



February 16, 2014

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Volume 88, No. 6  
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# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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BY TANIA M. GEIST

FORT WAYNE — About 150 teenagers from across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend came together for the weekend of Feb. 7-9 for the second annual Ignited retreat, "Enter the Fire." The event, held at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne, was a collaboration of numerous Catholic schools and parishes in both South Bend and Fort Wayne.

Ignited 2014 offered a chance for teens to encounter the person of Christ in the sacraments, prayer and fellowship. The aim was "that they would come to know that He will fulfill their deepest longing," said Cindy Black, a retreat organizer and director of the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry.

"It's about a call to authentic relationship — realizing that God's love is what we are made for, and it is the only thing that satisfies," said Liz Cotrupi-Pfunder, who led praise and worship music throughout the weekend with the Liz Cotrupi Band.

Eucharistic Adoration was one aspect of the weekend that several of the teens named as a high point. Adoration is "really building your relationship with Jesus," said Ariella Witt, 18. "Just like you spend time with your friends to really get to know them, you have to spend time with Him. It's that part of the day when nothing else matters — it's just you and Jesus being best friends. It's that special time when you find yourself by finding Him."

Witt, who gave a teen witness, added: "Coming on retreat is the main reason that I found God in my life; so for me, it's everything. I can't put it into words. A couple of years ago I

IGNITED, PAGE 12



NATE PROULX

About 150 teenagers pray at the Ignited retreat, "Enter the Fire," held Feb. 7-9 at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne. The retreat was designed to bring hundreds of high school teens together before the Eucharist for conversion through music, talks, sharing and prayer.

## Don't skip Sunday Mass; people need communion with God, Church

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — It's so important to go to Mass every Sunday because that's where people receive Christ who saves, forgives and unites everyone to His Father, Church and each other, Pope Francis said.

It's also "important that children are well prepared for first Communion because ... after Baptism and Confirmation it is the first step toward belonging strongly, really strongly, to Jesus Christ," he said Feb. 5 at his weekly general audience.

The pope continued a series of talks on the sacraments of Christian initiation, focusing on the Eucharist as the source and summit of the life of the Church.

"In fact, every authentic journey of faith,

communion and witness springs from this sacrament of love," he said.

The pope began his audience talk by greeting the estimated 13,000 people huddled under umbrellas and raincoats as heavy rain beat down on St. Peter's Square.

"Dear brothers and sisters, Good morning, but not good day, huh? It's a bit nasty," he said.

The pope also prayed, at the end of the audience, for all those in Tuscany and Rome affected by severe flooding caused by days of heavy rain.

To help visiting pilgrims who were ill or with disabilities and their caregivers keep warm and dry in the bad weather, the pope said he had them go indoors to the Vatican's Paul VI audience hall to watch the audience on the big screens set up inside.

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CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Newly married couples leave after attending Pope Francis' general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Feb. 5.

## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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

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Published weekly except second Sunday of January; and every other week from the fourth Sunday in June through the middle Sunday of September; and last Sunday in December by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, 1103 S. Calhoun St., P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, IN 46801. Periodicals postage paid at Fort Wayne, IN, and additional mailing office.

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

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News deadline is the Monday morning before publication date. Advertising deadline is nine days before publication date.

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46856-1169; or email:  
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ISSN 0891-1533  
USPS 403630



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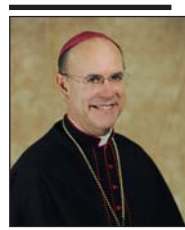
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# The *Magna Carta* of Christianity



IN TRUTH  
AND  
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

In these weeks of Ordinary Time before the season of Lent begins, the Sunday Gospel comes from Saint Matthew's account of the Sermon on the Mount. The Sermon on the Mount has been called the *Magna Carta* of Christianity. The French author Francois Mauriac once said: *Those who have never read the Sermon on the Mount cannot grasp what Christianity is all about.*

In the Gospel this coming Sunday, we will hear the following words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount: *Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.*

The Catechism teaches us that *the Law of the Gospel fulfills the commandments of the Law. The Lord's Sermon on the Mount, far from abolishing or devaluing the moral prescriptions of the Old Law, releases their hidden potential and has new demands arise from them: it reveals their entire divine and human truth. It does not add new external precepts, but proceeds to reform the heart, the root of human acts, where man chooses between the pure and the impure, where faith, hope, and charity are formed and with them the other virtues* (CCC 1968).

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives examples of how His Law, the Law of the Gospel, fulfills the commandments of the Old Law. One example that Jesus gives is the fifth commandment: *You shall not kill.* Our Lord adds to this the proscription of anger, hatred, and vengeance. And then He goes even further, asking His disciples to turn the other cheek and to love their enemies. Jesus is calling us on a moral and spiritual journey towards holiness, the perfection of love.

Another example Jesus gives is the sixth commandment: *You shall not commit adultery.* Jesus calls us to more, to the virtue of chastity: *But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

Our Lord insists on the conversion of our hearts. This happens through the grace of the Holy Spirit and our cooperation with that grace. We receive this grace in the sacraments. I think particularly of the need we have for the Holy Eucharist which strengthens us to live the Law of the Gospel. And the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, which not only restores us to God's grace, but also helps us to progress in the life of the Spirit.

Saint Augustine thought that when he became a Christian, he would attain the life proposed in the Sermon on the Mount. He thought that by receiving Baptism and the Eucharist, he would live the ideals of Christ perfectly. He learned later that he was mistaken. In reflecting on this change in Augustine's thinking, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote: "Only Christ himself truly and completely accomplishes the Sermon on the Mount. We always need to be washed by Christ, who washes our feet, and be renewed by him. We need permanent conversion. Until the end we need this humility that recognizes that we are sinners journeying along, until the Lord gives us his hand definitively and introduces us into eternal life."



CNS PHOTO FROM CROSIERS

**A church window depicts Jesus giving His Sermon on the Mount, which begins with the Beatitudes. Christ's announcement of the kingdom of God with the invitation to conversion is the third theme of the five "mysteries of light" for praying the rosary.**

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus proposes to us a new way of life. He gives us a charter of Christian life. In the qualities of discipleship He describes, we see the image of Jesus Himself. He is teaching us to model our lives on his own. He is the Light of the World. At the same time, recall last Sunday's Gospel, where Jesus says to the disciples in the Sermon on the Mount: *You are the light of the world.* We are light when we live with the mind and the heart of Christ. This is what Jesus teaches us to do in the Sermon on the Mount.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us the way to life, the path to true happiness. The Sermon on the Mount describes for us the path that leads to the Kingdom of heaven. Jesus has given us what Blessed John Paul II called "a code of Christian holiness." He exhorts us to a perfection modeled on that of God Himself: *You must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect* (Matthew 5:48).

Jesus, the Son, reflects most fully this perfection of the Father. United with Him as His brothers and sisters, this is our vocation as well. As the Second Vatican Council taught: *All Christians in any state or walk of life are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity.*

Saint Augustine wrote: *If anyone should meditate with devotion and perspicacity on the sermon our Lord gave on the mount, as we read in the Gospel of Saint Matthew, he will doubtless find there... the perfect way of the Christian life. This sermon contains all the precepts needed to shape one's life.*

It may be helpful in these weeks before Lent to consider our Lenten resolutions in relation to the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. What prayers and sacrifices will help us to grow in our Christian life, in holiness, in our ongoing conversion to Christ?

# U.N. committee presses Vatican on child abuse, some Church teaching

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child continued to insist that the Vatican compile and publish detailed statistics on clerical sexual abuse of minors and that the pope, as head of the Church, can and should order Catholic dioceses and religious orders around the world to implement all the policies of the U.N. Convention of the Rights of the Child.

The committee, which spent an entire day Jan. 16 questioning two Vatican representatives, also urged the Catholic Church to revise the Code of Canon Law to make it mandatory that bishops and religious superiors report suspected cases of sexual abuse to civil authorities, even in countries where civil law does not require such reporting.

The Vatican always has insisted that Church law requires bishops and religious superiors to obey local laws on reporting suspected crimes; however, it also has said that where reporting is not mandatory and the victim does not want to go to the police, the victim's wishes must be respected.

The "concluding observations" of the committee, which monitors compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by the Holy See in 1990, were published Feb. 5.

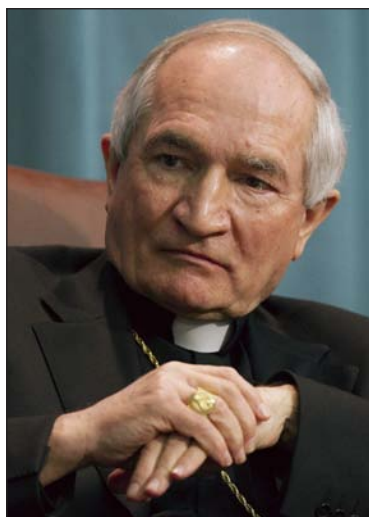
A statement published by the Vatican press office the same day said, "The Holy See reiterates its commitment to defending and protecting the rights of the child, in line with the principles promoted by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and according to the moral and religious values offered by Catholic doctrine."

The committee urged the Vatican to release all its files on clerical sexual abuse cases in order to allow public scrutiny of how cases of alleged abuse were investigated and judged, how offenders were punished and how victims were treated.

"The committee is gravely concerned that the Holy See has not acknowledged the extent of the crimes committed, has not taken the necessary measures to address cases of child sexual abuse and to protect children, and has adopted policies and practices which have led to the continuation of the abuse by and the impunity of the perpetrators," the U.N. report said.

Throughout the report, the committee condemned what its members viewed as a "code of silence" surrounding the cases and claimed "the Holy See has given precedence to the preservation of the reputation of the Church over children's rights to have their best interests taken as a primary consideration."

Testifying before the committee in January, Auxiliary Bishop Charles Scicluna of Malta, the for-



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

**Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, the Vatican representative to U.N. agencies in Geneva, testified before a United Nations committee in January and told the committee that new rules and guidelines adopted under Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis, "when properly applied, will help eliminate the occurrence of child sexual abuse by clergy and other Church personnel." He is pictured in Rome in a 2012 file photo.**

mer investigator of alleged abuse cases in the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said the Vatican knows "there are things that need to be done differently," particularly to address concerns about whether a local bishop or religious superior has covered up cases of alleged abuse.

"Only the truth will help us move on," he told the committee.

Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, the Vatican representative to U.N. agencies in Geneva, also testified and told the committee that new rules and guidelines adopted under Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis, "when properly applied, will help eliminate the occurrence of child sexual abuse by clergy and other Church personnel."

The committee's "concluding observations" said the Church's procedures for dealing with suspected cases of abuse are so hostile to children and their parents that some have reported being "re-victimized by the Church authorities."

The committee's report also objected to confidentiality being "imposed as a condition of financial compensation," although Bishop Scicluna had told committee members that in the vast majority of cases, the compensation is awarded by a court, which sets the terms.

Archbishop Tomasi told Vatican Radio Feb. 5 that his first reaction to the report was "surprise because the negative aspect of the document they produced makes it seem that it was prepared before" he and Bishop Scicluna testified in January. "In fact, the document doesn't seem to have been updated to take into account what has been done in the past few years" by the

Vatican and by individual bishops' conferences.

"The Church has responded and reacted and will continue to do so" to protect children and end the scandal of clerical sexual abuse, the archbishop said. "We must insist on a policy of transparency and zero tolerance for abuse because even one case of the abuse of a child is a case too many."

In other areas concerning the rights of children as set forth in the U.N. convention, the committee:

- Praised a pledge to consider "withdrawing the discriminatory expression 'illegitimate children' which can still be found in canon law."

- Insisted the Church and its teaching on sexuality "contribute to the social stigmatization of and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender adolescents and children raised by same sex couples."

- Said the rights of children to know their biological parents have, in some cases, been violated by Catholic adoption agencies and in cases where the biological father is a priest. The policy of some Catholic convents and hospitals to let mothers know they can anonymously leave unwanted babies and any other practice that gives parents anonymity should be only a last resort, it said.

- Expressed concern about adolescents "separated from their families and isolated from the outside world" when they enter minor seminaries run by some religious orders.

- Asked the Church "to review its position on abortion, which places obvious risks on the life and health of pregnant girls" and to amend Church law to identify "circumstances under which access to abortion services can be permitted."

Archbishop Tomasi commented that the preamble of the Convention on the Rights of the Child "speaks of the defense of the life and of the protection of children before and after their birth," yet "the recommendations that are made to the Holy See include changing its position on abortion," which "seems to be a real contradiction."

- Suggested the Church needs to "overcome all the barriers and taboos surrounding adolescent sexuality that hinder their access to sexual and reproductive information, including on family planning and contraceptives."

The Vatican press office said the Holy See would give the U.N. committee's report, which is not binding, a "thorough study and examination."

"The Holy See does, however, regret to see in some points of the concluding observations an attempt to interfere with Catholic Church teaching on the dignity of human person and in the exercise of religious freedom," the statement said.



## PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, Feb. 16, 7 p.m. — Mass, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne
- Wednesday, Feb. 19, 10 a.m. — All Schools Mass, Joyce Center, University of Notre Dame
- Wednesday, Feb. 19, 5:30 p.m. — Dinner Meeting with Newman Catholic Group and 7:30 p.m. — Speech at Manchester University
- Thursday, Feb. 20, 12:30 p.m. — Meeting of Diocesan Finance Council, Holiday Inn, Warsaw
- Friday, Feb. 21, 8:05 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, Saint John the Baptist School, New Haven
- Saturday, Feb. 22, 4 p.m. — Mass at Rekindle the Fire Conference, Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne

## Light of Learning recipients recognized



PHOTOS BY JOSEPH RAYMOND

Deacon Jim Fitzpatrick, Chili's and local Burger King restaurants hosted the annual Light of Learning Luncheon, which celebrates excellence in Catholic education, on Jan. 27 at the Hotel Fort Wayne. Fort Wayne Light of Learning Award recipients include the following teachers: Margaret Javins, Most Precious Blood School; Emily McKenna, Queen of Angels School; Rita Sordelet, St. Charles Borromeo School; Barbara Cumberland, St. John the Baptist School; Julie Peters, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School; Mary Minser, St. Jude School; Getus (Al) Snyder, St. Therese School; Margaret Schenkel, St. Vincent de Paul School; Angela Whitman, St. Joseph School-Hessen Cassel; Jessica Hayes, Bishop Dwenger High School; and Andrea Isch, Bishop Luers High School. Area teachers are: Becky Hoffman, St. Rose School, Monroeville; Amanda Arnold, St. Louis Academy, Besancon, New Haven; Kathleen J. Beckman, St. Mary of the Assumption School, Avilla; Margaret Aloisio, St. Joseph School, Decatur; Rachel Nelson, Huntington Catholic School, Huntington; Shannon Tracy, St. Bernard School, Wabash; Loretta Kaiser, Sacred Heart School, Warsaw; Tracy Miller, St. Aloysius School, Yoder; Sandra Weikel, St. John the Baptist School, New Haven. Principal James L. Faroh, Sr., of Sacred Heart School, Warsaw, was the administration nominee.



Quality Dining, Inc., hosted the annual Light of Learning Luncheon at the Hilton Garden Inn in South Bend on Jan. 30. South Bend Light of Learning Award recipients are: Katie Flint, Christ the King School; Teresa Foley, Corpus Christi School; Jonelle Lesniak, Holy Family School; Alexandra Egyhazi, Our Lady of Hungary School; Douglas Clark, St. Adalbert School; Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration Mary Vianney Grau, St. Anthony de Padua School; Jennifer Treber, St. John the Baptist School; Leah Steinhiser, St. Joseph School; Kathryn Burnham, St. Jude School; Anita Hunckler, St. Matthew Cathedral School and Doug Miller, Saint Joseph High School. Area teachers are: Amy Gebby, Queen of Peace School, Mishawaka; Catherine McPhilamy, Mishawaka Catholic, Mishawaka; Lynette Kovacs, St. Thomas the Apostle School, Elkhart; Anita Laughlin, St. John the Evangelist School, Goshen; Poor Handmaid of Jesus Christ Sister Marie Heppeler, St. Pius X School, Granger; Marti Merrick, St. Michael School, Plymouth; Kerry Davis, Marian High School, Mishawaka. Principal Amy Weidner of St. Michael School, Plymouth, was the administration nominee.

## ICC's priorities make it to halfway point

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Catholic Conference's (ICC) legislative priorities successfully reached the halfway point in the Indiana General Assembly, also known as "crossover."

Among the ICC priority bills that have advanced to "crossover" include: a measure to strengthen traditional marriage, and bills to improve early childhood education and child-care safety. Legislation to clarify insurance coverage for abortion and a bill to provide better follow-up care after an abortion also moved forward.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director for the Indiana Catholic Conference, who serves as the official spokesman for the Catholic Church on public policy matters, said, "The majority of the bills we have supported this year have passed the first chamber with bipartisan support."

House Joint Resolution 3 (HJR 3), authored by Rep. Eric Turner, R-Cicero, would solidify current law that marriage is between one man and one woman by putting that definition into Indiana's Constitution.

HJR 3 passed the House, 57-40, Jan. 28, after being amended the previous day. HJR 3 currently contains only the statement that a marriage is between one man and one woman. On Jan. 27, the House voted, 52-43, to remove the second sentence, which prohibits any legal status "identical or substantially similar to that of marriage" for unmarried individuals. Turner argued to keep the second sentence because it provides a stronger definition of marriage between one man and one woman, thus banning other legal same-sex arrangements like civil unions.

HJR 3 is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Judiciary on Feb. 10. Tebbe expects there will be attempts in the Senate to restore HJR 3 to its original form putting the second sentence back into the resolution.

A bill to give low-income families with young children access to an early education voucher passed the House Jan. 16, receiving a bipartisan vote of 87-9. The bill, House Bill 1004, establishes the early education scholarship pilot program. The program would provide supplemental funding for eligible children receiving qualified services from certain early education providers. The bill gives a child or a sibling of a child who receives an early-education scholarship and meets certain other applicable criteria access to the Choice Scholarship program from grades K-12.

Three Indianapolis lawmakers, Rep. Bob Behning and House Speaker Brian Bosma, both Republicans, and Democrat lawmaker Rep. Shelli VanDenburgh authored the bill. Tebbe expects the bill to get a hearing in the Senate, but noted that the Senate has been less receptive to early childhood education.

A bill to improve child care regulations for families passed the House, Jan. 28, with bipartisan support, 71-24. The proposal, House Bill 1036, authored by Rep. Kevin

Mahan, R-Hartford City, increases accountability and improves group sizes of children, food, health, safety and sanitation standards. The Division of Family and Children (DFC) would determine the specific standards. The bill moves to the Senate for further consideration. Tebbe expects the bill to get a hearing in the Senate and move forward.

A bill to clarify insurance for elective abortion, House Bill 1123, passed the House with bipartisan support, 80-14. The bill, authored by Rep. Jeffery Thompson, R-Lizton, would prohibit elective abortion coverage in standard health insurance plans. The bill would make elective abortion coverage available only as a separate rider for health insurance policies purchased privately and in group coverage. It now goes to the Senate for consideration. Tebbe expects the bill to get a hearing in the Senate and move forward in the process.

A bill to enhance follow-up care after an abortion passed the Senate, 34-14, on Feb. 4. The bill, Senate Bill 292, authored by Sen. John Waterman, R-Shelburn, provides clarity to the current abortion statute by requiring written documentation of admitting privileges and better notification of where follow-up care can be obtained should complications follow an abortion. Tebbe said the fate of SB 292 is uncertain due to the controversial nature of abortion legislation.

Tebbe explained that a few bills the ICC was successful in halting include House Bill 1264 and Senate Bill 162, which would have added unnecessary government regulation to the school voucher program; and Senate Bill 62, a bill to add more out-of-state gaming operations to compete for Hoosier limited charitable gaming dollars.

What happens next in the legislative process? Tebbe said, "The process starts over again; existing Senate bills will 'crossover' to the House and House bills will 'crossover' to the Senate to be considered by the Senate."

## INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BRIGID CURTIS AYER

### A glance at half-way point, "crossover"

- Marriage Amendment — House Joint Resolution 3 (HJR 3) would solidify current law that marriage is between one man and one woman by putting that definition into Indiana's Constitution. The marriage amendment passed the House 57-40. Status: It moves to the Senate. The Senate Judiciary heard HJR 3 Feb. 10.

- Early education voucher, House Bill 1004, establishes the early education scholarship program for lower income families. The bill passed the House 87-9. Status: It moves to the Senate. The Senate Education and Career Development Committee will hear HB 1004, Feb. 12.

- Child-care regulation, House Bill 1036, increases safety and accountability to certain childcare facilities. It passed the House 71-24. Status: It moves to the Senate. Referred to Senate Health and Provider Services Committee, awaits a hearing.

- Elective Abortion health insurance coverage, House Bill 1123, would prohibit elective abortion coverage in standard health insurance plans. It passed the House, 80-14. Status: It moves to the Senate. Referred to Senate Insurance Committee, awaits a hearing.

- Abortion follow-up care, SB 292, would enhance follow-up care after an abortion. It passed the Senate 34-14. Status: It moves to the House. Referred to the House, awaits assignment to a House Committee.

## A Church without religious sisters is 'unthinkable,' pope says



Pope Francis leaves Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Feb. 2. The pope said a Church without consecrated women is "unthinkable."

CNS PHOTO/TONY GENTILE, REUTERS

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Church without religious sisters would be "unthinkable," Pope Francis said, honoring the contributions consecrated men and women make to the Church and society.

"Every consecrated person is a gift to the people of God on pilgrimage," he said Feb. 2, reciting the Angelus with visitors in St. Peter's Square. The pope had just finished celebrating Mass for the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, which the Church marks as the World Day for Consecrated Life.

"There is such a great need for their presence, which reinforces and renews the commitment to spreading the Gospel, Christian education, charity for the neediest, contemplative prayer, the human and spiritual formation of the young and families, and the commitment to justice and peace in the human family," the pope said.

Straying from his prepared text, Pope Francis told people gathered in the square: "Think what would happen if there weren't any sisters, if there weren't any sisters in the

hospitals, no sisters in the missions, no sisters in the schools. Think what the Church would be like without sisters — no, that's unthinkable."

Consecrated life is a gift that moves the Church forward, he said. "These women who consecrate their lives to carrying forward the message of Jesus — they're great," he added.

Pope Francis asked all Catholics to pray "that many young people would respond 'yes' to the Lord when He calls them to consecrate themselves totally to Him."

The earlier liturgy for the feast of the presentation, once widely known as "Candlemas," began with dozens of sisters, brothers and religious priests carrying lighted candles into St. Peter's Basilica ahead of the pope.

In his homily, he urged religious to allow the joy of the Holy Spirit to guide both their observance of their communities' rules and their willingness to be prophetic.

Religious must "never be rigid or closed, but always open to the voice of God who speaks, who opens and who leads and invites us to go out toward the horizon," he said.

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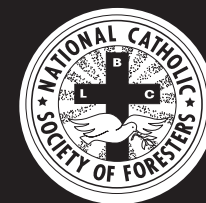
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# NEWS BRIEFS

## Cardinal says pope wants to 'stir things up,' let people ask questions

BALTIMORE (CNS) — U.S. Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien doesn't know what will come out of the Synod on the Family set for October, but the former archbishop of Baltimore believes it will be significant. "Hold onto your seats," Cardinal O'Brien told a gathering of seminarians and faculty at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore. "I think Pope Francis wants to stir things up and allow people to raise questions. I don't think we're going to see a change in doctrine, but we will see a change in tone, and we might see some disciplinary modifications." Those modifications might include adjustments in annulment procedures, Cardinal O'Brien said. "I think most bishops are very concerned that they have more say in annulments in a responsible way," he said Jan. 27. Cardinal O'Brien's comments were part of a wide-ranging address that touched on the retirement of Pope Benedict XVI, the election of Pope Francis and a look at how Pope Francis has governed the Church in his first year.

## Pope calls for promotion of life at every stage

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis called on all Catholics to welcome, serve and respect life, whether still unborn or approaching its natural end. He asked that everyone, each in his or her own

"particular role and sphere, feel called to love and serve life, to welcome it, respect it and promote it, especially when it is fragile and needs attention and care, from the mother's womb to its end on this earth." The pope's remarks came after reciting the Angelus with people gathered in St. Peter's Square Feb. 2, which was designated in Italy as the Day for Life. The pope encouraged all associations and movements involved in "the defense and promotion of life" to continue their work. He also quoted a statement by Italian bishops that "every child has the face of the Lord, lover of life, a gift for families and society." He thanked those in the Diocese of Rome who organized the annual Day for Life celebration, as well as university professors who organized seminars and conferences on "current difficulties linked to childbirth."

## Cardinal says bill stops taxes from 'subsidizing violence' of abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Passage of the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act "will help save lives and will reduce

abortions," U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., said Jan. 28. The measure, known as H.R. 7, was approved 227 to 188. Sponsored by Smith and U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski, D-Ill., the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act applies the principles of the Hyde amendment to federal health programs, including the Affordable Care Act. Since 1976, the Hyde Amendment has prohibited the use of taxpayer dollars to fund federal subsidies to any part of a benefits package that includes elective abortions. "Americans have consistently demanded that public funds not pay for abortion," Smith told House members prior to the vote. President Barack Obama signed an executive order preserving the Hyde amendment restrictions and applying them to the new health insurance exchanges. But Smith said the effort has failed because "many, perhaps most" plans available on health care exchanges include elective abortion. In Connecticut and Rhode Island, at least, state officials have confirmed that all insurance plans offered on their respective health care exchanges include abortion coverage. The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act also

requires that health care providers fully disclose the extent of their abortion coverage, including any abortion surcharges required of premium payers. Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, praised the legislation. "The federal government should not use its funding power to support elective abortion, and should not force taxpayers to subsidize this violence," the cardinal said in a Jan. 28 statement.

## Senate OKs farm bill; Obama to sign it into law during Michigan trip

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With a 62-38 vote Feb. 4, the U.S. Senate passed a five-year comprehensive farm bill, a measure President Barack Obama said was "not perfect" but "on the whole will make a positive difference" for rural economies and the nation at large. House passage came Jan. 29, two days before a second extension of the 2008 farm bill was to expire. The new bill "will build on historic economic gains in rural America over the past five

years, create new jobs and opportunities, and protect the most vulnerable Americans," said Obama, who signed the measure into law Feb. 7 during a visit to Michigan, the home state of Democratic Sen. Debbie Stabenow, chairwoman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. While Catholic groups and other rural advocates were urging passage of a farm bill, their support for the House version of the bill was muted, largely because of an \$800 million cut in food stamps a year and the deleting of agricultural reform measures from the version of the bill that came out of a joint House-Senate conference committee. What praise there was to offer dealt largely with the conferees' ability to put together a compromise bill despite their partisan differences. "While we are disappointed that the final compromise continues to call disproportionately for sacrifices from hungry and poor people in this country and around the world, especially when large industrial agricultural operations continue to receive unnecessary subsidies, we are glad to see support will continue for domestic and international nutrition and development aid, rural development and conservation," said a Jan. 29 statement from Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.



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# St. Louis Besancon transformed for future generations

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

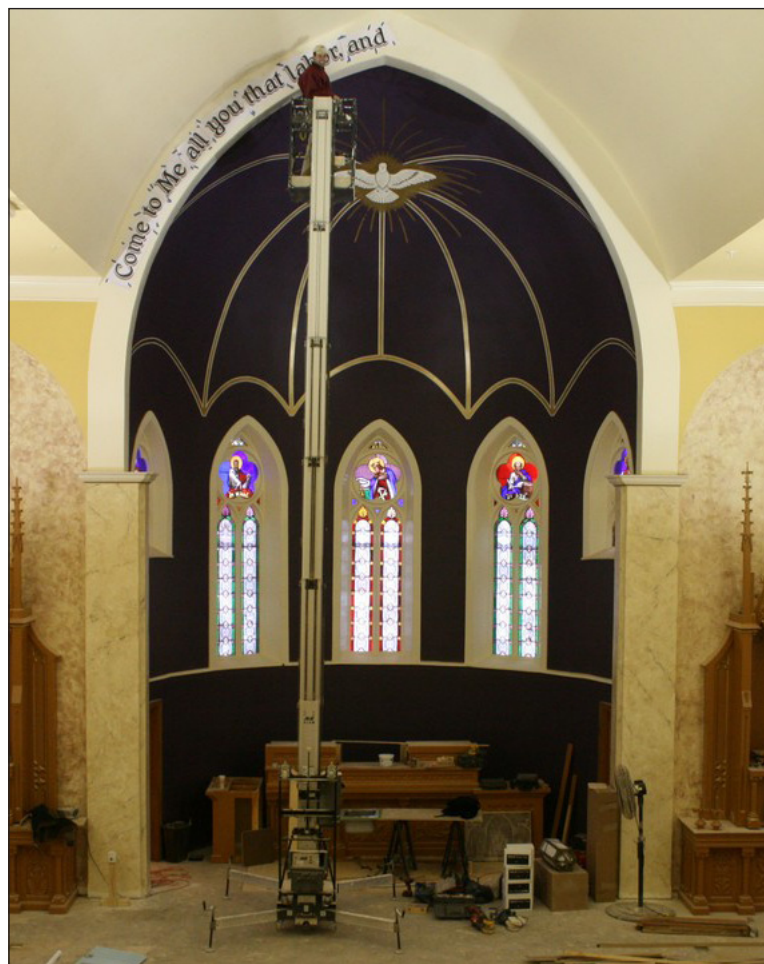
NEW HAVEN — The parishioners of St. Louis are patiently awaiting their return to a newly renovated church. Since June 9, 2013, the faithful of Besancon have been celebrating Mass in their recreation hall as their hallowed space undergoes a stunning transformation.

On the feast of St. Louis the year prior, a capital campaign kicked off to raise funds for the much-needed project coined “CRP” or Church Restoration Project. In his fundraising pitch, lifetime member of the parish, Darrel Dodane, reminded fellow parishioners of the sacrifice that the early founders made to build the church and how he felt it was the responsibility of current members to preserve St. Louis for future generations.

Father Steve Colchin, who has served as pastor at St. Louis since 1997, was very pleased with the overwhelming response from family and friends of the parish, saying, “Because of the generous support of so many, we were able to meet our goal of \$675,000 quickly.” Soon after, architects and decorators were hired, various subcommittees were formed, months of meetings transpired and the process began. It is estimated that the church was last painted nearly 40 years ago and the stained glass windows were restored two decades ago.

The total restoration of the structure, built in 1871, includes extensive exterior work as well as a major interior makeover. One of the first undertakings was repainting the steeple and re-gilding the gold cross, which reaches high to the eastern Allen County sky. A new “Decra” roof was put on to match the three other major buildings on the parish grounds. The shamrocking on the outside of the church was repaired and repainted and all new storm windows were installed.

The roof of the sacristy was also lowered approximately 20 inches to allow the change to a hip roof on the back. In addition, all new doors were installed. The front steel doors were each made three inches wider as Father Steve Colchin has always quipped, “Two fat men and a casket



PHOTOS BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

Most recently completed, the exquisite apse dome is now graced with a dove, symbolizing the Holy Spirit and the verse from Scripture: “Come to me, all who labor and are burdened, and I will refresh you,” another special feature noticed in old photographs and brought back from years gone by.

could not get through.”

Among the many changes inside, a row of pews was removed from the rear to allow for a funeral viewing area. The former cry-room was converted to a fully handicap accessible restroom and a reconciliation room. A new, slightly larger cry-room was placed on the other side. The extremely steep steps to the choir loft were flattened and the south wall was completely reinsulated. All of the pews were removed and refinished in a rich oak stain.

Altars were graciously gifted from Bishop Leonard Blair (former Toledo bishop and now archbishop of Hartford, Conn.) and St. Anthony Parish in Toledo, Ohio. Home to early French settlers, it has been a goal of the committees at St. Louis to incorporate all of the old, along

with the new, during the renovation. The former Altar of Repose is now the Altar of Sacrifice and the columns are being used in the ambo.

The old capitols from the top of the holy water font were also modified. Now all the columns will be Corinthian style adding a look of sheer beauty and elegance to the purple eggplant paint scheme paired with three shades of gold. All new lights and fans were also added.

Another eye-catching highlight includes the exposure of the center window featuring St. Louis for the first-time ever in the history of the church. Donated by former St. Louis pastor and diocesan legend, Father Julian Benoit, the window had previously been hidden for over a century. “Uncovering the window was one of the major goals of our CRP,”

detailed Father Colchin.

Like all projects, a few unexpected setbacks have occurred adding to the length of the renovation of the small country church. “Early on, we discovered rotted 12-foot floor joists that had to be replaced,” explained Father Colchin. Other minor issues

Services were rendered from architect, Sam Jones of the Troyer Group in Mishawaka, local interior decorator Jo Dommer, local artist Rick Fisher and the Jack Laurie Flooring Group, under the direction of Bart Albright.

Father Colchin was also



Father Steve Colchin, pastor of St. Louis Besancon Parish in New Haven, stands with the cross that was regilded and placed on the church on Oct. 2, 2013, as part of the renovation project.

along the way and the bitter cold this winter have slowed the process, but for the most part, all has gone smoothly and a Mass of rededication with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will be planned for some time in the early spring.

Left on the list, is the installation of the pews and the combination of porcelain tile and carpeted flooring. As the completion draws near, hundreds of volunteer hours from countless parishioners have brought the spectacular project to this point.

impressed with Robert Koors, owner of Custom Building and Design, and his crew, and said, “They were so easy to work with and really went above and beyond their duties.”

All in all, the long-awaited completion will be a magnificent and dramatic change for the people of Besancon. Eileen Renier, who will turn 93 this month and has lived within the church steeple’s shadow most of her years, concluded, “I am so happy I will get to see the fruition of this project in my lifetime.”

## ‘Son of God’ in theaters Feb. 28

LOS ANGELES — From the producers of the record-breaking miniseries “The Bible,” Roma Downey, star of the TV show, “Touched by an Angel,” and producer Mark Burnett, comes “Son of God,” the first major motion picture on the complete life of Jesus Christ in nearly 50 years.

“Son of God” will be released by 20th Century Fox in theaters nationwide on Feb. 28, featuring powerful performances, exotic locales, dazzling visual effects and a rich orchestral score from Oscar-winner Hans Zimmer.

“It has been nearly 50 years

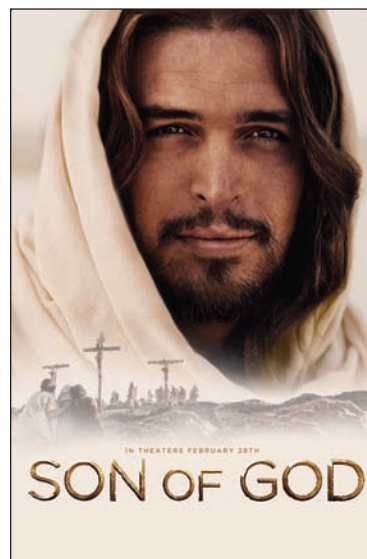
since a major motion picture has been made about the whole life of Jesus,” said Archbishop José H. Gomez, archbishop of Los Angeles. “In this film, the entire cast vividly depicts the life, death and resurrection of our Lord. I hope the movie will be an evangelization resource to share the teachings of the Gospels and the Word of God with our society.”

“‘Son of God’ is an engaging and compelling presentation of the story of Jesus, the Son of God among us. It is a joy to watch this film bring alive the pages of the Gospel and help us see what

those who lived at the time of Jesus experienced,” said Cardinal Donald Wuerl, archbishop of Washington D.C.

Downey and Burnett enlisted the help of Catholic theological and catechetical experts and have developed a variety of ways for Catholics to participate in the film. They are providing these materials with the hope that “Son of God” will bring people into a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Msgr. Brian Bransfield, associate General Secretary of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has authored



a companion reflection guide based on scenes from the film, which encourages viewers to reflect on the deeper meaning of the associated Scripture passages.

Catholic resources for the film can be found at [www.sonofgod.com/Catholic](http://www.sonofgod.com/Catholic).

# St. Pius X Catholic Church announces \$20 million campaign to expand, build new church

GRANGER — St. Pius X Catholic Church, Granger, has announced the Behold, I Make All Things New capital stewardship campaign for facilities expansion. Upon the recommendation of St. Pius' Facilities Study Committee, Parish Council and Finance Council, and approval from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and the Diocesan Finance Committee, the parish is moving forward with the \$20 million capital campaign to fund:

- Construction for a new, larger church
- Construction for a new rectory
- Renovation of the existing church building
- Expansion of the Parish Education Center.

The campaign was formally announced at the Feb. 1-2 weekend Masses. With one-third of the campaign goal already secured through advance commitment gifts and pledges, the parish will now move forward with the active phase of the campaign with its parish membership and the greater community.

Founded in 1870 by Holy Cross Father Edward Sorin, the origins of St. Pius began at St. Joseph's Farm in Granger. In 1951, a new church dedicated to St. Pius X was built on Fir Road south of State Road 23 for the 145 families it served. In 1992, the present church was built to accommodate 1,400 families. St. Pius X has now grown to more than 3,150 families. The parish is fulfilling its mission to provide opportunities of faith formation for all members and serving the many needs of



PROVIDED BY ST. PIUS X CHURCH, GRANGER

The rendering shows the plans for the Behold, I Make All Things New capital stewardship campaign for facilities expansion at St. Pius X Church in Granger.

the surrounding community while proclaiming the Good News to all.

Msgr. William C. Schooler, pastor of St. Pius X, said the campaign is an ambitious, but necessary step for the parish. "We always stand on the shoulders of those that go before us. We benefit by their sacrifices and I'm convinced that the sacrifices we make now will help the next generations," Msgr. Schooler said. "Through the works of this campaign, we will provide for the spiritual needs of our parish today and in the future."

The campaign is raising funds

for three major components of the facilities expansion project:

## A new church

The new church will comfortably seat over 1,300 people, nearly doubling the size of the current church. This will allow more parishioners to attend Mass together each weekend. A Romanesque style of architecture, together with a bell tower, will allow the church to make a very powerful and positive statement of faith on one of the busiest corners in Granger. To make way for the new church, which will connect to the

existing worship space, the parish rectory will be relocated.

## Renovation of the existing church

The existing church is loved and cherished by many parishioners of St. Pius. Renovations to the current church will accommodate multiple needs including a larger gathering space for before and after Mass, weddings, and funeral vigils, a new, larger baptistry, a parish library, and additional meeting rooms, office, and storage space.

## Parish Education Center addition

In 2008, the St. Pius Parish Education Center (PEC) was dedicated to meet the many educational and pastoral needs of the parish. This building also houses the largest ministry of St. Pius, a parochial grade school. To continue to meet the needs of the now flourishing parochial school, a two-story addition to the PEC will include three classrooms to meet the fluctuating needs of the parish and school and three preschool classrooms to allow for additional growth and enhancements to the program. A multi-purpose gathering area will be added to serve the growing needs of the children's ministries, including the youth ministry, before-school and after-school care, a school cafeteria and adequate space for performances and large presentations.

Through this campaign, the efforts of St. Pius X Catholic Church reveal the commitment of the entire parish to the greater mission of the Catholic Church. "Your parish is an evangelizing community that is always reaching out and extending itself to the community, inviting others to encounter Christ here at St. Pius," Bishop Rhoades said.

Those interested in learning more about the Behold I Make All Things New campaign may contact Betsy Quinn in the Parish Campaign Office at (574) 272-8462, ext. 115 or behold@stpius.net.

## USF Jesters presenting spring performance

FORT WAYNE — The Jesters of the University of Saint Francis will present their annual spring performance on March 8 at 6 p.m. and March 9 at 3 p.m. in the North Campus Auditorium at 2702 Spring St. The Jesters' program and this year's performance are supported in part by a grant from the AWS Foundation.

This year's show, "Horse Tales," is set in a stable where horses and dogs are gathering for a fox hunt. As they meet, they share their life stories based on pieces of literature, including, "Misty of Chincoteague," "Black Beauty," "Sea Biscuit" and "Call of the Wild." These various story lines will be portrayed by Jesters participants. Throughout the story, a fox will strive to build a relationship with the horses/dogs, ultimately convincing them to cancel the hunt and creating opportunities to explore themes of friendship, love and loyalty.

Tickets are \$10 and are available beginning in February 2014. Call the School of Creative Arts (SOCA) at (260) 399-7700, ext. 8001 for information.

Sponsored by the University of Saint Francis since 1978, the Jesters is a performing group of

people with mild to severe developmental/physical disabilities. The purpose of the Jesters is to enhance quality of life for people with disabilities by engaging them in the creative arts. The vision is to develop self-expression, self-esteem, socialization and other life skills while providing learning opportunities to the USF community and the community at large.

## Afternoon tea for mothers and daughters

SOUTH BEND — The diocesan Office of Family Life and Saint Joseph FertilityCare Center will co-sponsor an afternoon tea with engaging presentations for teenage young women and their mothers Sunday, March 2, from 1-4 p.m. on the lower level of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center. "Inspired by faith: Understanding and appreciating God's gift of fertility," will include Dr. David Parker, Saint Joseph OB/GYN Specialists and Midwifery, on

"How Teens Can Protect Their Reproductive Health and Fertility;" Suzy Younger, Saint Joseph FertilityCare Center manager and practitioner, on "Unveiling the Mystery of Fertility: What Every Teen Should Know;" and Lisa Everett, Office of Family Life, on "God, Sex and the Meaning of Life: Theology of the Body." A panel of young women will offer personal witnesses about chastity and fertility and a question and answer session with the presenters. The cost of the program is \$10 per family, and registration is required by Feb. 26. Register online at <http://FertilityCareCenter.kintera.org/mother-daughter-tea> or call (574) 335-6474 or email: [youngesu@sjrhc.com](mailto:youngesu@sjrhc.com).

## Holy Cross and ACE develop free vocations curriculum

NOTRE DAME — A new vocations curriculum developed by the

Congregation of Holy Cross, U.S. Province Office of Vocations and the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education has received an Imprimatur from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

"To Make God Known, Loved and Served" is a free, downloadable vocations curriculum ([curriculum.holycrossvocations.org](http://curriculum.holycrossvocations.org)) for grade-school teachers and catechists to help students come to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Church's vision of vocation for the faithful. By using this curriculum, the goal is for elementary and middle school students to become engaged and begin to consider God's call in their own life. That can be a committed single life, marriage or vocations to the Priesthood or religious life.

The curriculum was the collaborative effort of many, not only within the Holy Cross Office of Vocations, but also with ACE educators. ACE developed the individual grade-level lesson

plans based on Holy Cross' theology of vocations.

Along with making the curriculum available for free to any Catholic educator, the program was also sent directly to all Holy Cross parishes with schools (grades K-8). It was also made directly available to ACE schools, PACE (Pacific Alliance for Catholic Education, which is administered by the University of Portland) and Notre Dame's ECHO's Faith Formation Leadership program. The Office of Vocations has also alerted vocations directors at the National Religious Vocation Conference and the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors.

An Imprimatur is official approval from the Catholic Church. Bishop Rhoades gave the Imprimatur on Jan. 14. Prior to approval, the curriculum was reviewed by Msgr. Michael Heintz, director of the Master of Divinity Program at Notre Dame and rector of St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. Msgr. Heintz teaches undergraduate and graduate theology courses at Notre Dame.

The free material can be downloaded for use as individual lessons, or printed and assembled into resources for ongoing use. The entire curriculum is available at [curriculum.holycrossvocations.org](http://curriculum.holycrossvocations.org).

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Distractions: helpful or harmful?

I met a woman who traveled for three years following her husband's untimely death following a heart attack. She worked as a traveling nurse in areas from the East Coast to the West, living in studios or one-bedroom apartments while her house sat empty back home. She found a new slice of life that actually had a bit of joy in it as she met new people and experienced new landscapes all across the country. Her grief was not part of this nomadic life.

Then her oldest daughter gave birth to her first grandchild and her strongest desire was to settle back home to be near this new life. It was then that her grief over her husband's death rose up in a fierce way, having been suppressed for three years.

"When I moved home, I was so excited. Then it hit me. Joe was no longer here in our house. I relived his death over and over," she said. "It was so painful and I was so lonely. It was almost crippling. I finally realized this was the grief I had been

avoiding for the past three years."

There are times along the grief journey particularly in the beginning when the pain is raw, when being busy is a healthy thing to do. Those are times when we take purposeful breaks from the heaviness of grief, or must set about accomplishing life's ever-present tasks.

However, being excessively busy with no time to mourn in personally appropriate ways can hinder the healing process and must be monitored closely. It's important for us to understand the need to face our feelings and respond to them in healthy ways.

I found in my own experience following the death of my husband Trent and the subsequent deaths of my mom and my young nephew, Adam, that though it feels like trial and error when one first acknowledges the hard work to be done to reconcile a loss into life as it is now, it is really just a matter of following your heart.

As I struggled to reconcile to my new role as single mother after



KAY COZAD

### HOPE IN THE MOURNING

Trent was killed, I found myself overwhelmingly busy with the comings and goings of my two young daughters' lives. And of course that was my desire. However, it wasn't long before I found myself crashing in the evening after the girls were in bed. Fortunately, a very wise woman counseled me to find time to get out at least once a week, "even if you just get a babysitter and sit in your backyard," she joked.

I eventually saw wisdom in her encouragement and slowly over time I found a balance between the continuous onslaught of life events and

HOPE, PAGE 9

## 'A child shall lead them'

On Jan. 22, I spoke at an event planned for 8,000-plus young people at the March for Life in Washington, D.C. The event I was at had been set up to accommodate an overflow crowd because the Verizon Center, which can hold more than 18,000, had been maxed out. The Arlington Diocese planned two events the day before the March for more than 15,000 youths. The only reason these events aren't all bigger is the seats are all gone.

Bitter cold temperatures and snow, which canceled flights and closed roads, knocked down the numbers for the 2014 March for Life, but protestors were still in the tens-of-thousands, most of them young people.

Of course, if there had been a protest of that magnitude against guns or global warming, mainstream media would have been swarming the event. Sadly, they managed to overlook our presence. They like to create cultural trends instead of reporting them.

Regardless, the fact that young people are taking a turn toward life is fast becoming undeniable. Anyone who saw the endless river of teens and college students march down Constitution Avenue — not embittered protestors, but joyful young people celebrating the gift of life — could see the culture-shift in progress. This is the generation that will end abortion.

Young people don't remember the explosion of slogans and emotions that followed *Roe v. Wade*. The dust has settled. They're seeing the obvious.

They can see what science has made irrefutable: a fetus is a human life. A baby has a heartbeat at 18 days, brainwaves at 42 days, all body systems present at eight weeks, fingernails at 11 weeks, has vocal cords and can cry at 12 weeks, can feel pain at 20 weeks, and can survive if delivered instead of aborted at 23 weeks.

They can see the obvious ethical implications of abortion. If a fetus is a life, how can it possibly be deemed moral, or legal, to grab it with forceps and twist and pull it to pieces through all nine months of a pregnancy? (Sorry for the brutal language, but we have to look at the act of an abortion for what it actually is.) If that isn't wrong, what is?

They've seen the impact it's had on women. The book "Complications" cites 650-plus papers, mostly from medical journals, that show abortion has a negative impact on almost every area of a woman's health, from breast cancer to infertility to autoimmune disease to mental-health problems. In Finland a study of 600,000 women showed that women who have an abortion are six times more likely to commit suicide. A study published in the *British Journal of Psychiatry* found that women who had an abortion were 81 percent more likely to suffer from mental health problems. (If that's you, please visit Project Rachel for help: [hopeafterabortion.com](http://hopeafterabortion.com).)

Thanks to the efforts of people



CHRISTOPHER STEFANICK

### REAL LIFE CATHOLIC

like Lila Rose (not to mention the moral atrocity of people like Kermit Gosnell) they have seen the dark business of abortion for what it is. Doctors walk with \$500-\$900 and young women, often desperate and convinced there are no other real options, end up with scars that last the rest of their lives.

They know it's a farce that abortion is about saving women's lives. The American Life League has a declaration signed by 481 medical doctors who all confirm that an abortion is never necessary to save a mother. Sometimes a procedure that indirectly results in the baby's death is necessary, like when a fallopian tube is removed in an ectopic pregnancy or when a pregnant woman needs chemotherapy, but that's not an abortion. The difference between the two is as clear as the difference between shooting someone and unintentionally letting someone die.

But all that aside, the number of abortions performed even with the intent to protect a woman's health are astronomically small compared with the abortions of convenience or as a result of desperate circumstances, which could have been helped in other ways at a crisis pregnancy center.

Many young people have encountered good couples who wait indefinitely for adoptions, thanks to the shortage of "unwanted" babies who manage to survive the womb. They've heard stories like Father Tom Vander Woude's. He learned of a couple about to abort their Down syndrome baby if they couldn't find someone to adopt. He posted about it on the parish Facebook page and got hundreds of offers — 900 emails poured in and volunteers had to come to the parish to help man the phones. Every baby is a wanted baby.

Forty-plus years after *Roe v. Wade* almost 25 percent of pregnancies end in abortion in the United States. We've created a cultural climate of death. It's bad for society, it's bad for women, and it's a moral atrocity. Sure, it's "a choice," but it's the wrong choice.

Thankfully, all of that seems crystal clear to this young generation. The people at the helm in politics and media can pretend not to notice them, but you can only overlook a tsunami for so long.

Visit speaker and author Christopher Stefanick at [www.RealLifeCatholic.com](http://www.RealLifeCatholic.com).

## Follow God's law, in Jesus



### THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt 5:17-37

The Book of Sirach, that is the source of this weekend's first reading, is part of a collection of biblical writings that in their very origin teach an important lesson.

As various fortunes, political, economic, and individual, changed and reversed among God's people in the decades after the Babylonian captivity, and as new alien empires seized the Holy Land, Jews emigrated from the homeland of their ancestors to other places.

Understandably, many went to places where opportunities were more plentiful.

While certainly some of these emigrants not only survived, but possibly, did well in their new surroundings, one thing was lacking. It was living in a society in which all acknowledged the God of Israel.

So, to record their ancient religious beliefs, and very importantly to pass these beliefs along to oncoming generations, Jewish scholars composed books such as Sirach.

The essential point in Sirach was that human reason and honoring God are not ideas at odds with each other. Obeying God, logic can prove, is the way to order, peace, justice and reward in human life.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the

Corinthians is the source of the second reading. Paul, who would have been no stranger to this notion of a compatibility between divine revelation and human wisdom, as he was so well trained in Judaism but also exposed to Greek philosophy, added a new dimension to the story. Revelation is of a reality that human knowledge often cannot comprehend.

He refers to "hidden wisdom" and "mystery." We as humans simply cannot understand all. In great love, God therefore has revealed to us what otherwise we would never know.

The Gospel reading is from St. Matthew. Speaking of the Commandments, familiar to every Christian as they were familiar to the Jews who heard Jesus, the Lord expounds on the meaning of several of these rules for life given by God to Moses on Sinai.

This process reveals two important factors. The first is that God's law is permanent and unchanging. This is logical. It touches very basic instincts and conditions among humans, all attached deeply and intrinsically to human nature itself, and as such it is not open to qualifications or to changes that humans might wish to make.

Secondly, here the Lord speaks with authority. He defines and explains the law of Moses. Jews did not regard the law of Moses as merely a set of principles composed by Moses. Rather, Moses was the medium through which God revealed the divine law to humanity. God is the author of the divine law. He is the author of the Commandments. He is the lawgiver.

By defining and making more precise this law, the Lord acts as God. It is an important revelation of the identity of Jesus.

### Reflection

This weekend looks to the past weeks and feasts as background, and it looks ahead. In both cases, it confronts us with the realities of our nature. It places us in relationship with God. It shows us that God loves us with a divine love.

At Christmas, the Epiphany, and at the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, the Church celebrated the events of salvation achieved for us by Christ, but it also told us about the Lord. It identified the Lord.

In these readings, the Church tells us that to wander away from God's law and follow our instincts or our limited reasoning is folly. Humans, impaired by Original Sin, always have trouble understanding this lesson.

Before too long, the Church will lead us into Lent. It will be a time in which we strengthen ourselves to know our limitations and conform ourselves to what we are, human beings, but humans destined for eternal life with God, in Jesus.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Sir 15:15-20 Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34 1 Cor 2:6-10 Mt 5:17-37

**Monday:** Jas 1:1-11 Ps 119:67-68, 71-72, 75-76 Mk 8:11-13

**Tuesday:** Jas 1:12-18 Ps 94:12-15, 18-19 Mk 8:14-21

**Wednesday:** Jas 1:19-27 Ps 15:2-5 Mk 8:22-26

**Thursday:** Jas 2:1-9 Ps 34:2-7 Mk 8:27-33

**Friday:** Jas 2:14-24, 26 Ps 112:1-6 Mk 8:34 — 9:1

**Saturday:** 1 Pt 5:1-4 Ps 23:1-6 Mt 16:13-19



# End-of-life decision: Can a pacemaker be turned off?

Physicians and their patients are frequently challenged with moral issues as it becomes clear that death is approaching. As a cardiologist, I take care of many people who have devices like a pacemaker or an ICD (implantable cardioverter-defibrillator). When their heart condition progresses to end-stage there are times when a patient may ask me to turn their device off. As a Catholic and a physician, when would that be acceptable? Allow me to first educate the readers on pacemakers and ICDs.

Pacemakers are inserted when a person's heart rate is too slow (bradycardia). The great majority of the time the presenting symptom is passing out (syncope) or episodes of lightheadedness or dizziness. A clear indication for a pacemaker is documentation that somebody's heart is stopping (asystole). Usually if the heart stops for about five seconds or more the individual will pass out. This is an unequivocal indication for a pacemaker. Then there are those people whose heart just begins to beat too slowly and the main symptom is just profound fatigue. In general if your heart rate starts running below 40 you likely need a pacemaker (unless you are a 30-year-old marathon runner!).

Implantable cardioverter-defibrillators (ICDs) are placed for mainly two reasons. The first and clearest indication is an individual who goes into a life-threatening arrhythmia and nearly dies. The inciting arrhythmia is usually ventricular tachycardia or ventricular fibrillation. This is typically described as a cardiac arrest. If you are not lucky enough to get promptly cardioverted (shocked) back to a normal rhythm you will die. Those that have been successfully resuscitated from sudden death are then candidates for ICDs because it is likely that this potentially fatal arrhythmia will recur. The ICD will then prevent death by automatically shocking the heart when this rhythm disturbance occurs again.

Then there are people who are candidates for an ICD based on a prediction that they are at high risk for a fatal arrhythmia because of

their heart disease. The most common condition is a weak heart muscle with a left ventricular ejection fraction (EF) of less than 35 percent. These people meet the criteria for placement of an ICD since studies have shown that those that have an EF of less than 35 percent and are protected with an ICD have a better chance of long-term survival. As a point of clarification, all ICDs come with a pacemaker. So if you have an ICD you also have a pacemaker.

When would it be morally acceptable to turn an ICD off? As some patients' heart disease progresses they begin to have recurrent congestive heart failure (CHF) and frequent admissions to the hospital. This is a common scenario, and despite good medicines and skilled heart failure experts, they continue to deteriorate. It becomes clear they will not survive much longer. They are short of breath all the time and they are miserable. It is then time to discuss end-of-life wishes.

When death is becoming eminent it is not uncommon to actually have an increase in arrhythmias and therefore be at risk for frequent shocks. I worry about my patients getting recurrent shocks from the ICD in the last hours or days of their life causing pain and suffering and actually detracting from a more comfortable and dignified death. A decision to turn off the ICD so the patient no longer will be shocked out of their arrhythmia is really analogous to a "Do-Not Resuscitate" order or "Allow Natural Death" (A.N.D.). This is well within the teaching of the Catholic Church. Dying from an arrhythmia is not a bad way to go for lack of a better way to express it. When the arrhythmia occurs you typically pass out and slip away peacefully.

What about turning pacemakers off? Pacemakers are quite simple really. When your heart slows down below a particular rate the pacemaker kicks in with a micro-electrical stimulus that makes the heart beat. Most pacemakers are set to pace the heart when the rate goes below the range of 50-70. Patients that have a pacemaker usually have no idea when it is stimulating their

## THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

DR. DAVID KAMINSKAS

heart. It certainly causes no pain or discomfort.

Many patients though, that have a pacemaker become pacemaker dependent. If you turn their pacemaker off their heart stops and they die very suddenly. This is akin to physician-assisted suicide or euthanasia in my opinion and that of religious scholars. If you poll physicians, the majority is against turning pacemakers off, although they are typically comfortable with turning off ICDs. As a point of clarification, when an ICD is turned off the pacemaker part of the device is typically left on.

Many times through the course of my career I have had patients and families ask me if the pacemaker is left on will it unnecessarily prolong their loved ones life. The answer is that it will not. If, for example, you are dying of cancer, the death will still take place in the same time frame whether you have a pacemaker or not.

Let us learn to embrace death as part of our journey toward everlasting life with our Lord. As written in John 14:1-3 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God and faith in Me. In My Father's house there are many dwelling places; otherwise, how could I have told you that I was going to prepare a place for you? I am indeed going to prepare a place for you, and then I shall come back to take you with Me, that where I am you also may be."

**Dr. David Kaminkas** is a cardiologist and the treasurer of the Dr. Jerome Lejeune Guild of the Catholic Medical Association. All health professionals are welcome to join. Visit [www.fortwayneccma.com](http://www.fortwayneccma.com).

terms with her grief and started at the beginning with the healing process, albeit three years after the loss. She, too has now struck a balance between being busy or distracted and slowing down to acknowledge the myriad feelings that come with mourning the loss of a loved one.

Distractions are commonplace in our fast-paced American culture and we are bombarded with the encouragement to "get over it quickly" and "move on" from our grief. But those of us who have lost dear ones know that there is no quick fix to mourning a loss. It is a process that we must take time to work through as our hearts lead us.

Perhaps as our journeys proceed and we learn what we must do to heal, we will choose our commitments, activities and behavior a little

more wisely. We will take the time we need to acknowledge our loss, sit with our grief and feel all that comes to us, and seek the support we need to respond to those feelings, even in the busy-ness of life. And as we do the work of grief, over time, our broken hearts will begin to heal and we will be present to all that life has to offer — distractions and all. I suspect that is what our loved ones would want for us.

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

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for February 16, 2014

Matthew 5:17-37

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: a lesson in how to live forthrightly. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

UNTIL HEAVEN LEAST ANGRY TO COURT ADULTERY DO NOT SWEAR HEAD	PASS AWAY KINGDOM GIFT LAST PENNY RIGHT EYE CITY WHITE	BREAKS SCRIBES ALTAR COMMIT TEAR IT OUT GREAT KING BLACK
--	--	--

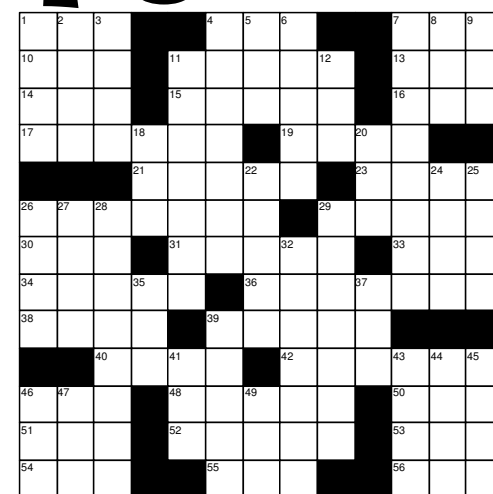
### YES & NO

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

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## The CrossWord

February 16  
and 23, 2014



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Based on these Scripture Readings: Sir 15: 15-20; Mt 5: 17-37 and Lv 19: 1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor 3: 16-23; Mt 5: 38-48

### ACROSS

- 1 Center
- 4 Mountain Time
- 7 "\_\_\_ Peter to pay Paul
- 10 All \_\_\_ the five loaves and two fish
- 11 Medicated
- 13 Vane direction
- 14 "To the right!"
- 15 Shall not \_\_\_ the Kingdom
- 16 Served in battle
- 17 Affect
- 19 Font
- 21 Just beyond \_\_\_
- 23 Lives in Middle East

### DOWN

- 26 Hell
- 29 Afloat (2 wds.)
- 30 North American Native
- 31 Imitation chocolate
- 33 Blessed \_\_\_ thou
- 34 Bumpy
- 36 A contemporary of Paul
- 38 Pope Francis has one
- 39 Stone pillar
- 40 Tap in lightly
- 42 Troublemaker
- 46 French "yes"
- 48 Tapestry
- 50 Time period

- 51 Behind
- 52 "Life and \_\_\_" set before you
- 53 Dozen
- 54 My enemy
- 55 An \_\_\_ for an eye
- 56 Commandments

### DOWN

- 1 Christ's gift bringer
- 2 Object
- 3 Bottomless
- 4 Billings' location
- 5 Concord e.g.
- 6 Wailing and grinding of \_\_\_
- 7 Turn around
- 8 We believe in \_\_\_ God
- 9 Gamblers placement
- 11 League of \_\_\_
- 12 Lose moisture
- 18 To be
- 20 Pet dog's head
- 22 Diamond weight
- 24 Air (prefix)
- 25 Flying mammals
- 26 \_\_\_ of Mexico
- 27 Decorative needle case
- 28 Red, earthy rock
- 29 Do away with law
- 32 Run
- 35 School group
- 37 Papal name
- 39 Revelry
- 41 Crazy
- 43 Bible is sacred \_\_\_
- 44 Canal
- 45 Falls on the just and the unjust
- 46 Clod
- 47 Alien's spaceship
- 49 Halo light

Answer Key can be found on page 11

## HOPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

my own need to mourn my loss.

With my own experience in mind, I encouraged my friend those years ago to examine her reason for traveling. As she became educated about the universality of grief, through her support group meetings and seminars and books, she came to understand that grief work is heart work. She looked back on her busy-ness and realized that though at first it was necessary for her to travel just to survive, later it became a consorted effort not to feel the pain of her loss.

My friend eventually came to

# Sports

**CHARGERS FOR CHANGE GAME RAISES MONEY FOR BREAST CANCER GROUP** Feb. 8 marked the fifth annual Chargers for Change fundraiser, as the men's and women's basketball teams of Ancilla College hosted the event. The Ancilla Chargers faced off against the Red Hawks of Lake Michigan College in conjunction with Ounce of Prevention to raise money and awareness for breast cancer research and patient support. "We really love fun public events like this. Awareness is key to prevention and Ancilla basketball gives us one more opportunity to spread the word," Jennifer Houin, cofounder of Marshall County's Ounce of Prevention organization said.

## JV teams claim CYO hoops title

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The St. Rose/St. Louis Twins had an especially sweet victory when they claimed the 2014 Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) fifth-and-sixth-grade small school title on Monday evening, Feb. 3. The Twins won the final game a year ago and tradition has it that the reigning champions are entitled to host the next year's tournament.

In the past, St. Rose/St. Louis have not been able to do that because they didn't have their own court, but with St. Rose's purchase of the Monroeville Elementary School earlier in the school year, another dream became a reality.

"This is the first year for the girls to have a home gym, so the win was extra special," explained Twins' Athletic Director and CYO Business Manager Ava Meyer.

The win was not an easy task,

however. Coach Corey Sheehan and the Twins had battled with St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel on two different occasions during the season — each claiming a win and both squads had done well against their conference foes.

So, once the tournament finally got underway after several weather cancellations, it was not surprising the two teams each made it through their brackets to face each other one last time in the championship.

In the showdown, Coach Ed Merz' Squires jumped out to a 6-4 first-quarter lead, then held the Twins scoreless in the second quarter to take a 9-4 advantage into the locker room at the half.

But St. Rose/St. Louis had a big second half and climbed their way back to slip by the Squires for a 17-16 victory.

In the loss, Hannah Sweeney and Ingrid Spenn each had five points with Allie Beard, Maddie Parsenow and Addie Knipp adding a bucket each for Hessen

Cassel. Audrey Renninger, Abby Sheehan and Bella Roussey all had a basket for the Twins. Meg Saalfrank had four points and Maggie Castleman led all scorers with seven.

St. Therese won the coveted boys' Blue League championship, 30-16, with St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel coming in runner-ups.

Coach Chad Creager's Crusaders played an awesome tournament and had a great season going 7-0 against other small schools in the league.

With 12 players on his roster, Creager had a nice mix of fifth-grade talent and strong sixth-grade leaders. His team finished with a 14-5 overall record.

"It was a great team effort," Creager remarked. "Our boys play very unselfish."

Creager and the older squad's coach, Zach Palmer, recall that the last CYO title dates back to the late 1990s, and they were pleased to end the dry spell. Many of the younger boys play

"up," so the future is bright at St. Therese.

"We play well as a team for a young group," explained Palmer.

The seniors were victorious in their matchup against St. Louis/St. Rose on Saturday morning, Feb. 8, by a score of 47-33. Blake Rhymer had 13 points for the Twins, while Zach Frantz added 12 for the Crusaders. St. Therese's Evan Creager led all scoring with 17 as the Crusaders improve to 4-1 in the Blue League.

In varsity girls' action, the Twins hosted former teammates, St. John the Baptist, New Haven, in a non-conference, weeknight matchup on a snowy Tuesday, Feb. 4. The first half was neck-and-neck with the Raiders ahead, 17-15; but it was all New Haven in the second half, thanks to the deadly shot of Grace Renbarger, who finished with 18 points.


The Raiders won, 36-19. Norah Painter was a big presence inside adding 12 and Grace Wharton

rounded out the scoring with six points. Nevaeh Feasby was the high scorer for St. Rose/St. Louis with 10.

On Saturday, Feb. 8, the Twins lost to St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel in a conference showdown, 36-19. Katherine Knapke led all scorers with 10 points for St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, including six in the first quarter and Erica Renninger was tops for the Twins with nine.

The girls' CYO championship games are slated for Saturday, Feb. 15, at St. Charles.

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

### St. Stanislaus men plan barbeque

New Carlisle — The men's annual bar-b-que will be Sunday, Feb. 23, in the St. Stanislaus Kostka Church Social Center, 55756 Tulip Rd, from noon to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and includes beverage and dinner at 3 p.m.

### Day of Reflection

Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, Feb. 26, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "Praying the Our Father." Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is \$20 and includes lunch. Register by Feb. 21 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

### Jonah fish fry planned

Mishawaka — St. Bavo Parish will be hosting a Jonah fish fry Friday, March 14, in the school gymnasium, 524 W. 8th St., from 4-7 p.m. Ticket prices prior to the event are \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for K-8, and preschoolers are free. Tickets purchased at the door are \$9 for

adults and seniors, \$5 K-8, and preschoolers are free. Carryout is available. Beer and wine will be available. Contact St. Bavo at (574) 255-1437 for information.

### Knights plan spaghetti dinner

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, Feb. 19, from 5-6:30 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the St. Peter's food pantry.

### Teaching Mass offered

Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Church will offer a teaching Mass Monday, Feb. 24, with Father Dale Bauman. Church will be open for Eucharistic Adoration from 5-6 p.m. and Mass will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. For information contact Jessie Bloom at (260) 424-5535 ext. 22.

### Knights plan spaghetti dinner

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Feb. 21, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8.50, children (5-12) \$3.50. Carryout available.

### Hungarian goulash and langalo dinner

South Bend — Our Lady of Hungary School, 735 W. Calvert St., will have a goulash and langalo dinner Saturday, Feb. 22, from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are \$8 per dinner, children 6-12 \$4.50 and children under 6 free. Additional goulash \$6, additional langalo \$2. Carryout available. Tickets available at the pastoral center.

## The CrossWord

February 16 and 23, 2014

M	I	D		M	S	T		R	O	B
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## ICCL matchups offer thrilling basketball action

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — The weather in St. Joseph County had finally unleashed its grip on the Inter-City Catholic League's schedule and it opened up some thrilling games at the area Catholic high schools.

Two teams, though vastly improved, were searching for answers before the postseason embarked in this week's matchup.

The red-clad St. Adalbert squad faced their eastside rivals, the Pumas of Queen of Peace, in a rematch that saw an Eagle two-point win earlier in the season.

The Pumas were poised to avenge their defeat and pounced to an early 6-0 lead until the lanky forward of the Eagles, Avery Shrum, broke the scoring drought by scooping in a layup with 15 seconds remaining in the first and cut the deficit to a four-point margin.

Field goals would be hard to come by or nonexistent as the Pumas' Christian Mazuk's layup after a steal was the only one for each team.

The lack of scoring was precipitated by a couple of factors; the Pumas' Colin Jones was shadowing Shrum and the rebounding machine of St. Adalbert's Jason Galindo was

limiting the second shot opportunities of Queen of Peace.

The second half would show more of the same.

Garrett Vangundy, the talented point guard for the Eagles, tried to make a dent in the Pumas' lead; but his crossover drive into the lane was not enough as Josh Nickles and Mazuk combined for 12 for Queen of Peace and were victorious in the defensive battle, 16-7.

In other games from around the league, Christ the King, behind a 20-point performance on Michael Dunkelberger, stunned Corpus Christi, 50-28.

The Panthers of St. Anthony knocked off Holy Family, 31-13, as Nick Crates scored 14 in the win.

The Eagles of St. Joseph edged by Holy Cross, 45-37, behind Josh De St. Jean's 17 and Ben Lamont's 11. Eliot Zynewicz and John Bader had 19 and 10 points respectively in the defeat.

In an old-fashioned barn burner, the Blazers of St. Matthew squeaked by St. Michael, 28-27, with the help of Mason Talos' 12. Brady Holiday had another big day despite the loss throwing in 17.

Despite a hard fought first quarter, the Falcons of St. Jude were overmatched in the next three as the Saints of Mishawaka Catholic were

victorious, 46-17, behind double-digit scoring of Ike Branson and Zack Whitfield.

Undefeated in the league, the Lions of St. Pius would have the task of playing two games on Sunday to keep their record unblemished.

First up would be St. Thomas and the tandem of Tommy Ghopp and Nolan Grose, who both scored in double figures, however, the trifecta of Walter Ellis, Zach Lattimer and Reese Jackowiak were too much as the Lions snatched a victory, 53-50

In the nightcap, the Lions kept their day and their record perfect by displacing St. Matthew, 47-31, again with high scoring efforts of Ellis and this time Sam Padmos. Talos paced the Blazers with 11 points.

"Due to the severity of this winter the ICCL will have to permanently cancel some games," explained Tony Violi, president of the league. "We have run out of gym dates and times. Unfortunately, in order to have a complete playoff schedule in time for our spring calendar, we will have to shorten the season."

For the complete list of schedules and locations, go to the web site at [www.icclsports.org](http://www.icclsports.org)

## REST IN PEACE

### Angola

Howard C. Freygang, 82, St. Anthony/Padua

### Donaldson

John C. Hiss, 81, Catherine Kasper Chapel

### Fort Wayne

Joseph Nolan Becker, 36, St. Jude

Beverly J. Folds, 84, Most Precious Blood

Joseph Daniel Eash, 59, St. Vincent de Paul

Michael E. Niccum, 43, St. Charles Borromeo

Eileen E. Smith, 86, St. Vincent de Paul

Jane N. Winkler, 79, St. Vincent de Paul

### Granger

Steve A. Bacsa Jr., 70, St. Pius X

Brenda Mell, 64, St. Pius X

Frances E. Probst-Shearer, 85, St Pius X

### Huntington

Sister Mary Magdalen Heim, OLVM, 101, Victory Noll

Sister Rosario Lara, OLVM, 97, Victory Noll

### Notre Dame

Judith A. Keenan, 74, Our Lady of Holy Cross Chapel

### New Haven

Mary Lou Miller, 79, St. John the Baptist

### South Bend

Carl Joseph Giefing Sr., 86, St. Jude

Geraldine Wantuch, 92, Our Lady of Hungary

Mary Frances Vaerewyck, 82, St. Therese, Little Flower

Robert Joseph Vaerewyck, 81, St. Therese, Little Flower

Robert A. Mahler, 74, St. Anthony de Padua

Michael John Leonard May, 65, Holy Cross

Josephine J. Remenih, 94, St. Matthew

Mark J. Szweda, 45, Christ the King

### Wabash

Richard Rick Bennett, 64, St. Bernard

### Yoder

Robert Lewandowski, 80, St. Aloysius

Anne K. Loesch, 77, St. Aloysius



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# IGNITED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

would have never spent my weekend like this. It's really special to see that if you're a teen living your faith, you're not alone."

Another favorite aspect for teens was the participation of numerous religious — both men and women — who helped with activities like leading small group discussions. At the retreat's conclusion, the teens expressed their strong appreciation for all the religious with a standing ovation of thanks.

"The nuns are especially cool to have around — to see young people in the convent is really inspiring," said retreatant Abby Lyon, 17. "I really enjoy seeing everyone come together, because we all have the same passion. This is what the Church is about — fellowship, community, communion. The love that's in this room is beyond our comprehension. It just feels like a big family."

For Brother Francis Mary of the Franciscan Brothers Minor, who served as retreat sacristan, this family dynamic was especially fitting, in that teens might take away a "new understanding of which God the Father is, as truly someone who cares for them and wants them to be a part of His family — who wants to be a Father to them."

In his homily at the closing Mass, Franciscan Father David Mary Engo expounded on the same truth: "In Baptism, God really and truly became your Father. More than the chair you are sitting on is real to you, God is *really* your Father."

That is exactly the sense that teens like Alex Biggins, 17, have gleaned from Ignited. "I'm taking away a feeling of community, the feeling that God *does* love

me, even if sometimes I feel like He doesn't." He added that last year's Ignited retreat was "one of the best weekends of his life."

The depth of our desire to love and to be loved played prominently in Father David Mary's homily, as well. "I'm challenging you to love the God who loves you, to love Love," he said. "If you believe in that radical, intense love, you have no other choice. What is your reply? As teenagers, you are now geared for 'radicality.' If not now, when? If not you, then who?"

On the reality of this responsibility, Witt said, "A lot of my friends don't know God or go to church, so a retreat gives me the boost to realize that I may possibly be the only Gospel they'll ever see."

Justin Seng, the retreat's emcee, also spoke on the importance of conveying a passion for Christ in daily life: "My 'mission statement' would be to present Christ as irresistible to the human heart, especially in a world where it seems required that we water everything down. We're not allowed to be really passionate about anything today, because we have to be cool and levelheaded and PC. We can't go over the brink about anything."

In a similar vein, Father David Mary preached, "Jesus didn't say, 'Tolerate others as I have tolerated you.'"

He therefore challenged all those present: "Go deeper! Deeper into your prayer life, into your faith, and do not stop until you have reached perfect union with Him. Be on fire for the God whose heart is engulfed in flames for sinful humanity — for you and me."

have the unimaginable joy of contemplating God face to face."

"We will never thank the Lord enough for the gift He gave us with the Eucharist," the pope said.

"It's such a great gift and that's why it's so important to go to Mass on Sundays," he said.

Mass is a time "not just to pray, but to receive Communion — this bread that is the Body of Christ that saves us, forgives us, reunites us to the Father. It's beautiful to do this."

Mass on Sundays is particularly important, he said, because "it is the day of the resurrection of the Lord, and with the Eucharist we feel our own belonging to the Church, to the people of God, to the body of God, to Jesus Christ."

At the end of the audience, Pope Francis met and spoke briefly with Lidia Guerrero, the mother of Victor Saldano, an Argentine national who has been on death row in Texas since 1996. Guerrero was accompanied by a representative of the Community of Sant'Egidio, which is active in the fight against the death penalty.



PHOTO BY NATE PROULX

About 150 teenagers from across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend came together for the weekend of Feb. 7-9 for the second annual Ignited retreat, "Enter the Fire," at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne. The photos show highlights of the retreat activities. Above, Father Ben Muhlenkamp, parochial vicar at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, and worship leader Liz Cotrupi lead the retreatants in a game.



PHOTO BY NATE PROULX



PHOTO BY JOANN DERBISZEWSKI

Teens sing and dance during praise and worship at the Ignited retreat.

Father Ben Muhlenkamp displays the monstrance during Eucharistic Adoration.



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Franciscan Father David Mary Engo gives the homily during the retreat's closing Mass. Fourth from right is featured teen witness Ariella Witt.