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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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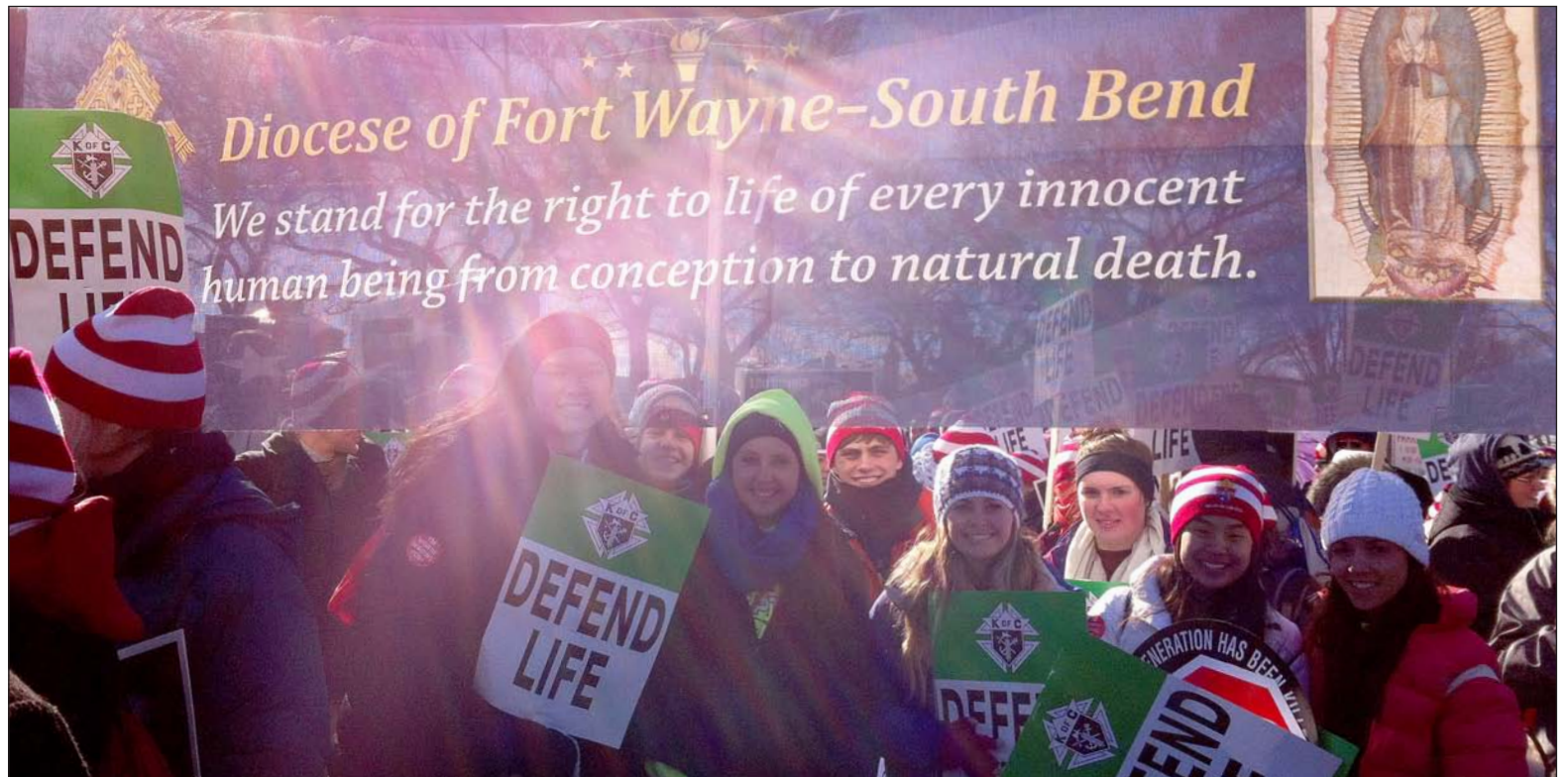
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PROVIDED BY MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Students from Marian High School in Mishawaka feel the warmth of the sun as they stand in front of the diocesan banner that was carried in the National March for Life on Wednesday, Jan. 22, in Washington, D.C. Several busses of high school and college students from across the diocese as well as the Knights of Columbus took pilgrims to the nation's capital to be advocates for life. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass for diocesan pilgrims at St. Matthew Cathedral in Washington on Jan. 21.

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

TODAY'S CATHOLIC OFFERING ENVELOPE ENCLOSED

Be a part of the works of evangelization in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Look for an offering envelope enclosed in this week's issue of *Today's Catholic* newspaper, requesting you — our valued readers — to help us finance a portion of the costs of the newspaper to all registered Catholic homes in the diocese. We thank you for your generous, financial support.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "I am grateful to see so many from our diocese here today in prayer as we prepare for tomorrow's March for Life here in our nation's capital," said Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades who gathered with diocesan pilgrims Jan. 21 at St. Matthew Cathedral in Washington, D.C. for Mass.

"I am proud of your witness to Christ and the Gospel of Life," Bishop Rhoades continued. "I am grateful for your dedication to the cause of life and for your steadfast commitment to the right to life of every human person, especially the innocent unborn."

Families, adults and students from schools throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend bravely weathered the snow and wind to show their united support against legalized abortion and to pray for the conversion of hearts and minds among those who continue to fight against the culture of life.

One of these students, Emma MacDonald, a home-schooled sophomore from Fort Wayne who served as lector at the Mass, reflected on why she chose to come to the national march. "Standing up for the unborn is vitally important," she said, "and it is very special to be

able to stand and walk together with so many other people my age who seek to do the same."

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades reflected on Blessed Pope John Paul II's words of "our present social context" as being "marked by a dramatic struggle between the culture of life and the culture of death."

Bishop Rhoades said, "Even though at times we may feel powerless when we see the powerful resources of the forces promoting the culture of death, like Planned Parenthood, many in the media and Hollywood, and powers in our present government, we must always keep in mind the words of St. Paul to the Corinthians about God choosing the weak and the lowly, vessels of clay, to show His wisdom and power."

Bishop Rhoades said two decades ago that Pope John Paul II "called upon the Church and all people of good will to activate a great campaign in support of life," and that this call is rooted in the Church's mission of evangelization.

Julie Weilbaker, a senior at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne, demonstrated an awareness and realization of the pope's words in responding why she desired to attend the national march. "I am here because

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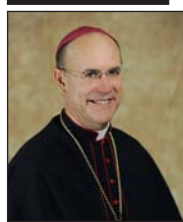
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Schools of the Gospel



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades delivered this talk at the Light of Learning Award luncheons in Fort Wayne and South Bend during Catholic Schools Week.

Every year I look forward to this gathering in which we celebrate our Catholic Schools and honor our great teachers. I wish to congratulate and thank all our Light of Learning Award recipients for your service to the Church, to our schools, and to our children. I wish also to thank all of you present here today for your strong and steadfast support of Catholic education. I thank Quality Dining for generously hosting this luncheon and the awards and also Redeemer Radio for broadcasting this event.

These past couple of months I have studied and reflected prayerfully on two documents of our Holy Father, Pope Francis: his encyclical *The Light of Faith* and his apostolic exhortation *The Joy of the Gospel*. I highly recommend these documents for your own spiritual reading. I think there are wonderful insights in these works that are connected to the mission of our Catholic schools. Pope Francis writes about faith as a light that illumines our journey through life. He says that it is a light "capable of illuminating every aspect of human existence" (LF 4). It is a supernatural gift that we receive from God. The Pope writes: "In God's gift of faith... we realize that a great love has been offered us, a good word has been spoken to us, and that when we welcome that word, Jesus Christ the Word made flesh, the Holy Spirit transforms us, lights up our way to the future and enables us joyfully to advance along that way on wings of hope. Thus wonderfully interwoven, faith, hope and charity are the driving force of the Christian life as it advances toward full communion with God" (LF 7).

We have Catholic schools and invest so much in our schools because they are means not only to enlighten our children and young people with knowledge of math, science, social studies, and other subjects. Yes, we work hard to provide an excellent education in all these areas. That is part of the important academic mission of our schools. But our schools exist for the primary purpose of passing on the faith: yes, knowledge of the doctrines of the Catholic faith, but also something deeper, that which Pope Francis is talking about.

Faith is an assent to revealed truths, but it is also an encounter with God and His love. It is welcoming the saving Word that He has spoken to us, the Word made flesh, Jesus His Son and our Savior. Faith involves transformation by the Holy Spirit. It indeed enlightens our existence and gives joy and meaning to our lives. It engenders hope and inspires charity. These are all aspects of the mission of our Catholic schools: teaching our young people the truths of the faith (their intellectual formation), and also forming them as disciples of Jesus, touched by His love, and transformed by His grace. This all happens not just in a disciplined classroom. It happens in the community of the school, through the love and witness



JOSEPH RAYMOND

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades speaks at the Light of Learning luncheon in Fort Wayne on Jan. 27.

of our teachers, principals, and staffs. It happens through the experience of prayer and the liturgy that are essential parts of the life of our school communities. It happens through the exercise of charity, the service that our young people are called to do in living out the faith in daily life.

Pope Francis is calling all of us to embrace the faith anew. He is following upon the call of Blessed John Paul II and Pope Benedict to the new evangelization. Pope Francis wrote: "The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness" (JG 1). I see this joy of the Gospel when I visit our Catholic schools. Every Catholic school should exude this joy, the joy of faith, the joy of knowing God's love. Our schools have the mission to be schools of the Gospel of joy, schools of the Gospel of life, schools of the Gospel of peace, schools of the Gospel of love. It is one indivisible Gospel — the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When they are, they are worth every sacrifice we make for Catholic education.

Pope Francis is challenging us and the Church in many ways. It is good to be challenged. Just as we are challenged in our own personal lives of faith, so should our parish and school communities be challenged. The Holy Father is challenging us to say no to the idolatry of money, no to secularism and relativism, no to selfishness and spiritual sloth, no to a sterile pessimism, no to spiritual worldliness, and no to fighting among ourselves. But these many "no's" are really the call to a great "yes." It is the yes to Christ and to the Gospel. He writes: "Challenges exist to be overcome! Let us be realists, but without losing our joy, our boldness and our hope-filled commitment. Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of missionary vigor!" (JG 109).

The Holy Father is calling us not only to be disciples of Jesus, but to be "missionary disciples." Our Catholic schools are forming and educating disciples of Jesus. But we must also be forming our young people to be missionary disciples. What does this mean? It means that we are doing all we can to form them to evangelize others, to be active members of the Church

after they graduate, and discern their vocations according to God's plan for their lives.

Though we face many problems in our society and culture today, we must teach our young people that "challenges exist to be overcome," as the Holy Father reminds us. But we are not only to teach this to our young people. We need to know this in our own hearts. We need to experience the burning fire of the Holy Spirit in our own hearts — all of us, bishop, priests, deacons, religious, parents, teachers, and all the laity! Through prayer, we can rediscover each day the love of Christ in our lives.

Pope Francis says that "the primary reason for evangelizing is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to ever greater love of Him" (JG 264). I would add that the primary reason for our Catholic schools is also this love of Jesus which we have received, the love that we believe in with all our hearts. We need to ask the Lord to touch our hearts with this love which results in an intense desire to share this love with others. Pope Francis says: "We need to implore His grace daily, asking Him to open our cold hearts and shake up our lukewarm and superficial existence" (JG 264). When we do, when we encounter the Lord and his love, our friendship with Him gives us the enthusiasm for our mission and the mission of our Catholic schools. The Church needs this new missionary fervor. And we need this fervor in our schools.

We don't walk along the journey of faith alone and we don't serve and support our schools alone. We do so together, with one another, as brothers and sisters in Christ. And we also do so with a woman of great faith always at our side. Pope Francis wrote that the Blessed Virgin Mary "is the missionary who draws near to us and accompanies us throughout life, opening our hearts to faith by her maternal love. As a true mother, she walks at our side, she shares our struggles and she constantly surrounds us with God's love" (JG 286). Mary Immaculate is the patron of our diocese. May she intercede for us and for all our Catholic school communities that they may truly be schools of the Gospel, vibrant in faith, hope, and charity! May God bless you!

Father Lawrence A. Kramer dies

FORT WAYNE — Father Lawrence A. Kramer, retired diocesan priest of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, died Jan. 23 while in Florida. He was 79.

Born in Fort Wayne to Lawrence and Etheldreda (Garty) Kramer, he grew up with a younger brother, Roger, who resides in California. His family belonged to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. He attended Cathedral Grade School and Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne.

In an article published by *Today's Catholic*, Father Kramer described his call to the Priesthood: "About half way through my senior year at Central Catholic High School. I had ruled out the Priesthood as a freshman, convinced that I belonged in the lay apostolate. Suddenly I couldn't see myself as anything but a parish priest. I immediately made a deal with God. I would assume this was what God wanted of me and not agonize over it and God would be gentle in getting me out of the preparation process if I was wrong. My only doubt was, at age 17, whether I would live long enough to be ordained!"

He attended Our Lady of the Lake Seminary, Wawasee, and St. Meinrad Seminary, St. Meinrad, and was ordained to the Priesthood on May 28, 1960 by Bishop Leo A. Pursley in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Father Kramer's initial appointments were as associate pastor (judicial vicar) at St. Matthew, South Bend (1960), and St. Peter, Fort Wayne (1964). He also was named Fort Wayne deanery moderator of the Christian Family Movement (1966) and appointed diocesan director of the Family Life Bureau (1968) while continuing to serve at St. Peter.

In 1969, Father Kramer was appointed chaplain of Catholic students attending Indiana Institute of Technology in Fort Wayne. He was a founder of "commuter Campus Ministry" at Indiana Tech and Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne and Indiana University-South Bend.

Father Kramer's pastoral assignments included St. Peter (1970), St. Andrew (1971) and Our Lady of Good Hope (1981), all in Fort Wayne; St. Joseph, Bluffton (1997), and St. Paul of the Cross, Columbia City (2003). He also served as associate pastor at St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart (1973), and was in residence at both the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (1978) and St. Joseph, Fort Wayne (1979), while continuing his work



FATHER LAWRENCE A. KRAMER

in campus ministry.

Father Kramer was twice appointed a judge in the diocesan Tribunal and thrice served as an episcopal vicar in a Fort Wayne region of the diocese. He was appointed chaplain (1997), and assistant chaplain (2009) at Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, and he served two, three-year terms on the Presbyteral Council.

"I never looked upon my priesthood as a job — it's a lifestyle," Father Kramer said. "I never had trouble moving from one job to another. They all fit the container."

In retirement, Father Kramer was in residence as a senior priest at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne.

In an interview with *Today's Catholic*, Father Kramer said, "My favorite activity as a priest is the sacrament of Reconciliation. Unlike some, I find it to be alive and well, better in fact than in the days when people trooped to Confession in large numbers. Those who use this sacrament today understand it and appreciate it."

Father Kramer enjoyed lap swimming, train travel, reading periodicals and other nonfiction, listening to music of several kinds and watching TV documentaries.

Among the throngs who mourn Father Kramer's passing is Sister Rose Clare Ehrlich, a Sister of St. Agnes, director of liturgy and music at St. Joseph, Bluffton, and St. Paul of the Cross in

Columbia City. Sister Rose Clare, who worked with Father Kramer at both parishes for 10 years, says of her friend, "I found him one of the most gentle, caring, listening persons that I would ever want to work with. He was always there when you needed him."

In a tribute to Father Kramer on his 50th jubilee in 2010 she wrote, "We treasure your mild manner, humility, gentle compassion, your ability to see the humor in situations and your Christ-like invitational leadership."

Upon Father Kramer's retirement over a year and a half ago, he relocated to Fort Wayne where he took an active role in ministry at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. Father Jim Shafer, pastor there, said of his friend, "More than any other priest I've met over my years, Father Larry had a very compassionate heart. He never met a person he turned away. ... He was the most non-judgmental person I've ever met."

Father Shafer noted that Father Kramer enjoyed conversing with the seminarians that visited or interned at the parish, saying, "He loved to share his wisdom."

And on a personal note Father Shafer added, "He was a good friend with an absolutely delightful sense of humor. He was the king of one-liners. ... He brought a lot of laughter to the rectory, a lot of good conversation. I do miss him already."

At press time funeral arrangements had not been finalized.



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, Feb. 2, 11 a.m. — Mass, Saint Therese Church, Fort Wayne
- Monday, Feb. 3, 12:05 p.m. — Mass for First Anniversary of Death of Bishop D'Arcy, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Monday, Feb. 3, to Thursday, Feb. 6 — Conference for Bishops, Catholic Leadership Institute, Orlando, Fla.

Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty Holy Hour across the diocese

• Immaculate Conception Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, has a holy hour Mondays 5:30-6:30 p.m. and every Friday from 11 a.m. to noon. The Adoration Chapel is open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. and people are encouraged to spend time in Adoration and pray for the intentions of life, marriage and religious liberty.

• St. Charles Borromeo Church, 4916 Trier Rd, Fort Wayne, has a holy hour all Fridays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the chapel.

• Queen of Peace Church in Mishawaka has an hour and a half (3:30-5 p.m.) every Saturday of Adoration and Exposition prior to the Vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m. They dedicate this time in honor of private prayer for the Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty.

• St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Decatur, hosts Eucharistic Exposition on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 4:30-6 p.m. and on Thursday from 9-10 a.m. and 4:30-8 p.m. The parish asks participants to pray for the protection of marriage, religious freedom and unborn children.

• Our Lady of Good Hope Church, 7215 Saint Joe Rd., Fort Wayne, hosts a holy hour for religious liberty beginning with a rosary at 9:30 a.m. every Tuesday.

• St. Joseph Church, 1300 N. Main St., Bluffton, will have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for life, marriage and religious liberty on Wednesday, Feb. 12.



Statement from the diocese regarding Father James Seculoff

Subsequent to the publishing of the announcement regarding the receipt of a credible allegation of sexual abuse of a minor involving Father James Seculoff, the diocese has received additional allegations. Three more persons have separately come forward to report being sexually abused by Father Seculoff when they were children. The diocese, with great care and concern for all involved, initiated preliminary investigations. The results of those investigations were presented to the diocesan review board and to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

The diocesan review board found these allegations, separately presented, to be highly credible and supported by substantial evidence, and so advised Bishop Rhoades. As required by Church law and procedures delineated in the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (USCCB 2002, 2005, 2011), Bishop Rhoades directed that these allegations be forwarded to the Indiana civil authorities and the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Bishop Rhoades asks everyone to please pray for all parties involved, especially for those that have come forward, as well as Father Seculoff, our priests, parishioners and all the faithful during these painful and difficult days.

If anyone has been the victim of sexual abuse by a member of the clergy, please contact the diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Glowaski, at (260) 399-1458 or the Vicar General, Msgr. Robert Schulte, at (260) 422-4611.

The Rule of 1221: Confraternity of Penitents grow closer to God

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — In a small yellow home on Fort Wayne's eastside live Madeline and James Nugent, who follow the Rule of 1221 and live their lives "privately and quietly" in a "penitent's lifestyle." The Nugents belong to the Confraternity of Penitents, a private association of the faithful with commendation under Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

The Confraternity consists of single and married people worldwide who are joyfully living in their own homes a modern adaptation of the Rule of Life given in the year 1221 to the penitent men and women at the time of St. Francis of Assisi. The Rule eventually became the Rule of the Third Order of St. Francis of Assisi.

Madeline described the penitents' lifestyle as more prescriptive than the Third Order of Secular Franciscans of today. The penitents following the Rule of 1221 are prescribed what they can wear, what prayers to say and when to say the prayers, for example.

The Nugents will testify that the goal of this Rule of Life is to bring those who live it closer to God and more peacefully conformed to God's will.

"We have people who are living this Rule of Life from all different walks of life," Madeline told *Today's Catholic* in an interview from the Nugents' Fort Wayne home. "We have single young people to old married people to people that have families with small children, and some people who are caring for elderly people, people who have full-time jobs, people who are retired," Madeline said. "Each one of them is going to live their life a little differently because they are lay people in the world."

Madeline is the minister general in the Confraternity. She assembles the newsletter and oversees the administrative aspect of the Confraternity, which is based in Fort Wayne. She has written books for Pauline Books and Media, Catholic Book Company and New City Press. In researching the life of St. Anthony of Padua for a book, she found her path to the Rule of 1221.

"So I blame it on St. Anthony," Madeline quipped. "If I hadn't done that book on St. Anthony, I wouldn't have known what that Rule of Life was." That was in 1994, and since that time, James, a recently retired chemistry professor from Salve Regina University in Rhode Island, also has chosen the penitent's lifestyle. The couple recently relocated from Rhode Island to Fort Wayne.

The Nugents have five adult children, including one daughter who is a Capuchin Sister of Nazareth in Pennsylvania, and four grandchildren.

None of their children are penitents, but the children accept their parents' lifestyle. "They didn't



James and Madeline Nugent are shown in a prayer room of their Fort Wayne home.

even know I was doing this for a number of years," Madeline said, even though they lived under the same roof. "They found out about the food part just a couple years ago."

People interested in adapting to the penitents' lifestyle will go through four years of formation.

"When someone comes to us to join, they go through a three-month process of inquiry," Madeline said. "Then they have six to 12 months of postulancy where they kind of get into the Rule a little bit."

"They do little parts of the Rule, but not anything too difficult," she added. "They start to wear a cross or crucifix or they will go to Confession once a month. They will do a morning and evening examination of conscience during the month."

In the years of novice training, the penitents learn the lifestyle "a little bit at a time" and then slowly build the practices over three years.

Madeline said a first-year novice has a prayer option that he or she can select: one is praying a full Liturgy of the Hours — that's praying seven times a day from a breviary, a book which many religious use for daily prayer. Or the penitent may pray Morning, Evening and Night Prayer and a 15-decade rosary; or Morning, Evening and Night Prayer and an hour of mental prayer; or in the situation of parents with small

children, with their spiritual director's permission, they can calm themselves down and lift their minds and hearts to God during the day and use that as a prayer option.

"The way you do your prayer option differs according to your state in life," Madeline said.

Fasting and abstinence are part of Novice 2 formation, which is actually the third year of formation.

"We eat meat only on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. That is part of the penance, unless it falls on Christmas, an octave or one of the solemnities," Madeline said.

"Meatless days are the other days of the week," she said. "We have a period of fasting according to the Church fast from the day after the feast of St. Martin (Nov. 11) until Christmas — we observe a Lenten-like fast before Christmas. Then we observe the Lenten fast from Ash Wednesday until Easter, but we fast the way we would on Good Friday all the days (of Lent) — one full meal, one small meal and, if one needs it, a small bite to eat. ... You don't eat solids between meals. And the amount that you eat is according to your body weight."

There are exceptions to the fasting, Madeline noted — for example, if a woman is pregnant or breastfeeding, or if a person has diabetes or a medical condition, "then you can do penance in

another way," she said.

The third year of novice formation is the simplicity of possessions and clothing.

"We follow the original Rule, which talked about un-dyed clothing of humble quality," she said. "The only fur that they would use is wool."

Clothing color options would be solids of grays, browns, shades of whites, creams, tans and blacks. Prints are not used.

"We can also wear solid blue clothing in honor of the Blessed Mother," Madeline said, because "we make a consecration to the Blessed Mother every day."

"The clothing is not a habit, though," James emphasized.

"You're not supposed to wear the same thing every day," Madeline said, "so people don't realize you are doing penance in that area."

In the Novice 3 formation, "You're also supposed to go through and simplify the possessions that you have, so you don't have more stuff than you really need to have," Madeline said.

"You try to simplify it down," she said, "but that doesn't mean you can't have a car, you can't have a computer. We have all those things. We just ask people not to have something that they really don't need to have."

Noted historical penitents include St. Elizabeth, Queen of Hungary, King Louis IX and St. Thomas More. Although they had riches and wealth, they were able to simplify their lifestyle. "They lived the Rule but they did it according to their state in life,"

Madeline said.

In Fort Wayne, the local chapter, Our Lady Cause of Our Joy Chapter of the Confraternity of Penitents, has 12 to 15 penitents. They meet on a Sunday once a month from 2-4 p.m. There are also many isolated members throughout the world who stay connected through email, postal mail and telephone. Only two people are needed to start a group.

Brother Fidelis Maria of the Franciscan Brothers Minor is the spiritual assistant for the Fort Wayne group. Bishop Rhoades has appointed Father Jacob Meyer, parochial vicar at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Fort Wayne,

"We just ask people not to have something that they really don't need to have."

MADELINE NUGENT

as Confraternity visitor, that is the entire Confraternity's spiritual guide and representative to the bishop. The local Confraternity is involved with activities of the Franciscan Brothers Minor.

The website, www.penitents.org, offers in depth information on the Rule and the Constitutions. Those interested would need to see if they

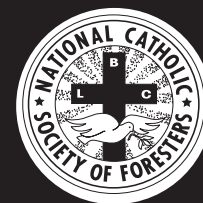
think, "I would really like to live this way," Madeline said. Even if living the Rule has appeal but they don't think they can do it, Madeline encouraged them to still inquire. She said that, when she felt called to live this way, she was "positive she wouldn't be able to do it."

If an individual feels the Holy Spirit is asking him or her to inquire, then he or she should give the Nugents a call, Madeline said. The number is (260) 739-6882. Or they can email either of the two emails at www.penitents.org.

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Child-care legislation to improve child safety clears House panel

INDIANAPOLIS — State lawmakers hope to further improve child-care standards through a proposal, which passed a House panel Jan. 22. The Indiana Catholic Conference supports the legislation.

Rep. Kevin Mahan, R-Hartford City, author of the proposal HB 1036, spent the past several months studying child-care issues to bring improved safety for children while mitigating any concerns from church ministries that provide child care that tighter standards would infringe upon rights and freedoms.

The legislation addresses issues such as — group sizes of children, food, health, safety and sanitation standards. The Division of Family and Children (DFC) would determine the specific standards. The bill also provides child to adult staff ratios that mirror the requirements for licensure. It also requires reporting of injury to children where a licensed medical professional is involved.

The child-care providers that the bill targets are providers that receive Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) dollars. The CCDF dollars or vouchers are provided to low-income families to use at participating child-care providers.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director for the Indiana Catholic Conference, who testified before the House panel in support of the legislation, said, "The provisions outlined in 1036 are reasonable and conform to good practice that ought to be followed by providers whether or not they are in statute. The health and safety of children are vitally important to the wellbeing of the children and for their parents."

Mahan addressed his fellow lawmakers reminding them of the bipartisan support in the Indiana General Assembly to improve care and early childhood education overall. Last year, lawmakers passed legislation requiring criminal background checks for providers and basic safety for child-care providers that accept the taxpayer-funded CCDF dollars.

"As legislators we are accountable for programs that use taxpayer funds because our constituents expect it," said Mahan. "If we are really interested in getting children ready for kindergarten and we are already spending \$178 million per year of tax dollars on child care through CCDF fund, we need to make sure the vendors that we pay to care for these children meet basic health and safety standards. House Bill 1036 focuses on quality and accountability with taxpayer funds."

Mahan said the bill focuses on the "most basic, commonsense requirements" and does not require any facility changes.

Regarding nutrition and daily activities, Mahan said, "I want to make sure kids aren't sitting around eating pop tarts and tater tots. There is not a mandated curriculum. Instead I want to make sure kids have a regular routine and are not being put in front of a television all day."

Eric Miller, executive director and founder of Advance American, who represents 3,400 churches in Indiana, raised numerous concerns with the legislation saying the bill would give too much license to the state agency to regulation what goes on inside the church walls.

Responding to some of the bill criticism brought on by Miller, Rep. Gail Riecken, D-Evansville, member of the committee, said of HB 1036, "We are just trying to do what's right for children."

Rep. Cindy Ziemke, R-Oldenburg, also a member of the panel said, "As a member of the Catholic Church, they have no problem with compliance over and above the minimum standards. So we're not picking on churches in this bill."

Connie Sherman, executive director of St. Mary's Child Care Center, an agency of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, testified in support of the bill saying that 90 percent of the children that St. Mary's serves are in low income situations. Sherman explained that

children who are in poverty are up to two years behind.

"The good news is high-quality, early childhood education mitigates the results of the poverty," said Sherman. "And the best news for the children of Indiana today is this bill provides the research-based benchmarks of high-quality education so desperately needed for our children."

Tebbe said, "Because many of the providers are religious ministries, following concerns raised by church leaders during the first hearing on the bill, a subcommittee worked on language to clarify that only health and safety and not curriculum and religious activities are involved. This new language was adopted in the bill."

Indiana law currently allows at least three types of child-care providers: 1) a licensed child-care center; 2) a licensed child-care home; and 3) an unlicensed, registered child-care ministry. Under current law, each type comes with certain requirements.

The amended bill passed the

committee, 9-3, on a bipartisan vote. The bill will now move to the full House for further consideration.

Constitutional amendment to protect marriage set back

Monday evening, the Indiana House of Representatives took up the marriage debate focusing on whether the ban would also prohibit civil unions.

Rep. Randy Truitt (R-West Lafayette) offered an amendment to remove language, which would also prohibit Indiana from granting same-sex couples anything that was "identical or substantially similar to that of marriage." The focus of the debate has centered on the impact the words "identical or substantially similar to that of marriage," would have on businesses and same-sex couples. Some claim the language could prevent employers from granting domestic partner benefits.

Current Indiana law defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman, however, Rep. Eric Turner, R-Cicero, author of the HJR

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BRIGID CURTIS AYER

3, said that without a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex unions, a challenge to Indiana's current law could force Indiana to recognize same-sex marriage.

After a short debate, the full house voted to support the amendment to strike the contentious language. The amendment to HJR 3 passed by a vote of 52-43.

To change Indiana's Constitution, an identical proposal must be passed by two separately-elected General Assemblies. Once passed, the proposed change must be approved by a majority of Hoosier voters on a referendum.

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Kentucky bishop named to Harrisburg; auxiliary named for Sacramento

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishop Ronald W. Gainer of Lexington, Ky., has been named to head the Diocese of Harrisburg, Pa., and the vicar general of the Diocese of Fresno, Calif., has been named auxiliary bishop of Sacramento, Calif. Pope Francis made the appointments Jan. 24. Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the United States, announced them in Washington. Later in the day, the new bishops were introduced at news conferences in the two state capitals. Bishop Gainer, 66, was ordained as bishop of Lexington Feb. 22, 2003. He is a native of Pottsville, Pa., just 55 miles from Harrisburg in the Diocese of Allentown. Ordained for Allentown in 1973, he served in that diocese as a parish priest, campus minister and judicial vicar until his appointment as the second bishop of Lexington. Msgr. Myron J. Cotta, 60, will become an auxiliary bishop of the Sacramento Diocese. He is a native of Dos Palos, Calif., in the Fresno Diocese, and has been a priest since 1987. He will be ordained a bishop March 25 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Bishop Gainer succeeds Bishop Joseph P. McFadden, who died May 2. He will be installed March 19 in a service at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Harrisburg. At the Harrisburg news conference, Bishop Gainer said he hoped to continue a practice he had in Lexington of holding town hall-style meetings around the diocese.

Relic of Blessed John Paul II reported stolen

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Thieves reportedly stole a relic of Blessed John Paul II from a country chapel 85 miles east of Rome. Italian media reported Jan. 27 that the relic, a piece of fabric soaked in Blessed John Paul's blood, had disappeared over the preceding weekend from the church of San Pietro della Ienca. The church is located near the city of L'Aquila, in the mountainous Abruzzo region where the late pope frequently went on brief vacations. One of the volunteers who takes care of the church, where Blessed John Paul often prayed, discovered that intruders sawed through bars over the one of the windows and made off with the relic as well as a cross. The local "carabinieri" military police were reportedly searching the surrounding woods with dogs, in case the thieves had discarded the relic there. Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, who served as Blessed John Paul's personal secretary during his pontificate, gave the relic to the chapel in recognition of the late pope's many visits. The fabric was reportedly soaked in Blessed John Paul's blood following the attempt to assassinate him in 1981.

Court continues injunction protecting Little Sisters from HHS mandate

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court Jan. 24 issued a three-

CHILDREN RELEASE DOVES FROM WINDOW OF STUDIO OVERLOOKING ST. PETER'S SQUARE AT VATICAN



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis watches as children release doves from the window of his studio overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Jan. 26. The two young people at his side launched doves to highlight the Church's call for peace in the world.

sentence order affirming — for the time being — an injunction blocking enforcement against the Little Sisters of the Poor and the Christian Brothers of a mandate to provide contraceptive coverage in employee health insurance. The order released late in the afternoon affirmed Justice Sonia Sotomayor's Dec. 31 order in the case. It temporarily blocks the federal government from requiring the Denver-based sisters and their co-plaintiffs at the Christian Brothers from having to meet that requirement of the Affordable Care Act. "If the employer applicants inform the secretary of Health and Human Services in writing that they are nonprofit organizations that hold themselves out as religious and have religious objections to providing coverage for contraceptive services, the respondents are enjoined from enforcing against the applicants the challenged provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and related regulations pending final disposition of the appeal by the United States Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit," the court said. The requirement to provide coverage for contraceptives in employee health insurance does have an accommodation, or waiver, the government says would keep certain religious organizations from having to comply with the mandate. The Little Sisters and the Christian Brothers had objected to being required to justify to the gov-

ernment that they should be entitled to an exemption from the mandate and that filling out the paperwork for a waiver that would instruct a third party to provide the contraceptive coverage amounts to them being part of the mechanism for providing abortion and other morally objectionable types of coverage.

Vatican confirms Obama will visit pope in March

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis will meet with U.S. President Barack Obama at the Vatican March 27, the White House announced and the Vatican confirmed. The spring meeting would be Obama's second visit to the Vatican as president, but his first with Pope Francis, who was elected March 13, 2013. The White House said the Vatican visit would be part of a presidential trip to the Netherlands, Belgium and Italy. "The president looks forward to discussing with Pope Francis their shared commitment to fighting poverty and growing inequality," said the Jan. 21 White House statement. During the same trip, Obama will participate in a summit in the Netherlands on nuclear security, visit the presidents of the European Council and the European Commission in Brussels, and hold talks in Rome with Italian President Giorgio Napolitano and Prime Minister Enrico Letta.

After U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met his Vatican counterpart, Cardinal-designate Pietro Parolin, at the Vatican Jan. 14, he told reporters, "I know that the Holy Father is anticipating the visit of President Obama here, and the president is looking forward to coming here to meet with him."

Opus Dei announces beatification date for Bishop del Portillo

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The prelature of Opus Dei has announced that Bishop Alvaro del Portillo, the successor to Opus Dei founder St. Josemaria Escriva, will be beatified Sept. 27 in Madrid. In July, Pope Francis approved the miracle needed for the beatification of Bishop del Portillo, who served as the head of Opus Dei from 1975 until his death in 1994. The cure accepted as a miracle through his intercession involved a Chilean newborn baby boy, Jose Ignacio Ureta Wilson, who recovered after being in cardiac arrest for 30 minutes and suffering a massive hemorrhage. The prelature of Opus Dei announced Jan. 22 that Pope Francis approved the date of Sept. 27 for the beatification ceremony, which will be presided over by Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes.

Gov. Cuomo says New York has no room for 'extreme conservatives'

NEW YORK (CNS) — Pro-life supporters and members of two Republican organizations Jan. 21 urged New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo to issue a formal apology for saying that "extreme conservatives," including those who oppose abortion and same-sex marriage, have "no place in the state of New York." Cuomo, a Democrat, "is insisting that political and religious conservatives should leave New York state," said Phil Orenstein, 71, president of Queens Village Republican Club, the nation's oldest Republican group, founded in 1875. "So if you're pro-life, support the right to bear arms and (support) traditional marriage, your opinions and beliefs are too extreme" for the governor, he said. Orenstein made the comments at a news conference held outside Queens Borough Hall on the steps, despite the bitterly cold weather. He began by quoting Cuomo from a Jan. 17 interview on the public radio show "Capitol Pressroom." In it the governor criticized some Republican candidates running for office on their opposition to the SAFE Act, a measure that among other things requires universal background checks on gun purchases and bans assault weapons. Cuomo said "moderate Republicans" voted for it but the Republicans who oppose it have a "problem."

The end is near — for Internet communication as we know it

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled in Verizon's favor Jan. 14 on its suit against the Federal Communications Commission, observers in the tech field suggested this could signal the end of the Internet as we know it. The court threw out the FCC's Internet anti-blocking and anti-discrimination rules, saying the FCC could not regulate Internet service like it does telephone service because the FCC had chosen in 2002 to classify Internet service providers as providing information services, not telecommunications services. The concept is known as net neutrality — short for network neutrality — the principle that all users of the Internet and content providers of the Internet should be treated equally. This happens with telephone service: You pay your bill, and you're not going to get an advantage or disadvantage for things like how quickly you get a dial tone or how long it takes to make your connection. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has supported net neutrality since 2006. "Unless Congress requires telephone and cable companies to act as neutral providers of Internet access, as they had been required to do since the birth and through the spectacular growth of the Internet, those companies will use their control over Internet access to speed up or down connections to Web sites to benefit themselves financially," said Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., then chairman of the USCCB Committee on Communications, in a letter that year to members of Congress.

Bishop Dwenger to host show choir invitational

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School will welcome area show choirs during the Summit Sound Invitational on Saturday, Feb. 1. Day performances begin at 9 a.m. with awards at 5 p.m. Evening performances begin at 6:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$8 for the day, or \$12 that includes both day and evening performances. Children ages 5 and under are free.

Ancilla offers free financial aid workshops

DONALDSON — Financial aid staff from Ancilla College will be leading workshops for parents and students at several locations throughout the area. College staff will be available to sit down with individuals and fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), a key step toward getting state and federal aid for college.

The free workshops are designed to help with the sometimes-daunting process and provide help with every aspect of getting grants, scholarships and other financial resources for college. The workshops are open to students, parents and anyone thinking about going or returning to college — there is no age limit on financial aid.

To be eligible for state and federal aid in Indiana the FAFSA must be filed by March 10. For more information contact financial aid staff toll-free at (866) 262-4552.

The workshop schedule offered within the diocese includes the following: Feb. 6, Culver High School, 6:30-8 p.m.; and Feb. 23, Plymouth High School, 2-4 p.m.

Workshops at Ancilla College, 9601 Union Rd. near Plymouth, are the following: Feb. 27, 3:30-5:30 p.m.; March 4, 1:30-3:30 p.m.; March 5, 4:30-6:30 p.m.; and March 6, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

USF receives grant to host Stand Against Racism

FORT WAYNE — Dr. Karen Monique Gregg, a sociology professor in the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Saint Francis (USF), has been awarded the Indiana Campus Compact grant for Service Engagement through the Lilly Endowment.

Gregg will work with Katrina Boedeker, director of the USF Center for Service Engagement, and Deborah Beckman, president and CEO of the YWCA Northeast Indiana, to coordinate the funds in a service-learning project for two courses regularly taught at USF — Comparative Race and Ethnic Relations and Introduction to Race and Ethnic Relations.

For the project, students will plan, implement and host an on-campus event scheduled for April 25 as part of a national initiative called Stand Against Racism.

This will mark the third year USF has partnered with the

AROUND THE DIOCESE

SHOW CHOIR 'MINSTRELS' EARN GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP



PROVIDED BY BISHOP LUERS HIGH SCHOOL

Bishop Luers High School Show Choir, Minstrels, earned Grand Champion at the Twin Lakes Show Choir Invitational in Monticello. The Minstrels also received Best Vocals in the invitational. Samantha Justice, senior, was recognized as Dynamic Performer. Bishop Luers Minstrels announced, that after the first month of invitational competitions, they were listed as No. 11 in the nation by <http://showchoirranking.webs.com>.

YWCA Northeast Indiana in this nationwide effort to discourage racism or discrimination in society, and the first for USF students to plan, implement and host the event.

"Students will be reaching out to the community of Fort Wayne, inviting guest speakers who are government and community leaders to join USF in the stand against racism," Gregg said. "However, all of Fort Wayne is invited to take a stand and participate."

Gregg can be contacted at (260) 399-7700, ext. 8115 or kgregg@sf.edu for information.

Henry-Keefe Scholarship winners announced

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School has announced the winners of the Henry-Keefe Scholarship. The 19th annual Bishop Luers High School Henry-Keefe Scholarship exam results for the class of 2018 are Elizabeth Heiny, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne; Adam Veldman, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne; Michael Schweller, Riverview; Payton Head, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth; Joseph Renner, St. John the Baptist, New Haven; Emma Ward, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne; Jonathan Woehner, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth; Noah Brown, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth; Benjamin Fink, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne; and Anna Wiljer, St. John the Baptist, New Haven.

Pulitzer-nominated writer, filmmaker Taulbert speaking at USF

FORT WAYNE — Clifton L. Taulbert, a Pulitzer-nominated writer and filmmaker and a Voice of the Community for CNN at the turn of the millennium will speak at the University of Saint Francis (USF) in two sessions on Feb. 11 at the USF Performing Arts Center.

Taulbert was born and attended school in the Mississippi Delta during the era of legal segregation. He is a principal, president and CEO of two companies: The Building Community Institute and Roots Java Coffee, a national African-American owned coffee brand. As founder and president of the Building Community Institute, a human capital development company, he has delivered leadership and culture change training internationally. He has authored several books including "Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored" and is the recipient of several awards.

As a noted keynote speaker, he asks listeners to imagine possibilities, as he brings to life stories from his books and the unselfishness of the ordinary people who populated his childhood world.

Session 1 for community leaders will begin with a continental breakfast from 8-8:30 a.m. After a welcome from USF President

Sister M. Elise Kriss, a Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Taulbert will take the podium until 9:45 a.m., speaking on the topic "Building Community: A Transforming Process." Registration is at 8habitslecturecommunity.eventbrite.com.

Session 2 for high school and college students and community guests will be from 1-2:30 p.m. and include a welcome from Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership Dean Robert Lee and Taulbert's lecture, "Entrepreneurial Thinking: The Winning Business Strategy."

Bishop Perry to offer presentation on sainthood cause of Father Tolton

SOUTH BEND — Bishop Joseph N. Perry, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago will offer a presentation on "The Cause of Sainthood of Father Augustus Tolton" at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1, at St. Augustine Parish, 1501 W. Washington St, South Bend.

The presentation will conclude with a 4 p.m. Mass. Music will be provided by Notre Dame Voices of Faith Gospel Choir.

The Black Catholic Advisory Board of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the St. Augustine Parish Tolton Society are sponsors of the presentation.

Catholic Youth Summer Camp set for July 20-25, volunteers needed

MILFORD — Catholic Youth Summer Camp 2014 will be held at Camp Mack in Milford, July 20-25.

This year's theme, from Luke 24:32, is "Were Not Our Hearts Burning Within Us?" The week will focus on the account of Jesus walking with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, opening the Scriptures to them and breaking bread with them.

St. Jude Parish, South Bend, Sacred Heart Parish, Lakeville, and St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, are camp sponsors this year.

Eligible campers are youth going into the fourth, fifth and sixth grades.

The cost will be \$350 per camper. Brochures are being developed. Information and updates can be accessed at the www.stjudeparish.net.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades said of Catholic Youth Summer Camp, "This is a great Catholic camp experience."

The camp directors are Dave and Jan Torma from St. Jude Parish, South Bend. They may be contacted at (574) 291-3381 or fisherofmendjt@msn.com.

As the Tormas prepare for CYSC 2014, they are in need of volunteer adult staff, ages 18 to 24, and 25 years and older to serve as counselors, senior chaperones, nurses and musicians. They seek volunteers who are passionate about their Catholic faith, love children and want to share a week of camp life with a small group.

"We have a good basic schedule that integrates our Catholic spirituality and fun for the campers," said Jan Torma. "We are hoping to build a staff that will bring a sense of joy, love, peace, and creativity to assist us in implementing the program."

Applications can be accessed at www.stjudeparish.net and the deadline is April 15.

Scholarship to benefit families of fallen military veterans

NOTRE DAME — Thanks to the generosity of Guy "David" Gundlach and the Elkhart County Community Foundation, military veterans and their families will benefit from a \$2 million grant to fund annual scholarships at Holy Cross College. This scholarship program will assist up to 20 students per year.

The second largest single donation in college history, the Nicholas Spehar Memorial Scholarship is named for a 24-year-old Navy SEAL killed in combat Aug. 6, 2011. He was the brother of a former Holy Cross College student, Marie (Spehar) Mielke.

To learn more about Holy Cross College visit the website at www.hcc-nd.edu. For more information on the Spehar Scholarship visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNE56qv5DV8>.

MARCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

my brothers and sisters in Christ can't be here, and I am walking for them," she said.

Bishop Rhoades further emphasized the necessity for prayer and liturgy to accompany the activities of the March. The prayer from the diocesan gathering Mass, as well as the Mass the following day at the Verizon Center, he said, "rises up from our hearts and thousands of others here in Washington today and tomorrow. Yes, we will march, but we will also pray. We offer our petitions to our Creator, and lover of life."

He remarked that "throughout human history, ever since the fall, there has been a struggle between the forces of good and evil, life and death."

Speaking of the battle that raged at the beginning of the fourth century against the Body of Christ, he said, "The atrocious cruelty against Christians revealed the prevailing culture of death at that time. Yet, so many Christians refused to deny the faith and accepted martyrdom for the sake of Christ."

One of these martyrs was a 13-year-old virgin, St. Agnes, whose feast day was celebrated on Jan. 21.

"St. Agnes was a beautiful young teenager who pledged her life to virginity, choosing Jesus as her only spouse," Bishop Rhoades said. "Because she resisted the many young men who wanted to marry her, they turned her over to the governor for being a Christian. Agnes would not offer sacrifice to the false gods of the Romans nor forsake her virginity."

"She stood up to the culture of death and suffered martyrdom for her faith," Bishop Rhoades said. "She is a model for us today of faith, purity and courage. St. Agnes and all the martyrs teach us the power of love over hate and of life over death."

Bishop Rhoades reminded all

that God chooses the weak and lowly of this world, and "He chooses us today to have the love and courage of St. Agnes, to stand up for our faith, and, yes, to march for life," Bishop Rhoades said. "We cannot sit on the sidelines in the battle between the culture of life and the culture of death."

"We must pray. We must vote. We must assist pregnant women," he emphasized. "We must bring healing to women who have had abortions. And in all we do, we must have faith in the One who conquers death, faith in Christ whose blood reveals to us that man's greatness vocation 'consists in the gift of self.' Christ's Blood poured out as the gift of life, no longer a sign of death. ... In the Eucharist, we drink the Blood of Christ and draw the strength to commit ourselves to the service of life."

Bishop Rhoades also remarked that it is good to heed the words of Pope Francis in his apostolic exhortation, "The Joy of the Gospel" where he wrote, "Among the vulnerable for whom the Church wishes to care with particular love and concern are unborn children, the most defenseless and innocent among us."

Bishop Rhoades also recognized the Franciscan Brothers Minor and Sisters Minor for their attendance, as well as thanking the diocesan seminarians from the Pontifical College Josephinum for their service at the Mass.

He then concluded the liturgy by reflecting on the Blessed Virgin Mary's openness to life. "The Annunciation," he said, "was the greatest 'yes' to life in human history, when Mary said 'yes' to conceive and bear the Savior of the world. And as patroness of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, under the title The Immaculate Conception, we ask her blessings upon us through our prayers today."

The Catholic community from northern Indiana was well represented this year in the March for Life walk, which takes place annually in protest of the Supreme Court's decision on Jan. 22, 1973 that legalized abor-

tion in the United States. Over 400 members of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and 320 students and faculty from the University of Notre Dame, Holy Cross College and Saint Mary's College were able to attend the event. In total, more than 500,000 participants were estimated to have made the walk from the National Mall to the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court Building.

Unfortunately, even more participants would have been able to attend had it not been for the blizzard-like conditions that kept thousands throughout the country, including more than 200 from the University of Notre Dame, from traveling to Washington.

Those who were able to assemble to show their commitment for the Gospel of Life were greatly encouraged by the positive messages of hope and support offered by the leaders of the march. New President of the March for Life Jeanne Monahan led the demonstration with a revitalized focus on changing the culture of abortion through the use of social media, promoting active citizen involvement in local government and continued grassroots movements, and by emphasizing the beautiful gift available to women in offering their unwanted child for adoption.

Unlike recent years, the political speeches were shorter in length and fewer in number, but remained energizing and uplifting throughout.

Catholic musician Matt Maher was also added to this year's lineup to play songs of inspiration for those in attendance.

As well as introducing new websites and apps to keep supporters actively involved in the cause throughout the year, the social media aspect of the march received a boost from none other than Pope Francis himself, who tweeted, "I join the March for Life in Washington with my prayers. May God help us respect all life, especially the most vulnerable."

This proclamation was greeted with loud cheers and gracious thanks at his public support for the pro-life ministry all Catholics are called to share in together.



CHRIS LUSHIS

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades proclaims the Gospel at St. Matthew Cathedral in Washington, D.C., at a Jan. 21 Mass for diocesan pilgrims who assembled in Washington for the National March for Life the following day.

PARISHES PARTICIPATE IN BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER FOR CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY



MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

Father Steve Colchin, pastor of St. Louis Besancon Parish, New Haven, passes out an empty baby bottle to parishioner Dan Fink after Mass on Sunday. St. Louis Besancon is one of 17 parishes across the diocese participating in the Christ Child Society's current fundraiser asking families to fill up over 5,500 bottles with their loose change. The Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne is a charitable organization of volunteers from many denominations devoted to serving at-risk children regardless of race or creed and has been devoted to improving the lives of children in need for over 100 years. Chairperson, Amy Urban, is hopeful the baby bottle fundraiser will be a huge success. "The need in our community is great," she said.

PRO-LIFE ADVOCATES MARCH AT FEDERAL COURTHOUSE



TOM UEBBING

St. Joseph County Right to Life sponsored its annual March for Life on Wednesday, Jan. 22 at the Federal Courthouse in downtown South Bend. Pro-life advocates marked the 41st anniversary of the legalization of abortion with a march amid single-digit temperatures. The peaceful march honored children lost, and was a call to the community to protect the sanctity of human life.

Catholics invited to Reconciliation

BY TIM JOHNSON

“The Light Is On for You” is an initiative of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to allow all Catholics to avail themselves of the sacrament of Reconciliation. Confession is a wonderful opportunity to set aside one’s sinful ways and to draw closer to our Lord. Confessions will be held on Wednesday, March 12, from 6-8 p.m. in every Catholic church in the diocese.

Pope Francis, in his weekly audience in St. Peter’s Square, Nov. 20, 2013, said that God never tires of forgiving those who repent and that having a priest say “I absolve you” reinforces belief in God’s mercy.

The pope said he knows some people are embarrassed to confess their sins to a priest, but it is the best path to spiritual healing and health.

Pope Francis reflected on the forgiveness of sins as one of the missions Jesus entrusted to His apostles and their successors.

In a world often dominated by “individualism and subjectivism,” he said, many people — including many Catholics — say that God will forgive their sins and they have no need of the sacrament of Confession and the ministry of a priest.

“Certainly, God forgives every repentant sinner, but the Christian is bound to Christ and Christ is united to His Church,” the pope said. “God, in His sovereign mercy, forgives

everyone, but He wanted those who belong to Christ and His Church to receive forgiveness through the community’s ministers.”

“Priests, too, need Confession, even bishops. We are all sinners. Even the pope goes to confession every two weeks because the pope, too, is a sinner,” the pope said. “My confessor hears what I say, offers me advice and forgives me. We all need this.”

Through the presence and words of a priest, he said, penitents have “the certainty of forgiveness in the name of the Church.”

The Church, he said, is not the “master” of forgiveness of sins, but is its servant

and “rejoices every time it can offer this gift.”

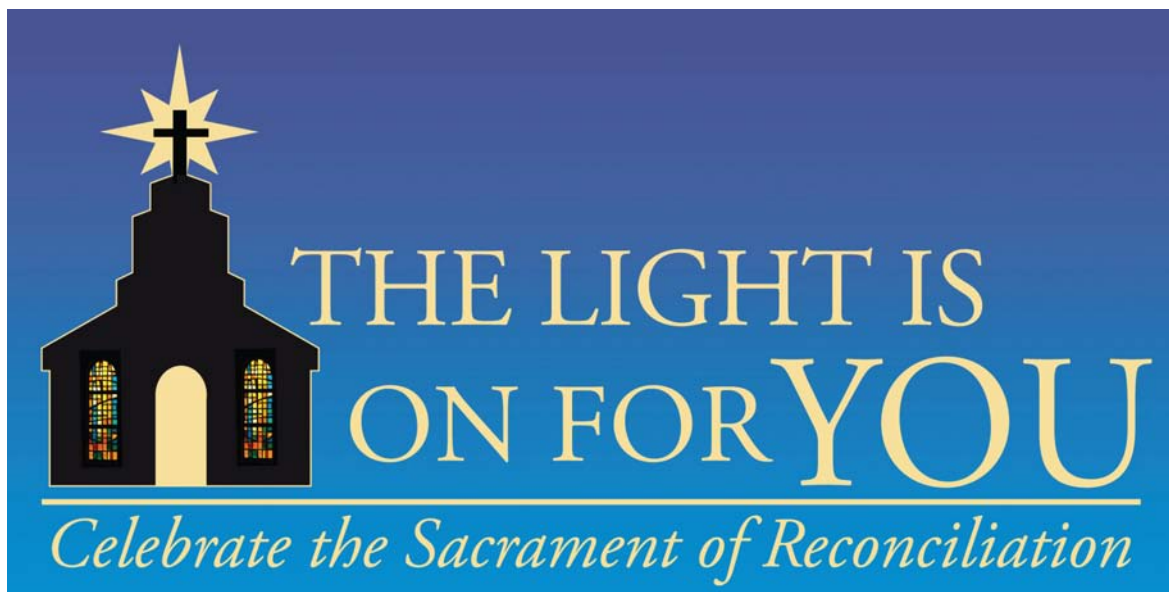
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has written, “The Light Is On For You is an invitation to all Catholics of a diocese to stop in church for prayer and the opportunity for Confession.”

The program began in the Archdiocese of Washington and has been adopted by other diocese with much success. With this program, all parishes in a diocese open their churches on a particular evening for Confessions. The U.S. bishops endorse “The Light Is On For You” campaign.

Last year, priests of the diocese called “The Light Is On For You” a “time of grace.” It was very well received at the parishes.

Learn more at www.diocesefwsb.org.

Confessions will be held on
Wednesday, March 12, from
6-8 p.m. in every Catholic
church in the diocese.



Wednesday, March 12, 6-8 p.m.



Rekindle the Fire diocesan men’s conference slated Feb. 22

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Rekindle the Fire will host the Fourth Annual Diocesan Men’s Conference on Feb. 22, at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum Exposition Center in Fort Wayne from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The roster of Catholic speakers include Msgr. Michael Heintz, Hector Molina, John Leonetti and Doug Barry. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will conclude the conference with the celebration of Mass.

Msgr. Michael Heintz is a well-known teacher and pastor in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and his gifts as a profound thinker and relevant preacher are regularly on display in South Bend — whether at the University of Notre Dame,



where he is director of the Master of Divinity Program, or at St. Matthew Cathedral, where he serves as rector. Ordained in 1993, he was first assigned to St. Charles Parish in Fort Wayne, and to Bishop Dwenger

High School as chaplain. He was then assigned by Bishop John M. D’Arcy to St. Matthew Cathedral and further studies at the University of Notre Dame in 1998, eventually moving on to teach at three of the four Catholic

high schools in the diocese, before his current work at the University of Notre Dame and St. Matthew Cathedral.

Hector Molina is a lay Catholic speaker and apologist on the staff of “Catholic Answers,” the most well known Catholic apologetics apostolate in America. With over 20 years of experience in professional pastoral ministry and lay leadership in the Church, Molina also serves as a full-time speaker conducting parish seminars, missions, retreats and conferences throughout the United States and abroad.

Molina is a devoted husband and father of five. He has developed a solid reputation as one of the most passionate and articulate expositors and defenders of the Catholic faith today.

Doug Barry is the founder and director of RADIX, a Catholic

apostolate founded in 1992.

He has spent the last 20 years touring nationally and internationally, spreading and defending the Catholic faith with a dynamic and explosive style, and is perhaps best known for his powerful one-man performance of the Passion of Christ, seen regularly on EWTN and other Christian television channels around the world.

Barry told *Today’s Catholic* his topic would be “the necessity of a man being spiritually battle ready to fulfill his duty and to fight, protect and defend the souls of those who have been entrusted to his care.”

“By the grace of God,” Barry said, “I believe that my talks will help make men more aware of the reality of the spiritual fight, and

REKINDLE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

will encourage and strengthen them to engage in it more fully and with a deeper commitment and zeal, having greater recourse to the spiritual weapons that the Church has given us.”

He said every man should come to this conference “because a man needs to know what he is dealing with when it comes to the attacks of the world, the flesh and the devil, and he needs to know what his duty is as a man.”

“Any man who loves those lives, those souls that God has entrusted to his care and would fight for them in the physical world, would and should fight for them in the spiritual world,” he stressed. “This conference will help strengthen, embolden and enable him to do just that, and the responsibility to do this has everything to do with a man’s salvation.”

Jon Leonetti is an international Catholic speaker, author and radio host who conveys a message of lasting fulfillment in

Jesus Christ. Leonetti desires to cultivate an intimate relationship with Jesus and help others do the same through prayer, the sacraments, family life, Mary and the saints.

Engaging Catholics in all walks of life, Leonetti’s keynote presentations and intergenerational Surge of the Heart Parish Missions continue to help thousands of Catholics each year discover the freedom Christ offers by way of His life and love.

Bishop Rhoades will close the event with the celebration of the Mass that will fulfill the Sunday obligation.

Bishop Rhoades has been the bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend since January of 2010. In addition to his current ministerial roles, he has served as a seminary rector, full-time teacher, member of the board of trustees for a number of seminaries and universities, and consultant and board member for numerous other Catholic apostolates and other subcommittees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Cost of the conference is \$35. Registration is available at rekindethefire.net. More information is available from Joe Witulski at (260) 452-6875.

Pope says Internet a ‘gift from God,’ should be used for solidarity

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Like the good Samaritan, who stopped on the road to help a person in need, travelers along today’s communication highways should offer support to those they encounter there, Pope Francis said.

“The digital world can be an environment rich in humanity; a network not of wires but of people,” he said in his message for World Communications Day.

Modern means of communication, especially the Internet, offer “immense possibilities for encounter and solidarity,” he said. Because of that, he said, the Internet is “a gift from God.”

“Communication at the service of an authentic culture of encounter” is the theme of this year’s World Communications Day, which most dioceses will mark June 1, the Sunday before Pentecost. The message, released Jan. 23, was dated Jan. 24, the feast of St. Francis de Sales, the patron saint of journalists.

“Good communication helps us grow closer, to know one another better, and ultimately to grow in unity,” the pope said.

“The walls which divide us can be broken down only if we are prepared to listen and learn from one another,” he said. “A culture of encounter demands that we be ready not only to give, but also to receive.”

Good communicators must take the time necessary to listen to others and, more than just tolerate, truly

accept them, he said.

“Engaging in dialogue does not mean renouncing our own ideas and traditions, but the claim that they alone are valid or absolute,” the pope said in his message.

Archbishop Claudio Celli, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, told reporters that the pope is not proposing “a relativism” of the faith, but is continuing his predecessors’ calls for the Church to engage with a multicultural and multi-religious world.

“I can’t have an outlook of being the only one and the absolute,” Archbishop Celli said. “I am just a concrete incarnation of that truth that is Jesus Christ and His Gospel,” which people live out in myriad ways in different cultures and traditions across the world.

Pope Francis, in his message, quoted Pope Benedict XVI’s 2013 World Communications Day text, which says effective Christian witness is “about our willingness to be available to others ‘by patiently and respectfully engaging their questions and their doubts as they advance in their search for the truth and the meaning of human existence’” — not by “bombarding people with religious messages.”

The text of the pope’s World Communications Day message is

available online at: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/messages/communications/documents/papa-francesco_20140124_messaggio-comunicazioni-sociali_en.html

Parishes enriched by ARISE process gear up for Season 4

BY KAY COZAD

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, partnering with RENEW International, introduced a new initiative in fall of 2012 that has enriched the lives of over 6,000 faith seekers in the area. The initiative, ARISE Together in Christ, is a three-year parish centered process focused on spiritual renewal, evangelization and adult formation in which groups of eight- to 12-member small Christian communities formed in parishes across the diocese.

Since September of 2012 ARISE participants across the diocese have experienced a renewal of faith and a deeper understanding of their relationship with God and their fellow man in the first three of five six-week sessions of the process. The sessions, called “seasons,” began with “Encountering Christ Today.” Season II, “Change Our Hearts” and Season III, “In the Footsteps of Christ,” followed closely and currently parish groups are enthusiastically gearing up for Season IV, “New Heart, New Spirit,” that will coincide with the Lenten season this year.

These faith-sharing groups have met regularly in homes,

parishes, and youth groups to deepen their faith, develop a closer relationship with Christ, grow in community and reach out in service to others. With the guidance of trained facilitators who were provided with seasonal information to prepare for each session utilizing the well-organized materials and available training, the groups studied Scripture and its application to their lives.

Each season has offered materials that guide the faith-sharing group through various styles of prayer, Scripture reading, reflection, faith sharing, creative action and socialization.

In addition to ongoing support and online resources, the RENEW International organization continues to provide specific training workshops for facilitators and parish leaders for each season.

Now as Season III has come to a close RENEW International has gathered survey results of how the process is impacting the faith lives of the 6,000 active ARISE

participants in 58 parishes across the diocese. The response shows just how this faith renewal process has inspired the faithful to Christ-centered action.

In Bremen, one of the ARISE groups at St. Dominic reached out to their community by cohosting a community Thanksgiving dinner in their parish hall. Leftover food was sent to Hope Ministries in South Bend. Another group had a member begin teaching English classes at Hearts and Hands. Another helped with trick-or-treat at the Bremen Healthcare Center and made donations to Kiwanis for needs of local children.

“The groups continue to mention that their time together is like time with close friends and family, supporting each other through the ups and downs of life.”

CHRIST THE KING PARISH

the group at Our Lady of Good Hope in Fort Wayne were edified when they carried out some of the social justice teachings from their group by paying for an elderly woman’s breakfast one morning. When the woman was told of the kindness she began to cry because it was her birthday and she was alone with no one to eat breakfast with.

In Fort Wayne a young adult ARISE group led by a mother/son team has been formed at the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception and began in Season III. Six to 11 young adults attend-

ed weekly small community faith-sharing sessions, meeting in a different location each week. An action step that was a highlight for this group was a visit to St. Mary’s Mission House, where they prepared lunch for the homeless. The young founder said, “It has been great for them to discover that they are not alone in their commitment to their faith.”

Another adult group at the cathedral is made up mainly of members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society who feel they are “much more hospitable and open hearted” to the people they serve who are in need.

At St. Therese, Little Flower Parish in South Bend, an ARISE member acted on a calling she felt to work toward a master’s in theology, encouraged and supported by her group members.

And inspired groups at Corpus Christi in South Bend have a soup pot collection for money for meals at the Homeless Center. Following a discussion on how it can be easy to just contribute money, they decided to put their faith in action and cook and serve the meal. The group facilitated by Sister Carmella and Sister Paula there hosted a group of ladies on Wednesday mornings, when they attended 8 a.m. Mass together and then went to the convent to share breakfast and pray. When the season concluded they continued to meet once a month and pray for vocations. Other ARISE groups at Corpus Christi meet once a month between seasons as well.

As these small faith-sharing group members grow in faith, community and service, the leaders at Christ the King speak for all saying, “The groups continue to mention that their time together is like time with close friends and family, supporting each other through the ups and downs of life.”

ARISE Together in Christ small communities materials appear in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, and in large print. For more information contact your local parish.



Banana in the kitchen

“Once upon a time, there was a banana. And he lived in a kitchen...” So began the story my eight-year-old daughter Angela wrote yesterday for a homeschool writing assignment. I laughed and laughed, a big belly laugh. I almost couldn’t stop I loved the opening sentences so much. As I read on, I was tickled with her play on words, as the banana attended the “fruitball games” and the “sink bowl.” I so desperately needed this belly laugh from my sweet creative child.

You see, it seems that everywhere I’ve turned lately, I see stories of sadness and tragedy, even outright evil taking place in city after city, even in my own. I don’t turn on the news anymore because I can’t take the constant barrage of assaults on our faith and stories of disaster that make my stomach turn. In the midst of this media age, it is easy to literally see what is happening not

only across our nation, but also across the world, and no tragedy is spared on television: fires, floods, accusations, scandals, murders.

Our own little communities are affected too — accidents on the road, violence. Just recently, citizens in Elkhart County experienced a random shooter in a local grocery store. Sometimes our own parishes or family is affected. These personal trials can be the most difficult to endure. It is easy to become discouraged.

While this is scary and unnerving, it is also what has been happening in humankind since the beginning of people inhabiting the earth. Perhaps difficult to imagine it’s true: the ancient Roman times were full of people in debauchery, scandal and local and national gossip. These things have persisted over time. There just wasn’t always mass media to televise it.



TERESA A. THOMAS

EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Tragedies can be severe mercies for individuals or communities, which spur us on to humility, repentance and dependence on God. Sadness and struggles bring with them often the gift of wisdom and discernment, of knowledge and Truth. When we realize we cannot control everything, we learn to rely on our Father.

But guess what? There has also been goodness over time — Truth, Beauty and Goodness

EVERYDAY, PAGE 12

Jesus is the coming of hope and glory



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Presentation of the Lord Lk 2:22-40

Under other circumstances the liturgy for this weekend would be that of the Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time. Instead, however, this weekend the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

Any interruption in the usual course of the liturgical season is a lesson in itself. The Church tells believers that the feast contains such an important message, and commemorates such a person or event, that it should be observed, and the day of the season set aside. This is occurring with the feast of the Presentation of the Lord this weekend.

By presenting their newborn child in the temple, Jewish parents in effect consecrated the child to God. It was more than just a faithful, charming gesture. It was to place the infant fully within the stream of life among the chosen people. The child shared in the prerogatives of the people, bestowed by God, beginning with the promise of salvation. Presentation also placed the child in the mission of God’s chosen people, to adore God above everything and to obey God in all things.

In this spirit, Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the temple.

The first reading is from the

Book of Malachi. Through this prophecy, God promises the chosen people that they will receive a messenger, divinely sent and empowered. He will be perfect and powerful. In him, absolute reconciliation between God and the people will be achieved.

For the second reading, the Church offers us a passage from the Epistle to the Hebrews. No work in the New Testament is more eloquent in its testimony to the identity of the Lord Jesus. This reading marvelously discloses that, in what theologians call the Incarnation, Jesus shares with people, the Lord’s brothers and sisters, “everything — including Himself, His identity and the divine life dwelling in Him.

The final reading is from St. Luke’s Gospel, the only source in the Bible of this story of the Presentation of the Lord.

Several strong lessons occur in the reading.

First, an obvious lesson is that Mary and Joseph participated in this revered Jewish custom, by presenting Jesus in the temple, and this reveals much about them. They were devout. They obeyed God. They saw themselves as members of the chosen people with all the obligations derived.

Next, they encounter Simeon, “religious and devout” as the Gospel describes him. He sees in the tiny Jesus the messiah, the future and the life of the world. Simeon was quite specific, revealing much more than the attention given to any newborn. Jesus was unique.

Simeon’s exclamation is the Church’s hymn sung everyday in Morning Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours.

Predicting the great role ahead for Jesus, Simeon also warns Mary that she will suffer as she

watches the life of her son unfold.

Then Anna enters the scene. She is a “prophetess,” according to Luke, meaning that she sees everything in the context of God and of obedience to God. She is elderly and a widow. She is in the temple night and day. She too sees in Jesus the coming of hope and glory.

Reflection

The Liturgy of the Word for this feast of the Presentation of the Lord is very practical for anyone believing in Jesus and seeking salvation.

The figures of Simeon and Anna tell much to us. They recognized Jesus and saw a role hardly suggested simply by the presence of an infant. The Gospel is clear. They are devout. Anna is aged. Understanding God’s will, and accepting limitations in understanding it, come only to the devout and the sincere.

Finally, Simeon’s warning to Mary is telling. No Christian life is beyond the Lord’s call that each believer must take up a personal cross — and follow Jesus. Mary was no exception.

READINGS

Sunday: Mal 3:1-4 Ps 24:7-10 Heb 2:14-18 Lk 2:22-40

Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13 Ps 3:2-7 Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14, 24-25, 30-19:3 Ps 86:1-6 Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17 Ps 32:1-2, 5-7 Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12 (Ps) 1 Chr 29:10-12 Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Sir 47:2-11 Ps 18:31, 47, 50-51 Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13 Ps 119:9-14 Mk 6:30-34

Come in from the cold: finding mercy in the city

It’s 15 below with a wind chill of minus 39 when I arrive at the cathedral tonight. The holy water is partly frozen.

Perched atop Summit Hill in St. Paul, Minn., the Cathedral of St. Paul is the mother church of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, a Vatican-appointed National Shrine of the Apostle Paul and a towering presence in the capital city.

And tonight, the first Monday of January, it is a refuge for 18 homeless people who will sleep on cots in the basement choir room.

When I join them they are snacking on yogurt parfait, chicken salad and Ritz crackers, quietly visiting as a curly haired toddler scoots around. “Toy Story” plays on a corner TV, and a teenaged mom feeds her 10-month-old daughter, whose eyelashes are speckled with yogurt.

I strike up conversation with a woman wearing a pink hooded sweatshirt and holding a two-year-old named Lucy. She tells me two things: first, she’s afraid her daughter has a high fever, and second, she’s Catholic. Her daughter was named after the woman’s late grandma Lucille Anna, a devout, rosary-praying Catholic. Being in the cathedral, she says, feels like a homecoming.

The 12-year-old sitting at my right seems equally comfortable in the gold-leaved church. “I love it,” he tells me.

When I ask his name, he warms at the question. “Everyone wants to know my name. I’m making a whole bunch of friends.”

I am reminded of a century-old quote from Archbishop John Ireland, who dreamed of a cathedral on a hill and commissioned its building: “There should be no one who, entering the cathedral, is not able to say, ‘It is mine.’”

Tonight it belongs to this bright-eyed boy, Charles, who squirts a mound of whip cream on his yogurt parfait, gobbles up a second one and does a victory dance when he beats me in ping pong. Archbishop Ireland would be pleased.

“We want to be responsive,” Father John Ubel, rector of the cathedral, says when I ask about



TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

Project Home, the local interfaith program that houses families like Charles’ who are on a waiting list for a more permanent shelter. “It’s one thing to preach the Gospel, but we also have to live it.”

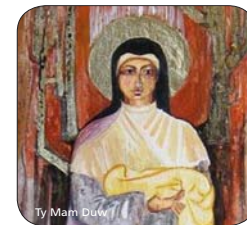
That’s the message behind Kerry Weber’s new book published by Loyola Press, “Mercy in the City: How to Feed the Hungry, Give Drink to the Thirsty, Visit the Imprisoned, and Keep Your Day Job.” In it, Kerry, the 31-year-old managing editor of the Jesuit magazine *America*, chronicles her attempt to practice all the corporal works of mercy while maintaining her regular life.

“It’s not always easy and sometimes it involves sacrifice,” she tells me. “It’s being willing to give up some of those small things, not saying, ‘I’ll never watch TV again,’ but realizing there’s a good kind of tired and a bad kind of tired. The good kind is when you go to bed thinking you’ve done something to help build the kingdom of God. The bad kind is when you’re thinking, ‘Ooh, I should’ve stopped binge-watching ‘House of Cards’ two hours ago.’”

Kerry was inspired by the wide-ranging interview of Pope Francis published in *America* last September, especially his creation of the gerund “misericordando” — “mercy-ing” — a word she added to her Twitter bio.

Mercy-ing, she says, begins by being present, by looking for little ways you can dignify a stranger or lend a hand. It begins by following the lead of a church that opens its doors and rolls out the cots on the coldest nights.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. She can be reached at www.ReadChristina.com.



Saint of the Week

Colette of Corbie

1381-1447
February 7

Born Nicolette Boellet in France, this reforming saint preferred Colette, her nickname. She entered and left several religious orders, then lived as an anchorite, or hermit, for three years. Eventually, she discerned that God wanted her to return Franciscan religious to their original rule of strict poverty. She was empowered in her reforms by the schismatic Benedict XIII, recognized in France as pope. Considered the founder of the Colettine Poor Clares, Colette also helped inaugurate reforms among Franciscan friars. She spent every Friday fasting and meditating on Christ’s Passion. After reportedly saving the life of a woman dying in childbirth, Colette was considered a patron of expectant mothers.

The death of 'pro-choice'

Ever since Congress first approved the Hyde amendment in 1976, a nation divided on abortion has generally been able to agree on at least one thing: The government should not force Americans to fund or promote abortion against their will. Such coercion would violate both "life" and "choice," the paramount values on both sides of this dispute. So for 37 years, Congress has approved (and, in many cases, annually reaffirmed) numerous provisions to prevent federal funding of abortion and abortion coverage in all but the rarest circumstances.

At a recent subcommittee hearing in Congress, a bill to establish this policy more firmly and consistently in federal law drew hostile reactions that suggest this truce is over.

The legislation is the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (HR 7, S. 946). It would apply the policy of the Hyde amendment across all government programs, including the new Affordable Care Act (ACA), whose implementation has produced serious evasions and violations of that policy.

The Hyde policy has long enjoyed broad support among Americans, including American women. In one poll taken during Congress's consideration of the ACA, most respondents opposed measures to make Americans pay for abortion coverage with their taxes or health premiums, and over two-thirds opposed abortion in their own health coverage — and on each question, women were more opposed than men. So one might think a law reflecting that consensus should sail through Congress.

Instead, HR 7 was the subject of loud protests and gross

misrepresentations. Supporters of tax-funded abortion in the District of Columbia held a press conference to condemn the hearing, and protested outside the hearing room when the bill was approved — because it simply continues the current ban on publicly funded abortions in D.C. Protesters shouted "Where are the women?" to protest the subcommittee's all-male membership — although one of two pro-life witnesses, Helen Alvare, is a female law professor, and all subcommittee members opposing the bill were male. A witness against HR 7, Susan Wood of George Washington University, called it a "mean-spirited" attempt to "interfere" and "meddle" in women's lives. She and other opponents were simply not interested in the difference between prohibiting something and declining to pay for it.

An abortion movement that once trumpeted privacy — the "right to be let alone" to make one's own choices — now wants to inject abortion into all our lives as a public good demanding our support. But it is the height of hypocrisy to cry "Let me alone!" as you pick your neighbor's pocket.

Abraham Lincoln faced a similar problem, as he tried without success to avoid civil war by compromising with those supporting slavery. The slave states rejected his offer to prevent slavery's expansion, while leaving it alone where it was legal. He asked: What would satisfy his opponents? "This, and this only: cease to call slavery wrong, and join them in calling it right. And this must be done thoroughly — done in acts as well as in words. Silence will

LIFE ISSUES FORUM



RICHARD DOERFLINGER

not be tolerated — we must place ourselves avowedly with them. ... Holding, as they do, that slavery is morally right, and socially elevating, they cannot cease to demand a full national recognition of it, as a legal right, and a social blessing."

Substitute "abortion" for "slavery" and you have a sketch of today's "abortion rights" agenda. Countering that agenda won't take a civil war — just pro-life citizens who inform themselves on the issue, and make their voices heard in Congress.

Richard Doerflinger is associate director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. To learn how to write to Congress on this issue visit www.nchla.org; more on the bishops' pro-life activities can be found at www.usccb.org.

EVERYDAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

— as a matter of fact. God. And children. Children born are our hope in their innocence and promise. They remind us of the Eden that once was and the heaven that will be for each of us who choose God. When we focus on them we find a piece of heaven on earth.

There is so much to be thankful for when we look out for and after children. Here are some positive things to ponder:

- For married people, each day is an opportunity to serve a spouse and child, and make a life less burdensome.
- For consecrated religious, each day is a chance to serve one more spiritual child and lighten the load.
- Each day a new baby is born, with unique gifts and talents, an unrepeatably combination of DNA and distinctive gifted soul.

• Each day we have the opportunity to help our children grow in grace and knowledge.

Our greatest achievement is not climbing to the corporate top, or running and winning a marathon or attaining any other honorable goal. It is living our vocation with courage, even in the midst of a fallen world. The "magnum opus" of parents, regardless of their profession, is the raising of their children to know, love and serve God in this world, to be happy with Him in the next. And the wonderful thing about that is that not only do we have the graces to do so well because of our Baptism, but this job, this vocation is overflowing with joy!

The joy of raising children well is not only supernatural "up there" joy but also common, simple every day, "down here" joy.

The same eight-year-old daughter I referenced at the beginning of this column spontaneously informed me moments ago that the dog's legs are four inches long, her head is three inches and her back is nine. ... I turned to see a tolerant puppy on

my daughter's lap, being "tape-measured" patiently. The puppy looked up at me with an expression, that should it be put into human words most likely would be, "Really?"

And I laughed. How could I not?

This little girl invited me to dance with her yesterday. She shared a half a cookie with me the day before. She asked me if God has favorite foods. She performed a magic show with her sister (making that patient puppy disappear).

Children are such hopes and gifts for the world.

We cannot focus only on the tragedies, sadness and other grim realities, because once upon a time, there was a banana in the kitchen, and that's reality too.

Theresa Thomas is the wife of David and mother of nine children. Watch for her newest book "Big Hearted Families" (Scepter) and read more on her blog: <http://theresathomas.wordpress.com/>

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for February 2, 2014

Luke 2:22-40

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Cycle A. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

PURIFICATION	WRITTEN	SACRIFICE
PIGEONS	SIMEON	DEATH
JESUS	MASTER	PEACE
MY EYES	PEOPLES	GLORY
SIGN	SWORD	ANNA
ASHER	PRAYER	TOWN
NAZARETH	STRONG	FAVOR

ANNA & SIMEON

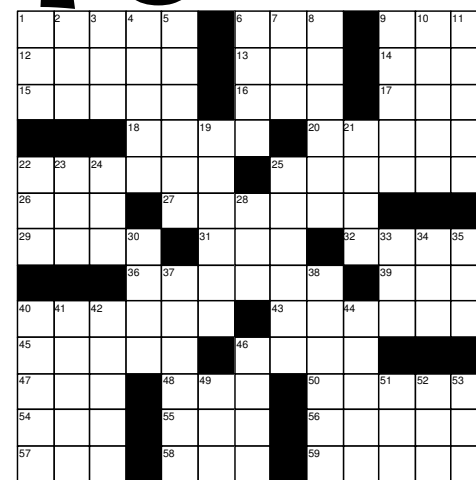
N T O W N O R E Y A R P
A O D R O W S L L E E I
Z L I I J O H A H O E G
A W H T A T N S P C S E
R K K T A N A L I G I O
E A P E A C E F D L G N
T A D N A S I M E O N S
H N P R E R Y F G R A N
C H O Y C H C H I Y T F
V B E A E B G N O R T S
P Y S T X O F J E S U S
M A S T E R O V A F G P

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The CrossWord

February 2 and 9, 2014

58 Compass point
59 Washer's companion



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Based on these Scripture Readings:

Mal 3: 1-4; Hb 2: 14-18; Lk 2: 22-40 and 1Cor 2: 1-5; Mt 5: 13-16

ACROSS

- 1 Titlark
- 6 St. Joan of ____
- 9 Yes, my lady
- 12 Jesus did on Easter
- 13 Killed in action
- 14 Flying saucer
- 15 Rationalism
- 16 Postive article
- 17 Distress call
- 18 "____ this rock"
- 20 "Were our hearts not ____?"
- 22 God's attendants
- 25 Incense includes these
- 26 Caustic substance
- 27 Displayer of emotions

- 29 Adrenal hormone
- 31 Vatican's three
- 32 Forever and _____, Amen
- 36 Grown-ups
- 39 Promissory note
- 40 Sanctuary
- 43 The Messiah
- 45 Formal
- 46 Horse stop
- 47 Garden tool
- 48 Farming club (abr.)
- 50 City-like
- 54 Building wing
- 55 Tote
- 56 Charter
- 57 Cardinals' color

DOWN

- 1 Wrestling mat
- 2 Anger
- 3 Luau dish
- 4 Release
- 5 Mary and Joseph brought Jesus here
- 6 Related
- 7 ____ de Janeiro
- 8 Appetizer
- 9 Church choir uses
- 10 Before
- 11 The Law of ____
- 19 Element
- 21 A refiner builds one
- 22 Wing
- 23 Big Apple (abbr.)
- 24 Collect
- 25 Sew
- 28 Anointing fluid
- 30 Joseph and Rueben were ____-brothers
- 33 Next Pope Paul
- 34 Goddess
- 35 Furrow
- 37 Drawstring bag
- 38 Biblical "Shalt"
- 40 Anna was of this tribe
- 41 Confessional vestment
- 42 Concede
- 44 Less cooked (as in meat)
- 46 "The laborer is worth his ____"
- 49 Recreation
- 51 Secluded body of water
- 52 Athens Stock Exchange (abbr.)
- 53 Father of Abner (Bible)

Answer Key can be found on page 15

Sports

MINNESOTA HOCKEY OLYMPIAN CONNECTS FAITH AND COMPETITION In the midst of final preparations for the Olympics, U.S. women's hockey player Anne Schleper said faith definitely plays a role in her games. In an interview three weeks before the opening ceremony of the Winter Games in Sochi, Russia, Schleper, a Catholic who is a native of St. Cloud, Minn., said it would be easy to idolize the evaluation of her coaches or a potential medal around her neck. But she is humbled to remind herself that she plays to glorify God. Schleper, who was named to the U.S. women's Olympic hockey team roster Jan. 1, began playing hockey at age 4 in the pre-kindergarten program at the St. Cloud Municipal Athletic Complex.

Winter weather woes cancel ICCL games

BY JOE KOZINSKI

SOUTH BEND — Mother Nature was the big winner in the Inter-City Catholic League schedule as the schools, roads and gyms closed because of severe weather this past weekend.

"Without question, the conditions were not safe due to drifting and blowing snow," explained Tony Violi, president of the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL). "We were in contact with the high schools and host schools for our younger athletes and we couldn't be assured safe places to play."

"This is the second complete weekend we have lost this season and rescheduling is a concern," added Violi. "We will try to play all of the games, but unfortunately time and availability of the gyms may not cooperate."

The tables at right are the up to date standings for the varsity boys basketball season:

Martin De Porres								
Team	Division				Overall			
	W	L	T	PCT	W	L	T	PCT
St. Pius	3	0	0	1.000	4	0	0	1.000
St. Joseph South Bend	3	2	0	0.600	3	2	0	0.600
St. Thomas	2	2	0	0.500	3	2	0	0.600
Christ the King	2	2	0	0.500	3	2	0	0.600
Mishawaka Catholic	2	3	0	0.400	2	3	0	0.400
St. Matthew	1	2	0	0.333	2	2	0	0.500
Corpus Christi	1	3	0	0.250	2	3	0	0.400

John Bosco								
Team	Division				Overall			
	W	L	T	PCT	W	L	T	PCT
Holy Family	4	0	0	1.000	4	1	0	0.800
Holy Cross	3	1	0	0.750	3	2	0	0.600
St. Anthony	3	1	0	0.750	3	2	0	0.600
St. Judes	3	2	0	0.600	3	2	0	0.600
Queen of Peace	1	3	0	0.250	1	4	0	0.200
St. Adalberts	1	4	0	0.200	1	4	0	0.200
St. Michael	0	4	0	0.000	0	5	0	0.000

St. Jude Eagles gearing up for CYO tournament

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Despite the polar vortex wreaking havoc on the practice schedule and canceling games this season, Coach Josh Blauvelt's St. Jude Eagles have about a .500 record right now and his team is gearing up for the year-end Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) tournament in less than a month.

The Eagles finished in the middle of the pack at both the preseason Thanksgiving tournament and Queen of Angels Invitational over the Christmas break.

"We had a slow start, but are finally headed in the right direction," Blauvelt said.

He continued, "We play a lot of city middle schools on our schedule, so we have been taking it on the chin, but I think it is paying off."

According to the Department of Health assistant director, every

team's goal this season is to get a second- or third-place seed so as not to meet powerhouse St. Vincent until the final game of the CYO championship. And St. Jude is off to a good start with wins over St. Charles and St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth for a 2-0-conference record.

The Eagles are 12-strong and are led by Grant Richardson in scoring. Drew Deiser and Alex Campbell both top six foot and are the backbone of the defense, while guards Eric Doyle and Greg Lapan round out the starting lineup for St. Jude.

"We are really good when we are pressing and pushing the ball up the court. We also have a nice half-court defense," Blauvelt detailed.

His father-in-law volunteered Blauvelt, who played CYO ball when he attended St. Rose, a year ago when St. Jude was in need of a seventh-grade coach and moved up with the squad this season.

ND RIGHT TO LIFE GROUP BRAVES WEATHER FOR MARCH



PROVIDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME RIGHT TO LIFE

Members of the University of Notre Dame Right to Life were among the many pilgrims from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend who attended the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 22.

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Youths must help world see God has plan for 'each life,' priest says

BY RICHARD SZCZEPANOWSKI

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Braving near-record low temperatures and Arctic-type wind chills, thousands of young people from across the Archdiocese of Washington and the United States gathered in Washington for a rally and Mass prior to the annual Jan. 22 March for Life.

"We can help the world understand that no one is an accident, all have a purpose and are loved because each person has the face of Jesus Christ," Father Michael Paris, a parochial vicar at St. Patrick Parish in Rockville, Md., told more than 10,000 youth who gathered for the Archdiocese of Washington's Youth Rally and Mass for Life at the Verizon Center in downtown

Washington.

The priest was the homilist at the Mass, which was celebrated by Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington. Concelebrants included several bishops, including Washington Auxiliary Bishop Martin D. Holley, and more than 160 priests.

"I believe God wants to use us to end abortion. ... By helping the world see that God has a plan for each life, that everyone is loved by God," Father Paris said. "If people believed that, they would never think that killing a child could be an option. ... Abortion cannot stand if each person believes this."

The Mass and Rally for Life is traditionally held on the morning of the annual March for Life, which this year marks the 41st anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v

Wade decision that legalized abortion on demand in the United States.

The same day the archdiocese also sponsored an additional Youth Rally and Mass for Life that drew thousands of mostly out-of-town marchers to the Stadium Armory in Washington. Washington Auxiliary Bishop Barry C. Knestout was the main celebrant of that Mass.

Cardinal Wuerl, in speaking with young people at the Verizon Center before the Mass, remarked: "Considering its freezing outside, the thousands of youth here (at the rally and Mass) shows how much value they place on human life."

"The basis of all respect is recognizing the right to life," he said. "The young people here are the voices of life. They are the future."

Among the "voices of life" at the rally and Mass was William Bolin, a member of St. Andrew Apostle Parish in Silver Spring, Md. He said the frigid temperatures would not deter young people who defend life.

"Snow or no snow, no matter what, we are pro-life, and it is crucial to show the world that youth are pro-life," he said. "Despite all the obstacles, we will be here."

The inclement weather did not keep a group of young pro-lifers from St. Martin of Tours Parish in Gaithersburg, Md., from attending the event.

"Because of the weather, our buses were canceled and we had to be creative to get here," said Theresa Mondo, a youth leader from the parish. "We carpooled because the kids are very committed to this and look forward to this day when they stand up for life."

During his homily, Father Paris encouraged young people to be proud to "protect life (and) ... stand up for our unborn brothers and sisters."

"He (God) loves each unborn child and has a plan for their life, no matter how hard a situation they might come from," the priest said. "But before we can help anyone else believe this, we have to know this ourselves."

Father Paris told youth not to be discouraged in sharing the pro-life message with others.

"How can we help the world around us understand? We are so young, so weak, the culture of death is so strong," he said. "Say not, 'I am too young.' ... The Holy Spirit will give us everything we need to make this happen."



CNS PHOTO/LESLIE KOSSOFF

A young woman prays during a pro-life youth rally at the Verizon Center in Washington Jan. 22. Thousands of young people gathered at the arena to rally and pray before taking part in the annual March for Life, which this year marked the 41st anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v Wade decision that legalized abortion across the nation.

Cardinal Wuerl said the rally and Mass and participation in the March for Life offer ways "to renew our commitment to recognize and value the dignity of each human life. We recognize the warmth of your commitment in contrast to what is going on outside."

Also during the Mass, Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the United States, read a message of support to the pro-lifers from Pope Francis. He said the pope was "most grateful to all those who take part in this outstanding public witness to the right to life." Participants at the Verizon Center rally offered Pope Francis a thunderous standing ovation.

Father William Byrne, pastor of St. Peter Parish on Capitol Hill and the Archdiocese of Washington's secretary for pastoral ministry and social concerns, opened the rally with a prayer.

"We come here to praise and worship God and to defend life," he said. "Today is dedicated to the dignity of the human person."

Young people in attendance said they were committed to seeing an end to abortion.

"I am motivated to see this terrible thing called abortion stopped," said Kaycie Willard, a junior at Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, Md., and a member of St. Joseph Parish in Beltsville, Md.

Susan Lea, a member of St.

Francis of Assisi Parish in Derwood, Md., said that young people have an important role to play in defending life.

"This is the generation that is going to change the culture of death," she told the *Catholic Standard*, Washington's archdiocesan newspaper. "The message that everybody has a right to life is a message that young people will pass on to their peers."

More than 400 people from the Diocese of Wichita, Kan., made a 24-hour bus journey through snow and ice to attend the youth rally, Mass and March for Life.

"Despite the chill, we have pledged to stand for life," said Cheryl Greer, a member of the group. "This is our pilgrimage, and we offer it as penance, a prayer to end abortion."

Cleopatre Thelus and Amade Chlodewitsch, college students from Cleveland, traveled to Washington by themselves. "I just wanted to be with my fellow Catholics and stand for life," Thelus said.

Chlodewitsch noted that this was her fourth year attending the rally and Mass.

"I'm glad that it's cold and there is snow — that is more suffering we can offer up to end abortion," she said. "I keep coming back because I'm not going until Roe v Wade is gone."

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Just a reminder...

The Catholic Cemetery of Fort Wayne will be removing Christmas Wreaths after February 20, 2014. If you want to save your Wreath, please remove it NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 20, 2014. If you want to save your Christmas Wreath but cannot remove it by February 20, 2014, please call the Cemetery Office, 260-426-2044, no later than February 14, 2014, and we will save it for you for thirty (30) days only, after which it will be discarded.

Thank you.

CATHOLIC CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, INC OF FORT WAYNE

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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers needed for Hospice Home Fort Wayne — Volunteers are needed to assist the agency in a variety of roles including patient and clerical support. Garden volunteers are also needed to maintain the Seasons of Life perennial garden. Call Ann Blue at (260) 435-3235 or visit www.vnhh.org for information.

Volunteer for St. Mary Soup Kitchen Fort Wayne — St. Mary Parish is in need of regular volunteers for

the soup kitchen on Wednesday and Friday mornings. Additional substitutes are needed for all days and shifts. Interested persons 16 and older should call Carolyn Ransom (260) 750-8373. Some lifting required.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Knights of Columbus pancake breakfasts Granger — The Knights of Columbus Council 4263 will sponsor three pancake breakfasts on Feb. 9, March 9 and April 13 immediately following the 8:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses, in the auxiliary gym at St. Pius X. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 children 6-10 and free for children 5 and under. St. Pius X is located on Fir Road south of SR 23 in Granger.

Spaghetti dinner to raise funds Mishawaka — Hannah's House and the Knights of Columbus Council 1878 will sponsor a spaghetti dinner Friday, Feb. 28, from 5-7 p.m. at the council, 114. W. 1st St. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 5-12. Children under 5 are free. For tickets call (574) 259-5427, or Erin Price at (574) 254-7271. All proceeds benefit Hannah's House.

Fish fries starting during Lent Wabash — The Knights of Columbus, 595 S. Huntington St., will host fish dinners on Friday evenings during Lent, beginning March 7 thru April 18, from 5-7:30 p.m. Cost for adults \$8, children 6-10 \$4 and children 5 and under are free.

Knights plan fish fry Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 7, from 5-7 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under.

Beef and noodle dinner with auction Kendallville — Immaculate Conception Parish, 319 E. Diamond St., will have a beef and noodle dinner Saturday, Feb. 15, following the 4:30 p.m. Mass with an auction including home-made as well as donated items by local businesses.

Knights plan fish fry South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 7, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8.50, children

REST IN PEACE

Angola Findley A. Cameron, 70, St. Anthony of Padua	Joseph Lee Vachon, 70, Queen of Angels	Plymouth John J. Druzik, 71, St. Michael
Columbia City Marjorie J. Saffer, 89, St. Paul of the Cross	Joan R. Carey, 78, St. Vincent de Paul	South Bend Geraldine F. Tajkowski, 96, Holy Cross
Culver Scott A. Huberty, 62, St. Mary of the Lake	Susan June Fuerste, 84, Most Precious Blood	Gabrielle Newhouse, 87, St. Matthew
Decatur Mary Lou Jesionowski, 84, St. Mary of the Assumption	Larry L. Kem, 74, St. Vincent de Paul	Ruth Ann Ryker, 84, St. Anthony de Padua
Fort Wayne Betty Jane St. John, 92, St. Jude	Albert V. Lauer Jr., 82, St. Jude	Robert Truman Eddy, 77, Little Flower
Rita A. Schmidt, 93, Most Precious Blood	Mishawaka Paul E. Trippel, 77, St. Joseph	Julia Sima, 91, St. Anthony de Padua
Damian J. Miller II, 32, St. Vincent de Paul	Helen Cecilia Emenaker, 92, St. Monica	Geraldine H. Williams, 90, Christ the King
William E. Schneider, 87, St. Jude	Monroeville Marcyle A. Gibson, 90, St. Rose	Mary Eileen Carlson, 89, Christ the King
Belinda May Freygang, 55, St. Therese	Notre Dame Brother Edward Walter Wauchter, CSC, 86, Our Lady of Holy Cross Chapel	Henrietta M. Shuamber, 76, Holy Cross
		Robert E. Mell, 76, St. Adalbert
		William G. Storey, 90, St. Hedwig

(5-12) \$3.50. Chicken strips for \$8.50 and shrimp for \$9 will be available.

Catholic Business Network Group Fort Wayne — The Catholic Business Network Group will meet Friday, Feb. 7, beginning with Mass at 7 a.m. in the


St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel. Mass will be followed in the Cathedral Center by guest speaker Ed Waldschmidt, Senior Programmer Analyst — Team Lead at Brotherhood Mutual. Refreshments will be provided by The National Catholic Society of Foresters.

The CrossWord

February 2 and 9, 2014

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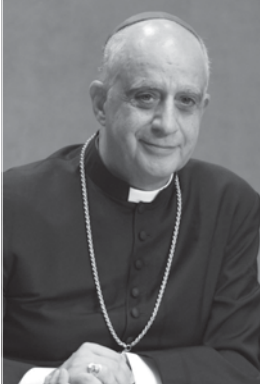
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Hog Roast and Big Game Party

Sunday, February 2, 2014, the St. Joseph the Worker Knights of Columbus will host a Hog roast and family-friendly party. Pulled pork dinner for dine-in or take-out 4-8 pm. SUPER BOWL on big screen TV. Adult beverages... Snacks and Games. Family entertainment 4-8 pm. Face Painting, Board Games, Karaoke for Kids, Crafts, Movies and more! All Proceeds to the new St. Joseph Catholic School. Dinner tickets available at St. Joseph parish office prior to the event or at the door while supply lasts...

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Bishop Dwenger Golden Jubilee with Mass, reception



PHOTOS BY JOE ROMIE

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades welcomes all who braved the cold weather to gather in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on Jan. 26 for a special Mass commemorating the 50-year history (1963-2013) of Bishop Dwenger High School. Joining in the celebration of Mass were, from left, Father Joe Gaughan, Father Bill Sullivan, Father Adam Schmitt, retired, and Father Jacob Meyer.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades receives offertory gifts from teacher Mike Obergfell at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on Jan. 26 during a special Mass commemorating the 50-year history of Bishop Dwenger High School. The gifts were presented by a current student and faculty representing each decade of alumni including: Dave Scudder, '68; John Bennett, '77; Mike Obergfell, '82; Jessica Hayes, '96; Paul Federspiel, '03; and Catherine Yanko, '14.

At the reception in the basement of the University of Saint Francis Performing Arts Center, alumni, faculty and friends enjoy cake, cookies and punch around tables designated with each decade of Bishop Dwenger High School's history.



Join thousands of men from across our diocese who have found this day to be a tremendous source of fellowship, encouragement, exhortation, and prayer. Come for a powerful day of great speakers, Confession with multiple priests, and a Vigil Mass with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. Lunch is provided.



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