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# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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## 'Love God, do justice and serve the poor' Bishop blesses restored St. Louis Besancon Church

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BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN



NEW HAVEN — The responsorial Psalm 84 proclaims, "How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, mighty God!" And lovely indeed is the beautifully restored church at St. Louis Besancon.

During the restoration process, this long-awaited day seemed like a distant dream, but on Sunday afternoon, March 23, an overflowing congregation gathered to create another page of history of the parish founded by French immigrants.

"For many of us, the privilege of experiencing a historical event like this may only happen once in a lifetime," explained pastor, Father Stephen Colchin.

More photos can be found at [www.diocesefwsb.org](http://www.diocesefwsb.org)

In the solemn liturgy, celebrant Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was joined by Father Colchin, Father Lourдино Fernandes of St. Rose of Lima, Monroeville, Father William Sullivan of St. John the Baptist, New Haven, and Father Kenneth Sarrazine, retired, second parish son who now resides at Saint Anne Home and Retirement Community in Fort Wayne.

In the dimly lit setting, the bishop reminded the faithful that the Catholic Church is built upon the foundation of the Twelve Apostles. He continued, "St. Paul wrote in our second reading, that 'we are members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Himself as the cornerstone.' This is something we must always remember. We are the living stones of Christ's Church. The apostles are the

BESANCON, PAGE 16

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrates Mass and dedicates the altar in the beautifully renovated St. Louis Besancon Church on March 23.

## Pope to fathers: Teach your children well, always be by their side

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — On the feast of St. Joseph, patron saint of the universal Church and Jesus' earthly father, Pope Francis urged all dads in the world to stick by their children's side, teaching them, guiding them and loving them.

"I ask that you have the grace to be very close to your children, letting them grow, but being by their side. They need you, your presence, to be there, your love!" the pope told fathers present in St. Peter's Square.

Despite a massive citywide transport strike in Rome, more than 80,000 people made their way to the square for the pope's weekly audience March 19.

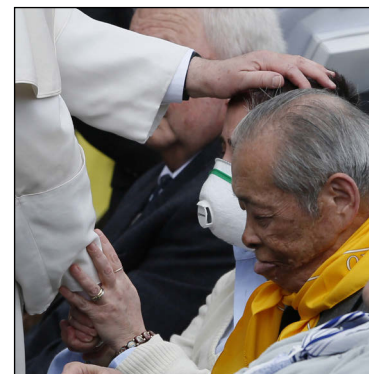
The pope dedicated his catechesis to the role and example of St. Joseph.

March 19 also marked the celebration of Father's Day in Italy, as well as the first anniversary of the formal inauguration of Pope Francis' ministry as bishop of Rome and pope.

St. Joseph's "great mission is to be a guardian," the pope said.

The saint is a model for all educators, whether they are teachers, catechists, parents, religious or priests, "who are fathers, too, you know!" he said.

Like an educator, St. Joseph guided and accompanied Jesus so he could grow in "wisdom and age and grace," Pope Francis said. This is the same thing all parents must do, and "it would be a serious mistake to think that a father and a mother can't do anything to teach their children to



Pope Francis greets people during his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican March 19 on the feast of St. Joseph, patron saint of the universal Church.

grow in God's grace," he said.

Even though God was Jesus' father, St. Joseph lovingly took on the paternal role and taught the young Jesus various skills, the value of work, reverence for the Lord and fidelity and obedience to God's will, the pope said.

He also had to keep his family safe during the difficult period of their exile to Egypt, he said, which makes the saint a special example for refugees and those facing persecution.

In his main audience address, the pope gave his heartfelt greetings to all fathers in the square, asking them to show who they were by raising their hands. "Oh, how many dads!" he said. "Best wishes! All the best on your day!"

## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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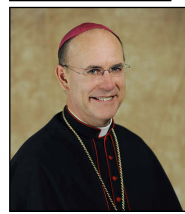
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# Do you believe in the *Son of Man*?



IN TRUTH  
AND  
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

On our way to Easter, we walk along with those who are preparing to receive Baptism as we prepare to renew our own baptismal promises. On the Sundays of Lent, the liturgy takes us on a kind of baptismal journey through the readings of John's Gospel. In this past Sunday's Gospel, Jesus promised the gift of "living water" to the Samaritan woman. In this Sunday's Gospel, we will hear the story of Jesus healing the man born blind. It is another amazing story with deep and profound meaning.

Jesus met the man blind from birth on the streets of Jerusalem. He anointed the man's eyes and sent him to wash in the nearby pool of Siloam. The name "Siloam" means "sent," symbolizing Jesus as the One sent by the Father to wash away the sins of the world and to purify us through the waters of Baptism.

The blind man obeyed Jesus' instruction and was cured of his physical blindness. But that was only the beginning of the story. Jesus was intent on doing infinitely more for him — to bring him to a greater light, the vision of faith in Him as the Light of the world. Jesus gave this blind man physical sight so that he would come to see with the new eyes of faith the truth about Him and about life and its destiny. As Jesus once said: *I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life* (John 8:12).

After the blind man received the gift of physical sight, he encountered the Pharisees. The Pharisees confronted him, asking him how he was now able to see. They told him that Jesus was not from God because He did this cure on the Sabbath. The man still insisted that the one who cured him was a prophet. The Pharisees then sent for the man's parents who testified that he had been born blind. But the parents were afraid and told the Pharisees to question their son about the man who opened his eyes.

The Pharisees again questioned the man who had been born blind, insisting that Jesus was a sinner. They ridiculed the man and accused him of being a disciple of Jesus. The man rejected their assertion that the one who cured him was a sinner. The Pharisees then threw him out of the synagogue. When Jesus heard about this, He came to the man and asked him: *Do you believe in the Son of Man?* This is truly the climax of the story. The man answered: *Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?* Jesus told him that it was He. The man then said: *I do believe, Lord,* and he worshiped Jesus.

Notice the journey of faith of the man born blind. At first, he didn't know who Jesus was. Gradually, he came to recognize Jesus as a man of God, a prophet, then as the Son of Man. He now not only had new physical sight, but spiritual sight. The light of Christ had penetrated his heart. A whole new world opened up before him when he said: *I do believe, Lord.*

By opening our eyes to faith, to the light that comes from God, Jesus continues to cure us from the darkness of confusion and sin present in this world. He gives us His light to purify our hearts and to renew our Christian love. He gives us God's light. In Lent, we



CNS FILE PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHERITZ

**"In the Easter liturgy, the light of the paschal candle lights countless other candles. Faith is passed on to another, just as one candle is lighted from another," says the encyclical "Lumen Fidei" ("The Light of Faith") from Pope Francis. Pictured are worshippers holding candles during the Easter Vigil at St. Jude Church in Mastic Beach, N.Y. In Bishop Rhoades' column this week, he writes, "By opening our eyes to faith, to the light that comes from God, Jesus continues to cure us from the darkness of confusion and sin present in the world."**

confess our blindness, our shortsightedness, and especially our pride, that sin which blinded the Pharisees from seeing and accepting the truth about Jesus.

Through Baptism, we received the light of Christ. We will remember this in a dramatic way in the liturgy of the Easter Vigil. But after Baptism, we can fall back into darkness because of our sins. That's why we have this season of Lent, a time of conversion and spiritual renewal, to live our true identity as children of light.

At the end of the Gospel this Sunday, Jesus reveals to the blind man whom he had healed that he had come into the world for judgment, to separate the blind who can be healed from those who do not allow themselves to be healed because they consider themselves healthy. We can all be blinded by selfishness and pride. Jesus continues to cure us from

this, like He cured the blind man. He does so in the Sacrament of Penance. And His light illumines us in the celebration of the Eucharist.

I mentioned that a whole new world opened up to the blind man when he professed his faith in Jesus and worshipped him. He entered into a new relationship with God by following Christ. The same happens to us. We learn to adapt our life to the will of God and to bring Christ's light to our neighbors. When we discover Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life, our lives are changed. The Lord teaches us wisdom and fills our hearts with love, if we but open ourselves to Him.

As we continue our Lenten journey, let us imitate the man born blind by embracing and worshipping Christ, the Light of the world!



Pope Francis has set April 27 as the date for the canonization of Blessed John XXIII and Blessed John Paul II. The two pontiffs will become saints on Divine Mercy Sunday. John XXIII is depicted in a painting from a museum in his Italian birthplace. John Paul II is shown in a composite featuring an image of him by Polish photographer Grzegorz Galazka.

## Vatican, Rome gear up for canonizations of John XXIII, John Paul II

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Just over five weeks before the canonizations of Blesseds John XXIII and John Paul II, Rome hotels are reporting they are almost fully booked and the Vatican has confirmed the Mass will take place in St. Peter's Square, despite knowing that hundreds of thousands of people will have to watch the ceremony on large video screens.

Pope Francis had announced in late September that he would proclaim the two popes saints in a single ceremony April 27, Divine Mercy Sunday.

Less than two weeks after the date was announced, the Prefecture of the Papal Household issued an advisory that access to St. Peter's Square would be first-come, first-served and warned pilgrims that unscrupulous tour operators already were trying to sell fake tickets to the Mass.

With perhaps more than 1 million people expected to try to attend the liturgy, rumors abounded that the Vatican would move the ceremony to a wide-open space on the outskirts of town. But the Vatican confirmed Feb. 27 that the Mass would be held in St. Peter's Square, just outside the basilica where the mortal remains of the two rest.

Blessed John Paul, known as a globetrotter who made 104 trips outside Italy, served as pope from 1978 to 2005 and was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI on Divine Mercy Sunday, May 1, 2011. Blessed John XXIII, known particularly for convoking the Second Vatican Council, was pope from 1958 to 1963; Pope John Paul

beatified him in 2000.

In July, Pope Francis signed a decree recognizing the healing of a Costa Rican woman with a life-threatening brain aneurysm as the miracle needed for Blessed John Paul's canonization. The same day, the Vatican announced that the pope had agreed with members of the Congregation for Saints' Causes that the canonization of Blessed John should go forward even without a second miracle attributed to his intercession.

A first miracle is needed for beatification. In Pope John Paul's cause, the miracle involved a French nun suffering from Parkinson's disease, the same disease the pope had. In the cause of Pope John, the Vatican recognized as a miracle the healing of an Italian nun who was dying from complications after stomach surgery.

In February, Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, said Pope Francis did not skip an essential step in approving Blessed John's canonization, but "only shortened the time to give the entire Church the great opportunity of celebrating 2014 with John XXIII, the initiator of the Second Vatican Council, and John Paul II, who brought to life the pastoral, spiritual and doctrinal inspiration of its documents."

The cardinal said Pope Francis did not dismiss the need for a miracle attributed to the late pope's intercession, but recognized that the "positio" or official position paper prepared for Blessed John's cause, is "full of accounts of miracles" and favors granted by God through his intercession. One case, often mentioned, involves a woman

from Naples who accidentally swallowed cyanide; she believes her poison-induced liver damage was miraculously reversed after prayers to Blessed John.

Asked by reporters in July to describe the two late popes, Pope Francis said Blessed John was "a bit of the 'country priest,' a priest who loves each of the faithful and knows how to care for them; he did this as a bishop and as a nuncio" in Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece and France before becoming a cardinal and patriarch of Venice.

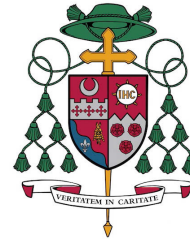
He was holy, patient, had a good sense of humor and, especially by calling the Second Vatican Council, was a man of courage, Pope Francis said. "He was a man who let himself be guided by the Lord."

As for Blessed John Paul, Pope Francis told the reporters on the plane, "I think of him as 'the great missionary of the Church,' because he was 'a man who proclaimed the Gospel everywhere.'"

A spokeswoman for the office of Rome's mayor said the city hoped by March 24 to have a working estimate of the number of pilgrims, as well as preliminary plans for transporting them to the Vatican and providing them with water, toilet facilities and first aid stations.

Marco Piscitello, a spokesman for the Rome hotel owners' association, Federalberghi, said that already by early March, owners were reporting that more than 82 percent of hotel rooms in the city had been booked for the canonization weekend.

"There will be a strong presence in Rome for this double canonization," he said.



### PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, March 30, 11:45 a.m. — Confirmation Mass, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame
- Sunday, March 30, 4 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Saint Michael the Archangel Church, Plymouth
- Monday, March 31, 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Saint Joseph Church, Lagrange
- Tuesday, April 1, 12 p.m. — Luncheon Meeting of Annual Bishop's Appeal Committee, Wyndham Garden, Warsaw

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

- 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 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.

## Thousands of rare Vatican manuscripts to go online

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Thousands of rare manuscripts until now accessible only to scholars at the Vatican will go online over the next four years, thanks to help from a Japanese information technology company.

Officials of NTT DATA Corporation and the Vatican Library announced their joint project at a news conference March 20.

The library, founded by Pope Nicholas V in the 15th century, preserves some 82,000 manuscripts dating back to the early centuries of Christianity. Among its treasures are an illustrated edition of the works of the Roman poet Virgil, produced around the year 400, and illustrations of Dante's Divine Comedy by the 15th-century Renaissance master Sandro Botticelli.

The library has been scanning its collection for several years with help from various nonprofit groups, and has already digitally archived 6,800 manuscripts, said Msgr. Cesare Pasini, the library's prefect. But so far only some 300 documents are accessible on its website ([vaticanlibrary.va](http://vaticanlibrary.va)).

NTT DATA Corporation will supply the technicians and equipment necessary to produce high-definition digital records of another 3,000 manuscripts and place them online over the next



four years. The library will solicit donations to defray the estimated \$23 million cost of the project, among other ways by allowing contributors to sponsor digitalization of individual manuscripts.

The library plans to offer a total of 15,000 manuscripts online, free of charge to all visitors, by 2018.

Among the documents to be scanned by the Japanese company are some from the library's Asian holdings, which include watercolors of Japanese dancers painted from the 16th through the 18th centuries, and an oath signed by Japanese Christians vowing to defend their missionaries to the death.

The library plans eventually to offer online access to its entire manuscript collection, a total of 41 million pages. Msgr. Pasini declined to estimate how long it would take to complete that project.

# Betty Stein presented Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Betty E. Stein, noted for her community work in education — both inside and outside the classroom — has been named the recipient of the 2014 Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades presented the award to Stein, Friday, March 21, at St. Mary Catholic Church, the parish that presents the award in cooperation with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The Father Tom Light of Christ Award is presented annually to persons of faith whose life and work reflect the values of Father O'Connor, who served as pastor of St. Mary's from 1970 until his death on St. Patrick's Day, 2004.

Stein is a member of Congregation Achduth Vesholom, where she served twice as president of the Sisterhood and was the first woman president of the Temple.

This is the first time a person from the Jewish faith has been the recipient of the award.

"This gives me special joy especially since our honoree has been a beautiful example and proponent of strong and close relations between our Jewish and Catholic communities in Fort Wayne," said Bishop Rhoades in his remarks at the award ceremony. "We give thanks today for God's goodness, the goodness shown to so many through the life, work and service of Ms. Betty Stein."

"We are pleased to be acknowledging the many contributions to our community of the incomparable Betty Stein," said Father Phillip Widmann, pastor of St. Mary Parish. "Father O'Connor is considered by many to be an icon of Catholic faith in action. ... For Father Tom feeding the hungry was a matter of justice, not charity."

Bishop Rhoades spoke of the

years he lived in Italy and while visiting Milan, he went to the famous opera house, La Scala. He noted that he heard that Stein, who enjoys the opera immensely, once sang on the stage of La Scala.

Stein planned to donate her \$1,000 award money to a grand opera performance by the Heartland Chamber Chorale for middle school students at Memorial Park Middle School in Fort Wayne. This year, thanks to the grant, the students will have another opportunity "to learn about real music," Stein quipped in her remarks.

Stein said she had the privilege of knowing Father Tom O'Connor and worked on projects with him, particularly the Jewish-Catholic dialogue. She said of Father O'Connor, "His intellect, his sincerity, his goodness were omnipresent. If you knew him, you knew that there was a twinkle in his eye. (He had a delightful sense of humor that helped resolve rather difficult situations."

She called the St. Mary's Soup Kitchen a marvelous gift to the community. "This was a man who knew what was needed and did his darnedest to see that it was taken care of."

Stein said of the award, "I cannot tell you how grateful I am."

Stein told *Today's Catholic* that she had a heart for working with underprivileged children "whose home life was not what one wanted it to be."

Betty Edlavitch Stein was born Dec. 10, 1916. Her father was a physician who was concerned about racial equality. The family's roots were in Baltimore, Md., and on trips east, she was "horrified by the difference between life there and here (in Fort Wayne) — the segregation. It just didn't seem right," she said.

A Fort Wayne native, she is a graduate of Central High School, earned her bachelor of science degree from Ohio State University in social work, and



PHOTOS BY TIM JOHNSON

**Betty Stein, recipient of the Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award, shares remarks about Father O'Connor. The two had collaborated on many projects, particularly mentioned was the Jewish-Catholic dialogue. Father O'Connor's photo is shown in the background.**

later completed a master's degree in education at the University of Saint Francis. Stein taught English and social studies at Fairfield Junior High, eventually becoming chair of both departments, and then became curriculum coordinator at Memorial Park Middle School. She officially retired in 1981, but started that same year as a consultant with Fort Wayne Community Schools — a position that she continues to enjoy to this day.

During her days in the classroom, Stein was exceptionally popular with her students, consistently finding time to provide extra help to those who needed additional academic encouragement or who simply needed to talk. And she was always available to her teaching colleagues — many of whom to this day regard her as their mentor.

She frequently volunteered when a principal needed someone to plan a field trip or write

a grant application for a special project such as providing opera experiences for middle school youngsters.

Stein also writes two regular columns for the Fort Wayne *News-Sentinel* as well as an occasional feature story and, in the opinion of her two children — John M. Stein and Rena Black — is the most voracious reader they have ever seen. One of the newspaper columns she writes highlights what area residents are currently reading.

She has never stopped teaching those who come into contact with her, through her columns, her volunteer work and through her amazing intellect that always pinpoints exactly what needs to be said or done.

Under the umbrella of the Fort Wayne Jewish Federation, Stein created the award-winning Minority Literature Project — a much-needed effort to introduce the work of African American and other minority poets to students when textbooks and anthologies at that time did not include their work.

In addition to serving on numerous boards and commissions over the years, Stein was the first woman to serve as chairperson of the Leadership Prayer Breakfast, the first woman president of Congregation Achduth Vesholom, Sisterhood president twice, the first woman chair of the Board of Safety, president of the Friends of the Library, charter member and president of the Fort Wayne Citizens Education Council, and was instrumental in the revitalization of the Jewish-Catholic Dialogue between Congregation Achduth Vesholom and St. Mary's Parish.

Her previous awards include, among many others, The Esther Ritz Collyer Award for lifetime achievement in fine arts education, Sagamore of the Wabash, Tapestry Award, Goldie DuBow Award of the Fort Wayne Jewish Federation, and the Excellence in Education Award, presented to her by Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry for her lifetime of service to the community.



**Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades presents the Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award to Betty Stein for her community work in education, both inside and outside the classroom.**

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# Diocese disperses \$201,776.50 to 11 projects

The Annual Bishop's Appeal of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend includes a funding program to assist less affluent parishes. A Parishes-in-Need Fund Committee met recently to review parish requests for "needy" projects. The committee recommended a total of \$201,776.50 be granted to eight parishes for 11 essential projects, enabling them to arrive at a more stable existence.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades approved the grants. "Obviously, we can't meet every request submitted by the parishes," said Msgr. Robert C. Schulte, vicar general and chancellor of the diocese. "We have to consider the nature of each request in light of the total needs and financial resources of the parish as well as the other parishes in the diocese requesting funding assistance," he continued. A total amount of \$531,992.20 in requests was submitted this year.

"If all or part of a request cannot be met, often the committee will recommend the parish apply to another fund of financial resource in the diocese or community, or seek other alternatives," Msgr. Schulte added.

Some funds usually remain in the account for use throughout the year by parishes when a new need arises, Msgr. Schulte indicated. If all the money is not used in 2014, however, it will be carried over and allocated to next year's Parishes-in-Need fund.

"Hopefully, this money will strengthen these parishes financially, increase their outreach and improve their ability to do the work of Christ," said Bishop Rhoades.

This year's allocation of Parishes-in-Need funds brings the amount granted to \$5,645,390.50 from the Annual Bishop's Appeal to parishes in need during the 27 years of the Annual Bishop's Appeal.

This year's dispersion and the primary parish projects include:

## Fort Wayne

- Queen of Angels — \$7,920 for chimney reduction and repair, and \$32,000 to replace the rectory

roof.

- St. Joseph — \$40,000 to replace the gym roof, and \$13,380 for a new program for student assessments, data tracking and academic growth monitoring (hardware and software for teachers).

## Fort Wayne area

- St. Patrick, Ligonier — \$8,000 to replace bathrooms in the church.

## South Bend

- Holy Cross — \$18,000 to replace the sound system in the church.
- St. Adalbert — \$28,412 to replace all carpet in the school.
- St. Anthony — \$40,000 to replaced sloped roof section of the church.
- St. John the Baptist — \$1,731.50 to master key all locks in the school — new locks and \$7,033 to replace the intercom in the school.

## South Bend Area

- St. Michael, Plymouth — \$5,300 to replace garage roof and connecting walkway between the rectory and the church.

# Ruling to allow same-sex marriage 'regrettable,' say Michigan bishops

LANSING, Mich. (CNS) — A U.S. District Court judge's March 21 ruling that Michigan's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional does not change the fact "marriage is and can only ever be a unique relationship solely between one man and one woman," said the state's Catholic bishops.

"Nature itself, not society, religion or government, created marriage. Nature, the very essence of humanity as understood through historical experience and reason, is the arbiter of marriage, and we uphold this truth for the sake of the common good," they said in a statement released by the Michigan Catholic Conference in Lansing.

"The biological realities of male and female and the complementarity they each bring to marriage uniquely allows for the procreation of children," they said.

The Catholic conference is the public policy arm of the state's bishops.

April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse, a Detroit-area couple who are raising three children together, filed suit in 2012 to challenge the voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage. The law also prohibits same-sex couples from

jointly adopting children; only heterosexual married couples are allowed to do so.

U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman in Detroit overturned the same-sex marriage ban — which voters passed overwhelmingly in 2004 — saying it violated the U.S. Constitution because it deprives same-sex couples the same rights guaranteed to heterosexual couples. He also said barring same-sex couples from adopting children was unconstitutional.

"Many Michigan residents have religious convictions whose principles govern the conduct of their daily lives and inform their own viewpoints about marriage," Friedman wrote in his 31-page ruling. "Nonetheless, these views cannot strip other citizens of the guarantees of equal protection under the law."

Friedman did not stay his ruling, and Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette filed a request for an emergency stay with a federal appeals court March 21 to prevent same-sex couples from getting marriage licenses immediately.

Late March 22 the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati granted the stay until at least March 26. Before the appeals court acted, however, several hundred same-sex couples went to county clerks' offices around Michigan to get married.

With Friedman's ruling, Michigan becomes the 18th state to allow same-sex marriage.

An AP story said that DeBoer and Rowse were not among the couples who went immediately to get a marriage license. The couple will get married, DeBoer told AP, "when we know our marriage

is forever binding."

In their statement, Michigan's Catholic bishops said the judge's decision "to redefine the institution of marriage by declaring Michigan's Marriage Amendment unconstitutional strikes at the very essence of family, community and human nature."

"In effect, this decision advances a misunderstanding of marriage, and mistakenly proposes that marriage is an emotional arrangement that can simply be redefined to accommodate the dictates of culture and the wants of adults," they said. "Judge Friedman's ruling that also finds unconstitutional the state's adoption law is equally of grave concern."

"Every child has the right to both a mother and a father and, indeed, every child does have lineage to both," the bishops said. "We recognize not every child has the opportunity to grow in this environment, and we pray for those single mothers and fathers who labor each day to care for their children at times amid great challenges and difficulties. They deserve our constant support and encouragement."

The bishops declared, "Persons with same-sex attraction should not be judged, but rather accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity."

"We rejoice with those brothers and sisters in Christ living with same-sex attraction who have found great freedom through Jesus' call to chastity communicated through the Church," they said, adding that those struggling to live "in harmony" with Church teaching on sexuality continue to pray and seek the Lord "with the help and guidance of the Church."

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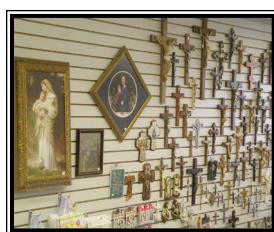
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**Today'sCatholicNews.org**

## Cardinal, panelists: Pope Francis' celebrity should turn eyes to Jesus

BALTIMORE (CNS) — “Like Pope Francis? You’ll love Jesus.” It was a well-circulated *Washington Post* headline in December, but it could have been the tagline for the March 18 “Francis Factor” event held at Loyola University Maryland in Baltimore. As a cardinal, archbishop and four Catholic expert panelists shared insights from Pope Francis’ first year, they repeatedly shifted the attention away from the pope and onto the Son of God. Pope Francis would have done no less. “The pope is a true companion of Jesus,” said Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley of Boston in the evening’s keynote address. Speaking to an audience of some 2,800 in Loyola’s Reitz Arena, Cardinal O’Malley said the pope is enticing people to take a new look at the Church. In an interview published in English by *America* magazine in September, the pope called the Church “a field hospital after battle. The field hospital imagery is more compelling than that of a museum or a concert hall,” the cardinal said. “Sometimes we lose our enthusiasm for mission because we forget that the Gospel responds to our deepest needs, since we were created for what the Gospel offers us: friendship with Jesus and love of our brothers and sisters.”

## Bishop holds up St. Joseph as ‘challenging example’ for all

HARRISBURG, Pa. (CNS) — Prayerfully and joyously welcomed into St. Patrick Cathedral for his installation Mass as the 11th bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg March 19, Bishop Ronald W. Gainer held up St. Joseph — whose feast the Church celebrated that day — as “a challenging example” for the members of the Church. Speaking of Joseph’s designation as a “just man,” Bishop Gainer said the description of the saint goes far beyond his decision to take Mary into his home, as was recounted in the day’s Gospel. “Everything we were told about Joseph indicates that he was indeed a just man. This primary attribute of Joseph gives us not only an overall appreciation of who he was, but it aligns him with the greatest figures in the Old Testament,” he said. “The biblical concept of a life lived in humble obedience to the word of God — a life in which law is not an external imposition and love an internal sentiment, but a life in which law and love are not opposed but united — can be summed up in this single idea of a just man,” said the bishop. He added: “In this way, St. Joseph provides a challenging example to all of us who strive to be faithful members of the body of Christ.” At the cathedral doors, during the entrance rite at for the Mass, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia received Bishop Gainer presented him to Father Thomas Rozman, pastor of the cathedral parish, and Father Robert M. Gillelan, Jr., who served as diocesan administrator after Harrisburg Bishop Joseph P. McFadden died in May 2013 and before Bishop Gainer was installed as his successor.

# NEWS BRIEFS

## MEMBER OF BOYS’ CHOIR FROM SPAIN LINE UP BEFORE PERFORMANCE AT NATIONAL SHRINE



CNS PHOTO/TYLER ORSBURN

Members of the Escolania de Montserrat, one of the oldest and most venerable boys’ choirs in Europe, prepare to enter the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington March 15. Founded in the 13th century, the choir sings daily for pilgrims at the abbey of Santa Maria de Monserrat in Catalonia, Spain.

## Bethlehem mayor says pope’s May trip ‘represents hope’ for city

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — Pope Francis’ “pilgrimage of prayer” is a revival of hope for the people of Bethlehem, said Bethlehem Mayor Vera Baboun. “The pope’s coming here represents peace and hope and love,” said Baboun, a Catholic and the first female mayor of Bethlehem. “In a situation of discrimination and hardship, this represents hope for us. Bethlehem needs a revival, not in faith, but a revival of hope. We are in desperate need for anyone who can make peace to do so,” she said. “We hope the pope will be able to mobilize the peace process and the process of the justice we really need.” During his three-day visit to the Holy Land May 24-26, the only public papal Mass will be in Bethlehem May 25, and Baboun said she is well aware of the responsibility that gives the city. Though details about the visit are yet to be finalized, the city, which has already played host to three previous popes in modern times, expects to welcome 7,000-8,000 worshippers from all over, and hotels are already reporting they are overbooked. Blessed John Paul II came on a six-day pilgrimage to

the Holy Land in March 2000, and Pope Benedict XVI spent a similar amount of time during his visit in May 2009. Unlike his predecessors, Pope Francis, who has called his visit a “pilgrimage of prayer” will not be traveling to Galilee.

## Ukrainians in U.S. feel ‘great sadness and worry,’ says archbishop

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Ukrainians in the United States have replaced “hope and excitement” for their country — after its 1991 independence — with “great sadness and worry,” said Ukrainian Archbishop Stefan Soroka of Philadelphia. “Confusion and anger have overtaken our hearts and minds as we have witnessed the callous trampling of people’s rights and freedoms in Ukraine,” the archbishop said during a March 16 prayer service for peace in that nation held at Philadelphia’s Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The archbishop was joined by Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput and Archbishop Antony, head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., based in South Bound Brook, N.J., as well as about 30 priests and

500 congregants in praying for protection of the people of Ukraine. “We remember the souls of those who have lost their lives and others who have suffered severe beatings in the struggle for freedom,” Archbishop Soroka said. He said the country is “being subjugated to oppressive and controlling authorities, characteristic of communist times” and added that the country is being divided by force and intimidation. “We all are worried for the safety of our families and for the future of Ukraine. We are saddened by their sufferings. We share in their feelings of great uncertainty as to their future,” the Ukrainian Catholic archbishop said.

## Bahrain cathedral will be ‘symbol of Christianity’ in ‘heart of Islam’

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishop Camillo Ballin, apostolic vicar of Northern Arabia, knows full well what it is like to minister to Catholics in a Muslim region because he has been doing that for more than four decades. In recent years, the 69-year-old Italian bishop — a member of the Comboni Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus who has served in Egypt, Sudan, Lebanon, Kuwait and

now Bahrain — has seen the number of Catholics particularly in the Persian Gulf rise sharply. He attributes the increase to the growing number of workers migrating to the oil-rich nations for manual labor and domestic service work. In his territory, the Northern Arabia vicariate — which includes Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Saudi Arabia — there are more than 2.5 million Catholics. The increasing Catholic population gives Bishop Ballin a problem not every bishop faces: overflowing churches. In response, he is preparing to build a new cathedral in Awali, Bahrain, called Our Lady of Arabia, which will hold 2,600 congregants. The current church on the island nation seats about 700. The Catholic population in Bahrain numbers about 140,000, the bishop said.

## National shrine ‘fitting tribute’ to late pope, says USCCB president

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops’ March 19 designation of a center in Washington as the St. John Paul II National Shrine reflects U.S. Catholics’ love for the late pope, said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky. As president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, he signed the decree declaring the designation for the site of the former John Paul II Cultural Center. It takes effect April 27, the day Pope Francis will canonize Blessed John Paul II and Blessed John XXIII. Liturgical celebrations, a reception and a gathering of young people will mark the occasion. “This national shrine is truly America’s fitting tribute and remembrance of his legacy,” Archbishop Kurtz said in a statement. The center, which first opened in 2001 as a cultural center, named for the pope, with a research component, museum and gallery, sits on 12 acres in Washington’s northeast quadrant just steps from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and The Catholic University of America. The Knights of Columbus took ownership of the facility in 2011, with plans to create a shrine dedicated to the pope and his contributions to the Church and society. It is currently known as the Blessed John Paul II Shrine.

## English bishop says uncharitable use of social media a ‘grave matter’

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — An English bishop asked Catholics to use Lent as a time to repent of sins committed on social media. Bishop Philip Egan of Portsmouth described the uncharitable use of blogs, Facebook and Twitter as a “grave matter.” Using social media for abuse or to attack the reputations of other people was a direct sin against the Eighth Commandment, forbidding people from “bearing false witness” against their neighbors, he said in a pastoral letter released March 19. “We must exercise discretion, respect others and their privacy and not engage in slander, gossip and rash judgment,” the bishop wrote in the document that was to be distributed in parishes the weekend of March 22-23.

## Our Lady of Providence Shrine to be rededicated

**SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS** — An important facet of the prayer ministry of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods will be re-opened to the general public on April 6.

During a Vesper service at 4:30 p.m., the National Shrine of Our Lady of Providence will be blessed in its new location in the vestibule of the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

The public is welcome to attend the event.

The Our Lady of Providence Shrine most recently had been located in Providence Spirituality and Conference Center, but has been moved from that place to make room for the new permanent shrine to St. Mother Theodore Guérin, which is currently under construction.

“Devotion to Mary under the title of Our Lady of Providence, Queen of the Home, has been an important part of the prayer tradition of our community,” said Sister Dawn Tomaszewski, general officer liaison to the shrine ministry. “Moving the shrine to this location in the church will offer greater accessibility and visibility.”

The Our Lady of Providence Shrine will include a copy of the painting, “Mater Divinae Providentiae,” composed by Scipione Pulzoni in 1580, the “Book of Intentions,” and prayer candles, which can be lit.

Sister Dawn said that the Sisters of Providence encourage devotion to Our Lady of Providence under the title “Queen of the Home” through a formal association and through a Providence Prayer Circles ministry.

“The needs of families today are great,” Sister Dawn said. “Prayer is one way of bringing the needs of the family to God.”

Besides visiting the shrine, prayer requests may be sent online at <http://spsmw.org>.

## Saint Joseph High School French Club wins many awards

**SOUTH BEND** — The Saint Joseph High School French Club, led by teacher Lori Fournier-Norem, attended the state French competition. Every student who attended won an award.

Winners include the following:

- Jeanie Freeby and Haley Hessey won fourth place for level 2 non-stop conversation.
- Alexandria Timm, Margaret Murphy and Sophia Brown earned fourth place for their beginner play.
- Sophia Brown won first place for her level 1 art poster.
- Hannah Thomas won second place for her level 1 graphic poster.
- Sophia Brown won second place for level 1 scrambled sentences and third place for level 1 poem recitation.
- Liam Griffin earned first place for level 2 geography and first place for level 2 impromptu speaking.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## SEVENTH GRADERS BUILD DISPLAY AT CAN-STRUCTION



PROVIDED BY ST. JOSEPH-ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL

A group of seventh graders from St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School participated in the CANstruction event at Glenbrook Square on March 14. The students designed and built their entry made entirely of canned goods, a recreation of the Great Barrier Reef. These canned goods will be donated to the Community Harvest Food Bank in Fort Wayne. The seventh graders were directed by junior high teachers Deb Brough, Jody Jump, Abby Dykhuizen, Michelle Voigt and Evan Smith.

- Barbara Bersan, Haley Hessey, Harper Robinson, Monica Barany, Jeanie Freeby and Lillian Pfeil earned fourth place for traditional dance.

## St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel student heads to state geography bee competition

**FORT WAYNE** — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, Fort Wayne, sixth-grader Mary Braun has qualified to represent her school at the state level of competition for the National Geography Bee. Braun, who is an athlete and honor roll student, competed along with tens of thousands of students and landed in the top 100 in Indiana, ranking her in the top 1 percent of the nation's fourth through eighth graders in geography. The state bee will be held on Friday, April 4, at the Indiana University-Purdue University campus in Indianapolis. The bee is sponsored by Google Earth and Plum Creek Timber Company.



MARY BRAUN

## Restorative justice conference presented

**SOUTH BEND** — The University of Notre Dame Center for Social Concerns and the United Religious Community of St. Joseph County will sponsor “In Pursuit of Justice” on Saturday, April 5, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Goodwill Center, 1805 W. Western Ave. in South Bend. Cost is \$12 and covers lunch. Kay Pranis, a national speaker for restorative justice, will be the presenter. The discussion will involve changes to the criminal justice system that will promote healing, exploring options for re-entering the community and workforce after prison and sharing ideas to respond to crime that will strengthen the community. Email reservations to [lmjep21@aol.com](mailto:lmjep21@aol.com) or call 574-282-2397, ext. 4.

## Respect Life Prayer Dinner

**SOUTH BEND** — St. Joseph County Right To Life will have an evening of prayer for life Tuesday, April 8, at 6:30 p.m. at the Kroc Corps Community Center Chapel, 900 W. Western Ave. Join clergy and religious as they lead prayer for an end to abortion. A Silent No More representative will speak on the experiences of post-abortive women. Entertainment will be

provided by a local youth choir. All clergy and religious admitted free of charge. A \$20 donation is requested of other guests. Reserve your table or seats by April 1, at [life@prolifemichiana.org](mailto:life@prolifemichiana.org) or 574-232-LIFE (5433).

## Panel to discuss addiction to pornography

**NOTRE DAME** — A presentation that discusses the addiction to pornography will be held on March 31, at 7:30 p.m. in the William J. Carey Auditorium of the Hesburgh Library at the University of Notre Dame.

Addiction to pornography is a growing problem, especially among young people. To allow for meaningful discussion on this topic, The Institute for Church Life and the Gender Relations Center at the University of Notre Dame are hosting a four-person panel presentation titled, “Porn: On Both Sides of the Screen.” The panel, consisting of a former porn star, a former porn producer and a married couple who had to deal with the husband's devastating addiction, hopes to highlight this growing problem and to offer hope and guidance to those whose lives have been affected by it.

While direct consumption of pornography most likely affects men more than women, this event will also allow for conversations about the impact of pornography on relationships in addition to the cultures of commodification (macro and micro) that pornography creates and on which it depends.

The event is free and open to the public. For further information, visit the website at <http://icl.nd.edu/icl-events/>.

## SOUTH SIDE CATHOLIC SINGERS SHOW CHOIR WRAP UP THEIR FIRST SEASON



CORRINE ERLANDSON

The South Side Catholic Singers recently wrapped up their first middle school show choir season. The group is comprised of fifth- through eighth-grade students from the schools of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth; St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne; St. John the Baptist, New Haven; Most Precious Blood; St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel and Huntington Catholic. The South Side Catholic Singers performed at the Homestead High School Show Choir Invitational, the Bishop Luers Midwest Show Choir Invitational and the Carroll High School Classic Invitational. Katie Slee directed the South Side Catholic Singers. The group is shown performing at the Carroll High School Classic Invitational on March 14.

# Dress Drive helps women be the belles of the ball

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND — “I got involved with the dress drive because I wanted to help the girls feel special. Just as we feel special when we go to prom or midwinter, I wanted to help give them a special day, just as we have our own,” said Saint Joseph High School student Rita Pillai, co-organizer of a Dress Drive recently held at the school.

Students Rita Pillari and Lexi Harmacinski have been collecting dresses for Hannah’s Belles, a project to collect and distribute dresses to girls and women with different abilities for Hannah and Friends.

Hannah and Friends, founded by Maura and Charlie Weis, improves the quality of life for children and adults with special needs.

“We are collecting gently used dresses, all sizes (girls, juniors, misses, women’s) and all occasions (sundresses, cocktail, prom, bridesmaid, etc.) and then distributing them to girls and women with different abilities. Girls and women of all abilities deserve the opportunity to become the belle of the ball — and our hope is to not only provide a dress, but provide a great experience and remind the ladies of how beautiful they each are,” said Katie Teitgen, director of operations with Hannah and Friends.

Teitgen said, “Girls and women with different abilities were invited to Hannah and Friends on March 1 to come try on dresses and pick out a dress at no cost. There was also a craft for the guests and a photo opportunity. Several volunteers from Saint Mary’s College were present, as well as some volunteers

from Kohl’s to help make it a wonderful day for the guests.”

Teitgen added, “We specifically have some fun events planned this spring for the ladies to dress up — the Indiana Miss Amazing Pageant is hosted at Hannah and Friends in March and we’re planning a Rock the Red Carpet Prom for May, but it is also a chance to give all of these girls/women the opportunity to feel beautiful and confident, come shop and pick out a dress at no cost, and have fun! We aren’t just collecting fancy dresses, we are looking for all occasions and sizes. Some of our ladies would love a dress to wear to church, for a nice lunch or maybe a summer party.”

According to co-organizer Lexi Harmacinski, the girls worked very hard to get the word out to students to donate their dresses including going on the morning announcements and having male students model dresses.

“It means a lot to me. We are helping girls who might not feel important enough. They all deserve to look and feel beautiful,” said Harmacinski.

Both girls are active volunteers for Hannah and Friends.

“At Saint Joe we are taught to go out and serve just as Christ did. When I go to do service hours I am not doing it to write the number of hours down, I am doing the hours to help the kids. As I help the kids, they help me grow closer to God and grow as a person to be kinder to those around me and be more open to peoples of different abilities,” said Pillai. “The residents, and kids, are very special, by volunteering there, I have learned to be patient, and compassionate towards everyone.”



In the photo, from left to right, are Rita Pillai and Lexi Harmacinski, organizers of the Dress Drive at Saint Joseph High School for Hannah and Friends.

## Steel Dynamics Foundation giving \$1 million for USF scholarships

FORT WAYNE — The Steel Dynamics Foundation will give \$1 million to the University of Saint Francis (USF) over a 10-year period to establish the university’s Steel Dynamics Foundation Scholarship. The scholarships are a way for Steel Dynamics Inc. to reinvest in the community within which it operates, CEO Mark Millett said. The foundation has extended the scholarships to several area institutions.

“As an organization, we have been blessed with success over the years,” Millett said. “We believe we have an obligation to share our success with the community in which we work. Fort Wayne is blessed with wonderful institutions, and this is a way to give back.”

Six renewable scholarships of \$5,000 each will be awarded to members of each freshman class beginning fall semester, 2014. Scholarships will be renewable for four years. Applicants must be full-time students majoring in a four-year degree program in science (including pre-professional majors), business, mathematics, accounting or finance. Recipients will be known as Steel Dynamics Scholars, and must maintain academic standards and remain in a qualified major at USF to renew their annual scholarships. Scholarships will be applied toward tuition and fees.

To learn more about applying for the Steel Dynamics Foundation Scholarship, call the Office of Financial Aid at 260-399-8000 or visit [www.sf.edu/financialaid](http://www.sf.edu/financialaid).

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# Why Blessed 'Little Margaret' of Castello is so great

BY DAVID MCCLAMROCK

Blessed Margaret of Castello, 1287-1320, has been proposed as the "patroness of the unwanted," because her rich, proud parents abandoned her. Merely because she had a few birth defects — blind, lame and hunchbacked — they thought she was too short and ugly. And her parents desired a boy.

Margaret was pious and kind-hearted and highly intelligent — in fact brilliant — but that didn't count with her parents. What they wanted was a strong, handsome boy to follow in his noble father's footsteps, and they were terrified that people would discover what they got instead.

This was in the comparatively enlightened 13th century, when people were no longer supposed to dump their deformed babies out to die as in pagan times. Even Margaret's parents must have thought it would be going a bit too far to kill her. They did the next worst thing — they "buried her alive." When she was six years old, they put her in a little room next to the parish church, with a couple of openings where she could receive her meals, hear Mass, receive the sacraments and talk with the priest — and then they walled up the doorway so she could never get out.

At last, after 13 years, she did get out. Her parents took her to a shrine where miracles were said to be happening. They wanted to see if a miracle would cure Margaret. When it didn't happen,

her parents were done with her. They left her alone on the steps of the church and rode away, never to see her again.

Today, horror stories about parents are a dime a dozen, but Margaret's story is a whole lot different. She didn't go insane. She didn't kill herself or wish to kill her parents. She didn't start living a bad life, although she had to live among a pretty tough crowd of beggars on the streets. She didn't even indulge in self-pity and whining about how her parents were to blame for her problems.

Margaret just did what Jesus said to do — love your enemies, bless those who curse you and pray for those who persecute you — and she astonished everyone with her understanding of Catholic teaching.

The story of Blessed Margaret of Castello is an unforgettably obvious example of the value of a human life, whether "wanted" or "unwanted" in this world.

Margaret is as great among the unwanted as St. Thomas More is among lawyers. But that's not nearly all. "Little Margaret" is also a good patron for the following:

- **Shut-ins.** Ever think you were going to go "stir-crazy" if you didn't get out of your house, or out of your workplace, a hospital room or other place of confinement? Blessed Margaret has been there. She turned her horrible imprisonment, for no crime of her own, into an opportunity to grow ever closer to God through prayer, penance and learning.
- **Students.** St. Thomas



Aquinas is a great patron saint of students, and rightly so, but they can also get some valuable help from Margaret, who couldn't read, write or even see. Margaret loved to learn and found it very easy to learn. With divine assistance, sometimes she learned things she'd never studied.

- **Ordinary families struggling to get along together and make a living.** After being an innocent prisoner and then a homeless beggar, Margaret found that some people did want her after all — the poor families of Citta di Castello, the city where her parents abandoned her. The poor families had to do something for little Margaret. They took turns letting her stay in their homes or at least near their homes. An especially great privilege for Margaret was getting to sleep in a stable, because then she could be more like the baby Jesus and meditate more vividly on His birth.

After encountering Margaret, the poor became better off than they were before. Not all at once, but sooner or later, it always happened — they became less poor,

less quarrelsome, more friendly and cheerful (like Margaret) and more religious too. They attributed it to the prayers of Margaret.

- **People with unsatisfactory bosses and coworkers.** Margaret's parents were not the only ones who didn't want her. After living on the streets and in poor people's homes, Margaret received a chance to join the convent. It didn't work out. Margaret wanted to be a good nun and follow the rule — but her life seemed like a silent reproach to the many who didn't want to do the same, including the mother superior, so she was asked to leave.

- **Laypeople seeking holiness.** Margaret may have looked like a nun because she wore the Dominican habit, but she wasn't. She ended up as a "Mantellata," a Third Order lay Dominican. Unlike the convent experience, this worked out well.

With the exception of the convent and the little room by the church, Margaret lived all her life among laypeople — the humble and the noble, the poor and the rich — and it didn't stop her from living always for love of God and her neighbors.

- **People in need of healing.** Margaret herself was never cured of her physical defects — except for ugliness. People said she became beautiful when she was levitating, and she reportedly did some remarkable things to help other people with physical problems. Once she cured a lady who was going blind, after the lady failed to accept Margaret's assurance that it was OK to be blind.

Even after Margaret's death, people brought her a girl who couldn't walk or talk, and begged her to cure the girl. Margaret wasn't going to let a little thing like death prevent her from helping. People saw Margaret's arm reach out and touch the girl. The girl got up and then the people heard the girl cry out, "I have been cured through Margaret's prayers!"

One hears a lot about human dignity, the value of every human life, and the supreme importance of one's soul — made in the image and likeness of God — and too much of it may go in one ear and out the other. The life of Blessed Margaret of Castello conveys it all.

You can "see" it — the hidden treasure of a priceless soul, buried alive in prison, in poverty, in rejection, and seemingly buried at birth in a tiny, twisted, sightless body, but winning out over it all by the power of God. That's why "Little Margaret," ignored and rejected by the powerful in this world, is so great.

**More about Margaret** can be read in the book, "The Life of Blessed Margaret of Castello," by Dominican Father William R. Bonniwell. See the website of the Blessed Margaret of Castello Guild and Shrine: [www.LittleMargaret.org](http://www.LittleMargaret.org).

**David McClamrock** is a writer who has a devotion to Blessed Margaret of Castello.

## Teams invited to build catapults

DONALDSON — MoonTree Studios and Veteran's Therapeutic Art Center (VTAC) have announced the return of a popular intergenerational experience to the MoonTree Wood Shop this spring. It's a time-honored adventure: designing and building a working catapult. Teams are once again invited to conceive, plan and build a working wooden machine to heave golf balls and seed balls for distance and accuracy.

Commonly known as catapults, trebuchets, onagers or balistas, these types of machines were invented about 339 B.C., and are broadly described as machines that store energy, quickly releasing that energy to fire a projectile. Catapults originated as "siege machines," devised to defend the castle; revered engineering feats with fearsome names like "the Ogre." Even Leonardo DaVinci designed an elegant kinetic-energy-powered catapult.

Even today, catapults are still in use. For instance, catapult mechanisms are used to launch aircraft from aircraft carriers because the ship's launch pad is too short. And small catapults, referred to as traps, are still widely used to launch clay

targets into the air in the sport of skeet shooting.

The "Build a Catapult Experience" is open to the public as well as VTAC members. This would be a great team builder for neighbors, Scouts, work or school groups. Teams can register by calling MoonTree Studios at 574-935-1712 or register online at [www.moontreestudios.org](http://www.moontreestudios.org) to receive the rules and building guidelines.

They can work one-on-one and get guidelines and tips to design, construct and test their catapult machine with an experienced MoonTree Wood Shop Facilitator. The Catapult Experience will culminate with a Contest of Catapult Prowess and Launch of Life on the prairie surrounding MoonTree Studios on Saturday, April 26, the culmination of Earth Week at The Center at Donaldson. Catapults will compete for distance, accuracy, originality of design and decoration, use of recycled material, and even historical accuracy and team insignia or costume.

To learn more about the Build a Catapult experience, or to register and get a copy of the contest rules, call MoonTree Studios at 574-935-1712 or visit [moontreestudios.org](http://moontreestudios.org).



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REGISTRATION ENDS JUNE 3, 2014

# Kansas church, dubbed 'Cathedral of the Plains,' named minor basilica

BY DOUG WELLER

VICTORIA, Kan. (CNS)—  
Capuchin Father Jeff Ernst's voice leapt with emotion when he heard the news: St. Fidelis Church in Victoria would be named a minor basilica.

"It's exciting," he said from his office at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Lawrence. "The state of Kansas doesn't have any" basilicas.

Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger of Salina received the news from the Vatican in early March that it had granted the diocese's application to have St. Fidelis designated a minor basilica. He will dedicate the church as a minor basilica June 7.

"This is a great day for the people of Victoria but an equally great day for the people of the Diocese of Salina," the bishop said. "St. Fidelis Church has long been a place of pilgrimage and prayer. Indeed, many have been drawn to the mystery and love of God by spending time in this inspiring church."

Worldwide, there are more than 1,600 minor basilicas; only 78 of them are in the United States.

The Catholic Church has four major basilicas: St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City and the Basilica of St. John Lateran, Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls and Basilica of St. Mary Major, all in Rome.

A church designated as a minor basilica must be a center of active and pastoral liturgy with a vibrant Catholic community and may have unique historical, artistic or religious importance.

Father Ernst recalled that one day when he was walking through the front doors of St. Fidelis he said



St. Fidelis Church sits along a gravel road in Victoria, Kan., in the Diocese of Salina. The Vatican named the historic church, which seats 1,100 people, a minor basilica.

CNS PHOTOS/ DOUG WELLER, THE REGISTER

to himself: "This could become a minor basilica."

"I thought about it for a few days and then ran it by the bishop, and he really liked the idea," the priest told *The Register*, the newspaper of the Salina Diocese.

After receiving permission from his Capuchin provincial to proceed, he contacted people at the most recently named minor basilica in the United States at the time, the Basilica of St. John the Baptist in Canton, Ohio, to inquire about how to do it.

It was the spring of 2012 and Bishop Weisenburger had just been named to head the Salina Diocese. He told Father Ernst that when he

traveled to Rome with the region's other bishops to meet with now-retired Pope Benedict XVI, he would check with Vatican officials about the process.

"He found out they were discouraging applications," Father Ernst said, but when the bishop sometime later met with other U.S. bishops, they encouraged him to proceed.

The Capuchin priest had only been at the Victoria parish since August 2011. With the parish council's support, he began assembling the information he needed: specific information about the structure of the church, the participation of the parishioners and the art and architecture.

It took him about six months to complete the application — which included a lot of pictures. It was then sent to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for approval. By September 2013, it was on its way to the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

Shortly before that Father Ernst's order transferred him to the Lawrence parish. He was succeeded in Victoria by Capuchin Father John Schmeidler, who was excited to hear the news about the application.

"The people really do take great pride in the church and its upkeep," he said. "I think it's because of their love for the church and all that it stands for."

"Being created a basilica, for them, I think, will elevate the sanctity and holiness of the church and help them to know that even better," he added.

It's likely to increase the number of people visiting the church, as well.

The church's 141-foot twin towers are easily seen from nearby Interstate 70, and about 16,000 people visit it each year.

Many, of course, are tourists, but for Catholics, visiting a basilica can provide them with a plenary indulgence — remission of the temporal punishment a person is due for sins that have been forgiven.

Victoria was founded in 1873 by English farmers. German Catholics from the Volga River region of Russia began arriving in 1876.

The first Catholic church was a 40-by-20-foot addition built onto a settler's home. As the number of Catholics grew, larger churches were built 1878 and again in 1884.

In 1904, plans were announced for an imposing new structure. It is constructed of limestone quarried about seven miles south of town. Parishioners also learned to dress the stone. The old church was dismantled and the stone set aside for the new inner walls.

The resulting Romanesque structure is 220 feet long, 110 feet wide at the transepts, 75 feet tall and seats 1,100. At the time of its dedication in 1911, it was considered the largest church in the state. Colored-glass windows made in Munich were installed in 1916, and stations of the cross were imported from Austria in 1917.

The cost to build the church and furnish it totaled more than \$95,000.

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St. Fidelis Church in Victoria, Kan., in the Salina Diocese, has been named a minor basilica by the Vatican. The church was built in the early 1900s, replacing a small wooden structure that served as the parish's first church.

## Matrimony in America

In January, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* ran a special issue about a federal program to promote healthy marriages, run by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

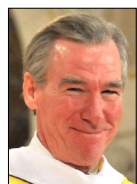
The “HHS family of agencies,” as it likes to call itself, comprises 11 operating divisions and 10 regional offices. One of these is the Office of Family Assistance, which runs (among other things) the Healthy Marriage Initiative. It’s hard to say exactly how much the initiative costs, but it has about \$60 million in grants outstanding.

Here’s how it works. Recruiters seek out poor parents, in places like hospitals and food-stamp offices, and offer them money and other inducements to attend 13 weeks of relationship education. Everyone agrees that children are better off with doting parents who love each other. The

program aims to create families like this. A mere \$60 million is small potatoes for an agency like HHS, but it comes to about \$11,000 per couple for the program participants.

The results have been quite disappointing. A three-year study of eight grantees found that couples who took part were no more likely to stay together or get married than the control group. Fathers did not spend more time with children. Children were not more emotionally secure. Some programs actually showed negative outcomes, which is to say, the control group did better. The article in the *Chronicle* asks, “So why aren’t we pulling the plug?”

It doesn’t seem unreasonable to spend money to encourage young parents to marry and stay married. However ineffective this program has been, it does focus on a principal cause of the ills



JOHN GARVEY

## INTELLECT AND VIRTUE

that afflict children and families. Consider the much-discussed problem of growing economic inequality. A new study by Harvard economist Raj Chetty indicates that the best predictor of economic mobility is the percentage of children who live in intact families.

The program’s failure is more disappointing still because it is that rare solution that can claim bipartisan support. Presidents

GARVEY, PAGE 12

## The light of God’s presence awaits us



## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Jn 9:1-41

Drawing from the first word, in Latin, in the Entrance Antiphon for this weekend’s liturgy, this Sunday long has been called “Laetare Sunday.” “Laetare” means “to rejoice.” The Church rejoices that even amid the drabness and penance of Lent, the glory of Christ shines forth, as the Lord rose in brilliant light after being crucified.

The first reading for this weekend is from the First Book of Samuel. An ancient prophet, and therefore God’s representative and spokesman, Samuel selected the young David to be king of Israel. To signify this appointment, Samuel anointed David with oil.

Anointings always have represented marking persons for special jobs. All Catholics are anointed when they are baptized or confirmed. Priests and bishops are anointed. Faithful people in bad health are anointed to strengthen them and reinforce their spiritual constitution should they near death. Once, kings were anointed.

David was, and still is, special in the Hebrew mind. He was the great king who united and empowered the nation. But, he was much more than a successful political leader. His ultimate duty was in tightening the bond between God and the people. The

bond was in the people’s genuine acknowledgement of God, and their lives of obedience to God’s law confirmed this bond.

The Epistle to the Ephesians provides the second reading. This reading is an admonition to the Christian people of Ephesus, in the first century A.D. one of the major seaports, commercial centers and pagan shrines of the Roman Empire.

Heavy with the imagery of light and darkness, the reading links light with righteousness, darkness with sin. It calls upon the Christian Ephesians to live in the light.

St. John’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. Central to the story is the Lord’s meeting with a man blind since birth. The Lord gives the man sight. To understand this entire story, it is necessary to realize how Jews at the time of Jesus looked upon physical difficulties.

Unaware of the scientific explanations for blindness and other problems that people of this age have come to see as obvious, the ancient Jews believed such terrible handicaps came as a result of sin. After all, original sin ushered death itself into the world. In this thinking, sin also upset the good order of nature, hence disease.

Thus, the question came. Was this man’s blindness the result of his own sin or a sin of his parents?

Searching for an answer, the Pharisees question the man. Different from the blind man, the Pharisees are shown as being obstinate and smug. By contrast, the blind man is humble and sincere. He has faith in God and in Jesus.

An added element, surely of special interest to the early generations of Christians who suffered persecution, was that the

Pharisees expelled the man from their synagogue. The righteous often suffer from the ill will of others.

### Reflection

The Gospel story recalls a miracle. It also is a study in contrasts. On the one side is the man born blind whom Jesus healed. The other side is that of the Pharisees, so self-satisfied and so confident in their own knowledge and in their own high estimates of their piety.

We must apply these contrasts to ourselves. It is not that we must see ourselves as very evil, or even as pompous and boastful as the Pharisees. Rather, we must admit our limitations. Our exaggerated judgments of ourselves trick us again and again and again.

It keeps us in the dark. Lent is the time to face facts. We must recognize our need for God. We must turn to God. The wonder of this is that God will receive us, love us, forgive us and give us sight. The light of God’s presence awaits us. Rejoice!

### READINGS

**Sunday:** 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a Ps 23:1-6 Eph 5:8-14 Jn 9:1-41

**Monday:** Is 65:17-21 Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13ab Jn 4:43-54

**Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-9, 12 Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 Jn 5:1-16

**Wednesday:** Is 49:8-15 Ps 145:8-9, 13c-14, 17-18 Jn 5:17-30

**Thursday:** Ex 32:7-14 Ps 106:19-23 Jn 5:31-47

**Friday:** Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Ps 34:17-21, 23 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**Saturday:** Jer 11:18-20 Ps 7:2-3, 9b-12 Jn 7:40-53

## Catholic Relief Services and Malawi

Malawi, a country in southeastern Africa, is one of the world’s least developed and densely populated countries. Slightly smaller than Pennsylvania, it is home to over 16 million people, with almost 45 percent of the population between the ages of 0 and 14 years old. More than half the people in Malawi live on less than \$1 per day.

In Malawi, the work of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is guided by the principle of the dignity of work and the rights of workers. This principle emphasizes the right of all people to work to earn a living. It advocates also for the right to a fair wage, for the right of workers to organize and for the right to a safe workplace.

Farming is the main activity in Malawi, with 80 percent of the rural population relying on food that they grow for a large part of their diet. When droughts occur, the food supply dries up. A majority of farmers then need to take up different work. The work they take up is often day labor, which is unpredictable and low paying.

CRS runs an agriculture program in Malawi that helps farmers to grow chili peppers, which can grow without much water. The program trains participants and allows them to join together into groups. These groups decide how much each crop should cost. This helps farmers predict how much money they will be able to bring home to their families. More than 25,000 farmers are involved in CRS’ marketing groups, and 10,000 of those are pepper farmers.

This week, challenge yourself and your family to pray, fast and give alms for the people of Malawi. You could include the people of the Malawi in your morning and evening prayers or pray through the intercession of St. Anthony of Padua, the patron saint of harvests and the poor. You can use the following prayer.

## CRS RICE BOWL

MELISSA WHEELER

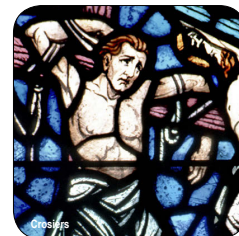
*Loving God, open our hearts and minds to Your call in our lives. May we, like St. Anthony, respond generously to do those tasks You have set before us. Teach us to be open with our gifts, as St. Anthony was. May we never become discouraged in our efforts to do good and avoid evil. We ask that, through the intercession of St. Anthony, our brothers and sisters all over the world find what they need to be their best and always remember You. Amen.*

You could fast from a food that you particularly enjoy or use less seasoning on your food to unite yourself with those who do not have a variety of food available to them. You could give 25 cents to your Rice Bowl for each kind of fruit and vegetable that you have in your home.

Pope Francis reminds us to make conscious choices in our consumption of food in light of those who go without because of poverty. On June 7, 2013, our Holy Father tweeted, “Consumerism has accustomed us to waste. But throwing food away is like stealing it from the poor and hungry.” This week, consider the words of Pope Francis when making choices about food.

Melissa Wheeler is the director for Catholic Relief Services in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. She can be reached at mwheeler@bishophdwenger.com.

### Saint of the Week



### Dismas (the Good Thief)

first century  
March 25

Two thieves were crucified with Christ; Dismas is the “good thief” who rebuked the other thief for reviling Jesus. In Luke’s Gospel, he accepts his guilt and proclaims Christ’s innocence. He asks Jesus to remember him, and Jesus promises, “Today you will be with me in paradise.” This feast date was assigned because by tradition Jesus died on March 25. But how an unnamed thief came to be called Dismas is less clear. One explanation is that early Syrian representations of the Crucifixion showed a sun and moon over the thieves’ heads; Syrian coins also showed a sun and moon with the words “east” and “west.” And “dismas” is similar to the Greek word for east. Dismas is a patron of funeral directors, prisoners and repentant thieves.

# Stairway to heaven: Vatican backs effort to restore Holy Stairs shrine

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Just like someone gently unwrapping a present, a restorer carefully peeled back a thin wet veil of paper from a black sooty wall to see what was hidden underneath.

From behind the layers of grime and dirt emerged the frescoed images of a fallen Roman column, a flock of fluffy sheep and a pink sunset sky over a forgotten ancient city.

The surprise that restorer Chiara Munzi was unveiling was a 16th-century fresco by Flemish master Paul Bril — a rich, colorful landscape scene that hadn't been seen with such vivid detail for centuries.

Four levels of scaffolding put restorers and visitors within inches of freshly uncovered images of trailing ivy, angels playing lutes, the solemn and wise faces of doctors of the Church and bucolic landscapes.

Bringing blackened or dulled walls and ceilings back to their original "brightness and immediacy transports us right back to the moment they were painted," Paolo Violini, the Vatican Museums' top expert in fresco restoration, told Catholic News Service.

A team of nearly a dozen restorers spent nine months just on the chapel's vaulted ceiling. They are using surgical scalpels, pulses of laser light, de-oxidizing chemicals, thin Japanese paper sprayed with ammonium bicarbonate and soft sea sponges to bring back the original splendor of the Medieval sanctuary's 18,300 square feet of Renaissance frescoes and decorative paintings.

In addition to the frescoed chapels and walls, the pontifical sanctuary houses the "Scala Santa" or Holy Stairs.

According to tradition, the Holy Stairs are the ones Jesus climbed when Pontius Pilate brought him before the crowd and handed him over to be crucified. It's said that Constantine's mother, St. Helen, brought the stairs to Rome from Jerusalem in 326 A.D.

The 28 marble steps are covered with thick wood panels, now worn smooth from centuries of human traffic. A minimum of 2,000 pilgrims a day visit the shrine, and

many of them climb the stairs on their knees, pray at the Sancta Sanctorum — the first private chapel of the popes — and venerate a silver and jewel-covered Byzantine image of Christ.

The sanctuary, which is dedicated to the Passion of Christ, is entrusted to the care and protection of the Passionist fathers, who have a special devotion to Christ's passion.

The sanctuary's rector, Passionist Father Francesco Guerra, told CNS that the Holy Stairs shrine is a unique place of worship in Rome.

"When we pray and at the same time we do something that is physical" — like climbing the stairs on one's knees — "we may in some way feel that we may touch what Jesus touched at that time, and we feel that we are near Jesus," he said.

Father Guerra said many people who come to the sanctuary are experiencing a difficult moment in life and they offer "their own suffering to Jesus to be near Him, to be helped by Him."

U.S. art gallery curator Mary Angela Schroth is coordinating the Holy Stairs project. She said it was difficult and slow-going to get the needed funding and support to restore such a complex and large sanctuary.

"It's not glamorous like the Sistine Chapel. This is the people's sanctuary" — a place that has been popular with and loved by simple people of faith for centuries, she said.

The fame of Michelangelo's frescoes in the Sistine Chapel has, in a sense, overwhelmed its intended spiritual significance and purpose as an active place of worship, she said.

The Sanctuary of the Holy Stairs' restoration "is really a project to renew faith" and support people's "spiritual experience of the Holy Stairs" not just preserve its historic art, Schroth said.

The Vatican Museums is overseeing the restoration project, which should take another five years to complete, culminating in the cleaning of the frescoes along the Holy Stairs; the frescoes depict Christ's journey from the Last Supper to His passion, death, resurrection and

## THE VATICAN LETTER

CAROL GLATZ

ascension into heaven.

The work is being funded through the Vatican Museums' Patrons of the Arts chapters and donors in the United Kingdom, Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina.

The patrons coordinate funding from people worldwide to help restore and preserve, not just the museums' in-house collections, but any architectural or artistic treasure belonging to the Vatican. That includes properties outside the walls of Vatican City, like the sanctuary, which is located near the Basilica of St. John Lateran.

The preliminary studies needed for restoring the entire sanctuary had been completed more than a decade ago. "The last piece of the puzzle was the financial support, so that's why the patrons got involved," said Legionaries of Christ Father Mark Haydu, director of the museums' Patrons of the Arts office.

Father Haydu said sacred art is invaluable, not just for its material beauty, but also for its power to help transform people's lives.

"If it can even bring solace to someone who's suffering, if it can convince someone mired in a challenge, a difficulty, a weakness, that they can't find the moral courage to overcome, and have a spiritual experience before the passion of Christ, for example," then the Church needs to care for that heritage, too, he said.

"If that missing link is the atmosphere that helps them get over the hump, well, there's infinite value there," the U.S. priest said. "The financial investment, the returns go beyond anything anyone could ever imagine and that's what's powerful, that's what's beautiful and that's why the Church cares about its art in the end."

France.

Private institutions and individuals will always understand love, marriage, child rearing and families better than the government does.

Remitting to them the task of restoring marriage asks each of us to contribute a lot of arduous and unpaid work. That may explain the appeal of asking the government to manage our relationships. But — no surprise — the evidence indicates that that doesn't work.

**John Garvey** is president of The Catholic University of America in Washington.

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for March 30, 2014

John 9:1-41

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Fourth Sunday in Lent, Cycle A: the man born blind sees the Savior. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

HE SAW	A MAN	BLIND
BIRTH	SPAT	GROUND
MADE CLAY	EYES	SILOAM
BEGGAR	SABBATH	FROM GOD
SUCH SIGNS	DIVISION	ANSWERED
TEACH US	BELIEVE	WHO IS HE
SEEN HIM	LORD	WORSHIPED

### ONE WHO SEES

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

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## As we forgive...

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

There are some common prayers that I pray by heart, such as the Hail Mary, the Our Father and the Glory Be. They come to my mind automatically because I have prayed them so many times and I have them memorized. This is probably true for most Catholics.

Recently, at Mass we heard the Gospel account of Jesus teaching the Lord's Prayer to His disciples and other followers. Because I usually prepare for the liturgy by praying the daily Scripture readings, "Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us," really jumped out at me.

The last part of the sentence is something to check ourselves on. For some of us these words merely flow off our tongues, and we often don't think about what we are saying. Can we forgive those who have hurt us or do we hold grudges or have resentments against others?

Lent is a good time to examine ourselves and reflect on those people in our lives who may be in that category.

Really forgiving someone who has betrayed us or hurt us in any way is not easy, but this is a big part of being a follower of Jesus, and we cannot take it lightly. To love is to forgive and have right relationships with everyone who touches our

lives. We all know people (maybe ourselves) who hold deep resentments or hurts that need God's healing. Sometimes people nurse their grudges and anger toward someone else for years. Some might not even remember what originally happened to cause the problem.

Every time we pray the Our Father we are asking God to forgive us as we forgive others. He didn't say to forgive only those who ask for pardon, but everyone. At times we must initiate the conversation and take the first step toward reconciliation. To ask for pardon or to say, "I forgive you," and really mean it, is difficult. Often our pride gets in the way or we fear the reaction of the other person. Even so, the act of being reconciled with another can free us.

Reconciliation is needed, not only in our individual lives, but also in our countries, churches and other organizations. There can be no lasting peace unless people are willing to ask for and to give forgiveness.

I truly believe that if we can make right our individual relationships that there will be less war and violence in our world. God's forgiveness for us will be measured by how we offer forgiveness in our lives. The next time you pray the Our Father slow down and think about what you are really saying. As followers of Christ we must take those words seriously.

## GARVEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Bush and Obama have both been fans.

Then again, isn't it odd that we have engaged the federal government to teach young people about healthy marriage and relationship skills? I don't just mean "odd" in a constitutional or political sense. I mean "odd" because HHS, as an institution, knows so little about love and marriage.

In the past we learned about those things from our families, our churches, parochial schools and a dozen other private asso-

ciations. Today we look to Washington.

I am reminded of the passage in "Democracy in America" where Alexis de Tocqueville speaks about the progress of the temperance movement: "I came to understand," he says, "that these hundred thousand Americans, frightened by the progress of drunkenness around them, wanted to support sobriety by their patronage. ... One may fancy that if they had lived in France each of these hundred thousand would have made individual representations to the government asking it to supervise all the public houses throughout the realm."

These days, we're more like

# Sports

**BISHOP DWENGER GYMNASTICS FINISHES SECOND IN STATE MEET** The Bishop Dwenger High School gymnastics team finished second at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual IHSAA Gymnastics State Finals at Worthen Arena in Muncie on March 22. Valparaiso won the state title. Bishop Dwenger's performance garnered a score of 111.225 for the second-place ranking.

## Lady Cougars track down NAIA National Championship

SIoux CITY, Iowa — Putting perfection into words was almost as hard as the achievement for the University of Saint Francis women's team after the No. 1-ranked Lady Cougars won their first NAIA Division II Women's National Championship title with a 75-68 win over College of the Ozarks (COO) on March 18 at Tyson Events Center.

USF senior guard Skylarr Shurn scored 30 points and was named NAIA Championship Most-Valuable-Player. Teammate Brooke Ridley posted a double-double on one good ankle — 14 rebounds, 13 points — and was named to the all-championship first team while senior teammate Jenelle Wilson scored 19 points and was named to the all-championship second team.

On Wednesday, while on the bus returning to Fort Wayne, NAIA named Shurn NAIA Division II Player of the Year. Ridley, a Bishop Luers High School graduate, was also named NAIA First-Team All-America and Wilson was an All-America Honorable Mention selection.

NAIA Top 25 No. 1 USF led 37-36 at halftime and outscored the unranked Bobcats, 38-32, in the second half.

"I still don't think it's sunk in yet," a smiling Shurn said while holding the MVP award. "I'm kind of speechless. To finish my senior year 38-0 with a championship, there's really no better way to go out. I don't know what else to say. It's great."

"Words really can't describe it," Wilson said. "Amazing ... finally, my fourth year, we did it and it feels amazing. 38-0. ... My freshman year we made the long trip and lost. Then we didn't even make it the next year. Last year we had a tough loss. I don't even know what to say about it. Nobody at USF has ever done it before, so to be a part of it is really special."

"That's the thing about this team, they never panicked," USF Head Coach Gary Andrews said after accepting the Phyllis Holmes Coach of the Year Award. "You get out here to nationals, there are so many good teams, you just never know, but we kept getting better and more confident. We were also focused on the team we were playing. Nobody ever talked about the next game until it was time. I am so proud of this team and how whenever there was a challenge or some adversity, they pulled together to solve whatever came our way."

"I don't know if we could have done it without Brooke," Shurn

**Most Valuable Player Skylarr Shurn, left, a USF senior guard, applies pressure for a College of the Ozarks turnover as the University of Saint Francis captures the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II national women's basketball championship March 18, in Sioux City, Iowa. Teammates, from left, senior Jessica Harrison, sophomore Brooke Ridley and senior Jenelle Wilson assist.**

said. "She was so clutch for us tonight playing one good ankle."

"I just tried not to think about it and once I got loose, it really didn't bother me much," the 2012 Luers grad said matter-of-factly. After rolling her ankle with about 11 minutes to play in the 68-64 win over Cardinal Stritch University (Wis.) in the Fab Four semifinal game, Ridley hobbled out of TEC in a boot and on crutches on Monday night.

"I've got to give our trainer Casey (Costa) and Kalah's dad Joe (Baer) credit for doing all they knew to get my ankle playable," Ridley added.

COO hit three 3-pointers in the final 1:05 to keep things interesting, but USF countered the late Bobcats bombardment by connecting on seven of eight free throws to keep the Bobcats at bay. Jeana Raper drew COO within five, 73-68, with just 11 seconds to play, but Shurn assured the USF win hitting two free throws with 10 seconds to play.

College of the Ozarks, which falls to 0-5 all-time in the national championship final, was led in scoring by Heinzler's 22 points. The freshman ended the game 8-for-20 from the field, including a 4-for-11 effort from 3-point range. Emily Walker also scored in double-digits with 11 points.

The Bobcats ended the night shooting 40.7 percent (24-for-59) from the field. College of the Ozarks ended the season with a 27-10 record.

USF finished shooting .455 for the game, .385 in the second half on 10-for-26 shooting. The Lady Cougars shot .250 from 3-point (2 for 8) and USF shot .742 from the free-throw line (23 for 31). USF shot .810 at the free-throw line hitting 17-of-21 shots in the second half. USF outscored COO 36-28, 8-5 in fastbreak points.

Baer finished with six points, Montgomery four and senior Jessica Harrison two points on a rebound basket and a blocked shot.



PHOTO BY THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT FRANCIS

**Redeemer  
Radio**

### Seeks Morning Show Producer

Redeemer Radio, a non-profit Catholic Radio Group, is seeking a full-time Morning Show Producer for its listener-supported stations. The successful candidate will assist the Morning Show Host in researching and planning each weekday broadcast.

#### Responsibilities include:

Broadcast pre-planning and production both before and after broadcast hours, booking guests, pulling and editing audio, producing promos, and technically producing the broadcast between 6 am and 8 am Monday through Friday.

The producer must be inquisitive, have a sense of humor, be a self-starter, be organized and be able to share ideas with others as well as work with others. Must be able to take direction. Must have production and social media skills, be able to work with the host in the assembly of the program. Previous on-air radio experience helpful. The work hours are Monday through Friday, 5 am-1 pm.

#### Requirements:

- The producer needs to be a faithful Catholic in full communion with the church whose life gives witness to the Faith
- Four-year bachelor's degree in an aligned field of study
- Strong verbal and written communication skills.

Complete job description available at: [RedeemerRadio.com](http://RedeemerRadio.com). Click on Careers under the About Us tab.

Please email resume, references, salary history and salary requirements (necessary for consideration) to: [jobs@RedeemerRadio.com](mailto:jobs@RedeemerRadio.com)

Or mail the above information to:  
Redeemer Radio  
Attn: Executive Director  
4618 East State Blvd. Ste 200  
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

As a religious broadcaster, Fort Wayne Catholic Radio Group has established a religious qualification for all employee positions at WLYV. In accordance with all FCC rules and EEO Program compliance measures, WLYV makes

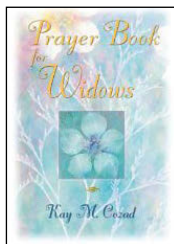
reasonable, good faith efforts to recruit and hire applicants without regard to race, color, national origin or gender, among those who are qualified for employment based on their religious belief or affiliation.

# Inspire the journey with Catholic books

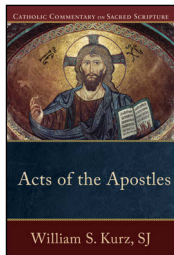
BY KAY COZAD

The following are recently published books that have been sent to *Today's Catholic* that can capture the fancy of Catholic and non-Catholic readers alike. Each book is reviewed using publishing house press releases and includes publisher name and ISBN number for ease of purchase at your local Catholic bookstore.

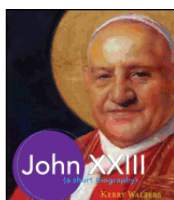
**"A Prayer Book for Widows,"** by Kay Cozad, has been reissued and offers a multitude of heartfelt prayers for the many occasions widows and widowers face on their journey through grief. The prayers are based on the author's own experience of loss and personal reflection on issues from facing death and the funeral to special occasions and changes. Chapters include Scripture references and prayers. Our Sunday Visitor, ISBN: 978-1-59276-145-6.



**"Acts of the Apostles,"** by biblical scholar William S. Kurz, one of 17 volumes in the Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture series, looks at the entire narrative of Acts relating Scripture to everyday life. The book is supplemented by features designed to help readers understand the Bible more deeply including reflection and application sections and cross reference to the Catechism, the lectionary and related biblical texts. Baker Academic, ISBN: 978-0-8010-3633-0.

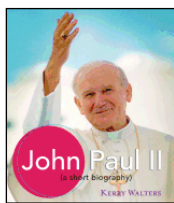


**"John XXIII: A Short Biography,"** by Kerry Walters offers new insights into one of the most important figures in the Catholic Church in the 20th century. This humble and gentle man guided a Vatican council that would change the world.

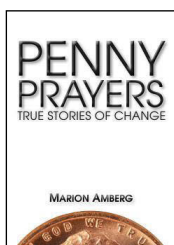


Franciscan Media, ISBN: 978-1-61636-751-0.

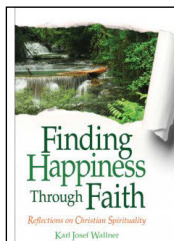
**"John Paul II: A Short Biography,"** by Kerry Walters highlights this pope's early years, his life-long devotion to Mary, his outreach to young people and his role as intercessor in seeking reconciliation with institutions and peoples alienated from the Church. Franciscan Media, ISBN: 978-1-61636-749-7.



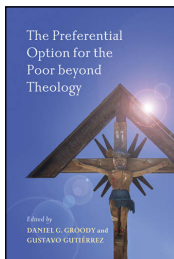
**"Penny Prayers: True Stories of Change,"** by award-winning journalist Marion Amberg is a collection of true stories of lives changed by discovering a penny and praying this simple act of faith — "In God, we trust." Liguori Publications, No. 823923.



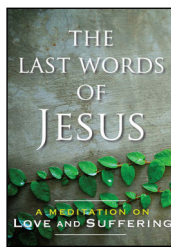
**"Finding Happiness Through Faith: Reflections on Christian Spirituality,"** by Karl Josef Wallner speaks from his experiences of the crisis in faith found in Europe, to open the eyes of the reader to the mysteries of the faith and the beautiful of Catholic piety. Change is urgent, he writes, and knowledge of the faith is important in order to understand its joys. Liguori, No. 824128.



**"The Preferential Option for the Poor Beyond Theology,"** edited by Daniel G. Groody and Gustavo Gutierrez is a thought-provoking book that, with the help of its many contributing authors, will encourage the reader to think of solutions to alleviate poverty. University of Notre Dame Press, ISBN: 978-0-268-02986-9.



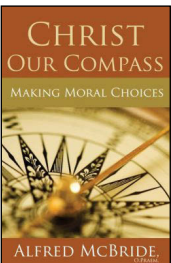
**"The Last Words of Jesus: A Meditation on Love and Suffering,"** by Franciscan Friar Daniel P. Horan brings a fresh perspective to the last seven words Jesus spoke from the cross. Horan challenges readers to look at themselves through the lens of Jesus' suffering and death and asks them to reach out to the poor and marginalized. Franciscan Media, ISBN: 978-1-61636-409-0.



**"Fighting Mad: Practical Solutions for Conquering Anger,"** by best selling author Dr. Ray Guarendi presents a realistic picture of anger and other emotions in an easy-to-read text that offers practical solutions for overcoming them. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-1-61636-707-7.



**"Christ Our Compass: Making Moral Choices,"** by Alfred McBride employs Scripture and Church teaching as a compass for truth as it covers topics such as moral sense and sin, family values, war, honesty and much more. Franciscan Media, ISBN: 978-1-61636-711-4.



## MOVIE CAPSULES

**NEW YORK (CNS) –** Following are capsule reviews by the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

### "Divergent" (Summit)

In post-apocalyptic Chicago, independent will is eliminated, and each person is assigned, at age 16, to a social faction with a specific duty. One shy young woman (Shailene Woodley), however, discovers that she has a rare gift: she is a "Divergent," capable of adapting to any group she pleases. Since such versatility is seen as a threat to the status quo by the evil administrator of the system (Kate Winslet), the malleable lass is forced to hide her secret by leaving the altruistic bloc in which she was raised and joining the very different section of the populace responsible for security. As she undergoes rigorous, even vicious martial arts training, she falls for her instructor (Theo James), and together they uncover a nefarious plot that jeopardizes her family. Director Neil Burger's exposition-heavy screen version of Veronica Roth's novel pushes the boundaries of mayhem to the limit, plac-

ing the film squarely outside the proper reach of younger teens. Intense violence, including scenes of torture. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

### "Muppets Most Wanted" (Disney)

Another sprightly musical outing for the beloved puppet ensemble created by Jim Henson, this time hinging on the most unlikely of plot twists: Kermit the Frog's (voice of Steve Whitmire) confinement in a Siberian gulag. His imprisonment comes courtesy of a Russian gangster lookalike (voice of Matt Vogel) — "the world's most dangerous frog" — who, aided by a human confederate (Ricky Gervais), is out to take Kermit's place on a Muppet world tour as part of his plans for a daring jewel heist. Director and co-writer James Bobin's follow-up to his 2011 re-launch "The Muppets" — which also features a hilarious Tina Fey as Kermit's principal jailer — combines singing, dancing, innocent humor and entertaining cameos. The resulting treat is then topped off with an endearing message about loyalty to friends. Some slapstick violence. The Catholic News Service classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.

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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.

## MISC. HAPPENINGS

### Bishop Luers Drama Department presents 'Wizard of Oz'

Fort Wayne — "Wizard of Oz," the musical will be performed on Friday, May 2, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 3, at 3 and 7:30 p.m., in Bishop Luers gymnasium. Tickets can be purchased for \$10 by contacting Sue Mathias at 260-456-1261, ext. 3114.

### Bishop Luers to host 'Run with the Knights' 5K run/walk

Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will have a 5K run/walk, Saturday, May 10, at Foster Park, 3900 Old Mill Rd. Pre-registration is \$15/person — after Friday, May 7, \$20/person. For information, contact Sarah Shank at 260-456-1261, ext. 3039 or sshank@bishoplusers.org. Visit www.bishoplusers.org for online registration or downloadable form.

### LuersKnight preview party

Fort Wayne — Preview Knight will be Thursday, April 24, from 7-9 p.m. for a sneak peek to A Knight in Emerald City on April 25. Certain items will be available to bid on and take home. Hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer and soft drinks will be provided. Preview Knight is open to the public. For information call Kathy Skelly at 260-456-1261, ext. 3142. Admission is \$5.

### Morris Inn plans job fair

Notre Dame — The Morris Inn — the region's only four diamond hotel on the campus of University of Notre Dame is hiring part time and temporary servers to work from April to November. Great opportunity to earn as much as \$10k by working just two to three days per week.

Apply online at www.ND.jobs, or at the job fair on Wednesday, April 2, from 4-7 p.m. in the Morris Inn Ballroom, 1399 Notre Dame Ave.

### Easter candy and bake sale

Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Church, 1515 Barthold St., will have a Rosary Society Easter candy and bake sale Saturday, April 12, from 4-6:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 13, 8 a.m. to noon in the gym.

### St. Matthew Parish and School dance

South Bend — St. Matthew Cathedral and School will have a dance Saturday, April 26, from 7-10:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus hall, 61533 Ironwood Rd. Art and the Artichokes will be performing with a cash bar. Couples \$20 in advance, \$30 at the door. Individual \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.

### Card party

South Bend — A Mr. and Mrs. card party will be Sunday, April 6, at the M.R. Falcon Club at 1 p.m. \$5 admission includes lunch. Bring your own cards or dice. Call Lorraine at 574-232-8396.

### Catholic Business Network Group

Fort Wayne — The Catholic Business Network Group will meet Friday, April 4, beginning with Mass at 7 a.m. in the St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel. Mass will be followed in the Cathedral Center by guest speakers Catholics on a Mission, a student-driven service organization evangelizing parishes, cities and the world through spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Refreshments will be provided by G.A. MacDonald Associates.

### Music of Motown to be presented

South Bend — Saint Joseph High School, in collaboration with Clay High School, will present the Las Vegas act The Temptations Revue Band featuring Nate Evans with the Motown Rhythm Orchestra Saturday, April 26, at Saint Joseph High School main gymnasium. The performance will showcase several Saint Joseph and Clay High School Performing Art students. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m. The performance will be from 5:30-7:30 p.m. General admission is \$20. Tickets are on sale at the Clay High School Bookstore and at Saint Joseph High School.

### Come Experience the Crucifixion...

Fort Wayne — Queen of Angels Parish, 1600 W. State St., will host a live chalk drawing by Mary Hilger on Good Friday, April 18, at 6 p.m. John Hilger will read a dramatization of the crucifixion. Stations of the Cross will follow at 7 p.m.

### Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast

Granger — The Knights of Columbus Council 4263 will sponsor a pancake breakfast on 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.

## REST IN PEACE

### Fort Wayne

Diana Jo Sturm, 66, St. Vincent de Paul

Stephen Thomas Elick, 27, St. Charles Borromeo

Raymond R. Sanfrey, 48, St. Jude

Betty L. Funck, 88, St. Vincent de Paul

### Granger

Darwin A. Johnson, 80, St. Pius X

### Mishawaka

Richard Hall, 70, St. Joseph

Evelyn L. Friedman, 96, St. Monica

Nancy L. Owens, 67, St. Bavo

### Monroeville

Jon Christopher Wenger, 41, St. Rose

### New Carlisle

Maria M. Nowicki, 93, St. Stanislaus

Genevieve

Wawrzynski, 88, St. Stanislaus

### New Haven

Joseph A. Knecht, 93, St. Louis Besancon

### South Bend

Robert H. DeLater, 85, Holy Cross

Adeline S. Kruk, 86, St. Casimir

Joan T. Herman, 78, St. Matthew

Ann G. Janiszewski, 100, St. Hedwig

Phyllis T. Grzeszczyk, 87, St. Hedwig

Kathy Kalka, 59, St. Patrick

Joseph B. Garrett, 59, St. Matthew

## FISH FRIES

### Drive through fish fry

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel will be having a drive-through only fish fry on Friday, April 4, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. \$8 per dinner. For information call 260-639-3352.

### Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, March 28, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8.50, children (5-12) \$3.50. Shrimp for \$9 will be available.

### Fish fry

Walkerton — St. Patrick Parish, 811 Tyler St., will have a fish fry Friday, April 4, from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are \$8.50 for adults, \$4 for children 6-10 and children 5 and under free. Drive through carryouts are \$8.

### Fish fry sponsored by Knights

Bluffton — The St. Joseph Parish Knights of Columbus, 1300 N. Main St., will have a fish fry Friday, April 4, from 4:30-7:30

p.m. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$6 for children 6-12 and free for children 5 and under.

### Christ the King Jonah fish fry


South Bend — Christ the King will have a Jonah fish fry Friday, March 28, from 4-7 p.m. in the lower level of the church. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$5 for children age 10 and under. Dine in and drive through carryout available. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Christ the King rectory office. For information call 574-272-3113.

### Jonah fish fry planned

South Bend — Corpus Christi Parish will have an original Jonah fish fry from 4-7 p.m. on Friday, April 4, in the school gym, 2800 Corpus Christi Dr. Carryouts available. Tickets are \$9 for adults and carryout, \$4 for children 6-12 and children under six are free.

### Drive through fish fry

Arcola — St. Patrick Parish, 12305 Arcola Rd., will have a drive through only fish fry on Friday, March 28, from 4:30-7 p.m. Dinners are \$8.



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Apply online at [www.ND.jobs](http://www.ND.jobs) or visit our **JOB FAIR** Wednesday, April 2, 2014, 4 - 7 pm - Morris Inn Ballroom 1399 Notre Dame Avenue, South Bend, IN 46556

## Assistant Principal

St. Jude Catholic School in Fort Wayne has an opening for an Assistant Principal. This is a full-time position. Candidates should have the following qualifications:

- Active and practicing Catholic
- Administrative license in education or in process of obtaining
- Experience in a classroom teaching.

Duties include working with the pastor, principal, teachers, students and parents.

For more information please contact Sister Kathleen Kneeven at 260-484-4611 or [srkathleen@stjudefw.org](mailto:srkathleen@stjudefw.org).

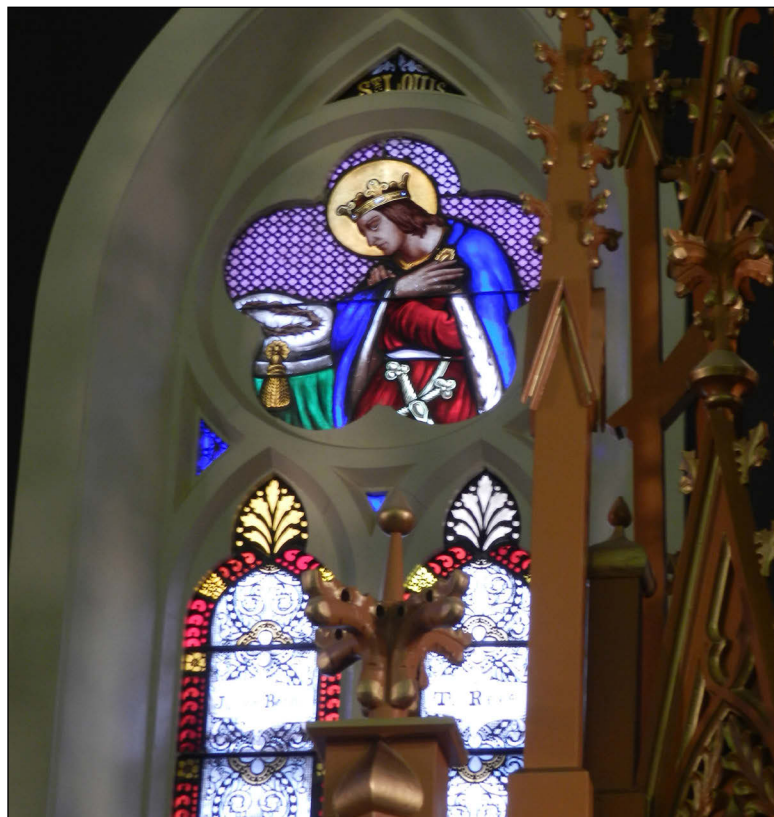


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PHOTOS BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

The St. Louis stained-glass window is now visible for the first time. In the homily, Bishop Rhoades noted, "This holy French king of the 13th century is a great model and intercessor. King Louis IX led an amazing life renowned for his great justice, his devout prayer life, and his charitable works and loving service of the poor. He was canonized a saint in the year 1297, just 27 years after his death. We can sum up St. Louis' character in the words he gave to his son before he died: 'Love God, do justice and serve the poor.' That was his life. May St. Louis intercede for you as you work as a parish to extend God's kingdom in this portion of the vineyard of the Lord!"

Father Stephen Colchin, pastor of St. Louis Besancon Parish, lights a candle during the lighting of the altar in preparation for the celebration of the Eucharist.



## BESANCON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

foundation stones. The Lord Jesus Christ is the cornerstone! In blessing the renovations of this church building dedicated to the worship of God, we are reminded of the divine constitution of Christ's Church and that His Church is apostolic. We profess the faith handed down to us by the apostles and their successors, the same faith that was professed by the parishioners of St. Louis Besancon these past 167 years."

The bishop also prayed that the heavenly patron of the parish, St. Louis, King of France, would intercede for the people of Besancon as they work to extend God's kingdom in this portion of the vineyard of the Lord.

Bishop Rhoades summed up St. Louis' character by quoting the final words that St. Louis gave his son before he died, "Love God,



Denny and Ruth Miesle, Jerry and Laura Gerardot and Paul and Beth Kline wipe the table of the altar after it has been dedicated, anointed and incensed.

do justice and serve the poor," and encouraged the parish to follow their patron's example.

After the homily, the entire ceremony that followed was full of rich tradition beginning with the Prayer of Dedication and sung litanies.

During the Anointing of the Altar, Bishop Rhoades removed his chasuble and donning a linen gremial, the bishop poured chrism oil on the middle of the table of sacrifice and each of its four corners.

He also anointed the walls at appointed locations of the freshly painted interior of the church. This was followed by the incensation of the altar and the church.

After the incensation, the altar was wiped clean by specially chosen ministers, with special sacred cloths that were to be buried or burned, the altar was covered with fine linen, decorated with flowers and candles were arranged. As the candles were lit, the lights of the church were brightened. The Liturgy of the Eucharist followed when the bishop kissed the altar for the first time.

In his closing remarks, Bishop Rhoades extended his sincere and heartfelt gratitude to Father Colchin for his vision and passion to see the project through. In turn, Father Colchin humbly thanked the bishop for his presence and then his congregation for their generous support of this huge and lengthy undertaking.

Father Colchin continued, "This church restoration project has united our parish family to a deeper understanding and ownership, not only of this sacred space, but more importantly to what faith in God requires throughout our pilgrimage in life."

The St. Louis choir closed with "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" resounding from the newly blessed parish walls.

Parishioner John Rorick said the song brought back memories of his youth. "All I could think about was walking out of Mass or Holy Hour as a young boy to the same tune," he fondly recalled.

Organist of nearly 50 years, Jane Lomont, could not have been more pleased with the choir at the celebration. "The newly tuned organ and acoustics are just heavenly," she beamed.

As Father Colchin and Bishop Rhoades greeted parishioners after Mass, the emotional comments of the breathtaking beauty of the building and moving celebration seemed

to be unanimously positive from young and old alike.

"I cried through the whole Mass," admitted LuAnn Kennerk.

Second-grader Ella Beery simply stated, "It was awesome!"

Countless others echoed the same sentiments as they filed over to the parish hall for a potluck dinner. Hundreds gathered for food and fellowship in the same space that had served as their place of worship for the past nine months.

When asked if he ever thought this day would come, Denny Miesle smiled and the man of faith said, "Of course, I did." Among his many duties during the project, Miesle was the chief engineer for the new altar, trim master and cabinet builder. He spent 10-12 hour days in the church for months during the process.

Not willing to take due credit, Miesle summarized, "We are each given gifts and talents. I was just happy to be able to share mine for His greater honor and glory."

Like many in attendance, 11-year old Maggie Castleman's ancestors came to this country from Besancon, France. When asked about her favorite parts of the dedication Mass, she detailed, "I thought it was so cool when the bishop put on the apron and anointed the new altar and I loved how Mrs. Rita (Brueggeman) sang the whole Litany of the Saints."

All in all, it was a fitting finish for all to celebrate the completion of the historical project for the grand, little country church first built in 1871.



A statue of St. Louis, King Louis IX, the patron saint of St. Louis Besancon is shown in the renovated church.

## Bucket List 2014

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- win Pulitzer
- bike from coast to coast
- meet Pope Francis
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