe v Wade in 1973 — more than Hitler or Stalin. Every 94 seconds an abortion was performed in 2011. Those were human beings who were denied the inalienable right to life," Heck said. "Every day in this country a slaughter worse than 9-11 goes on. We lost 3,000 lives on 9-11, 4,000 children are sacrificed a day," according to Heck.

He asked the audience to close their eyes and listen to the sound of BBs dropping and that each BB they heard represented 10,000 lives lost in wars from the American Revolution to the war on terror to the war on abortion. The BBs varied from hearing just a few to the sound lasting longer than five minutes when it represented lives lost to the war on abortion.

Heck said it was time for pro-lifers to get tough. "When laws that we enact end with, 'and then you can kill the baby' we have utterly failed."

He was referring to laws such as those passed that require a young girl to have parental consent before an abortion is performed. He also said he believes when those in the pro-life movement make the argument that we could be losing the next Einstein or Beethoven to abortion that could actually be hurting the cause.

"Life is valuable because of what it is, not what it does. Every life is valuable because it is created in God's image," he said.

However, he said he believes this will be the generation to end



Men, women and children from all over Elkhart County gathered for a rally and march for life on Jan. 12, which concluded with prayer at the Women's Care Center. Shown among the crowd gathered are, in front from left, Father Glenn Kohrman of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Elkhart, Noah Schmucker (in hat) and his wife Ruth of Goshen and Ani Wallach, also a parishioner at St. John the Evangelist in Goshen.

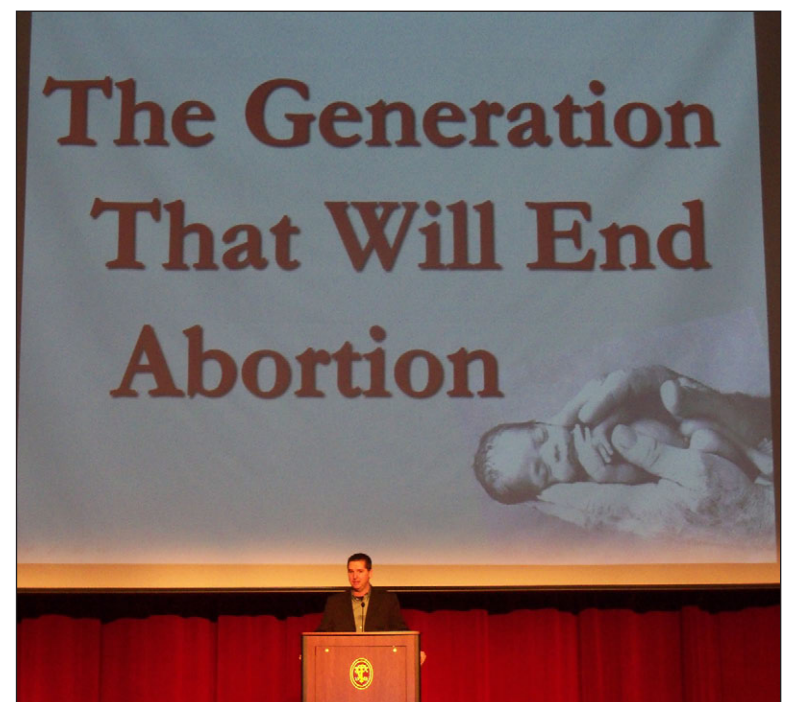
abortion because the key point of what is in the womb has been established. He said the legislature for Roe v. Wade even states that "if the case is made that a fetus is a person then the fetus' right to life is guaranteed by the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment."

Heck said that case has been made and any argument that is made against it sounds absurd. He said if those who are pro-life stick to the fact that the unborn child is a living human when engaging in any discussion on the subject, it will force people to confront the truth and put an end to the inhumanity, such as what happened when slavery was abolished.

Women from an organization called Silent No More who have experienced abortions also spoke at the rally. Two from Fort Wayne shared their personal stories, sharing the physical and emotional pain that no one prepared them for, the years of regret, shame and guilt until they found God, redemption and the road to healing. Both went through the Forgiven and Set Free program.

Father Tony Steinacker, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Goshen, attended the event and said it was "extremely powerful — the numbers were very impactful." He said the statistics about abortions being performed every 94 seconds and hearing the BBs drop were particularly poignant. "Those things were huge for raising awareness," he added.

Darlene Leitz of Goshen has been a board member on the Elkhart County Right to Life for approximately five years and is also a member of the Holy Innocents Pro Life Group, which has members from St. John the Evangelist, St. Vincent de Paul,



PHOTOS BY DENISE FEDOROW

Keynote speaker for the Rally for Life event held at The Lerner Theatre in Elkhart on Jan. 12, Peter Heck, stands beneath a slide that projects his belief that this will be the generation that puts an end to abortion.

St. Thomas the Apostle in Elkhart and St. Mary in Bristol.

Leitz said her hope is that "people will work harder, like Peter Heck said, to see the truth and be part of the solution." Leitz believes in protecting life for all, from the moment of conception to natural death.

After the program the group marched to the Women's Care Center where they concluded with prayer for the unborn and those affected by abortion.

## Silent No More offers these resources for those recovering from abortion:

- Rachel's Vineyard Retreats (877) HOPE-4-Me, [www.RachelsVineyard.org](http://www.RachelsVineyard.org)
- Abortion Recovery International Network [www.abortionrecoverynetwork.com](http://www.abortionrecoverynetwork.com);
- Silent No More website is [www.SilentNoMoreAwareness.org](http://www.SilentNoMoreAwareness.org).
- Local Abortion Recovery Help is available through RETA (Reason Enough To Act) (574) 522-HELP or [RETA@RETAforLife.com](mailto:RETA@RETAforLife.com) and the Women's Care Center at (574) 234-0363.

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# Catholics called to political action beyond voting booth

INDIANAPOLIS — “A new year, a new governor, and a Republican supermajority in the Indiana General Assembly bring another opportunity for Catholics to engage in the political process,” said Indiana Catholic Conference Executive Director Glenn Tebbe, who serves as the official spokesman and public policy watchdog on state and federal issues for the Catholic Church in Indiana.

As the 150 member part-time Hoosier legislature, known as the Indiana General Assembly, which reconvened Jan. 7 for a four-month lawmaking session, returns to work, the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) gears-up for another year to bring Catholic principles to the public square by sharing a consistent life ethic that every human being, created in the image and likeness of God, deserves dignity.

What will this new governor and newly elected state lawmakers contribute to the common good and the consistent life ethic? “Time will tell,” says Tebbe, but the Indiana General Assembly does have one requirement — to produce a two-year state-operating budget by the April 29, adjournment deadline.

During Tebbe’s two-decades of experience following state legislation, he notes one characteristic that is unique to this House of Representatives is that nearly half of the House members have two years or less experience in the

job. That combined with a walk-out proof Republican supermajority, and the diminished Democrat minority influence, will make for a unique situation in the lawmaking process.

Republican leaders in the House and Senate have stressed that their focus this year will be on passing a budget, and moving legislation that creates jobs. Governor-elect Mike Pence promised in his campaign to fight poverty by creating jobs and strengthening marriage and families. In early December, Pence also expressed an interest in using some of the state’s surplus to give a 10 percent tax cut to Hoosiers. “Governor Pence will reiterate these promises and unveil his agenda during the upcoming State of the State address to be televised Tuesday night, Jan. 22,” Tebbe says.

While budget and economic issues will be the major focus, there will be many other topics that will require scrutiny as well. Tebbe expects the ICC to track other important moral issues this year such as: medical coverage for low income families; education programs; criminal sentencing reforms; chemical abortion and end of life regulations; mass transit; and early childhood education initiatives.

Even though the election is over, Catholics in the pew also have a role and responsibility in the public square as citizens, Tebbe says. These responsibili-

## INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BRIGID CURTIS AYER

ties are outlined in a November 2011 statement called “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States.” It says, “This obligation to participate in political life is rooted in our baptismal commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to bear Christian witness in all we do.” The statement is available at [www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org).

“Our role at the ICC is not only to inform and educate our elected officials, but to serve as a conduit to facilitate or make political engagement easier for the Catholic in the pew,” says Tebbe. “I invite interested Catholics to stay connected to what’s going on through the ICC’s electronic Legislative Action Center available on the ICC’s Web page.

“When the Indiana General Assembly is in session, getting input from constituents in a timely manner on legislation is vital to the process,” says Tebbe. “When Catholics contact their representatives in unison with the work of the Catholic Conference, it allows

the Church to be more effective in shaping morally sound public policy. The use of this software by Catholics has the potential to significantly impact the Church’s role in the public policy arena. It is my hope that our faith community will seize the opportunity to take advantage of this online tool.”

Tebbe says, “Catholics that have a particular interest in pro-life, social justice, education, immigration reform, healthcare or family life issues will be able to stay connected and be counted when important legislative decisions are made on priority issues the Church is following.”

The Indiana General Assembly, is made up of 50 state senators and 100 state representatives, and is expected to consider over 2,000 bills this year.

Since 1967, the ICC has worked to bring to light moral dimensions of Hoosier public policy making. While the role of the Indiana Catholic Conference is to serve as the official voice of the Catholic Church in the public policy arena primarily in Indiana, those visiting the ICC Web page will also be notified about important federal legislation that the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops is concerned about, and offers the means to contact members of Congress.

## About the ICC

Since 1967, the ICC has worked to bring a consistent life ethic to Hoosier public policy making.

Visitors to the ICC Web page ([www.indianacc.org](http://www.indianacc.org)), can join the Indiana Catholic Action Network and through an electronic Legislative Action Center can engage in a variety of grassroots political activities by a few simple keystrokes. One of the key features of the software allows visitors to quickly identify and contact their elected officials.

Other resources on the ICC Web page include background information on the ICC, its mission and purpose; public policy statements, which outline the Church’s teaching and support for particular moral issues the Church is concerned about; legislative updates; and links to other Catholic entities of importance.

## Web Resources

Indiana Catholic Conference  
[www.indianacc.org](http://www.indianacc.org)

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## Ecumenical evening prayer service celebrates Worldwide Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

SOUTH BEND — An ecumenical evening prayer service during the Worldwide Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January 2013 will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral. The church is located at 1701 Miami St. in South Bend.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will preside. Right Rev. Edward S. Little II, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana, will preach.

Bishop Little’s reflection will focus on Galatians 3:23-29, on faith and oneness in Jesus Christ.

There has been a tradition in the South Bend area of alternating evening prayer services between St. Matthew Cathedral and the Episcopal Cathedral of St. James.

A light reception will follow.

All Christians are welcome to come and join in this prayer. While an RSVP is not necessary to attend this ecumenical prayer, if a large group plans to attend the event planners would appreciate a message so that preparations can be made for the prayer and the reception. Contact Shawn Storer at [ssorer@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:ssorer@diocesefwsb.org) with questions or for further details.



### Ecumenical evening prayer service during the Worldwide Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January 2013

An evening prayer service will take place on Tuesday evening, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral (1701 Miami St. South Bend, IN 46613). Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will preside. Rt. Rev. Edward S. Little II, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana will preach. A light reception will follow.

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## Supreme Court lets stand policy on embryonic stem-cell research funds

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court Jan. 7 let stand a lower court order allowing government funding of research involving certain embryonic stem-cell lines. The court also scheduled oral arguments for March in two cases over state laws on same-sex marriage. Without comment, the court let stand an August ruling by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia which dismissed a lawsuit by two scientists who said the funding policy inhibits their chance of getting government grants for their research on adult stem cells, and argued that violates another law. Under a 2009 policy, the government began allowing federal funding of research on human embryos that were created for in vitro fertilization but were no longer needed for that purpose. Under a previous policy, government funding was allowed on stem cells derived from a handful of lines that existed to that point. The two scientists, Dr. James Sherley and Theresa Deisher, sought to block the expansion, arguing that it was barred under a 1996 law, known as the Dickey-Wicker amendment, that prohibits use of federal funds for “the creation of a human embryo or embryos for research purposes” or “research in which a human embryo or embryos are destroyed, discarded or knowingly subjected to risk of injury or death greater than that allowed for research on fetuses in utero.” In his August ruling, Chief Judge David B. Sentelle of the D.C. Circuit, said the National Institutes of Health’s interpretation of the Dickey-Wicker amendment was “reasonable” in permitting funding of embryonic stem-cell research using cells derived using private funds. Sentelle said the funding guidelines promulgated by NIH in 2009 correctly and legally allowed funding on stem cells derived from embryos created for artificial insemination and donated to scientists after the parents decided to discard them.

## ‘Listen to the streets’ on marriage, says French bishops’ spokesman

PARIS (CNS) — A French bishops’ spokesman urged politicians to “listen to the streets” after hundreds of thousands of people rallied against same-sex marriage. “We’re facing questions about society — what the family is, what marriage is, and whether there’s a difference between men and women,” Msgr. Bernard Podvin, spokesman for the French bishops’ conference, told France’s *Metro* daily. “I’m not one who says the street must decide, because this is always dangerous, and political responsibility rests with those elected. But the street is expressing a great frustration today — those holding political responsi-

## PASSPORT REVISIONS MADE IN CUBA



CNS PHOTO/ENRIQUE DE LA OSA, REUTERS

A woman shows her new passport while standing with others outside a passport office in Havana Jan. 11. The overhaul of Cuba’s decades-old migratory law, announced in October, eliminates the much-detested exit visa known as the “white card,” a highly anticipated reform initiated under President Raul Castro.

bility can’t expect to govern without listening to what it’s saying,” he said. The Jan. 13 demonstration was organized by a coalition of 30 family groups. Organizers said 800,000 people participated, although French police put the number at 340,000. Msgr. Podvin said the Catholic Church believed homosexuals “must be respected,” but was against the same-sex bill, which was introduced in November by the government of President Francois Hollande under the slogan, “Marriage for All.” In addition to legalizing same-sex marriage, it would allow adoption by same-sex couples. “In our eyes, there’s nothing contradictory between fighting firmly against homophobia and saying no to a radical transformation of the family model,” Msgr. Podvin said.

## Vatican doctrinal chief says politics that ignore God are bound to fail

ROME (CNS) — Politicians who want to act as if God did not exist and as if there was no such thing as objective moral truths are bound to fail in their efforts to promote the common good, said the head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. “The politics we have today in Europe and North America without ethical foundations, without a refer-

ence to God, cannot resolve our problems, even those of the market and money,” said Archbishop Gerhard L. Muller, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The archbishop, coordinator of the project to publish the complete works of Joseph Ratzinger-Pope Benedict XVI, said one of the key teachings of the pope is the importance of faith and reason going hand in hand. Speaking Jan. 11 at a Vatican bookstore in downtown Rome, Archbishop Muller said, “Faith and reason are like two people who love each other deeply, who cannot live without each other, and who were intimately made for one another, so much so that they cannot be considered separate from one another and cannot reach their goals separately.” He quoted Pope Benedict XVI’s speech to diplomats Jan. 7: “It is precisely man’s forgetfulness of God, and his failure to give Him glory, which gives rise to violence. Indeed, once we no longer make reference to an objective and transcendent truth, how is it possible to achieve an authentic dialogue?” Archbishop Muller said that in the current run-up to Italian elections he has heard that some politicians want the Catholic Church to “talk about love, charity and mercy of God,” but not insist that the truths it preaches be upheld.

## In ‘Ex Corde’ review, bishops, college leaders cite good collaboration

WASHINGTON (CNS) — During the past decade, U.S. Catholic college presidents and local bishops have experienced greater collaboration, according to a review of the Vatican document that clarified the relationship between these leaders. The bishops and college leaders gave a 10-year review of “The Application of ‘Ex Corde Ecclesiae’ for the United States,” a document that went into effect in 2001 and outlines how U.S. Catholic colleges and universities should implement the 1990 Vatican document on Catholic higher education called “Ex Corde Ecclesiae” (“From the Heart of the Church”). The 10-year review, called for in the application document, began in January 2011 when bishops were asked to conduct conversations with college and university presidents in their dioceses. More than 100 bishops reported on their conversations at regional meetings during the November 2011 General Assembly and, the report said, “the prevailing tone was positive and the news was good.” Bishop Joseph P. McFadden of Harrisburg, Pa., chairman of the Committee on Catholic Education of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, issued a one-page report summarizing the review completed in June 2012. The report

was released Jan. 10 by the USCCB. “Bishops reported that they believe our institutions of Catholic higher education have made definite progress in advancing Catholic identity,” the report said. “The relationship between bishops and presidents on the local level can be characterized as positive and engaged, demonstrating progress on courtesy and cooperation in the last 10 years.”

## Catholic doctors oppose call for over-the-counter contraceptive pills

QUINCY, Mass. (CNS) — Some Catholic physicians, including those who do not prescribe contraceptives, are questioning the safety of allowing oral contraceptives to be sold over the counter, as the nation’s largest body of obstetricians and gynecologists recommended in December. Dr. Kathleen Raviele, an obstetrician-gynecologist in Atlanta and former president of the Catholic Medical Association, warned that because birth-control pills can raise blood pressure and cause strokes and heart attacks, such drugs should only be prescribed by a physician. “A woman (being) on a strong medication like that without a physician’s supervision could be very dangerous,” she said. Raviele raised the concerns after the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, through a committee opinion, recommended that birth-control pills be made available over the counter, much like allergy medicines and cough syrup. The Washington-based physicians’ congress said that unintended pregnancy remains a major public health problem in the United States, accounting for half of all pregnancies. The solution, it said, is wider access to hormonal contraceptives. It did not mention that not all unintended pregnancies are unwanted or discuss the number of unwanted conceptions that occur despite the use of artificial birth control. The organization’s committee stated that the risks associated with birth-control pills pose no greater risk than acetaminophen, the generic term for Tylenol. Dr. Ryan Welter, a family physician in Taunton, Mass., pointed out that acetaminophen itself poses risks when overused.

## Aid workers: Icy temps mean more funds needed to help Syrian refugees

AMMAN, Jordan (CNS) — Snow, driving rain and howling winds in early January compounded the already desperate situation for Syrians caught up in 22 months of civil war seeking to oust President Bashar Assad. Now, the extremely frigid temperatures have put both those internally displaced inside Syria and refugees fleeing to neighboring countries in even greater danger. Aid workers in Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon say they are stretched to the limit because they need additional funds to provide food supplies and other basic necessities to the refugees in such freezing weather.

## Year of Faith pilgrimage scholarship winners announced

FORT WAYNE — Four Year of Faith pilgrimage half-price scholarships offered by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend have been awarded to Bishop Dwenger student and member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne, Tim Trout; Saint Joseph student and member of St. Pius X in Granger, Gabby Koebel; Ball State University student and member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne, Rachel Lill; and Stacey Litchfield, University of Saint Francis and member of St. Mary of the Assumption, Avilla.

The July 9-15 pilgrimage, led by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, to shrines and churches of North American saints, including St. Marianne Cope and St. Kateri Tekekwitha, is open to high school youth ages 16-18 and all young adults ages 18-39.

## USF hosting free public lecture

FORT WAYNE — The Department of Philosophy and Theology in the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Saint Francis will sponsor a free public lecture, "Sacrificing Truth for Comfort," on Sunday, Jan. 20, at 3 p.m. in the North Campus auditorium.

USF's Dr. Lewis Pearson will discuss the difficulty of thinking and speaking properly in a culture that prizes comfort over truth. His lecture will focus on how lazy thinking degrades the ability to live well; how to track truth with thoughts and words; and how to avoid some of the common pitfalls in everyday conversation.

For more information, contact Angie Springer at (260) 399-8066 or [aspringer@sf.edu](mailto:aspringer@sf.edu).

## High school students invited to Dual Credit Information Night at USF Performing Arts Center

FORT WAYNE — High school students in grades 9-12 interested in learning about the benefits of dual-credit programs are invited to attend Dual Credit Information Night on Wednesday, Feb. 27, from 6-8 p.m. in the USF Performing Arts Center, the former Scottish Rite Center, at 431 W. Berry St., Fort Wayne.

Students, parents and guidance counselors can learn from regional higher education institutions about participating in dual-credit programs such as the University of Saint Francis' Achieving Credits Early (ACE), which allows students to earn university credit in a university setting while still in high school. The program fulfills requirements for students wishing to graduate with an Indiana Academic Honors Diploma.

General topics will include basic information on dual credit, opportunities for participation,

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## PRIEST GROUP ATTENDS RETREAT AT OLDENBURG FRANCISCAN CONVENT



PROVIDED BY FATHER PAUL BUETER

Father Paul Bueter, sitting left, retired priest of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, poses with retreat facilitator John Crowley and fellow priests, Fathers Bob D'Souza and Ed Ruetz and other retreat coordinators at the Oldenburg Franciscan Convent in southern Indiana during their two-day spiritual retreat in November. The priests spent time touring the convent, praying and sharing.

course offerings, financial savings and transferability of course work. Experts from each university will share details on their specific program after the general presentation. Colleges and universities represented will be the University of Saint Francis, Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne, Ivy Tech and Indiana Tech.

A fair-style event will be held after the information session to give college dual-credit experts a chance to discuss programs with interested individuals. The event is free and no registration is necessary.

## Bishop Luers to recognize Father Fred Link

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School will honor Franciscan Father Fred Link, a former principal and the originator of many Luers traditions, and other Franciscan Friars at the Bishop Luers Winter Homecoming on Friday, Feb. 1.

Father Link was the creator of "Luers Spirit," initiated the Luers Midwest Swing Choir, originated LuersKnight, and was an inspirational teacher and principal. Friars

from the era, as well as students and staff, who were an integral part of his years — 1970-1984 — at Bishop Luers, will attend.

Luers' Winter Homecoming organizers say, "We would like to invite you back to celebrate a time in your life and Luers' history that was full of music, performing, fun, spirit and memories."

The evening begins with Mass at 4:30 p.m. in the school library.

Casa dinner will be available for purchase in the cafeteria following Mass. Reservations for the Casa dinner may be made by calling Melissa Hire at (260) 456-1261 ext. 3040 or through email at [mhire@bishopluer.org](mailto:mhire@bishopluer.org).

From there, all past and current show choir, band and chorus students will join in singing the National Anthem prior to the boys' varsity basketball game.

At half-time of the boys' varsity game, the school will recognize Father Link, the other friars who are in attendance and all the performing arts students from 1970-1984. As part of the half-time presentation, plans are to coordinate a performance of "Minstrel's Song," directed by Father Link, as a signature tribute to his legacy in the Luers' community.

Following the games, a reception in the cafeteria will allow for casual reminiscing with Father Link and other alumni. Pictures, music videos and other memorabilia from the past will "set the stage" and an open microphone will be available. Food and beverages will be available.

## Bishop Dwenger to host show choir invitational

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School will host 18 show choirs during the Summit Sound Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 26. Day show performances begin at 8 a.m. with awards at 6 p.m. Evening performances begin at 7 p.m.

Ticket prices are \$12 for all day, which includes the night show, for all attendees ages 6 and up. Ages 5 and under are free.

Some of the state's top-ranked show choirs including local choirs from Bishop Luers, Northrup, Carroll and DeKalb will perform at the invitational.

## Holy Cross Harvest food drive benefits local pantries

NOTRE DAME — While farmers ended their harvest a couple months ago, another "harvest" is about to get underway. The Holy Cross institutions of Saint Mary's College, Holy Cross College and the University of Notre Dame will hold their third Holy Cross Harvest, "harvesting" food and monetary donations for various food pantries. Notre Dame and Saint Mary's will hold their drives Jan. 28 to Feb. 15, while Holy Cross College will hold its harvest drive the entire month of February. The public is encouraged to participate.

Each of the three campuses has a different approach for the Holy Cross Harvest.

Saint Mary's College will donate food and money to the Food Bank of Northern Indiana. Anyone can leave non-perishable food in collection barrels in the Student Center Atrium, in the lobby of Spes Unica Hall, and near the front desk in Le Mans Hall. Those interested in donating to the cause electronically can do so on the Food Bank's website at <http://donations.feedindiana.org>.

Notre Dame is giving people the choice to donate to the Food Bank of Northern Indiana's Fun Packs Program or to People Gotta Eat. The Fun Packs Program provides children in need with a backpack of food each weekend during the school year. People Gotta Eat is a United Way coalition of 17 area food pantries. This year a Healthy Eating grant is available from the United Way that will double all funds donated to People Gotta Eat. Those who wish to donate online to the university's drive should go to [www.holycrossharvest.nd.edu](http://www.holycrossharvest.nd.edu) and follow the donation links. There will also be donation boxes for non-perishable food at the two Hammes Bookstores (on campus and at Eddy Street Commons).

Holy Cross College's drive will take place in February and benefit St. Vincent de Paul, through People Gotta Eat. Each department at the college will be challenged to get 100 percent of its staff/faculty to participate and students are planning their own events for the drive. Those interested in donating online can do so on the People Gotta Eat website at [www.uwsjc.org](http://www.uwsjc.org).

"The Holy Cross congregations have always worked to provide for those people on the margins. In the local community, there is a great deal of hunger and food insecurity due to the economy. We must keep the needs of others in the forefront of our minds and hold ourselves accountable for our response to that need," said Carol Ann Mooney, president of Saint Mary's College.

"The active response of our Holy Cross-sponsored institutions to the immediate situation of food insecurity in our locale is a most worthy effort; I would encourage all people of good will to join us in this effort to assist our neighbors who are in need," added Holy Cross Brother John R. Paige, president of Holy Cross College.

## CHRIST THE KING HOSTS EPIPHANY CELEBRATION



AMY PATTERSON

Parish families participated in caroling, cookie decorating, games and blessing of chalk. Chalk for each parish family is blessed so that they may mark the names of the three Magi over their doors, as a witness of their faith and protection against evil. The event was sponsored by The FAM, Christ the King's new family outreach group, initiated for the Year of Faith. In the photo are Matthew Klaybor and Nate Weber.

## BISHOP DWENGER STUDENTS CREATE PRAYER CHAINS FOR BISHOPS



DANIELLE COLLINS

Bishop Dwenger High School theology students created prayer chains on Jan. 10. One will be mailed to Bishop John M. D'Arcy, bishop emeritus, who is undergoing radiation treatment in Boston for cancer. Each student wrote a prayer, kind message, offering something up on the paper chains for Bishop D'Arcy to read and know of the prayers of students and staff for him. A second prayer chain was created that Bishop Rhoades would receive during his visit on Tuesday, Jan. 15. These prayers are for support and thanksgiving for him as the shepherd of the diocese, especially during these difficult times.

I think life is great...  
*don't you?*



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Rev. Robert Van Kempen, Pastor

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# Pro-Life

## Roe v. Wade turns 40: A look at the legacy of legal abortion

BY LISA EVERETT

January 22 will mark the 40th anniversary of the infamous Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*, which along with its companion case, *Doe v. Bolton*, legalized abortion in our nation for all nine months of pregnancy for virtually any reason. In pondering the significance of this anniversary, David Bereit, the founder of 40 Days for Life, shared during a meeting with pro-life colleagues that the Lord had put the phrase “Exodus 20:13” on his heart, and the image of the Israelites wandering for 40 years in the desert immediately to his mind.

Out of curiosity, one of the other people in attendance at the meeting decided to look up in the Bible the citation “Exodus 20:13.” Imagine the astonishment in the room when the verse was read aloud: “You shall not kill.”

The Chosen People wandered for four decades in the Sinai Desert in punishment for disobeying God’s clear command and refusing to trust in His continued providence. Let’s take a closer look at the legacy of legal abortion, the spiritual wasteland that our nation has wandered in for the last 40 years because we have rejected God’s clear command, “You shall not kill.”

First of all, abortion has become one of the most common surgical procedures in the United States — a child is aborted about every 30 seconds. In fact, it has been calculated that more than 55 million unborn children have been killed since abortion became legal in 1973.

It is difficult to visualize what a number this vast looks like, but Benjamin Bull offered this perspective in a recent post at LifeNews.com: “If you added together the populations of New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Antonio, San Diego, Dallas, Jacksonville, Indianapolis and San Francisco (the 12 largest cities in the U.S.), you would only have about 26.1 million people — less than half the number aborted.”

Secondly, while the effect of abortion on these little ones is obvious, the aftermath of abortion on their mothers is also tragic. According to Vicki Thorn, director of the National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing, while some women report relatively little trauma following abortion, for many, the experience is devastating, causing serious and persistent emotional, psychological and spiritual difficulties.

The overwhelming majority of women who obtain abortions — about 85 percent — are unmarried. Eighteen percent of the women who obtain abortions are teens, while women in their 20s account for 58 percent of all abortions. According to research conducted by Fergusson et al in 2006 and again in 2008, among young women who had an abortion, there was a 61 percent increased risk of suicidal ideation, and 42 percent of the young women who aborted reported major depression by age 25. Adult women with an abortion history are nearly three times as likely to report significant depression (Pedersen 2008), and the suicide rate is nearly six

times greater among women who aborted compared with women who delivered (Gissler et al. 1996, 2005).

Research on the aftermath of abortion in women is published much more readily in Europe, where the political stakes surrounding the issue of abortion are not nearly so high as they are in our own country. The prestigious *British Journal of Psychiatry* published in 2008 an analysis of extensive data gathered over the course of a 30-year longitudinal study and found that abortion was the only pregnancy outcome that was “consistently related to significantly increased risks of mental health problems.” In 2011, the same journal published “Abortion and mental health: quantitative synthesis and analysis of research published 1995–2009” by Priscilla K. Coleman. “Based on data extracted from 22 studies, the results of this meta-analytic review of the abortion and mental health literature indicate quite consistently that abortion is associated with moderate to highly increased risks of psychological problems subsequent to the procedure,” the author concluded. “Overall, the results revealed that women who had undergone an abortion experienced an 81 percent increased risk of mental health problems.”

Finally, what about the millions of men whose children have been aborted since *Roe v. Wade*? According to Vincent Rue, PhD., a practicing psychotherapist and co-director of the Institute for Pregnancy Loss in Jacksonville, Fla., “While there is much we

don’t know about men and abortion, there are some 28 studies on men’s reactions to abortion that are informative. In one study, most men felt overwhelmed, with many experiencing disturbing thoughts of the abortion (Shostak & McLouth, 1984).” Another, more recent study found that “four out of 10 men experienced chronic post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms, occurring on average 15 years after the abortion. Other disconcerting findings included: 88 percent feeling grief and sadness, 82 percent guilt, 77 percent anger, 64 percent anxiety, 68 percent isolation, 31 percent helplessness, 40 percent sexual problems. (Rue, Coyle, & Coleman, 2007).

Beyond the risk of significant psychological aftermath, the certainty of serious spiritual harm is the most tragic legacy of *Roe v. Wade*. But God who in His great mercy draws good out of evil has drawn out of the 40 years of legal abortion in our nation not only a clearer and more courageous witness to the Gospel of Life on the part of His Church, but also a vibrant and compassionate outreach to all those who have been involved in abortion in order to

bring them the reconciliation and peace that only He can give.

For more information about Project Rachel, the program of post-abortion healing in our diocese, call 1 (855) RACHEL HOPE — 1 (855) 722-4354, email [projectrachelhope@gmail.com](mailto:projectrachelhope@gmail.com), or visit the website at [www.diocesefwsb.org/projectrachel](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/projectrachel).

In this new year, the bishops of the United States have called Catholics across our country to pray the rosary daily and to fast and abstain from meat every Friday so that we may again become a nation that respects life, marriage and religious liberty. May our prayer and penance in 2013 be another example of the good that God was able to draw out from the evil of *Roe v. Wade*.

Lisa Everett is the codirector of the Office of Family Life, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.



Our parish is dedicated to

*The Mother of Our Saviour  
The Star of Hope  
The Comfort of the Afflicted*

And the one chosen to guide us through the sorrows of life, including the agony brought about by abortion.

*Queen of Peace, be with us.*

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Over All Life--  
Respect and  
Defend Life!**



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# Local guild of Catholic Medical Association active in Fort Wayne area

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — Late last summer Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades convened a group of Fort Wayne Catholic physicians to discuss the possibility of launching a local organization of Catholic physicians and other healthcare professionals, said Lisa Everett, co-director of the Family Life Office for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. A few of the physicians, in fact, also had a desire to launch a local guild of the Catholic Medical Association (CMA). "I think this convergence was the work of the Holy Spirit," Everett added.

Following the meeting, Bishop Rhoades asked Everett to serve as a liaison between the diocese and the core group in getting the guild started. Under the auspices of the diocese, the local CMA guild has been meeting monthly, she reported, establishing a board and electing officers last November. They chose as their patron a pro-life

Catholic geneticist whose cause for canonization has begun, naming the new group the Dr. Jerome Lejeune Guild of Northeast Indiana.

The guild includes the eastern half of the diocese. Bishop Rhoades hopes to establish a separate guild for the western half of the diocese based out of South Bend.

Dr. Tom McGovern, partner and part owner of Fort Wayne Dermatology Consultants, serves as president of the Dr. Lejeune Guild while Dr. Kate Heimann, whose practice is in Decatur, heads the vice-presidency.

"Both are strongly committed Catholics with a desire to evangelize the culture of their fellow Catholic healthcare professionals," said Everett. Bishop Rhoades also appointed Father James Bromwich, who has a background in healthcare, as chaplain of the new guild.

According to Dr. McGovern, the guild wants to "establish camaraderie among Catholic physicians and other healthcare workers in the midst of the secular culture of death," forming them in their



DR. KATE HEIMANN



DR. TOM MCGOVERN

Catholic faith. The guild also wants to "help Catholic physicians know, understand and apply Church teaching in their professions and educate the public about how Catholics are called to live their faith when dealing with health and sickness."

Dr. McGovern emphasized the guild physicians want to serve as resources for Bishop Rhoades and the priests of the diocese when they have medical questions as well as reach out to Catholic physicians and students-in-training for healthcare professions so "they will live as Catholics who happen to be physicians or nurses or pharmacists, etc. instead of physicians, etc. who happen to be Catholics," he stressed.

Medical practitioners interested in becoming active members are asked to contact Dr. McGovern at (260) 437-8377.

"I hope to encourage and support my medical colleagues in living out our Catholic faith, which has unfortunately become even more difficult in recent months than ever before," added Dr. Heimann.

"It is extremely exciting to belong to a group of such intel-

ligent, dynamic and passionately Catholic people," she continued.

"I believe that being a part of this unique community, our professional and spiritual lives will become more fervent in serving Christ and each other," concluded Dr. Heimann.

Some of the first concrete initiatives of the guild include:

- Monthly board meetings with a two-fold focus — (1) formation as Catholics through study of the life of Dr. Jerome Lejeune and (2) beginning in July with the study of the new Charter for Healthcare Workers, due from the Vatican on June 16

- Annual Lenten evening of reflection scheduled for March 1 from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Fort Wayne

- Annual White Mass for all who work in the medical profession caring for patients scheduled for Oct. 2 at St. Mary Catholic Church, Fort Wayne, with Bishop Rhoades as celebrant

- Outreach to local medical students and family practice residents, physician assistant students and nurse practitioner students to include a Theology on Tap pro-

gram for healthcare workers-in-training

- Establish a local guild website — a place where physicians and others can learn anonymously about what the Church teaches and why, and contact information for questions about practicing the Catholic faith while working in the medical field

- Radio outreach, using Redeemer Radio to establish recurring one to two minute segments with local physicians commenting on medical items of interest, and, establishing a half-hour weekly show that would include interviewing local, regional and national experts on numerous areas of interest

- Periodic days of reflection and education for physicians

- An online message board where Catholic physicians can ask for advice from peers regarding certain patient or work situations.

Dr. McGovern is committed to the promise of the guild and said, "I believe it is God's call to me at this point in my life to contribute my available time to the formation of this new guild. At a time when the government is taking over more healthcare and greater wedges are being driven between patients and their physicians, I sensed the need to do something to turn back the tide."

He added, "The CMA gives me a venue where I can do that with other Catholic physicians. The CMA says that since Obamacare has been passed, the number of new guilds has skyrocketed.... The essential interaction in medicine is not between patients and the government or patients and their insurance company — it's between a patient and his physician or between a patient and the nurse taking care of him. We want to return to that. We want to stop the secular media from being the place where healthcare workers and patients are told how they are supposed to view medical care."



**Human Life  
is Sacred  
from  
Conception  
until Death**

**Always  
Choose Life**

**St. Bavo Parish  
Mishawaka**



*"You formed my  
inmost being;  
you knit me in my  
mother's womb."*

Psalm 119:13

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
NEW HAVEN, IN

"THE CONFLICT  
is between a culture that  
*affirms, cherishes, and celebrates the gift of life,*  
and

a culture that seeks to declare entire groups  
of human beings - the unborn, the terminally ill,  
the handicapped, and others considered 'unuseful'  
to be outside the boundaries of legal protection"

-Pope John Paul II

ST. LOUIS BESANCON

**Love LIFE**  
*as a heavenly gift!*

ST. PETER AND PAUL PARISH  
HUNTINGTON

## Who is Dr. Lejeune?

Jerome Lejeune was born in 1926 in Montrouge, near Paris. He studied medicine and became a researcher at the National Center of Scientific Research in Paris in 1952. Dr. Lejeune was a pediatrician and geneticist who, in 1958, while studying chromosomes linked to Down syndrome discovered the existence of an additional chromosome on the 21st pair that causes what was then called "mongolism." Until Dr. Lejeune's discovery, the syndrome had wrongly been attributed to maternal syphilis.

With this remarkable and groundbreaking discovery, he renamed the condition trisomy 21 to accurately describe the genetic abnormality. For the first time Dr. Lejeune had established a link between an intellectual disability and its genetic cause.

Dr. Lejeune would receive many honors for this achievement, including the Kennedy Prize in 1962 and, in 1969, the William Allen Memorial Award from the American Society of Human Genetics — the highest distinction a geneticist can earn. And in recognition of his discovery, in 1964

Dr. Lejeune was named the first Professor of Fundamental Genetics at the Faculty of Medicine of Paris. While increasing his research he continued to remain available to families, caring for disabled children, and to travel the world giving thousands of lectures on genetics.

As a devout Catholic and father of five, Dr. Lejeune's discovery led him to think in terms of improving the lives of those with trisomy 21. Thousands of families corresponded with him and came from throughout the world to seek his counsel. Dr. Lejeune offered them a different perspective than the world's, encouraging them to see that their children were created in God's image and made for eternity, like all human beings. He assured them their children possessed special gifts of love and affection.

Dr. Lejeune called them "these dear little ones," and his love for them was authentic. He was horrified by the realization that, in this eugenic era, his discovery of the extra chromosome made them targets. He feared it was only a matter of time before tests made prenatal diagnosis possible, resulting in many parents choosing to abort their children.



WEB PHOTO

**Dr. Jerome Lejeune, a Catholic geneticist, shown above, discovered the chromosome for Down syndrome.**

Though a scientist, Dr. Lejeune was first and foremost a godly man who understood that science must be at the service of life — not death. Since the only hope for saving lives would be to find a cure for genetic intelligence disabilities, Dr. Lejeune devoted the rest of his life

to this.

Today, his worst fears have come to pass, with tests that diagnose trisomies earlier and earlier — and increasing pressure on mothers to abort an "imperfect" baby and "try again." Over 90 percent of babies diagnosed prenatally in the United States are aborted, and in France, the rate is at least 96 percent.

Dr. Lejeune would also speak out against abortion, which put him at odds with the elite scientific community, threatened to disrupt his family life and probably deprived him of the Nobel Prize he deserved.

Just as Dr. Lejeune's scientific legacy lives on in the care, research and advocacy provided and funded through the Jerome Lejeune Foundation in Paris, his spiritual legacy has grown as the cause for his beatification progresses. Early in his pontificate, Pope John Paul II took notice of Dr. Lejeune's position as a respected geneticist, his

outspoken opposition to abortion and his 100-percent pro-life commitment. Both men viewed abortion as the primary threat to world peace: If doctors began killing, what would stop governments from doing the same?

In 1994, the Holy Father created the Pontifical Academy for Life, appointing Dr. Lejeune as its first president. By then suffering from cancer, he tried to decline, but when the pope insisted, he simply replied, "I will die in action." He immediately got to work drafting the bylaws of the new academy. The good doctor died a short time later on Easter Sunday, April 3, 1994.

Each year on the anniversary of his death, a Mass is held in a large parish of Paris. The testimony of his life continues to inspire the work of doctors and researchers.

In 1997, during World Youth Day, Pope John Paul II insisted that his schedule be altered so he could travel to the small town of Châlons-Saint-Mars to pray at the grave of his spiritual brother. Ten years later, in 2007, the cause for Dr. Lejeune's beatification was opened.

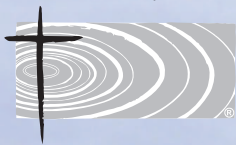
— Vince Labarbera

**Respecting ALL LIFE through our ministries including the elderly, children, refugee, homeless, poor, sick and underserved.**



**Dignity and Respect for All — a Core Value of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.**

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ



Partners in the work of the Spirit

[www.poorhandmaids.org](http://www.poorhandmaids.org)



*Respect for life*

*requires that science and technology should always be at the service of man and his integral development.*

*Society as a whole must respect, defend and promote the dignity of every human person, at every moment and in every condition of that person's life.*

JOHN PAUL II, *Evangelium Vitae*

Basilica of the Sacred Heart  
NOTRE DAME

# Dr. Stroud makes switch to all NFP practice

BY DEB WAGNER

FORT WAYNE — Dr. Christopher Stroud, a Fort Wayne obstetrician-gynecologist made a decision a few months ago that was unprecedented among his colleagues. He became the first obstetrician/gynecologist in the area to offer only Natural Family Planning (NFP) methods to his patients — a decision he admits was a leap of faith.

Before the conversion to an all NFP practice, other than refusing to participate in any form of pregnancy termination, Stroud practiced like most OB/GYN doctors. He regularly prescribed artificial contraceptives despite the research that has shown increased risk of breast cancer, stroke, heart attack and blood clots. He also performed sterilization procedures and routinely placed intrauterine devices (IUD's).

Well aware of the Church's

position on the topic, Stroud wrestled with the moral conflict since becoming Catholic in 2008. He says he felt like he had no alternative; he didn't know of another OB/GYN physician to look to as an example.

People often question Stroud about why he made the switch to practicing only NFP asking, "Is this a Catholic thing?" While he is quick to tell his patients that he is indeed a Catholic, he goes on to say it was "the theology that forced me to look at the biology and make the change to practice in a way that is consistent with the Church's teaching, while doing what is best for the health of my patients."

Stroud credits friend and fellow parishioner at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Dr. Patrick Holly, with helping him make the switch.

Stroud recounts that he had a conversation with Dr. Holly during which he was explaining that he thought there was a problem with his prescribing artificial birth con-



DR. CHRISTOPHER STROUD

trol methods.

When Dr. Holly replied, "What? You think there is a problem? There is a huge problem and you've got to resolve this and quickly," Stroud knew it was time to make the change. Many years ago Dr. Holly stopped prescribing artificial contraception for his patients.

Stroud says that much prayer and discussion with his priest went into making the decision. But in the end, "It was the Holy Spirit that convicted and convinced me," he said.

NFP is an umbrella term describing a variety of natural methods to manage fertility, including the Calendar Method, the Billings Method and the Rhythm Method. Each of these methods looks at menstrual cycles retrospectively in an effort to help couples determine their fertile days.

Stroud says those methods "are like driving a car using the rear-view mirror. They tell you what has happened."

Stroud is in the process of becoming a certified medical consultant utilizing the Creighton Fertility Care model, a form of natural family planning that prospectively identifies a woman's fertile days, allowing her to achieve or avoid pregnancy as desired.

The Creighton method is 99 percent effective at avoiding pregnancy and more effective than in vitro fertilization (IVF) at achieving pregnancy for those couples struggling to conceive, according to extensive research.

"And best of all," Stroud points out, "It is completely consistent with the Church's teachings."

There are many other advantages to the Creighton Model. For example, it is a shared method of fertility regulation. The responsibility for its successful use rests with both spouses. According to the Creighton Model web site, "one must follow the instructions of the system which depend upon the couple's decision to either achieve or avoid pregnancy. The couple should be mutually motivated in its use and enter into it with a loving and cooperative spirit."

"We love Creighton Model because it is infused with the Catholic Church's beautiful teachings on love and marriage. We also find it very appealing because it considers and includes the husband instead of focusing entirely on the woman," remark Ryan and Aimee Penn of Fort Wayne. Aimee is a patient of Stroud's.

The Creighton Model is also

extremely effective in treating other reproductive health concerns including recurrent miscarriages, PMS, irregular periods, postpartum depression, Poly Cystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS), and painful periods. And according to Stroud, there are no medical contraindications to use of the Creighton Model.

"Any condition for which oral contraceptives have been prescribed can be treated as effectively or better using the Creighton Model," he reports.

Many Protestants, non-Christians and patients beyond reproductive age have also expressed support of Stroud's switch to an all NFP practice. Older women, for example, who see Stroud for their gynecological needs, including surgery for a variety of conditions, have expressed a desire to be treated by a physician who shares their philosophical views, especially when it comes to issues of life and opposition to abortion, an important component of Stroud's position.

Stroud says he is "amazed and overwhelmed" by the outpouring of support for his change to an all NFP practice. He hopes that other physicians in the region will be convinced by his success to make the change for their practices.

**More information about the Creighton Model can be found at [www.creightonmodel.com](http://www.creightonmodel.com). Dr. Stroud can be reached via email at [christopher.stroud@parkview.com](mailto:christopher.stroud@parkview.com) or by visiting his facebook page at [www.facebook.com/stroudobgyn](http://www.facebook.com/stroudobgyn).**



## Saint Michael

*Fighter of the forces of darkness...  
Bring the light of the Holy Spirit  
to those who need to see the joy  
of life instead of the agony and  
sorrow of abortion.*

**ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**  
WATERLOO

## May

### Saint Aloysius

**PATRON OF CATHOLIC YOUTH**  
*Intercede for Pro Life advocates and  
bring about increased understanding  
and respect for human life in all stages.*

**ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH**  
YODER

**Without life,  
other civil rights  
are meaningless.**

**MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD PARISH**  
FORT WAYNE



*It is therefore a service of love which we  
are committed to ensure to our neighbor,  
that his or her life may be always defended  
and promoted, especially when it is weak  
or threatened.* JOHN PAUL II, *Evangelium Vitae*

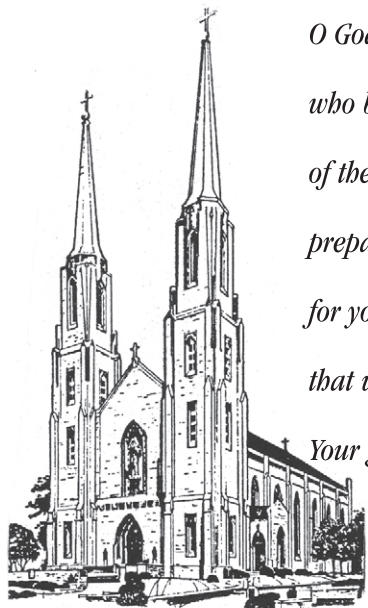
**ST. JUDE PARISH**  
FORT WAYNE



*Our bodies...  
are shaped  
to bear children,  
and our lives are  
a working out of  
the processes of creation.  
All our ambitions  
and intelligence  
are secondary  
to that  
great elemental point.*

Saint Augustine, 354 - 430  
DOCTOR of the CHURCH

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**  
FORT WAYNE



*O God,  
who by the Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
prepared a worthy dwelling  
for your Son, grant, we pray,  
that we be always open to  
Your generous gift of human life.*

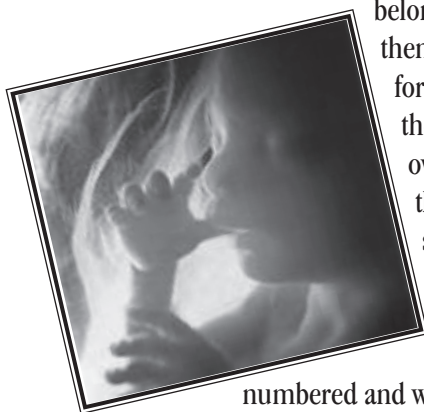
**Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception  
FORT WAYNE**

**Abortion  
cannot be a human right  
...it is the very opposite.**

-Cardinal Franz König

St. Joseph County Right to Life, Inc.  
320 North Lafayette Blvd., South Bend  
232-5433 Prolife@michiana.org

“Human life is sacred and inviolable at every moment of existence, including the initial phase which precedes birth. All human beings, from their mothers’ womb,



belong to God who searches them and knows them, who forms them and knits them together with His own hands, who gazes on them when they are tiny shapeless embryos and already sees in them the adults of tomorrow whose days are

numbered and whose vocation is even now written in the ‘book of life’. -*Evangelium Vitae*

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH  
MISHAWAKA**

**RESPECT LIFE**

“The gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus’ message...it is to be preached with dauntless fidelity; as ‘good news’ to the people of every age and culture.”

-Pope John Paul II

**St. Patrick Church  
ARCOLA**

**Diocese to host veneration of St. Gianna, enshrinement of relic**

BY JODI MAGALLANES

SOUTH BEND — The Family and Pro-Life Office of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has acted to increase awareness of the sacrifice of St. Gianna Beretta Molla, and to provide an opportunity to learn more about the modern saint.

St. Gianna was an Italian pediatrician who refused to abort her fourth child even when it was discovered that a fibroid tumor was growing alongside the child, in her womb. Thanks to delicate surgery she delivered a baby girl in 1962, but died painfully eight days later. On May 16, 2004, she became the last saint to be canonized by Pope John Paul II before his death.

Through her attention to the prayers of infertile couples, St. Gianna has become a powerful intercessor for couples that do not seem to be able to have children. Doctors, mothers, fathers, adoptive parents and others appeal to her to provide the gift of conception and to protect unborn children. In the few decades since she died, St. Gianna has become an inspiration to medical providers as well as families worldwide.

Barb Fralish, parishioner at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend and a wife, nurse and mother of a special needs child, heard Tom McKenna, founder and president of the St. Gianna Physicians’ Guild, and St. Gianna’s daughter speak at a conference in 2010. She approached the diocese with a request to consider inviting McKenna to speak in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. McKenna will visit the area Feb. 22-24 for activities honoring the 20th century doctor and pro-life witness.

“St. Gianna has helped me so



St. Gianna Beretta Molla is pictured on a family outing with daughter Laura in an undated photo. The Italian doctor and mother, who sacrificed her own life for the life of her child, was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2004.

CNS PHOTO

tremendously. And she’s a powerful role model for medical professionals,” Fralish said.

Several events will take place during McKenna’s visit. From noon until 1:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22, the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture and the Family and Pro-Life Office of the diocese will co-sponsor a lunch presentation on the life of St. Gianna in the university’s Coleman-Morse Lounge on the west side of campus. Pre-med students will be specially invited to the free event, but all are welcome to attend. The title of McKenna’s 45-minute PowerPoint-assisted program is “St. Gianna Beretta Molla: A Modern Day Hero of Divine Love.”

The same program will be presented from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23, in the Parish Center of Little Flower Catholic Church, 54191 Ironwood Rd.

McKenna will bring with him a photo of St. Gianna and some personal effects, such as her stethoscope, for veneration. That photo,

which contains a relic, will be enshrined at 7 p.m. Feb. 22 at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Mishawaka. SJRMC CEO Al Gutierrez will host the evening and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will preside at the ceremony. Catholic health professionals from the area have been invited. A presentation by McKenna on the life and medical career of St. Gianna will precede the enshrinement. A light reception will follow, and attendees will receive a booklet recounting her life.

At 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24, couples that are experiencing infertility are encouraged to attend a Mass celebrated by Bishop Rhoades at the Chapel of the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis, 1515 W. Dragon Trail, Mishawaka.

Following the Mass, those in attendance will be invited to venerate St. Gianna’s relics during a period of silent prayer. McKenna’s presentation will follow and the afternoon will conclude with a light reception.



*The future of humanity passes  
by way of the family...  
God has entrusted its  
future to the woman.*

Pope John Paul II

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH - FORT WAYNE

**St. Joseph Parish - Bluffton**



*May the example of  
the patron of our parish,  
as a protector of  
The Holy Infant, and  
The Holy Family,  
advance the cause of Pro Life.*



I like it here.  
Thanks for  
inviting me!

St. Michael Parish  
PLYMOUTH

**B**efore I formed you  
in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born  
I consecrated you; I have appointed  
you a prophet to the nations.

Jeremiah 1:5

ST. PETER PARISH - ST. MARY PARISH  
FORT WAYNE



Join with us "in prayer"  
in support of  
the unborn children.

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish  
in Decatur, Indiana invites our diocese to offer "prayer cover" for  
the hundreds of thousands gathering January 25-26, 2013 in  
Washington, DC to show support for the unborn children and the  
Catholic Teachings which express dignity for all human life from  
the moment of conception. Thank you for your prayer!

*"Reverence for life is the glue  
of human community."*

~Archbishop Charles J. Chaput



**Respect Life**

*From Conception  
through Natural  
Death,  
ALL life is sacred*



## A changed heart

BY ALLISON STURM

**H**ow do you change a heart?  
How do you change the  
heart of "someone" who  
supports a cause that you find so  
utterly evil?

What if the heart that needs  
change is within me or you? What if  
"we" have to find room in our hearts  
to extend support and compassion  
for someone who has chosen abor-  
tion or supports it today?

Understanding my awareness  
that I could be both passionately  
pro-life and have sincere compas-  
sion for someone who had an  
abortion has become the agent of  
personal change.

With the love and patience of  
a dear friend, I was able to freely  
express my "righteous" and "judg-  
mental" views and in turn was met  
with a kind and gentle voice chal-  
lenging me to look beyond the obvi-  
ous to see the pain of the individual,  
the mercy of God, and His forgive-  
ness of all sin — including the one I  
thought worse than all the others.

I was an advocate for life but I  
was not seeing the whole picture.  
It felt contradicting to demonstrate  
anything other than contempt for  
abortion and those who had them.  
Sure, I knew to say "love the sinner,  
hate the sin," but I didn't live it. My  
desire to make it clear that I was  
pro-life blinded me to the fact that  
I was actually promoting hate and  
hurting people.

I was more intent on being right  
than I was concerned for others.  
I did not consider or care that I  
might be expressing my opinion in  
the presence of someone who had  
experienced an abortion. My heart  
was part of the destruction. I can't  
imagine how the look on my face or  
the tone of my voice inflicted more

pain on someone already suffering. I  
most likely pushed her or him even  
further away from healing.

But because God worked  
through my dear friend and planted  
that small seed of compassion in  
me, I was able to open my heart to  
let God transform me.

Grace and joy have filled my  
heart even in the midst of the sad-  
ness I feel when a woman chooses  
abortion because I know that God is  
holding her and willing her to come  
back to Him.

My passion for life isn't any less  
now but before I was conflicted  
because of the ugliness of my own  
heart and I was not able to speak  
with truth and integrity. Now my  
worldview is "we"-centered not  
"me"-centered and when I share my  
pro-life views I am aware that I may  
be in the presence of someone who  
had an abortion or supported the  
decision.

Perhaps this person is someone I  
sit by at Mass, or I see out socially,  
or is especially close to my heart.  
And this person bears this great  
sorrow. How I express my feelings  
about the issue of abortion can have  
a tremendous impact.

Yes, I need to continue to speak  
the truth about abortion and pray  
that hearts will be transformed, but

I know that this is best achieved  
through genuine kindness in my  
words and actions. When I uphold  
the dignity of every person — espe-  
cially those whose opinions differ  
from mine, I am witnessing the truth  
of God's mercy and compassion.

Our pro-life efforts must fight  
for the dignity of all life and include  
those who made the choice that  
we can't understand. Those who  
have had an abortion, or who sup-  
ported one, already suffer from their  
actions. Their choice came from a  
place of desperation and none of us  
can really know what that feels like  
unless we have been there.

But they don't need anyone to  
tell them what they did was wrong.  
They know it. We need to respect  
those whose lives are broken by this  
sin and who still struggle to find  
healing. They may not be open to  
the truth that there is forgiveness  
because they are not able to move  
beyond the feeling of condemnation  
to hear it.

Many believe that they could not  
possibly be loved if anyone found  
out about this part of their life. So  
they continue to endure their suffer-  
ing in silence and their lives remain  
broken.

God uses us to bring His love  
and mercy to those in despair. Could  
I, or could you, be that kind voice  
that offers the truth that there is no  
sin too great to be forgiven by God?  
Could my compassion or yours help  
propel someone who is holding on  
to guilt and shame take a brave step  
towards healing? If God has done  
this for us time, after time, after time  
— how can we not extend this same  
love and mercy towards others?

**Allison Sturm** is a ministry spe-  
cialist in the Secretariat for  
Evangelization and Special  
Ministries, Diocese of Fort  
Wayne-South Bend which  
includes Project Rachel —  
a ministry for anyone who suffers  
from the wounds of abortion.



*It was you who created  
My inmost self; and put  
Me together in my  
Mother's womb; for all  
These mysteries I thank you,  
For the wonder of myself, for  
The wonder of your works.*

Psalm 139, 13-14

Corpus Christi Catholic Community  
SOUTH BEND



*Why can't  
we love them all?*

St. Joseph Parish  
ROANOKE

St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish  
NIX SETTLEMENT



# Collective grief

Our nation was once again knocked to its collective knees recently with the horrifying events that took place on Dec. 14, 2012, at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. When a single gunman, who first killed his own mother, forced his way into the school and fatally shot 20 first-grade students and six school staff, and then himself, life changed — not just for that quiet, little community, but for communities across the country.

With what has become almost commonplace in our culture with disturbed gunmen shooting innocent victims from Tuscan, Ariz., and Oakland, Calif., to Aurora, Colo., and Portland, Ore., our nation stood shocked and more than a little fearful as we watched the gruesome story unfold.

Our hearts cried out in sympathy for the parents whose children lay dead and for their grandparents, siblings and friends. That day they each began the unique journey we call grief and will have much pain-

ful and confusing work to do to heal their broken hearts.

I suspect it's obvious to those of us who have known loss that the devastating circumstances surrounding these deaths complicate the grief these families will experience. Sudden death is traumatic in its own right. But murder loss is an entirely different level of grief.

I've been long known to spread the notion that one who experiences loss grieves in his or her own distinct way. Each unique personality, relationship, past experience of death and belief system guides us individually on the journey toward healing. Each loss manifests as another layer of grief on our perspective of the meaning of life and death.

So how does the killing of these innocent children and adults affect how we see the world? How does it change our perspective?

It's natural and very human to mourn the loss of these children and adults whom we've not met. Though the loss is seen through our



KAY COZAD

## HOPE IN THE MOURNING

own personal life lens many of us can empathize with the community members who grieve this terrible loss.

My sister who has lost a son grieves deeply for the parents of those dear children. She understands a little of their pain. A friend whose sister was murdered in her youth laments alongside the siblings of those who were killed.

Another friend admitted to past judgment of the perpetrators of these crimes and their families until recently when her own friend was in need of emotional support after

HOPE, PAGE 16

# Say yes to new risks and new graces in 2013

Barbara Benson Keith's wake-up call came while chatting with a fellow kindergarten teacher at the end of a school day.

Her colleague said, "I hope in 10 years I'm right here in this classroom doing the same thing," Barbara recalled. "And inside I was like, 'Ack! No!' That didn't appeal to me at all."

In the spring of 2000, after 12 years of teaching, Barbara took a leave. She was ready to end the persistent stream of sickness teaching had triggered and embark on her next adventure. "I thought, 'You can be safe or you can take risks and live your life.'"

Barbara traveled to Pompeii, Italy, taking in colossal mosaics that left her slack-jawed. Back home, she immediately set to creating a mosaic, digging out leftover chunks from a community ed. stained-glass class she'd taken nearly a decade ago. She worked on a card table wedged beside the basement furnace, playing the "Wicked" soundtrack on repeat as she pieced together a 51 inch by 51 inch rendering of Queen Gertrude, Hamlet's mother.

The mosaic took four months and 4,800 pieces of hand-cut glass and won second place in the Minnesota State Fair, landing Barbara the first of dozens of public art commissions that have kept pouring in, providing full-time work since 2007.

She and her husband, Pete, moved to the country and built a home, starting with a large worktable for her mosaics. Now the self-taught artist has her own studio, with a mirror on the ceiling and a rescue dog at her feet. She tends to chickens, taps maples for syrup and studies roving shad-ows.

With her black hair, youthful face and bright smile, the petite 46-year-old looks stress free. "When I was teaching, there was always noise," Barbara told me. "Now it's quiet, and I'm healthy, and I don't have to set my alarm in the morning. You finish a piece and you say, 'Wow, I made that!'"



CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

## TWENTY SOMETHING

Barbara's journey from the classroom to the country inspires me, especially as we unroll a promising new year. It is a chance to more fully become the people God designed, to discover and perform the work He set out for us, drawing on the unique set of skills and talents no one else possesses. That may call for a career change, an address change or an attitude change.

Maybe the key will be to start praying or to resume praying, to pray earlier or later, alone or in communion, with your own words, with ancient words or with no words at all.

It could be time to take a long, hard look at the thing keeping you from pursuing God's will. Will you bend to it again or are you ready to press forward? Are you willing to cut and glue as many tiny pieces as Barbara made on the card table in her basement? Can you trust that all the labor may produce a masterpiece?

Perhaps the difference between you and your better self is a matter of being less rushed in 2013 — more awake, more aware, more attuned.

I'm anticipating the new year like never before. I can almost see the flood of love and purpose it will bring, shoving all the less important stuff out of view and demanding my best — someone wiser, gentler and stronger.

My answer will be simple, the same word that turned a peasant into the Mother of God, the one that opens every door and invites every grace: yes.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. She can be reached at [www.ReadChristina.com](http://www.ReadChristina.com).

# Being with God is our destiny



## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Jn 2:1-11

When this third section of Isaiah was written, the Hebrew people had just emerged from a terrible period in their history. Their homeland, divided into two kingdoms after the death of King Solomon, had been overrun by the mighty Babylonian Empire, centered in today's Iraq.

Many died, or were killed, in the conquest. Others were taken to Babylon, the imperial capital. There these exiles, and then their descendants, languished for four generations until political fortunes changed. The more powerful Persians conquered Babylonia itself.

As a result, the exiles were allowed to return to their homeland. The prophets did not see the sequence of events leading to this happy release as merely coincidental or the result of human political maneuvers. Rather God provided for it. God has promised to protect the people. The people upset the arrangement by sinning.

Despite their sinfulness, however, God was constant. He provided.

For its second reading this weekend the Church presents a passage from St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians.

Leading the Corinthian

Christians to genuine fidelity was a considerable challenge for Paul. In reaction to rivalries and arguments in Corinth, Paul wrote what has become a blueprint for Christian living. He reminded the Corinthians to whom he wrote that each of them has special gifts and opportunities. Such diversity was welcome since it meant that there were so many occasions for individual believers to bring the sweetness of the Gospel into the world. Paul even lists different skills and talents to make his point.

St. John's Gospel supplies the third reading.

Unique to John, the miracle at Cana in Galilee was the first recorded of the Lord's miracles. It marked the beginning of the Lord's public ministry.

The emphasis usually lies upon the marvel of the changing of the water into wine. This indeed was remarkable. But the story has other powerful lessons.

A great lesson is about Mary. John's Gospel never names her. It always simply refers to Mary as "the mother" of Jesus. This is not an oversight. It stresses her unique role as the Lord's earthly parent.

The response of Jesus to the obvious embarrassment of the host in not having enough wine for the guest can be puzzling. Was the Lord indifferent to the host's distress? His reply stressed that the messianic mission was not to provide for human needs, but to draw all to God and to eternal life.

Mary enters the picture. First, Jesus hears her. Secondly, her faith is unqualified and frank.

She trusts the Lord, telling the servers to do whatever the Lord orders them to do. So, this reading reveals the power and mission of Jesus, as well as Mary's perfect response in faith to the Lord.

## Reflection

The Church celebrated the feast of the Nativity at Christmas, rejoicing in the birth of the Lord in time and space. In observing the feast of the Epiphany, the Church joyfully proclaimed to us that the Lord came to show all of us the unlimited love of God for us. The feast of the Baptism of the Lord told us that Jesus lived, and eventually, died for us. He became one of us.

This weekend, in the words of Isaiah, the Church reminds us that no earthly or human force, however mighty, is beyond God's strength given to those of faith, such as Mary.

The story of Cana reinforces us in our faith. By this miracle, Jesus teaches us that no human situation should distract us from the fact that being with God is our destiny and therefore our priority.

An important fundamental lesson is that earthly concerns are not everything. Our intention must be everlastingly to be with the Lord in heaven.

## READINGS

**Sunday:** Is 62:1-5 Ps 96:1-3, 7-10

1 Cor 12:4-11 Jn 2:1-11

**Monday:** Heb 5:1-10 Ps 110:1-4

Mk 2:18-22

**Tuesday:** Heb 6:10-20 Ps 111:1-2,

4-5, 9, 10c Mk 2:23-28

**Wednesday:** Heb 7:1-3, 15-17

Ps 110:1-4 Mk 3:1-6

**Thursday:** Heb 7:25-8:6 Ps 40:7-10,

17 Mk 3:7-12

**Friday:** Acts 22:3-16 Ps 117:1-2

Mk 16:15-18

**Saturday:** 2 Tm 1:1-8 Ps 96:1-3,

7-8a, 10 Mk 3:20-21

## Saint of the Week

### Anthony of Egypt

c. 251-356  
January 17



Associated with the beginnings of monasticism, Anthony gave his inherited lands and wealth in Egypt to the poor. From the age of about 20 until his death at 105, he lived as a hermit in remote hilltop and desert locations. What is known about him comes from a life written by St. Athanasius of Alexandria. Around 306 he began to accept disciples, founding his first monastery as a collection of hermits' cells. He cultivated a garden, wove rush mats, and fought many temptations and demons. Visitors sought his wise counsel, collected in the sayings of the "desert fathers," and the bishops of Alexandria summoned him at age 87 to help refute Arianism. He is the patron of basket and brush makers, butchers and gravediggers.

# 'The Hobbit' and the Gospel

Like "Star Wars," "The Divine Comedy," and "Moby Dick," J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit" is the story of a hero's journey. This helps to explain, of course, why, like those other narratives, it has proved so perennially compelling. The hero's tale follows a classical, almost stereotyped, pattern: a person is wrenched out of complacency and self-absorption and called to a great adventure, during which he (or she), through struggle, comes to maturity and vision.

In "Moby Dick," the young Ishmael quits the narrow space of his depressed mind ("whenever it is a damp drizzly November in my soul") and goes on a long and dangerous voyage of discovery; in "The Divine Comedy," the middle-aged Dante leaves the dark wood where he had become lost and goes on a pilgrimage through hell, purgatory and heaven, until he comes at last to salvation; and in "Star Wars," the teen-aged Luke Skywalker (who is modeled in many ways after Dante) is wrenched out of the quietude of his aunt and uncle's home and summoned to an inter-galactic struggle against dark powers, which results in his coming of age.

"The Hobbit" begins, humbly enough, with this line: "in a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit." Tolkien is quick to clarify that this is not a nasty or unkempt hole, like the lair of a mouse, but rather a cozy place, filled with fine furniture, doilies and a well-stocked kitchen. This is the homey, all-too-comfortable space from which Bilbo Baggins (the hobbit in question) will be summoned to adventure.

To the door of Bilbo's residence comes Gandalf the wizard, a figure evocative of the in-breaking of grace. This association between the wizard and supernatural grace is not an arbitrary one, for Tolkien was a devout Catholic, and Christian themes abound in this hero's story.

Though he ardently resists it at first, Bilbo eventually accepts Gandalf's invitation to join a cadre of dwarves on their mission to recover a horde of treasure that had been absconded by a dragon named Smaug. He will come to maturity precisely in the measure that he leaves his "comfort-zone" and finds the path of self-sacrificing love.

The mission is marked, at every turn, by danger. Bilbo and the dwarves confront hungry trolls, fierce orcs, wicked goblins, ferocious wolves, giant spiders and eventually the mighty fire-breathing dragon himself. These fanciful characters signal the fact of serious evil at work in the world.

Tolkien was a participant in the trench warfare of the First World War and thus experienced, at first hand, cruelty, violence, injustice, depravity and mind-numbing fear. His Christian faith gave him the conviction that all of this evil was the result of sin, at both the human and super-human level. It also helped him to see that the whole point of life was to enter into the lists against evil, to find one's unique calling to battle wickedness and hence bring the world more into conformity with the reign of God.

What is particularly instructive in "The Hobbit" is the manner in which a Christian knight properly engages in the battle. At a key moment in the story, Gandalf suggests that while many think darkness is best opposed through exercises of great worldly power, in point of fact, it is most effectively countered through simple acts of kindness. This is, of course, nothing but Jesus' still deeply challenging teaching in the Sermon on the Mount that evil is properly resisted through love, non-violence and forgiveness.

The most striking example of this principle in action is Bilbo's refusal to kill the loathsome and dangerous Gollum when he has the chance. As readers of "The Lord of the Rings" know, Gollum would, despite himself, play the decisive role in the destruction of the ring. Had Bilbo indulged his violent instincts and put Gollum to death, the day would not have been saved. That evil is best engaged through pity is a deeply Christian and profoundly counter-intuitive insight.

At the climax of "The Hobbit," the adventurers come face to face with Smaug, the dragon who, deep in the bowels of a great mountain, guards a pile of treasure absconded from the dwarves many years before. The beast knows every little bit of his horde: each coin, each goblet, each jewel and precious stone. To be sure, he cannot possi-

and collectively, with time for silent thought and prayer, sharing our feelings with others and perhaps cleansing tears, which opens the possibility of hope and healing to us.

I believe in these devastating situations that it's not only the loss of innocent lives and the resurfacing of our past wounds that stirs our souls. We grieve collectively for, at least momentarily, the loss of our belief in the goodness of humanity, our hope of safety for ourselves and our children, and our trust in our very way of life — a frightening proposition.

But with renewed hope and amazement, as we continued to watch the Newtown tragedy unfold, we were privileged to witness the loving, compassionate response of a shaken, yet united,

## WORD ON FIRE



FATHER ROBERT BARRON

bly use or benefit from any of it, but he wallows in it and protects it with his life. Tolkien refers to this weird obsession as "the dragon sickness," and he implies that it bedevils many people in contemporary society, those who know the value of everything and the worth of nothing.

Nurtured by Catholic social teaching, Tolkien was no defender of laissez-faire capitalism or modern industrialism. In fact, he saw both as soul-killing, for the spirit thrives, not on gaining possessions, but on emptying out the self in love. This is why the killing of the dragon is such a moment of liberation.

However, it is most important to observe how the sudden freeing up of the treasure awakens the dragon-sickness in hundreds of other creatures in Tolkien's Middle Earth, who stream toward the mountain to claim Smaug's trove. The battle of these rival claimants is held off (and I won't give too much of the story away here) by an unexpected act of letting-go on Bilbo's part, not unlike the letting-go of the ring at the conclusion of "The Lord of the Rings." Once more, maturity comes, not from getting, but from giving.

A coming-of-age story, a rollicking adventure tale, a delicious fantasy, and a droll commentary on human foibles — "The Hobbit" is all that. But finally, it is a narrative spun by a serious Catholic who wants to communicate the still surprising ethics of the Gospel.

**Father Robert Barron** is the founder of the global ministry, Word on Fire, and the rector/president of Mundelein Seminary. He is the creator of the award winning documentary series, "Catholicism." Word on Fire will be releasing "The New Evangelization" documentary this year. Learn more at [www.WordonFire.org](http://www.WordonFire.org).

community as they embraced their grief — and a nation who stood along side them in their disbelief.

Wherever we reside, as we hold the victims of these immense crimes in our hearts and ask "why?" we can find consolation in solidarity — with an entire nation that grieves.

My hope now is that, collectively, we rise up out of the ashes of yet another great tragic loss of life and become a better and more compassionate people.

**Kay Cozad** is a certified grief educator and the news editor of *Today's Catholic* newspaper. She is also the author of "Prayer Book for Widows," Our Sunday Visitor, 2004. She can be reached at [kcozad@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:kcozad@diocesefwsb.org).

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for January 20, 2013

John 2:1-11

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C, the water changing at Cana. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

THIRD DAY	IN CANA	GALILEE
MOTHER	NO WINE	WOMAN
HOUR	NOT YET COME	WHATEVER
STONE	THIRTY	FILL THE JARS
WATER	THE BRIM	TAKE IT
TASTED	BRIDEGROOM	FIRST
SIGNS		GLORY

### WINE JARS

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

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## Pope offers thanks for Peter's Pence offering

Your Excellency,

At the Holy Father's direction, I am writing to acknowledge the sum of \$66,755.37, which you kindly forwarded to the Apostolic Nunciature as the Peter's Pence offering of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for the year 2012.

His Holiness thanks you and your people for this charitable contribution, which assists him in the exercise of his ministry. He deeply appreciates your willingness to share in his concern for the needs of the universal Church.

Praying that Almighty God will grant joy and peace to you and to all those entrusted to your pastoral care, the Holy Father cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing.

With personal good wishes, I remain

Yours sincerely in Christ,  
**Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone**  
Secretary of State  
Vatican City

## Thank you for Retirement Fund for Religious check

Dear Bishop Rhoades,

Thank you for your diocesan check for \$138,672.96, which has been deposited in the Retirement Fund for Religious account. This brings your diocesan contributions for all

of the years of the collection to \$3,216,884.75. The money has been recorded as part of Appeal XXV for 2012.

Your generosity surely helps religious address the many challenges religious face as they age. Religious today, as always, continue to make an impact on our society. Even as they age, their commitment to the ministry of their community, their prayer and spiritual life are vibrant testimony to the faithfulness they promised so many years ago. Your commitment to them is a heartfelt testimony to their faithfulness. Each religious, young and old, are grateful for your support.

Your support and the support of your Retirement Fund for Religious coordinator, pastors, parish priests and deacons are essential to the fund's continued success. We are most grateful for all you do. You can surely rely on the prayers of the over 34,000 religious now over the age of 70 and the ever increasing numbers of religious who will be retiring soon. May God bless you as only He can.

Gratefully,  
**Sister Janice Bader, CPPS**  
Executive Director  
National Religious Retirement Office

## HOPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

her daughter committed a crime. Her heart breaks for the families of these gunmen in her newfound compassion. Each of these women finds compassion in their hearts and perhaps newly discovered wisdom that rises from their own pain and grief experience.

These tragedies can bring old wounds of loss to the surface to be faced once again for many of us. The layers of grief may be peeled back one by one to expose the pain we once felt due to our own loss. So it is paramount now that we honor our grief, both personally



# Sports

**BISHOP LUERS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES NEW HEAD FOOTBALL COACH** Following the interview process, Bishop Luers High School has announced Kyle Lindsay as head football coach. Kyle Lindsay is a 2002 graduate of Bishop Luers and currently teaches in the social studies department. He has several years of experience as offensive coordinator of the current Knights' state championship team.

## St. Joseph, Decatur, hosts early January shoot-out

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

DECATUR — To kick off the new year, St. Joseph, Decatur, hosted a nine-team sixth-grade boys' basketball tournament. The Commodore Classic Shoot-Out ran over the weekend of Jan. 5-6, and the top-seeded Cardinals from St. Charles went 5-0 keeping their season record unblemished to win it all.

In the championship showdown, the Cardinals faced the host Commodores, who finished runner-up, winning four of their five games and improving their overall standing to 10-3 thus far in the season.

In the victory, the Cardinals were led by a balanced scoring attack getting six points each from both Jerod Lee and T.J. Tippmann. Andrew Sorlolet, Russel Sordelet, Alex Bunt, Owen Potosky and Haden Smithey all added another four points a piece.

For Decatur, Brevin Slusher had six points, Cameron Voglewede chalked up five, while Garrett Girard and Justin Lengerich each contributed two points.

The tournament began with three pools of three teams each. The Cardinals downed Zion Lutheran, 53-15, then St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel (SJHC), 37-29, to come out on top in their field with St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, seeded second and St. Joseph, Decatur, third in the play-off bracket. On the road to the championship, St. Charles beat St. John the Baptist, New Haven, 34-17, in the quarter finals, which set up a semi-final rematch between St. Charles and SJHC.

Led by head coach Dan Koester, the Cardinals won again, 28-12.

## Blazers, Kings battle for ICCL top spot

BY JOE KOZINSKI

SOUTH BEND— Triskaidekaphobia may have had a little to do with the baskets being unfriendly to the St. Matthew Blazers as they tried to upend the Christ the King squad Jan. 13 at Saint Joseph High School.

Both the Blazers and the Kings, vying for the league's top spot, struggled to get the ball to go through the hoops in the first half of their match up, so much so, that the basket almost had to be checked for cellophane.

The scoring drought lasted three minutes into the contest for the Kings as they had a put-back bounce around the rim and finally go through. It was the only bucket of the entire first quarter.

It took the Kings another six minutes before they would score again as Michael Minion added another two-foot basket. The Blazers would not be as fortunate as attempt after attempt fell harmlessly away from the goal.

Minion added another increasing the lead to six until finally with 55 seconds left in the half the Blazers' Justin DeClark found a streaking Jack Tiller for a layup ending the suspense of all in attendance, making the halftime margin, 6-2.

The second half would be a different story for both teams as with only 40 seconds into it, St. Matthew's Nathan Moreno netted his first points and let the fans know that the Blazers would battle back from the low scoring first stanza.

The Blazers one-two punch of DeClark and Moreno closed the gap to two when Minion was fouled and hit both free throws to widen the margin and end the third quarter with the score, 14-10.

The Kings proceeded to go on a 6-0 run capped by a Minion put back with 2:32 left, giving

the Kings a double-digit cushion and what looked like the back breaker.

But again the Blazers and their press would not go quietly as they cut the deficit to five with 40 seconds left. The Kings' Hunter West hit his free throws down the stretch increasing the margin.

An ill-timed flurry by the Blazers cut it to four points with 12 seconds left after they connected on their first free throw of 11 attempts during the game, too little too late as they succumbed, 27-22.

The big story was a coach's nightmare, the Blazers were 1-11 from the charity stripe and the Kings a respectable 11-18.

"I was extremely proud of the way our players competed today. Though our scoring was down, our defense and rebounding carried the day," expressed Kings' Coach David Sumner. "St. Matthew has a good team. They fought for the entire 24 minutes. I can't say enough about their competitive nature."

In other Inter-City Catholic League action, the duo of Justin Groves and Lucas Kanczuzewski both scored in double digits as the Holy Family Trojans upended the St. Anthony Panthers, 45-20.

The Spartans of St. Thomas continued their winning ways downing the Mishawaka Catholic despite the Saints' Alexander Horvath's 14 points, 33-23.

St. Pius X may be the team to beat as they handily dispatched the Pumas of Queen of Peace, 48-16, thanks to the double-digit scoring of Joseph Clark and Reece Jackowiak.

Corpus Christi knocked off St. Jude, 34-12, and St. Joseph upended the Bulldogs of Our Lady of Hungary, 35-23.

Updated scores and schedules can be found at [www.icclsports.org](http://www.icclsports.org).

## Knights sponsor free throw shooting contest

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

The annual Knights of Columbus sponsored "Free Throw Shooting Excellence" contests have kicked off at the council level for 2013. Third degree Knight and coordinator of Holy Trinity Council 12741, Joe Fox, was pleased with the turn-out at St. John the Baptist, New Haven, gym on Saturday, Jan. 12, as he thanked participants for coming, "We had much higher numbers than years

past." Youngsters are grouped by their age as of Jan. 1 for 10-14 year-olds and launch 15 shots from the charity stripe. The top shooter in both the boys' and girls' divisions will advance to the next level of competition later this winter. Earning the highest mark at the New Haven site was Will Oberley, a sixth grader from St. Louis Academy who made an impressive 13-15 to win the 12-year-old council champion honors.



MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

The Knights of Columbus free throw contest produced winners from various age groups. Pictured in front row are, Maggie Castleman (10), Diana Lomow (11), Tina Kindler (12) and Grace Castleman (13); back row, Jacob Kortenber (10), Ben Reidy (11), Will Oberley (12), Bobby Lomow (13) and Luke Reidy (14).

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# Is 'game over' the proper Catholic response to violent video games?

BY ADAM SHAW

NEW YORK (CNS) — Even as people across the nation continue to mourn the children and teachers who were killed in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, the question of what drove killer Adam Lanza to commit such a horrific crime is already being debated.

Violent video games were cited as an aggravating factor by some even before it was discovered that Lanza was an avid fan of the "Call of Duty" franchise — a brand of enormously popular first-person war shooters.

This should come as no surprise; in the wake of many earlier atrocities, video games have shared in the blame. In the case of the 1999 Columbine High School shooting, for example, perpetrators Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold were found to have been obsessed with Id Software's classic shooters

"Doom" and "Wolfenstein 3D." This led to a host of accusations that those titles played a role in encouraging mass murder. Yet research on the subject appears inconclusive.

Some maintain that video games exert a deeper psychological effect than a passive medium like film or television because the gamer takes an active role in the violence at hand. Those who disagree point out that, despite study after study, no tangible link has ever been established between bloody video games and real-life violence. In fact, it's been argued that just the opposite is true — that "play" violence actually provides an outlet for destructive urges that might otherwise be acted on in reality.

Certainly video games by themselves do not a killer make, given that millions who play them don't end up slaughtering children — or harming anyone, for that matter. Still, it seems quite likely that Harris and Klebold's constant play-

ing of "Doom" or Lanza's hours put into "Call of Duty" may have brought previously latent tendencies to the fore.

How should gamers of faith view this issue? The teaching of the Church has always emphasized the personal nature of sin. While collective factors or social trends may contribute to shaping misguided values, each offense against God is first and foremost the chosen act of an individual.

To say that violent video games can have negative effects on the personality of the player is not to say that all gamers will go on to be rampaging sociopaths. Still, interactive entertainment can affect real world behavior to a greater or lesser extent, depending on the individual's personality.

To look at what may be an analogous situation, a connection between pornography and rape has been shown to exist. Not everyone who engages with pornographic images becomes a rapist, of course.

But, given the consequences of original sin — the burden of concupiscence that all human beings bear — the harmful effects of obscene material may take their toll on otherwise well-balanced people in far subtler ways.

Such repercussions may range from an addiction that causes responsibilities to be cast aside to an inability to form relationships or a disposition to flout marital vows. The damage wrought by mayhem-filled games may be equally insidious.

There is, obviously, a qualitative difference between the two activities; unlike the use of pornography, playing video games is not inherently sinful. But morally minded gamers should evaluate the kind of influence to which they may be subject from the games they choose to play. Will some offering enflame negative emotions or have a desensitizing effect, inuring the player to actual violence?

Perhaps another useful compar-

ison can be made with the art of cinema. There is all the difference in the world, after all, between movies nicknamed "torture porn" and films which necessarily include violence as part of the story they have to tell; Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan," for example. A similar gulf separates games that invite players to relish opportunities for blood-letting — the recently released "Hitman: Absolution" would be a case in point — and those in which violence is merely incidental.

The Newtown tragedy should prompt more than just a discussion about how violent games may affect the mentally disturbed. Rather, it should inspire healthy players to take a step back and ask what the games they play are doing to their minds and, by extension, to their hearts and souls.

Adam Shaw is a guest reviewer for Catholic News Service.



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

**WHAT'S HAPPENING** carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or email: fhogan@diocesefwsb.org. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at (260) 456-2824 to purchase space.

**NFP classes offered**

**Fort Wayne** — The Couple to Couple League will offer classes in Natural Family Planning, with optional classes for either post-partum or premenopause starting Sunday, Jan. 27, at 6 p.m. in the home of Ron and Marilyn Shannon. To register call (260) 489-1856 or email mshannon11@frontier.com.

**Ecumenical evening prayer service for worldwide week of prayer for Christian unity planned**

**South Bend** — An evening prayer will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral, 1701 Miami St. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will preside and the Rt. Rev. Edward S. Little II, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana will preach. A light reception will follow in the north cafeteria of St. Matthew School.

**Holy Name Society fish fry**

**New Haven** — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry Friday, Jan. 18, from 4-7 p.m. Adults \$ 7.50, children 5-12 \$4 and children under 5 free.

**Teaching Mass celebrated**

**Fort Wayne** — Have you ever wondered about the structure or the meaning of the Mass? On Monday, Jan. 28, Father Dale Bauman will celebrate a teaching Mass at Most Precious Blood Church, 1515 Barthold St. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and Mass will be at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome. For information contact Jessie Bloom at (260) 424-5535 ext. 22.

**USF students collecting cameras for "Recycle. Reshoot. Remember."**

**Fort Wayne** — Members of the University of Saint Francis School of Creative Arts Public Relations Society and Photography Club are collecting donations of gently-used digital cameras for Vincent House, which provides transitional housing for the homeless in Fort Wayne. The fundraiser will run from Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 21 through April 22. Collection boxes are located at the University of Saint Francis Rolland Art Gallery on Leesburg Road, Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne on Coliseum Blvd., Sunny Schick camera store, 407 W. Washington Blvd., Wunderkammer Company, 3402 Fairfield Ave. and Carroll High

School on Carroll Road. For information, contact the School of Creative Arts at (260) 399-7700, ext. 8001.

**Knights plan Chili Supper and breakfast**

**Fort Wayne** — The Knights of Columbus Council 11043 will host a chili and hot dog supper on Saturday, Jan. 19, from 5-7 p.m. in the Activities Center at Queen of Angels, 1500 W. State Blvd. Adults \$5, children (6-12) \$3, families \$15. A breakfast is also planned for Sunday, Jan. 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the gymnasium at Most Precious Blood, 1515 Barthold St. Adults \$6, children (6-12) \$3, families are \$20. Carry-out offered for both events.

**Spaghetti dinner helps Hannah's House**

**Mishawaka** — The Knights of Columbus Council 1878 and Hannah's House will sponsor a spaghetti dinner Friday, Feb. 8, from 5-7 p.m. at the Knights hall, 114 W. 1st St. Adult tickets are \$8, children 5-12 are \$5 and children under 5 eat free. Guests are invited to bring a donation of household paper products, bath, laundry and dish washing soaps, household cleaning products, baby wipes, gift cards for Martin's, baby shampoos, toothpaste and soaps to be collected at the entrance for the benefit of mothers and babies at Hannah's House.

**St. Joseph School plans breakfast**

**Decatur** — St. Joseph School will

have a breakfast Sunday, Jan. 27, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the school auditorium. Tickets are \$5.50 for adults and \$3 for children. Call (260) 615-0967 for information.

**Theology on Tap Winter Series**

**South Bend** — Theology on Tap's Winter Series, a Catholic speaker series for young adults in their 20s and 30s, single and married, to share in food, fellowship and faith, will begin on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at The Backstage Grill. On Jan. 22: "Living for Life: Choosing to be Countercultural" — Danniell Cline; Jan. 29: "Living as Neighbors" — Connie Mick; Feb. 5: "Living Out Loud: Witnessing to the Faith" — Father Jacob Runyon; Feb. 12: "Living Joyously: Mardi Gras Party." Visit www.diocesefwsb.org/tot for more information.

**Pro-life march and speaker**

**South Bend** — "Walk the Talk for Life," sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 553, will be Sunday, Jan. 20, from 2-4 p.m. The event starts at 553 Washington St. Participants will walk to St. Joseph Church on Hill St. for a prayer service, and will return to the council for a talk at 3 p.m. Fred Everett, co-director of the Office of Family Life for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, will speak on "Roe v. Wade at 40: What now?" For information, contact billgerards@aol.com.

**Meet and Greet planned**

**Fort Wayne** — A Catholic

## REST IN PEACE

**Elkhart**

Mary Grace Battista, 91, St. Vincent de Paul

Donna M. Rogers, 84, St. Thomas the Apostle

Alvin Lee Irion, 73, St. Vincent de Paul

**Fort Wayne**

Mary Louise Shoda, 89, St. Charles Borromeo

David L. Stump, 82, St. Vincent de Paul

Carl Ernest Meyer, 88, Most Precious Blood

Larry J. Moser, 77, Our Lady of Good Hope

Rudolph F. DeVito, 80, Queen of Angels

Thomas J. Galligan Jr., 79, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Richard E. Zych, 76, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Amelia Riojas, 61, St. Joseph

Ronald Lee Motz, 76, St. Jude

**Granger**

Mirko V. Jurkovic, 42, St. Pius X

**Mishawaka**  
Rosemary Mikulyuk, 93, St. Joseph

Marilyn Solomon, 74, St. Monica

Helen R. Evans, 91, St. Joseph

**Monroeville**

Suzanne K. Stephenson, 65, St. Rose

Donald H. Dawson, 91, St. Rose

**New Carlisle**

Clem R. Wroblewski, 88, St. Stanislaus Kostka

**Notre Dame**

Sister Margaret Flaherty, CSC, 87, Our Lady of Loretto

**Plymouth**

Charles Duane Martin, 86, St. Michael

**South Bend**

Sister Francesca Klawinski, OSF, 81

Nicholas P. Petrella III, 54, Christ the King

Gertrude Winkiewicz Ritchie, 96, Holy Family

Edward Joseph Huber, 90, St. Anthony de Padua

Rita A. Lopinski, 67, St. Hedwig

Andrew Robb Jr., 92, St. Matthew Cathedral

Judith A. DeWinter, 70, St. Matthew Cathedral

Frank J. Firtl, 95, Holy Cross

Thomas Herbert Kramer, 77, St. Matthew Cathedral

Michael Kestner, 61, St. Matthew Cathedral

Ann M. Morman, 89, St. Patrick

Virginia Wantuck, 92, St. Patrick

**Warsaw**

Barbara Sue Essig, 45, Sacred Heart

Business Meet and Greet sponsored by *Today's Catholic* will be Friday, Jan. 18, from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, 915 S. Clinton St. \$5 at the door, includes dessert and bottled water. Free parking available in parking garage. Contact Tess Steffen (260) 399-1457 for information.

**Knights plan spaghetti dinner**

**South Bend** — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spa-

ghetti dinner on Friday, Jan. 18, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8, children (5-12) \$3.50. Carry-out available.

**DCCW to meet**

**Fort Wayne** — The Deanery Council of Catholic Women will meet Tuesday, Jan. 22, at St. Joseph Hospital in the Assembly room at 10 a.m. Debra Andrews will speak about the Serra Club. Valet parking is available. For information call Betty at (260) 348-9656.

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## PRINCIPAL Catholic Grade School

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is a Pre-K to 6th grade school. It currently has 100 students enrolled and is fully accredited by the State of Indiana and AdvancED. It seeks a new principal for the 2013 - 2014 school year to replace the principal retiring from that position. The applicant must have at least five years of teaching experience and current principal certification. The candidate must be a practicing Catholic with a strong sense of professionalism and collaboration. Salary and benefits are competitive, including medical, dental and retirement. Please send a letter of interest and a resume to:

Rev. Donald Gross, Pastor  
Sacred Heart Church - 107 E. Main Street  
Fowler, Indiana 47944, or email to:  
rdon@sacredheartsite.com

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

# BAPTIZE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

journey of faith begins, the journey we all walk together in hope to the Promised Land of heaven.”

The Baptism of the Lord closes the Christmas season. The Church returns to Ordinary Time before marking the beginning of Lent on Wednesday, Feb. 13.

Bishop Rhoades spoke of Luke's Gospel. He noted how the multitudes of people from all over Jerusalem and the region of Judea went through the desert wilderness to the Jordan River, some 1,200 feet below sea level, making it one of the lowest points on the face of the earth. The people gathered there to hear John the Baptist preach.

“From Jerusalem, it would take many hours to walk there, through rugged terrain and desert heat,” Bishop Rhoades said from experience — he made that journey in 1981.

The Jewish people at Jesus' time were expecting a new Exodus. They were awaiting the Messiah who would rescue them from their oppressors just as God rescued the Israelites from the Pharaoh in Egypt, Bishop Rhoades said in his homily.

“So the fact that John the Baptist chose to baptize people in the Jordan River sent a powerful message,” Bishop Rhoades said, “that the new Exodus was about to begin. John was calling people back to the Jordan to re-enter the Promised Land. A new Joshua

would lead them across the river.”

“But John explained to the people that he wasn't the new Joshua,” Bishop Rhoades said. John the Baptist preached that he wasn't the Messiah. He told the people that one mightier than he was coming who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

“Today is the feast in which we celebrate the arrival of the new Joshua at the Jordan River,” Bishop Rhoades added. “The name 'Jesus' is the Greek for 'Joshua,' a name which means 'God saves.' Jesus comes to lead Israel through the Jordan and to the new Promised Land. We celebrate today Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan River.”

Although Jesus did not need a baptism of repentance, “He went into the waters like all the other people to demonstrate His solidarity with them,” Bishop Rhoades said. “He shows us that He came to unite Himself to sinners whom He had come to save. This action, at the beginning of His public ministry, foreshadows how Jesus will bear the sins of all the world on the cross at the climax of His public ministry.”

Bishop Rhoades described the scene where “heaven was opened,” the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus like a dove, and a voice from heaven said to Jesus: “You are my beloved Son; with You I am well pleased.”

“This was an amazing scene,” Bishop Rhoades exclaimed. “Heaven stands open above Jesus. He came to earth to open heaven for us. God the Father proclaims who Jesus is: His beloved Son with whom He is well pleased. And the third Person of the Blessed Trinity, the Holy Spirit, appears in bodily

form like a dove. ‘The mystery of the Trinitarian God is beginning to emerge,’ Pope Benedict wrote, ‘even though its depths can be revealed only when Jesus' journey is complete.’”

“Later, at the end of His earthly mission, Jesus will send His disciples into the world to baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Bishop Rhoades continued. “We entered into Jesus' own Baptism when we became Christians, when we were baptized. We became beloved sons and daughters of God the Father. The Holy Spirit came upon us and gave us new life. We truly became new creations.”

Bishop Rhoades said, “With the sacrament of Baptism, we truly became a new creation, as St. Paul teaches. We received new life. God's Spirit filled our souls and transformed us with His supernatural life.”



PHOTOS BY KEVIN HAGGENJOS

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades anoints Josephine Elizabeth Burton during the baptismal rite celebrated at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend on Jan. 13. The child is the daughter of Nicolas and Katie Burton.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades speaks about Baptism during his homily at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend on Jan. 13, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which closes the Christmas season as the Church returns to Ordinary Time. Bishop Rhoades baptized two infants during the Mass.

## REKINDLE THE FIRE

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# FAITH

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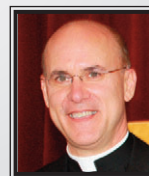
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