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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Palm Sunday Prayer Vigil to recall faith, courage of Christian martyrs

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

SOUTH BEND — “At the end of the second millennium, the Church has once again become a Church of martyrs. ... The witness to Christ borne even to the shedding of blood has become a common inheritance of Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans and Protestants.” These words from St. John Paul II, who experienced firsthand many of the violent atrocities committed during the 20th century, recalls the living witness of those who have courageously laid down their lives for the Gospel throughout the world. The examples seen on an almost daily basis of men, women and children choosing to stand firm in Christian faith, even at the expense of their own lives, has strengthened the Body of Christ and served as reminder that the kingdom of God is not of this world.

The Community of Sant'Egidio, an international public lay association of the Church, understands this message well. Originally founded by Andrea Riccardi in 1968, with the purpose of encouraging laypeople to take seriously the call of the Gospel, the community now includes over 50,000 members dedicated to serving the Church in a variety of apostolates. As an organization dedicated to prayer, evangelization, ecumenism and friendship with the poor, they have sought to foster dialogue and unity among Christians around the globe,

specifically seeking to bring healing, hope and peace to a world in suffering.

In recognition of the countless Christian martyrs of the 20th century, in the year 2000, Pope John Paul II led a historic commemoration at the Roman Coliseum to honor these heroic men and women who testified to the Gospel with the offering of their lives. Afterwards, he commissioned Andrea Riccardi to write a book detailing the stories of many of these individuals, and officially dedicated the Basilica of St. Bartholomew in Rome to the Sant'Egidio Community as a perpetual memory of all recent Christian martyrs. This basilica includes many side altars, some of which are dedicated to Christians on specific continents, while others attest to the atrocities committed against Christians at the hands of Nazi and Communist regimes.

Since 2000, the community has held prayer services at this basilica every Holy Week to celebrate the memory of those who in recent years have been called to testify to their faith with the offering of their life.

In global solidarity, Sant'Egidio communities throughout the world each hold similar memorials to celebrate the lives of these martyrs.

On Palm Sunday, through the efforts of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and local Sant'Egidio coordinators Richard LaSalvia

EGIDIO, PAGE 16



PHOTO PROVIDED

Shown is the Icon of the Ecumenical Martyrs and Witnesses to Faith of the 20th Century, displayed in the Basilica of St. Bartholomew in Rome. A replica is currently on display at St. Matthew Cathedral where the prayer service will be held on March 29 at 7:15 p.m.

Sankofa Day of Reflection looks back, looks forward

Laughter, African drums, dancers, joy, devotion, song, fellowship and liturgical celebration: “Sankofa”

BY KATHLEEN A. KERSHNER



KEVIN HAGGENJOS

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrates the Vigil Mass that closes the Sankofa Day of Reflection held at St. Augustine Church in South Bend on March 14. Bishop Rhoades spoke of the Strategic Plan for the Evangelization and Pastoral Care of Blacks in the diocese.

SOUTH BEND — Inspired with the “audacity to look back at history and the prudence to look forward” to the future, the diocesan Black Catholic Advisory Board hosted “Sankofa — A Day of Reflection” at St. Augustine Parish in South Bend on March 14. A West African word meaning, “go back and fetch,” Sankofa led members of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to remember with pride and admiration the past achievements of African American Catholics in U.S. history while considering the sobering realities of current racial tensions both within the Catholic Church as well as in society at large.

Keynote speaker, Vince Guider, of Old St. Patrick Church in Chicago, commiserated with the multiracial audience of laity, religious, educators and community organizers as they paused to consider the chants of racist slurs on the lips of University of Oklahoma college

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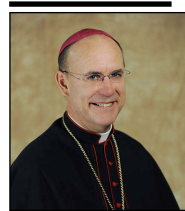
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The Agony in the Garden



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

As we approach Holy Week, I invite you to reflect on the sorrowful mystery of Jesus' agony in the garden of Gethsemane. In the second reading this Sunday, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, we read: *In the days when Christ was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him* (Hebrews 5:7-9). This passage recalls the agony of Jesus in Gethsemane.

Often in our devotion to the passion of Christ, we consider the physical aspect of Jesus' suffering. We meditate on His scourging at the pillar and His crowning with thorns. We think about the physical pain He suffered carrying the cross, the pain He felt being stripped of His garments, the excruciating pain of being nailed to the cross. These sufferings remind us of the horrible physical torment Jesus underwent for love of us. Reflecting on these aspects of the passion moves our hearts, helps us to appreciate the depth of God's love for us. They also provide us with a feeling of Christ's union with us when we experience physical pain and illness. But I'd like to reflect with you on the interior or spiritual aspect of Jesus' passion which had its culminating moment in Jesus' agony in Gethsemane.

This important episode in the mystery of Christ's passion is described in all four Gospels as well as the mention in this Sunday's reading from the letter to the Hebrews. I believe that, together with Jesus hanging on the cross, the mystery of the agony in the garden is the most profound mystery to contemplate in the whole story of the passion, in the event of our redemption. There in the garden, Jesus Himself expressed in words the intensity of His agony: *my soul is sorrowful even to death*. Or another translation: *My soul is ready to die with sorrow*. The evangelists tell us that Jesus was greatly distressed and troubled. This was Jesus' spiritual agony, something even more painful than His physical agony.

What was happening in Gethsemane? What was the torment going on inside Jesus? Some of the great mystic saints describe a similar experience, what Saint John of the Cross called the "dark night of the soul." Our soul can be filled with great sorrow, fear, even desperation when God allows us to see clearly our own sinfulness. But Jesus was without sin. Yet, he experienced the terrible horror of sin since He was about to carry all the sins of mankind. He had not committed them, but He bore them. In the first letter of Peter, we read: *He Himself bore our sins in His body*. Saint Paul wrote to the Corinthians that *for our sake, God made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God*. Saint Paul wrote to the Galatians that *Christ became a curse for us*. Jesus is the suffering servant foretold by Isaiah who bears the sins of the world. Isaiah wrote: *It was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured ... he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for*



The Agony in the Garden is an early painting by the Italian Renaissance master Giovanni Bellini, who painted it around 1459-65. It is in the National Gallery, London. It portrays Christ kneeling on the Mount of Olives in prayer, with his disciples Peter, James and John sleeping near to Him.

our sins. Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole.

The Gethsemane experience was Jesus' anticipation of bearing the guilt of all the sins of human history as if it were His own. I imagine that Jesus in His human nature experienced the natural fear of his impending suffering and death, but I think His agony in the garden was something more painful. It was the burden of the mystery of the world's sin which lay on His heart. He was about to carry the awful burden of the world's sin. This suffering of Jesus was the greatest suffering ever endured in the history of the human race. In Gethsemane, every sin in human history, past and future, were present in mystery: from the sin of Adam and Eve, the sin of Cain, the sins of infidelity of the chosen people, the sins of the people of the new Israel as well, the sins of us all. Our Lord carried all this iniquity as if it were His own.

Jesus' torment was caused also by the experience of abandonment, not only by his friends, but by His heavenly Father. God has an infinite hatred of sin, so the nearness of sin naturally brought also the experience of the distance of God. In the garden, Jesus experienced in His human nature this abandonment. Again, perhaps we find this experience among human beings most dramatic in the descriptions of the mystic saints and the dark night of the soul. Yet, we all can experience this distance of God at different times in our lives and we know how troubling it is. It is a feeling of desolation and abandonment. But Jesus' experience of this was something infinitely more painful. Perhaps it is best captured in our Lord's cry from the cross: *My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? or Why have you forsaken me?* Not only had Jesus experienced the abandonment of His human companions, the apostles, but even more difficult, separation from His Father. Isn't this the principal effect of sin? Jesus took upon Himself the principal effect of sin which was abandonment. Jesus' cry was one of abandonment, but not despair. The soul that despairs never cries to God.

In the midst of His agony in the garden, Jesus prayed. He said: *My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me. ...* This prayer of our Lord reveals the depth of His torment and anguish. When we face suffering, we also pray that God will take it away. But even more importantly, after making that prayer, Jesus

adds: *yet not what I will, but what you will.*

The Gethsemane experience reached its climax and resolution in those words of Jesus. This is Jesus' fiat. We often reflect on Mary's fiat at the Annunciation: *I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word*. This is Jesus' fiat in the midst of agony. This is Jesus' act of obedience to the will of His Father. As Mary consented to the incarnation, Jesus utters the fiat of the redemption. The divine Son freely consented with His human will. The salvation of us all really rests on this fiat of Jesus.

The letter to the Hebrews says that Jesus *learned obedience from what He suffered*. In Gethsemane, Jesus obeyed His Father's will. He said yes to the passion, to dying for the sins of the human race, to drinking the cup of suffering and death. He said yes to fulfilling in Himself the destiny of the Suffering Servant of God foretold by Isaiah. In the darkness of the agony, He said yes to God even when His Father seemed so far from Him. And this is what has brought about our redemption. Saint Paul wrote to the Romans: *For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience, many will be made righteous*. Of course, this all came to pass on Good Friday, when the sacrifice of Jesus was consummated on the cross. But on Holy Thursday, He accepted in His human will that the Father's will be done. He freely embraced in His human heart the Father's love for us. Out of love for His Father and for all people, whom the Father wants to save, Jesus freely accepted His passion and death.

The Gethsemane experience did not end in defeat but in victory. Jesus' soul descended into the abyss. He descended into hell for us but He never lost His filial trust in God, whom He continued to call *Abba*, my Father, Papa. His absolute obedience destroyed sin and its power. The letter to the Hebrews tells us that He was truly heard because of His reverence, that is to say, because of His obedience. This obedience has brought blessings to the whole human race. Through his obedience, all are made righteous, Saint Paul says.

We are called to imitate the fiat of Jesus in the garden, His obedience to the Father. When we find this difficult, as it often can be, we can

At Lenten penance service, pope announces Holy Year of Mercy

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis announced an extraordinary jubilee, a Holy Year of Mercy, to highlight the Catholic Church's "mission to be a witness of mercy."

"No one can be excluded from God's mercy," the pope said March 13, marking the second anniversary of his pontificate by leading a Lenten penance service in St. Peter's Basilica.

"I frequently have thought about how the Church can make more evident its mission to be a witness of mercy," he said during his homily; that is why he decided to call a special Holy Year, which will be celebrated from Dec. 8, 2015, until Nov. 20, 2016.

The biblical theme of the year, he said, will be "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful," an admonition that applies "especially to confessors," the pope said with a smile.

Traditionally, every 25 years the popes proclaim a holy year, which features special celebrations and pilgrimages, strong calls for conversion and repentance, and the offer of special opportunities to experience God's grace through the sacraments, especially Confession. Extraordinary holy years, like the Holy Year of Mercy, are less frequent, but offer the same opportunities for spiritual growth.

The doors of the Church "are wide open so that all those who are touched by grace can find the certainty of forgiveness," Pope Francis said at the penance service, which featured individual confessions. It was part of a worldwide celebration of "24 Hours for the Lord," in which Catholic churches were staying open for prayer, Eucharistic Adoration and Confession.

At each of the dozens of confessionals in St. Peter's Basilica, as well as in simple chairs scattered along the walls, priests welcomed people to the sacrament. The pope removed his liturgical vestments and went to Confession before putting on a purple stole and hearing the Confessions of others.

"God never ceases to demonstrate the richness of His mercy over the course of centuries," the pope said in his homily, which preceded the confessions. God touches people's hearts with His grace, filling them with repentance and a desire to "experience His love."

"Being touched by the tenderness of His hand," people should not be afraid to approach a priest and confess their sins, he said. In the confessional, one has "the certainty of being welcomed in the name of God and understood, despite our misery."

"The greater the sin, the great-



CNS PHOTO/ARTURO MARI, VATICAN

St. John Paul II pushes open the Holy Door and walks into St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve 1999. Opening a sealed Holy Door is one of the traditions that usually marks a Holy Year.

er the love, which the Church must express toward those who convert," Pope Francis said.

The Gospel reading at the penance service was the story of the sinful woman who washed Jesus' feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. Every time one goes to Confession, the pope said, "we feel the same compassionate gaze of Jesus" that she did.

Jesus' love, he said, allowed her to draw near, to demonstrate her repentance and to show her love for Him. "Every gesture of this woman speaks of love and expresses her desire to have an unshakable certainty in her life, that of having been forgiven."

"Love and forgiveness are simultaneous" in the story of each person, just as in the story of the sinful woman, he said. "God forgave her for much — for everything — because He loved her much."

Through Jesus, the pope said, God took the woman's sins and "threw them over His shoulder. He no longer remembers them."

Jesus' encounter with the woman took place in the home of a Pharisee named Simon.

Unlike the woman, the pope said, Simon "isn't able to find the path of love. He remains stopped at the threshold of formality. He is not able to take the next step to encounter Jesus, who brings salvation."

The Pharisee is concerned only with following God's law, with justice, which is a mistake, the pope said. "His judgment of the woman distances him from the truth and prevents him from understanding who his guest is."

Jesus scolds Simon, pointing out how the "sinful woman" has shown nothing but love and repentance, the pope said. "Jesus' rebuke pushes each of us to never stop at the surface of things, especially when dealing with a person. We are called to look deeper, to focus on the heart in order to see how much generosity the personal is capable of."

Pope Francis said he asked the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization to coordinate preparations for the Holy Year so that it would be "a new stage in the Church's journey in fulfilling its mission of bringing the Gospel of mercy to each person."



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, March 22, 9 a.m. — Mass at Saint Robert Bellarmine Church, North Manchester
- Wednesday, March 25, 11 a.m. — Mass for Christ Child Society, Alumni Hall Chapel, University of Notre Dame
- Saturday, March 28, 10:30 a.m. — Confirmation Mass at Saint Dominic Church, Bremen
- Saturday, March 28, 6 p.m. — Auction and Dinner, Marian High School, Mishawaka

Lenten Penance Services

- Our Lady of Good Hope, 7215 Saint Joe Rd., Fort Wayne, March 24 at 7 p.m.
- St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, 11337 Old U.S. Hwy. 27 S, Fort Wayne, March 23 at 7 p.m.
- Holy Cross, 1050 Wilber, and St. Stanislaus, South Bend, March 26 at 7 p.m. at Holy Cross
- St. Jude, 19704 Johnson Rd., South Bend, March 24 at 7 p.m.
- St. Anthony of Padua, 700 W. Maumee St., Angola, March 24 at 7 p.m.
- St. Pius X, 52553 Fir Road, Granger, March 24 at 7:30 p.m.
- St. Bernard, 207 North Cass St., Wabash, March 24 at 7 p.m.
- St. Charles Borromeo, 4916 Trier Rd., Fort Wayne, March 25 at 7 p.m. in the church
- St. Bavo, 502 West Seventh St., and St. Monica, Mishawaka, March 26 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Bavo
- St. John the Baptist, 943 Powers St., New Haven, March 26 at 7 p.m.

Closed captioning during TV Mass better serves faithful

BY TIM JOHNSON

The Sunday TV Mass on WFFT-TV and WNDU-TV has been offering closed captioning (CC) since Feb. 1 in Fort Wayne and March 15 in South Bend.

All televisions are equipped with the CC feature noted Fort Wayne TV Mass co-producer Beth Machall-Dwyer. "The viewer uses the 'CC' button on the TV remote or by checking the settings for 'Closed Captioning' in the menus on their TV or converter box," Machall-Dwyer said.

Via a telephone connection, a professional captioning service accesses the audio going to the WFFT or WNDU transmitter. A transcriber — a real human being — listens to the Mass and transcribes what is heard and types out the captions live.

Sister Agnes Marie Regan, a Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration who produces the TV Mass on WNDU and who serves as the hostess, told *Today's Catholic* that many viewers asked for the closed captioning for the TV Mass.

"Over the years, we've been frequently asked about the possibility of 'closed captioning' as many of our viewing congregation have age-related hearing difficulties," Sister Agnes Marie noted. "What a gift this will be for them now to have the ability to follow along with the Scripture readings and Mass prayers right along with us. What a beautiful



gift of making inclusion in our Sunday TV Mass liturgies more complete."

Machall-Dwyer added, "Many of our viewers are elderly, homebound Catholics that are unable to attend Mass at their parish. This is an important ministry that enables them to attend Mass without leaving their homes. The same holds true for others that are not mobile, such as the hospitalized."

The closed captioning is sponsored by D.O. McComb and Sons on WFFT-TV and by Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center on WNDU-TV.

"Our hope is that this also touches those that are not Catholic or have fallen away from the Church," she added. "There are other national/international televised Masses available. What is unique about ours is that it is local. Local, familiar priests celebrate. I have to believe that our Catholic viewers enjoy seeing priests that they know."

The TV Mass accepts donations to pay for broadcasting costs. Contact Tina in the Office of Communications at 260-744-0012 for information.

TRUTH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

fall on our knees beside Jesus in Gethsemane and He will teach us how to obey. Obedience to God should be the daily fabric of our lives as Christians. We must seek to obey the Lord and we do so every time we say no to sin and yes to grace. There is no activity in our lives that cannot be transformed into an act of loving obedience to the Father. Jesus obeyed God His Father in the midst of the most terrible darkness of the soul. And, as Hebrews tells us, His prayer was heard *because of His reverence*.

Jesus is our model for doing God's will and nowhere is this seen more dramatically than in His experience of the passion, especially his agony in the garden, and his prayer in the midst of that agony: *nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done*. His complete trust and his obedience, even in

the terrible experience of abandonment, is the model for us.

At different times in our life, we may find it easy to pray with Jesus: *Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me*. It is much more difficult to pray from our hearts the second half of His prayer: *nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done*. But with the Lord's grace, we can pray those words. With His grace, we can be obedient. With His grace, we can share in the mystery of His redemptive suffering. With His grace, we can be partners in the paschal mystery. With His grace, we can follow in His footsteps from Gethsemane to Calvary, knowing that Calvary is not the end, rather the empty tomb is, glorification in heaven is. We see this in Mary, the Mother of Sorrows, who because of her sinlessness and her complete union with her Son in His redemptive suffering, was assumed body and soul into heaven. Like Mary, our true joy is found in sharing in the destiny of Jesus. The Gethsemane experience ends not in defeat but in victory.

Disability Board promotes relationship

BY KAY COZAD

As the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend continues its efforts to reach out to all its faithful, the Office of Evangelization and Special Ministries is seeking ways to better serve those with varying abilities. In recent years a diocesan Disabilities Advisory Board has been established inviting those of diverse abilities and backgrounds to its membership.

In its quest for bold new evangelization initiatives, the Disabilities Advisory Board is extending an invitation to anyone in the diocese interested in working with its members to further the growth of this ministry. A meet-and-greet opportunity will be presented in South Bend at the St. John Paul II Center from 6:30-8 p.m. on April 16 and in Fort Wayne at the Archbishop Noll Center from 6:30-8 p.m. on April 23 for those interested.

Mary Glowaski, director of the Office of Evangelization and Special Ministries, says the board would like to focus its efforts on assisting parishes in inviting people with all abilities to come to church. She adds that a concerted and determined effort is being made to invite anyone with a disability or with a child with a disability, who has not received the sacraments, to connect with their parish priest, Jane Sandor from the Office of Catechesis, or the Office of Evangelization and Special Ministries.

"Our goal is to get most parishes involved in inspiring the

people in the pews to invite those they know who are challenged with disabilities to come to our parishes," says Glowaski, adding, "Many are on the periphery. They don't have a voice. They don't have a face."

Reaching out can be as simple as taking the Eucharist to the homebound or providing transportation to Mass.

"Evangelization is about 'feet on the ground,'" says Glowaski.

Though there may be an element of fear at the parish level about whether it has what it takes to serve those with disabilities, Glowaski says, God is in charge and has given His people all they need. "We want to inspire pastors and pastoral staff and their people to focus on what is possible and trust God instead of looking at why it can't be done," she says.

Discipleship, she says, must be intentional. "We must be willing to get into the messiness of their lives, walk with them, be open to hearing and receiving their stories. Then thank them and say 'please come.'... It's like inviting someone to dinner," says Glowaski. "You want to make them feel welcome and comfortable. It's the same at church."

Glowaski is grateful for the generosity of other faiths in sharing their wisdom and training with her office. The focus, she says, is not on any particular program but on building relationships.

"We focus on relationship and getting people connected with a parish," she says. "It can't happen if the people in the pews aren't willing to claim their identity

as disciples of Jesus Christ and building relationships."

An additional goal of the ministry is to become a resource center to the pastors and others in the diocese. Currently the Office of Evangelization and Special Ministries is developing a letter to all pastors that will include resources for parishes to reach out and care for those struggling with mental illnesses for Mental Health Awareness Month in May.

Another meaningful parish outreach is the annual disabilities retreat held at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne. The retreat welcomes those 18 and older with any disability on April 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This year featured speakers will be Mary Hilger and Father Jacob Meyer. Register by calling 260-489-3537, follow the link on St. Vincent de Paul's website or contact Jane Sandor for information at 260-399-1450 or jsandor@diocesefwsb.org.

"Needs are always individual, but with a blanket of love we can welcome the disabled and be enriched and challenged by them," says Glowaski. "We are not inviting people to be like us but for us to be transformed by them and their love and experience of Jesus Christ."

For more information on diocesan efforts to build relationship with persons with disabilities contact Mary Glowaski at mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org.



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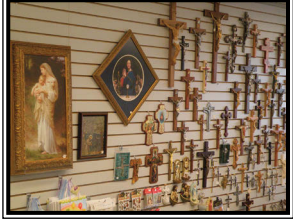
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State budget bill boosts school choice for Hoosier children

STATEHOUSE — Hoosier children stand to benefit in two ways from a boost to two existing school choice programs contained in the state budget bill.

House Bill 1001, the state budget bill, passed the House in late February and received a hearing in the Senate School Funding Subcommittee, March 10. The school choice portion of the budget bill removes the choice scholarship cap set at \$4,800 per child in grades 1-8. The bill also increases the maximum available amount of tax credits from \$7.5 million to \$12.5 million for donors who give to a Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs).

Glenn Tebbe, executive director for the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC), said that the choice scholarship program offers low to moderate-income families an opportunity to attend a public or nonpublic school of the parents' choice. Currently 29,000 students statewide are receiving a choice scholarship.

Tebbe said another program, which assists low-income families, is the tax credit scholarship program. These scholarships are privately funded by donors who receive a 50 percent tax credit for each dollar donated. For the school year 2013-2014, approximately 11,000 students were awarded the privately-funded tax credit scholarships administered by SGO's. Tebbe said the average tax credit scholarship per student was \$1,000. The tax credit scholarship is a line item provision in the state budget that limits Indiana to only a certain amount of tax credits per fiscal year. The current limit is set at \$7.5 million. School choice advocates are requesting a \$5 million increase. Tebbe said donations last year almost reached \$15 million, which would have exhausted the tax credit.

Under Indiana law, a choice scholarship awarded a child will always cost the state less than educating the same child in a traditional public school. In grades

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BRIGID CURTIS AYER

1-8, the choice scholarship amount is capped at the lesser of these amounts: tuition at the school, 90 percent or 50 percent, based on family income, of the per-pupil funding the child would have received to attend their neighborhood public school or \$4,800.

Caitlin Gamble, representing Hoosiers for Quality Education, shared an example of the inequity in state funding between students entering a traditional public school, compared to students in a public charter school, and students entering a nonpublic school who gets a choice scholarship. She told the Senate School Funding Subcommittee, that a child in a traditional public school in East Chicago gets \$8,500 from the state, a near-by public charter

school, the student gets \$7,500 from the state, and a third student attending a near-by non-public school, getting a choice scholarship, gets a maximum of \$4,800 from the state. Gamble said, "No matter where that student chooses to go to school, that family's income didn't change, the only thing that changed was the school building that kid walks into each morning."

Andrew Currier, principal of St. Adalbert Catholic School in South Bend, testifying before the Senate panel said he supports the governor's proposal to eliminate the \$4,800 choice scholarship cap. Currier said out of his 225 students, over 90 percent of the families are below the poverty line and 97 percent are of Latino descent. He said, many of his Latino students struggle with English language learning needs. Currier said that through their "hard work, no shortcuts" approach, their school has had success stories that have garnered national attention as a school that can defy academic odds. "Our students benefit from super-efficient use of extremely limited resources."

John Elcesser, executive director for the Indiana Non-Public School Education Association (INPEA) who also testified in support of HB 1001, which removes the \$4,800 choice scholarship cap, said, "One of the benefits of this job is I get to travel around the state and talk to families who are benefiting from this program. These lives have been changed by this program."

Dr. Vercena Stewart, principal of Ambassador Christian Academy in Gary, said, "I'm a strong proponent of school choice. Parents have the right to choose the best environment for their children."

Stewart said she is a product of the Gary public school system. She had her own children in both public and private schools. The school community where she serves as principal, the families have a median income of less than \$25,000. She said that parents would not be able to select a private school were it not for the choice scholarships.

House Bill 1001 is expected to pass the Senate before the end of April. Tebbe is hopeful the school choice portions of the bill will remain intact and become law before the April 29th adjournment deadline of the Indiana General Assembly.

The Indiana Catholic Conference provides legislative updates via email pushes. To receive the updates join the Indiana Catholic Action Network (ICAN). These and other public policy resources are available at www.indianacc.org.

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Catholic doctor brings healing, hope to the poor with help from Cross Catholic Outreach

“People grow by giving. Everybody has something to give, whether it’s their time, their knowledge, or their resources,” says Dr. Maria Teresa Losada Monsalve, a woman whose life revolves around giving.

In her case, she’s giving medical care to the poor.

Maria Teresa recently provided care for Jerry, an 18-year-old street dweller and drug addict, at a clinic in downtown Cochabamba. Operated through a Franciscan ministry called the San Lucas Foundation, the clinic provides medical care for poor street dwellers, most often in desperate need of immediate care.

Jerry was brutally beaten in the streets and no hospital would treat his life-threatening head injuries. After easing Jerry’s pain the best she could, and with his very life in the balance, Maria Teresa took him from hospital to hospital throughout the city until one yielded to her pleas and provided Jerry with the critical surgery he needed.

Even though the San Lucas Foundation paid for the care, Maria Teresa said the problem is that sometimes people like Jerry aren’t valued by society.

“Jerry is a drug addict and has serious health problems. When he broke his head and was limping, a lot of people said, ‘Why bother? Why help him? Why not just let him die?’ They see some people as disposable — they don’t see their value to society. I think there’s a divine presence in every human being and those who believe have the duty to care for a person like Jerry, just like they have the duty to care for their own children,” Maria Teresa said.

A devout Catholic and the long-time director of a network of clinics operated by the San Lucas Foundation,



Dr. Maria Teresa Losada Monsalve is a Catholic woman impacting health in Bolivia.

Maria Teresa says she sees her work as “a way to practice our Catholic beliefs and knowledge.”

“The presence of crucified Jesus didn’t stay behind 2,000 years ago,” she said. “Christ lives today in those who give and those who receive.”

Jim Cavnar, president of a Catholic humanitarian aid organization called Cross Catholic Outreach that supports San Lucas Foundation, says Catholic lay missionaries like Maria Teresa are bringing physical and spiritual healing to the poor.

“The book of Matthew says, ‘Man

shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ As Catholics, we know it’s not enough to provide care for the body only — we have to care for the soul as well, and that’s what our partner Maria Teresa and the San Lucas Foundation is doing,” he said.

According to Cavnar, it’s the kind of Christ-inspired aid American Catholics are eager to support.

“Our generous Catholic benefactors who help us support Maria Teresa understand that she’s responding the way Christ himself would want us to

respond — with love, compassion, and the Gospel. American Catholics find heavenly value in that, and I know they’ll continue supporting Cross Catholic as we lift up these brave missionaries of Christ like Maria Teresa,” Cavnar said.

To support the worldwide outreaches of Cross Catholic Outreach, look for the ministry brochure enclosed in this issue of the paper or mail your donation to **Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01142, PO Box 9558, Wilton, NH 03086-9558. All contributions to the ministry are tax deductible.**

Cross Catholic Now Endorsed by More Than 90 Bishops, Archbishops

As Cross Catholic Outreach (CCO) continues its range of relief work to help the poor overseas, its efforts are being recognized by a growing number of Catholic leaders in the U.S. and abroad.

“We’ve received an impressive number of endorsements from Bishops and Archbishops — more than 90 at last count,” explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. “They’re impressed by the fact that we’ve done outreaches in almost 40 countries and that we undertake a variety of projects; everything from feeding the hungry and housing the homeless to

supplying safe water and supporting educational opportunities for the poorest of the poor.”

Archbishop Robert Carlson of St. Louis sent one of the more recent letters of encouragement, writing: “It is my hope that this ministry will continue to flourish and reach as many people as possible. I will inform the priests of the Archdiocese of St. Louis of the important work that Cross Catholic Outreach does and elicit their prayerful and financial support for the service you provide to the less fortunate around the world.”

In addition to praising the work

CCO accomplishes, many of the Bishops and Archbishops are also impressed by the unique collaborative relationship Cross Catholic has with the Pontifical Council *Cor Unum* in Rome. This allows the charity to participate in the mercy ministries of the Holy Father himself. In his praise of CCO, **Archbishop Dennis Schnurr of Cincinnati** underscored this unique connection.

“Cross Catholic Outreach’s close collaboration with the Pontifical Council *Cor Unum* is a source of encouragement,” the Archbishop said. “The Holy See has unique knowledge of local situations

throughout the world through its papal representatives in nearly two hundred countries and through its communications with Bishops and others who care for the poor and needy in every corner of the world.”

CCO president Jim Cavnar explained the significance of this connection.

“Our collaboration with *Cor Unum* allows us to fund outreaches in virtually any area of the world, and we have used that method in special cases — to help the victims of natural disasters, for example,” he said. “It only represents a small part of our overall ministry, but it can be a very important benefit in those situations.”

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Cross Catholic Outreach helps bring medical care to the rural, urban poor

Donata Juarez's youngest son, Jose Angel, 3, has the ruddy cheeks and dark eyes of a child raised high in Bolivia's arid mountains. He's a healthy, vibrant boy who smiles easily but becomes solemn and serious when approached by strangers.

"My children give me strength. They keep me going and help me keep working," said Donata, a widow now raising two children alone. She works long hours as a mountain farm laborer to support her family, and her face and hands bear the lines of years of exposure to sun, wind and soil.

Things like electricity and running water are public services that have not yet made their way into most homes in Sapanani Alto. In this village where Donata and her sons live, most homes, like Donata's, are made of clay bricks;

"These clinics are having a tremendous impact on the health of the poor, especially children like Jose Angel," said Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. The San Lucas Foundation relies heavily on Cross Catholic to financially support its clinics.

Cross Catholic Outreach has even helped the network of clinics expand into previously unreached areas. The ministry has also helped a sister clinic increase its services in downtown Cochabamba, where homeless street dwellers can receive quality medical care.

According to Cavnar, Catholic medical ministries like the San Lucas Foundation are worthy of support because they vastly improve the lives of impoverished families around the world.

"In developing countries, children

only far-reaching, but also in line with Catholic teachings.

"Christ's life serves as a prime example of how we should treat the poor," Cavnar said. "He healed them, he restored them and he uplifted them. We aspire to the same approach in our work. We want to serve the poor in a way that preserves their dignity."

As an example, Cavnar told the story of John, a partially paralyzed street dweller who lived a life of misery on the streets of Cochabamba. The San Lucas Foundation regularly sends its volunteers to search for street dwellers needing medical care. When the ministry discovered John, who is unable to walk and was supporting himself only through begging, they immediately brought him to their downtown clinic where they treated his wounds, bathed him and admitted him into their physical therapy facility.

All the while, Cavnar says, the doctors and staff of the San Lucas Foundation treated John as they would have treated Christ: with respect, dignity and love.

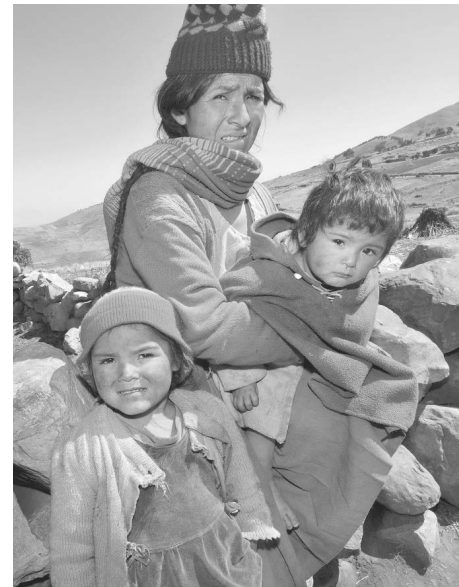
"John was literally lying in the streets — he can't stand or walk on his own — and people were passing him by as if he wasn't there. He was hungry, sick and in great need of Christ. There was no one to help him, but these compassionate Catholics stepped in as Christ would have," Cavnar said. "That's the type of medical ministry God is calling all of us to support."

Based on the response Cross Catholic has gotten to medical appeals, American Catholics seem to agree.

"I thank God every day for the 'army' of American Catholics who give generously to our medical projects. Because of them, we've been able to help our ministry partners save thousands of lives all over the world. That's a feat only Christ and his faith-filled followers could accomplish," Cavnar said.

Cavnar says he's confident American Catholics will continue to stand for what is right.

"In 1 John 3:18 it says, 'Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.' Being a Catholic myself, I know American Catholics understand what this means when it comes to helping their poor brothers and sisters in Christ. I know they will continue to bring



Poor Bolivian families in rural mountain areas lack access to health facilities.



John was suffering in the streets until the San Lucas Foundation stepped in to help.

others have crumbling earthen walls with dirt floors. Families survive through subsistence farming on land most acknowledge is no longer very fruitful.

Most families here live day-by-day, hand to mouth. They worry if there will be enough money for food, clothing or adequate shelter. Despite having to live this dirt-poor existence, mothers like Donata now have an extremely important resource available to them thanks to the help of American Catholics. For some, it is the first time they have access to adequate medical care.

Prenatal care and medically-supervised childbirth. Basic immunizations against childhood diseases. Regular check-ups from caring doctors. These are just a few of the services families in Sapanani Alto and other rural Bolivian communities enjoy now through a network of Catholic clinics operated by the San Lucas Foundation.

are dying because they aren't receiving immunizations or basic care. Adults are succumbing to preventable diseases or dying from minor injuries because they are left untreated. Poor mothers run a tremendous risk of infection or death because they're forced to give birth at home. Our goal is to keep these preventable tragedies from happening, and we believe the most effective way to do that is to support Catholic medical ministries already in place, working hard on behalf of the poor," Cavnar said.

Cross Catholic Outreach also ships desperately-needed supplies, such as medicines and hospital equipment, to Catholic medical ministries overseas.

From providing orthopedic surgeries in the Dominican Republic to supporting a far-flung clinic in rural Ethiopia, Cavnar says Cross Catholic's support for medical projects is not

life-saving care to the poor — it's what they do," Cavnar said.

It is what they did for Donata and her sons. The rural clinic in Sapanani Alto has helped Donata in many ways: staff there provided prenatal care, they delivered both of her children, they monitored the children's health, they immunized them, and they provided psychological counseling when her husband passed away.

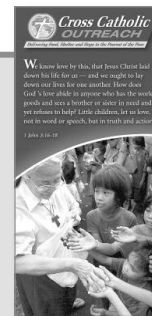
"It has helped my children be healthy — and helped me be healthy too. That means more than I can say," Donata said.



Living in deep poverty, Donata Juarez and her son, Jose Angel, are at constant risk of disease.

How to Help:

Your help is needed for Cross Catholic Outreach to bring Christ's mercy to the poorest of the poor. To make a donation, use the enclosed postage-paid brochure or mail a gift to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01142, PO Box 9558, Wilton, NH 03086-9558.



Pueri Cantores Festival brings to liturgy a

Elite choir performs at Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass and C

BY KAY COZAD AND TESS STEFFEN

NOTRE DAME — With beatific voices raised, students from across the diocese gathered at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame to perform at the fifth annual Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass and Choral Festival on March 12. The 393 musically-gifted students in grades 4 through 12, from 30 diocesan Catholic schools, and several who are homeschooled, combined as one choir and represented just a small part of the thousands of youth singers from around the world in the American Federation of Pueri Cantores Festival.

Pueri Cantores is a century-old practice established in France in 1907, when a special boys choir was formed to sing during the liturgy.

The Indiana program, which was conducted by John Robinson, director of music at St. Paul's Church and Choir School in Harvard Square, Cambridge, Massachusetts, began with a choral prelude showcasing the rich, traditional liturgical songs the choir had been rehearsing in both South Bend and Fort Wayne for the past several months. Robinson explained that personally the day was "very meaningful, and when you look at this huge crowd of young people singing so beautifully, it means that the future of Church music and worship through song is very bright indeed, and that is something we can all be very excited about."

The students gathered early on Thursday and spent the entire day together in fellowship, song and prayer, noted Brian MacMichael, director of the diocesan Office of Worship.

The Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass, which

is the centerpiece of the festival, followed the choral prelude, beginning at 3 p.m. and was celebrated by Msgr. Michael Heintz, rector of St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. Holy Cross Father Peter Rocca, the rector of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, and Msgr. Bruce Piechocki, pastor of St. Monica Parish, Mishawaka, were concelebrants of the Mass. The exquisitely sung sacred music was woven throughout the Mass.

Family members who were able to attend the Pueri Cantores Mass festival were also gratified and deeply moved. Rebecca Fitzmaurice, a parent with the Catholic Homeschoolers of Michiana, shared that she "loves it, and thinks it's awesome to take part in the Church's traditional music. It's like heaven to hear their singing. The homeschooled are pleased to be included each year in this diocesan event."

The students who participated were impressed as well. Harmony Karapantos, a seventh grader from Most Precious Blood School in Fort Wayne, said, "It's the most beautiful sound, and I'm excited to be back again."

Her friend Kiya Robertson agreed, "I've never done it before, but I know it will be a great experience."

Saint Joseph High School student Steve Mullaney told *Today's Catholic*, "It means a lot to have everyone coming together to praise the Lord. Everyone's voices together sound amazing!"

Our Sunday Visitor Institute was a sponsor for this year's festival.

More photos are available at www.diocesefwsb.org



Almost 400 students from around the Diocese Fort Wayne/South Bend participated. They are shown after the Mass with conductor John Robinson in the back of the line.



Msgr. Michael Heintz, rector of St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, is shown celebrating Mass. The Mass is made up of diocesan choral singers who provided sacred music during the Pueri Cantores Festival.



John Robinson, director of music at St. Paul's Church and Choir School in Harvard Square, Cambridge, Massachusetts, conducts the choir singers during the Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass and Choral Festival at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on March 12.

beatific sound

Choral Festival



PHOTOS BY KEVIN HAGGENJOS

Participants in the fifth annual Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass and Choral Festival.



Young people sing sacred music at the Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass and Choral Festival March 12.



Celebrating Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame. The congregation at the Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass and Choral Festival.



All four Catholic diocesan high schools, plus high school-age home-schooled students, helped provide sacred music at the Pueri Cantores Indiana Regional Mass and Choral Festival celebrated March 12. The singers were accompanied by organist Dr. Andrew McShane, director of music for the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

SANKOFA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

students, the violence in Ferguson, the multiple shootings of young African American men by law enforcement officials these past few months — all ironically while marking the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement in Selma, Alabama. This is the type of “fearless and bold looking” that is called for by Sankofa.

The director of community development for the North Lawndale Kinship Initiative, Guider explained how his church in Chicago has implemented a collaborative partnership founded on “asset based community development.” For the last 30 years, their initiative has chosen to focus, not on what is missing, but rather, what are clearly gifts within the communities they seek to serve. “So we can enrich each other,” he explained. “This is not a charity model, but a justice model.”

He added, “We all deserve opportunity. This allows for reciprocity. Blessings flow from all directions and cross-pollinate. This is what Church must do for all its people.”

As Pope Francis has called all to an encounter with all, Guider finished his talk with the same emphasis of the New Evangelization. “We used to wonder, ‘How can we get people to come to church?’ Now we have to realize this is the time we need to find a way to have the Church come to the people.”

Igniting further pride of cultural expression and heritage, members of the Indiana University-South Bend African Dance and Drum Club entered to the song, “Siya Hamba” (“We are Marching in the Light of God”) sung intermittently in Zulu and English. Dancing, at once, in practiced unison with the troupe and then each, individually, in open and ardent abandonment, white dresses billowing and swaying like the wings of a dove, the celebration of God and Spirit in song and dance left all who watched, with excitement and joy, affirmed in the belief

that “we are on holy ground.”

Breakout sessions allowed for small group discussions on how to implement the Strategic Plan for the Evangelization and Pastoral Care of Blacks in the Diocese. The four categories surrounding the key “Call of Evangelization” included education, history, pastoral care and vocations. A concluding discussion allowed for each group to report back their thoughts and findings prior to the celebration of the Mass.

Wearing the rose-colored vestments of Laetare Sunday, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades spoke to the St. Augustine congregation on how fitting it was to be with his African American congregants on this special day of rejoicing within the 40 days of Lent. The jubilant sound swelled under the choral harmonies of visiting Indianapolis Holy Angels Parish Gospel Choir whose songs of praise evoked shouts of gladness, clapping, dancing and appeals of “Hallelujah” throughout the nearly two-hour liturgical celebration.

As he gathered the nine members of the Black Catholic Advisory Board around the altar for the Promulgation of the Strategic Plan for the Evangelization and Pastoral Care of Blacks in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Bishop Rhoades commended them for such fruitful labors since their formation two years ago. Looking back with them to the transformative moments they shared at the National Black Catholic Congress in 2012, he pledged his company on the shared journey toward the future.

Deacon Mel Tardy’s acknowledgment of the strategic plan includes a prayer that those who become aware of this “will be moved in heart to help implement (it); to somehow affirm, inspire and otherwise serve the oft-forgotten descendants of Africa in our diocese and the cause of interracial harmony. Even angels will rejoice because of you.”

To read the plan in its entirety, as well as to contact members of the Black Catholic Advisory Board, visit <http://www.diocesefwsb.org/Diocesan-Black-Catholic-Ministry>.



Sankofa keynote speaker Vince Guider, of Old St. Patrick Church in Chicago, speaks at the Sankofa Day of Reflection held March 14 at St. Augustine Church in South Bend.

PHOTOS BY KEVIN HAGGENJOS



Members of the Indiana University-South Bend African Dance and Drum Club perform at the Sankofa Day of Reflection on March 14.



The Indianapolis Holy Angels Parish Gospel Choir sings songs of praise during the Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades concluding the Sankofa Day of Reflection on March 14.



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Dismas House to host 29th annual dinner and silent auction

SOUTH BEND — Dismas House invites the public to attend their 29th Annual Dinner and Silent Auction at St. Hedwig Memorial Center on Wednesday, April 1, from 6-9 p.m. This event will offer enlightenment on the work Dismas House has done to help individuals returning to society after time spent in prison.

The keynote speaker will be author, mentor and motivational speaker Shaka Senghor, whose ability to touch the lives of others was recognized in 2012 when receiving the Recipient of Knight Foundation's BME Leadership Award. His story exemplifies the trials that men and women returning from incarceration experience as they transition back into the community. Studies have shown that when returning offenders receive support they are more successful and do not reoffend.

"Community support is what has held Dismas House together and has provided the house with sustainability. Everyone in our community has had a role to play in transforming the lives of those who have resided at Dismas House. Our annual dinner is a time where we enjoy meeting with our neighbors and thank them personally for their generosity," states Maria Kaczmarek, Dismas House executive director.

Dismas House will also recognize individuals and organization that have made a major impact on the community in the areas of reconciliation: Lifetime Achievement Award — Sisters of the Holy Cross; Father Jack Hickey Award — The John W. Anderson Foundation and J. David Keckley/Judicial Mental Health Section; Community Spirit Award — South Bend Group Violence Intervention and Christ the King Lutheran Church; Beyond the Campus Award — IUSB Departments of Social Work and Criminal Justice.

Sponsorships to underwrite the costs of the dinner are available. They include the following: \$2,000 sponsorship includes 16 dinners; \$1,000 includes eight dinners; \$500 includes four dinners and \$250 includes two dinners.

The cost of dinner is \$35 per person. Tickets will not be available at the door. Make reservations by March 26 by contacting the Dismas House Office at 574-233-8522 or emailing dismassb@dismas.org.

Saint Joseph High School announces National Merit Scholarship finalists

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph High School has announced that Sofia Carozza, Mary Clark, Sophie Desch, Nora Kelly, Nolan Liu, Sophia Mark and Peter Rymysza have been named National Merit Scholarship finalists. These seven students advanced to finalist standing by meeting high academic standards. They now move on to compete for Merit Scholarship awards.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ANCILLA COLLEGE BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW BUILDING



PROVIDED BY ANCILLA COLLEGE

A crowd of nearly 75 dignitaries, including Plymouth Mayor Mark Senter, community members, present and past board members, Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ sisters, developers, faculty and staff gathered to celebrate as the board of trustees broke ground at Ancilla College in Donaldson on March 10 for a three-story residence hall and student life dining center opening Aug. 1. The Ancilla College board of trustees voted in December to move ahead with the \$6 million project financed by First Source Bank. The residence hall, which will be home for nearly 100 new students who previously could not attend the historically commuter-only college, will include a separate dining facility, fitness area, media center, two-story lobby with fireplace and prayer rooms. In addition to the building project, the school is adding an agriculture program and women's golf and soccer teams.

Bishop Luers Future Business Leaders of America attend State Leadership Conference

FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Luers High School chapter of Future Business Leaders of America has announced Drew Baehl, Rachel Baehl, Gabrielle Bearman, Anna Davis, Luke Dippold, Travis Eckert, Ben Fink, Mary Fink, Isaiah Fisher, Luke Fisher, Carly Grabner, Nathan Hayes, Anthony Hoch, Noah Johnson, Hser Lah, Anna Magner, Alex Maldeney, Gage Malott, Noah Meiser, Emilia Miles, Christian Milligan, John Nolan, Bryce Pollick, Ellen Robbins, Tim Rooney, Luke Scheer, Luke Scheiber, Vanessa Schwieterman, Sebastian Skordos, Abby Ulman, Erik Woehner and Johnny Woehner represented Bishop Luers High School at the FBLA State Leadership Conference held on March 13-15 in Indianapolis. FBLA members competed in various business education events, meetings and social events that will introduce them to students from the many chapters across the state.

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College alumnae celebrate the 175th anniversary by 'Planting New Seeds'

FORT WAYNE — Volunteers are needed Wednesday, April 15, from 6:30-10 a.m. to help Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana, Inc. for Construction®. Connect with fellow alums, families and friends in an exciting opportunity to celebrate St. Mary-of-the-Woods College's 175th anniversary. Other events are planned on behalf of SMWC and the Week of Service. Visit <http://175.smwc.edu/Week-of-Service.html> for more information or contact Ann Cozad at 260-432-3602.

USF lecture to examine Vatican II

FORT WAYNE — The Department of Philosophy and Theology of the University of Saint Francis' School of Liberal Arts and Sciences is hosting a lecture on the controversial Second Vatican Council. "The Word of God: Closing Drama of Vatican II" will be presented by Earl Kumfer, Ph.D., professor

of Philosophy and Theology, on Sunday, March 22, at 3 p.m. at the USF North Campus Auditorium, 2702 Spring St.

Kumfer will discuss the people, issues and processes that surrounded Vatican II as this dogmatic constitution on divine revelation was rejected, revised and finally accepted.

This event is free to the public. For more information, contact Angie Springer at 260-399-8066 or aspringer@sf.edu.

USF announces new dietetics degree

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis School of Liberal Arts and Sciences is offering a new four-year degree in dietetics starting in fall 2015. The Coordinated Program in Dietetics is the first of its kind in northeast Indiana and it combines coursework with fieldwork alongside practicing registered dietitians in the area.

The Coordinated Program in Dietetics will focus on health promotion and can lead to various careers as clinical dietitians in health care facilities, as experts in food service industry or as nutritionists in community programs. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a

newly renovated instructional kitchen on the USF campus as part of a food science class.

Upon completion, students in the Coordinated Program in Dietetics will receive a degree accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND).

For more information about this program, visit sf.edu.

Prolife talk to be offered

GRANGER — A free prolife talk, hosted by the St. Pius X Respect Life Ministry, will be held on Wednesday, March 25, from 6-7 p.m. at the chapel located inside St. Pius X Church at 52553 Fir Rd., Granger. The talk, "You Can Be Both Passionately Pro-life and Compassionate Towards Those Who Suffer From the Wounds of Abortion" is offered by Allison Sturm, Project Rachel coordinator for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. All are welcome. For more information or to schedule a talk, contact Allison Sturm at 260-399-1452 or asturm@diocesefwsb.org or visit www.rachel-hopes.org.

Workshop, speaker to cover abolition of death penalty

SOUTH BEND — Vicki Scheiber of the Catholic Mobilizing Network to End the Use of the Death Penalty will present a workshop Tuesday, March 24, from 2-4 p.m. in 200 McKenna Hall, University of Notre Dame, for strategies to organize a state commission to abolish capital punishment.

Author of "Dead Man Walking" and founder of "Ministry Against the Death Penalty," Sister Helen Prejean will speak at an evening of contemplation and action on the abolition of capital punishment on Tuesday, March 31, at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of the Road Hospitality Center, 744 S. Main St., South Bend.

Both events are co-sponsored by the St. Peter Claver Catholic Worker in South Bend, The Center for Social Concerns at Notre Dame, and the Michiana Movement to abolish the Death Penalty in Indiana. For more information contact Peter Stone at Peter.A.Stone.32@nd.edu.

Mass at Life Center to celebrate children with special needs

SOUTH BEND — A Mass in appreciation of special needs children, especially children with Down syndrome, will be celebrated at the Life Center on Ironwood Circle in South Bend on Saturday, March 21, at 8 a.m. Father Henri Vallancon, a visiting scholar at the University of Notre Dame, will celebrate the Mass, with Holy Cross Father Ed Krause as a concelebrant. A reception will follow the Mass.

The Mass, in honor of World Down Syndrome Day, is part of the 40 Days for Life spring campaign.

All love bears fruit: the family fully alive

The diocesan registration for accommodations for the Theological Congress preceding the World Meeting for Families is now closed. Interested families can still register for the congress through their website (www.worldmeeting2015.org). In addition, we are looking to make relatively inexpensive accommodations available for those interested in going to the grand finale of the WMF that will culminate with a Mass with Pope Francis. Look for more information next month.

Catechesis: Part Six

Two of the Church's sacraments are unique in that they are both devoted "to the salvation of others." Both Holy Orders and Marriage "confer a special grace for a particular mission in the Church to serve and build up the people of God." In other words, not all men and women need to be biological parents to radiate God's love or take part in the "family of families" we know as the Church. The vocation to the Priesthood, or vowed religious

life, has its own integrity and glory. The Church always needs priests and religious, and parents must help all their sons and daughters listen for the possibility that God might be calling them to offer their lives in this way.

Furthermore, there are many celibate lay people, with their own irreplaceable role in the Church. The Church fosters many distinct ways of practicing celibacy, but all of them are, one way or another, a call to serve the Church and foster communion in ways that are analogous with parenting. Authentic celibacy — whether lay, ordained or vowed — is oriented toward social and community life. To be a "spiritual father" or "spiritual mother" — perhaps as a member of the clergy or religious, but also as a godparent, or an adopted relative, or a catechist or teacher, or simply as a mentor and friend — is an esteemed vocation, something essential for a healthy and flourishing Christian community.

St. John Paul II once reflected on the maternal qualities of Mother Teresa, and, by extension, the fruitfulness and spiritual fertility of



FRED AND LISA EVERETT

celibate life more generally: It is not unusual to call a religious "mother." But this name had special intensity for Mother Teresa. A mother is recognized by her ability to give herself. Seeing Mother Teresa's manner, attitudes, way of being, helps us understand what it meant to her, beyond the purely physical dimension, to be a mother; it helped her to go to the spiritual root of motherhood. We certainly know what her secret was: she was filled with Christ, and therefore looked at everyone with the eyes and heart of Christ. She had taken seriously His words:

"I was hungry and you gave

FAMILY, PAGE 13

LOVE IS
OUR
MISSION

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Located in central Africa, northeast of Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is slightly smaller than one-fourth the size of the United States of America. The DRC has been through nearly 20 years of internal violence. This violence is one factor contributing to food insecurity and high levels of malnutrition. Where violence can have the effect of separation among people, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and farmers in the province of North Kivu are working together to make the community a better place. The Catholic social teaching theme of "Call to Community" reminds us that we are social beings. We are called to come together as a community to help one another.

CRS is working with farmers whose plantations have been affected by banana wilt disease, which spreads rapidly and affects up to 80 percent of the banana plants in some parts of the DRC. This disease causes wilted leaves and the rotting of the bud, which leads to the death of the plant. CRS has set up a field school where farmers can practice different methods of dealing with the disease. Then the groups visit each farmer's field and work to clear the disease off the trees. By working together as a team, these farmers are able to improve each other's livelihoods. Currently, CRS works with 380,000 vulnerable banana and cassava farmers in the DRC to introduce food production and disease mitigation activities.

St. John Paul II has given us beautiful insight into the call to community in his encyclical, "Sollicitudo rei Socialis," where he writes, "(Solidarity) is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all." Here we receive a statement on true community that has clear implication for engaging in community.

During his pontificate, St. John Paul II visited 124 countries. In these countries, he expressed his love and concern for the poor, and

CRS
RICE BOWL

MELISSA WHEELER

demanded of world leaders a greater respect for the dignity of human life. Heeding the call to community, St. John Paul II played a key role in the downfall of the Soviet Union. He was also passionate about interfaith and interreligious initiatives. He also saw the great potential of young people to spread the faith and established World Youth Day. We can look to St. John Paul II as an example of the call to community to which we all must strive. This week, pray the following prayer to keep our focus on community instead of division.

God of all nations, You show us, in St. John Paul II, an example of what it means to work tirelessly to bring Your kingdom into the world. May we learn to live in solidarity as one global human family. May we seek to find common ground as we work to promote the dignity of every human person. And may we never grow weary as we pursue justice and peace. We ask all this through the intercession of Our Lady of Czestochowa, protector of St. John Paul II's homeland. Amen.

This week, think and pray about your own connection to the global community. How do you live like you are "responsible for all" in your daily life? Do you at times forget that the Catholic faith goes beyond our United States based concerns? What are some organizations with which you are involved that promote the value of community instead of individualism? How do you remember and validate the experiences and priorities of your brothers and sisters in countries that are radically different from yours?

Melissa Wheeler is the diocesan director for Catholic Relief Services.

The glory of eternal life awaits us



MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

THE
SUNDAY
GOSPEL

5th Sunday of Lent Jn 12:20-33

The Book of Jeremiah is the source of this Lenten weekend's first Scriptural reading. Jeremiah ranks among the greatest of the ancient Hebrew prophets. He wrote at a very difficult time for his people.

Outside pressures had come to be so strong that the very future existence of the nation, and indeed of the Hebrew race, was at risk. Nervous and uneasy, many blamed God for all the misfortune.

Jeremiah insisted that God had not delivered the people into peril. Rather, they had decided for themselves to pursue policies and to move along paths that inevitably led to their situation.

These policies were dangerous because they were sinful. They ignored God, and they rebelled against God. Nothing good could come of them. Great trouble was inevitable.

Through all these acts of rebellion, God was true to the covenant. The people broke the covenant. God, forever merciful, forgiving and life giving, promised a new covenant. If the people would be faithful to this new covenant, and if they would sin no more, they would survive.

Being faithful to the new covenant and sinning no more meant

more than verbal pledges, more than vague, imprecise good intentions. It meant living in accord with God's revealed law.

For its second reading, the Church offers us this weekend a selection from the Epistle to the Hebrews.

This reading looks ahead to the Passion. It will be the centerpiece of next Sunday's liturgy of Palm Sunday. It will surround the Church as it celebrates Holy Thursday. It will envelope the Church on Good Friday. The Church will rejoice at the victory of Jesus over death in the Easter Vigil and at Easter.

Jesus was perfectly obedient to God. He was the teacher, therefore, of perfect obedience. Because of this obedience, Jesus attained life after death. He pledges life after death to us, if we are obedient ourselves.

St. John's Gospel provides us with the last reading.

Virtually every verse in John's Gospel is a masterpiece of eloquence and instruction. These verses are no exception. Indeed, quoting Jesus, they are nothing less than jewels of literary and theological exposition.

Jesus is clear. His hour is approaching. It will be the hour of the Passion. The cross meant intense suffering for Jesus. He was a human, after all, as well as the Son of God.

Yet, Jesus accepted the cross. He died, as all humans must die. It also will be the moment of Resurrection. In glory, Jesus rose. He lives!

All believers must walk in the Lord's footprints. All must die, literally, but also all must die to sin. Death in either case will be hard in coming. If confronted in the love of God, resurrection will follow.

Reflection

The Church directs us toward the

last remaining two weeks of Lent. For four weeks, we have been living through this season. It may have become dreary. The Church gives us these readings to inspire us and to encourage us.

As inspiration, and as encouragement, the Church reassures us that if we are faithful to God, eternal life awaits.

More than any one season is at stake here, however. Lent, and our response, merely reflects human life. Life can be dreary. Life can mean for any of us, often for many of us, a daily carrying of crosses to personal Calvaries.

The Church this weekend therefore speaks to us about life, not only about endurance. If we follow Jesus, indeed follow Jesus to Calvary by obediently consenting to God's will, and by putting God first, the glory of eternal life awaits us.

Lent has been a time so far to focus ourselves. We must be faithful to God. The Church urges us today to re-commit ourselves to God, and to scrutinize the sincerity of our intentions.

READINGS

Sunday: Jer 31:31-34 Ps 51:3-4, 12-15 Heb 5:7-9 Jn 12:20-33

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 Ps 23:1-6 Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9 Ps 102:2-3, 16-21 Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Ps 40:7-11 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9 Ps 105:4-9 Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13 Ps 18:2-7 Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28 (Ps) Jer 31:10-13 Jn 11:45-56

Saint of the Week



Cyril of Jerusalem

c. 315-386
Feast March 18

Cyril lived when the Arian heresy was roiling Christianity. Raised and educated in Jerusalem, he was ordained by St. Maximus and succeeded him as bishop of Jerusalem around 350. His episcopate lasted until his death, but he spent 16 years in exile, turned out by emperors influenced by the Arian bishop of Caesarea who claimed ecclesiastical jurisdiction over Jerusalem. The Council of Antioch sent St. Gregory of Nyssa to investigate Cyril and his diocese. He reported that Jerusalem was rife with factionalism and Arianism, but that Cyril was orthodox. He is famous for his extant "Catechetical Instructions," some of which consist almost entirely of carefully interwoven scriptural passages.

Stephen Fry, Job and the Cross of Jesus

The British writer, actor and comedian Stephen Fry is featured in a YouTube video, which has gone viral: over 5 million views as of this moment. As you may know, Fry is, like his British counterparts Christopher Hitchens and Richard Dawkins, a fairly ferocious atheist, who has made a name for himself in recent years as a very public debunker of all things religious.

In the video in question, he articulates precisely what he would say to God if, upon arriving at the pearly gates, he discovered that he was mistaken in his atheism. Fry says that he would ask God why He made a universe in which children get bone cancer, a universe in which human beings suffer horrifically and without justification. If such a monstrous, self-absorbed and stupid God exists, Fry insists, he would decidedly not want to spend eternity with Him. Now there is much more to Fry's rant — but you get the drift.

To those who feel that Stephen Fry has delivered a devastating blow to religious belief, let me say simply this: this objection is nothing new to Christians. St. Paul, Origen, Augustine, C.S. Lewis, G.K. Chesterton and many, many other Christian theologians up and down the centuries have dealt with it. In fact, St. Thomas Aquinas formulated one of the pithiest expressions of the problem in the 13th century.

The great Catholic philosopher argued that if one of two contraries be infinite, the other would be altogether destroyed. Yet God is called infinitely good. Therefore, if God exists, there should be no evil. But there is evil. Thus it certainly seems to follow that God does not exist. Thomas thereby conveys all of the power of Fry's observations without the histrionics. And of course, all of this subtle theological wrestling with the problem of suffering is grounded, finally, in the most devastating rant ever uttered against God, a rant found not in an essay of some disgruntled atheist philosopher but rather in the pages of

the Bible. The book of Job.

According to the familiar story, Job is an innocent man, but he is nevertheless compelled to endure every type of suffering. In one fell swoop, he loses his wealth, his livelihood, his family and his health. A group of friends console him and then attempt to offer theological explanations for his pain. But Job dismisses them all and, with all the fury of Stephen Fry, calls out God, summoning Him, as it were, into the dock to explain Himself. Out of the desert whirlwind God then speaks — and it is the longest speech by God in the Scriptures: "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you know. . . . Who shut within doors the sea . . . when I made the clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling bands? Have you ever in your lifetime commanded the morning and shown the dawn its place?" — Job 38:4, 8-10.

God goes on, taking Job on a lengthy tour of the mysteries, conundrums and wonders of the universe, introducing him to ever wider contexts, situating his suffering within frameworks of meaning that he had never before considered. In light of God's speech, I would first suggest to Stephen Fry that the true God is the providential Lord of all of space and all of time.

Secondly, I would observe that none of us can see more than a tiny swatch of that immense canvas on which God works. And therefore I would urge him to reconsider his confident assertion that the suffering of the world — even the most horrific and seemingly unjustified — is necessarily without meaning. Imagine that one page of Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" was torn away and allowed to drift on the wind. Imagine further that that page became, in the course of several months, further ripped and tattered so that only one paragraph of it remained legible. And finally imagine that someone who had never heard of Tolkien's rich and multi-layered story came, by chance,

life. This distinction — between the natural goal of procreation and the theological vocation to prepare for the kingdom of God in full flower — enables the Church to make a further point: To fulfill their destiny as men and women, all persons can be fruitful, but not everyone need marry.

The Church offers marriage as a vocation, a possibility; it therefore cannot be a law or requirement for a flourishing Catholic life. It follows, then, that celibacy needs to exist in the Church's social life in order for marriage to be a matter of freedom rather than compulsion. Celibacy is the alternative if there is indeed more than one way to order one's sexual life, one's maleness or femaleness, to heaven. "Family life is the vocation that God inscribed into the nature of man and woman, and there is another vocation which is complementary to marriage: the call to celibacy and virginity for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. It is the vocation that Jesus Himself lived. . . ."

In the case of marriage, when husbands and wives give themselves to one another, with a love that

WORD ON FIRE



FATHER ROBERT BARRON

upon that single paragraph. Would it not be the height of arrogance and presumption for that person to declare that those words made not a lick of sense? Would it not be akin to someone, utterly ignorant of higher mathematics, declaring that a complex algebraic formula, coherent in itself but opaque to him, is nothing but gibberish? Given our impossibly narrow point of view, how could any of us ever presume to pronounce on the "meaninglessness" of what happens in the world?

A third basic observation I would make to Mr. Fry is this: once we grant that God exists, we hold to the very real possibility of a life beyond this one. But this implies that no evil in this world, even death itself, is of final significance. Is it terrible that innocent children die of wasting diseases? Well of course. But is it finally and irreversibly terrible? Is it nothing but terrible? By no means! It might in fact be construed as an avenue to something unsurpassably good.

In the last analysis, the best rejoinder to Fry's objection is a distinctively Christian one, for Christians refer to the day on which Jesus was unjustly condemned, abandoned by His friends, brutally scourged, paraded like an animal through the streets, nailed to an instrument of torture and left to die as "Good Friday." To understand that is to have the ultimate answer to Job — and to Stephen Fry.

Father Robert Barron is the founder of Word on Fire, and the rector and president of Mundelein Seminary. visit www.WordonFire.org.

imitates Jesus, their gift of self to each other is part of the work of Christ, joining in the same spirit of Jesus' own gift of Himself for the Church. When the spouses exchange their vows in church at their wedding liturgy, Christ receives their nuptial love and makes it part of His own Eucharistic gift of self for the Church and the Father who, pleased by the offering of the Son, gives the Holy Spirit to the spouses to seal their union.

Nuptial fruitfulness, then, is first of all the gift and the task of the sacramental bond. This is exactly why St. John Paul II beautifully said that the nuptial bond that the spouses have been given to enjoy and live makes them "the permanent reminder to the Church of what happened on the Cross; they are for one another and for the children witnesses to the salvation in which the sacrament makes them sharers."

Fred and Lisa Everett are co-directors of the Office of Family Life.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for March 22, 2015

John 12:20-33

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Fifth Sunday of Lent, Cycle B: the Gospel is being prepared to spread to the world. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

BETHSAIDA	GALILEE	SEE JESUS
HOUR	GLORIFIED	WHEAT
DIES	WHOEVER	MY SERVANT
TROUBLED	SAVE ME	A VOICE
HEAVEN	CROWD	HEARD IT
SPOKEN	JUDGMENT	WORLD
DRIVEN OUT	DRAW	DEATH

GREEKS

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

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FAMILY

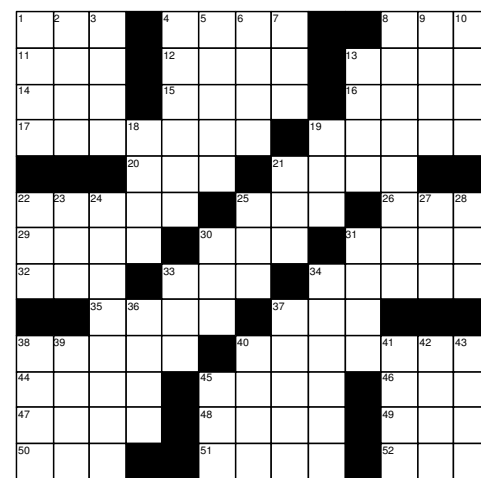
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

me food. . . ." She therefore had no trouble in "adopting" her poor as children. Her love was concrete and enterprising; it spurred her to go where few had the courage to go, wherever poverty was so great as to be frightening. It is not surprising that the people of our time were fascinated by her. She incarnated that love, which Jesus indicated as the distinctive mark of His disciples: "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." Radiant lives, like Blessed Teresa of Calcutta and St. John Paul II, show that celibacy in its many varieties can be a compelling, beautiful way of life.

Earlier in this catechesis, citing St. Augustine, we saw that the purpose of having children was not merely to continue the species or build up civil society, but to fill the heavenly city with the joy of new

The Cross Word

March 22 and 29, 2015



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Based on these Scripture Readings: Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33 and Mk 11:1-10; Is 50:4-7 and Phil 2:6-11

ACROSS

- Future Farmers (abr.)
- of the Apostles
- PB container
- Sloppy
- Space ship builders
- New Zealand plant genus
- Expert
- "I shall ___ all unto myself"
- Planets
- Tarnish
- A grain of this must fall
- Grain
- "Lord, to ___ would we go?"
- Incite (2 wds.)

- Judas was one
- Sorbet
- "Save me from this ___"
- Good health
- France & German river
- Former president of U.S.
- ___ fire
- Orange yellow
- Become bigger
- Respiratory disease
- Club rule
- Preened
- Native ruler in Africa
- Capital of the Ukraine
- Epoch
- Teen disease

- Sticky stuff
- Beam
- Chase
- Berths
- Ship initials

DOWN

- Excess flesh
- Did not shield from spitting
- Chopping tools
- Of the Andes
- Diamond weight unit
- Russian ruler
- St. Simon's symbol
- Prophet of tears
- Father
- ___ in Peace
- Santa call (2 wds.)
- St. Benedict the ___
- Reporter's question
- Words per minute
- Extremely high frequency
- Son of ___
- Ababbling
- "Remember their ___ no more"
- Coupe
- Before, poetically
- Nun makes forever
- Filthy film
- At the name of Jesus
- Mount where Jesus prayed
- A pearl of great price is
- Famous head doctor
- I gave my back to those who ___
- Health club
- Mound
- St. Rose's country
- Time periods
- Lent lasts 40 ___
- Former USSR's secret police

Answer Key can be found on page 15

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Redeemer Radio

Director of Development

Redeemer Radio, a 501(C)(3) non-profit is seeking a full-time Director of Development. The Director of Development (DD) is chiefly responsible for enhancing and maintaining donor revenue to achieve Redeemer Radio's financial needs.

The DD must have a passion for Redeemer Radio with the ability to build and develop long-term relationships with supporters and volunteers. The chosen candidate will be an organized team player with attention to detail, big picture thinking and have strong verbal and written communication skills. He or she should be comfortable asking individuals for financial support and guide other volunteers who assist in this effort. A self-motivated individual with a servant leadership style is essential.

Responsibilities include:

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- Create and improve existing development programs to support the annual budget

- Lead and guide development volunteers who assist Redeemer Radio
- Responsible for donor communications

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- Practicing Catholic in full communion with the church
- Four-year Bachelor's degree in an aligned field of study
- Demonstrated volunteer experience in parish activities
- Strong communication and computer skills
- Previous public speaking experience
- Previous development or non-profit experience a plus

Interested candidates should send resume, references, salary history, and salary requirements (necessary for consideration) to:

Redeemer Radio
Attn: Executive Director
4618 East State Blvd. Ste. 200
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

You may also choose to email all of the above information to: jobs@RedeemerRadio.com

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

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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.

FISH FRIES

Holy Name Society fish fry
New Haven — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry Friday, March 20, from 4-7 p.m. Adults \$8, children 5-12 \$4.50 and children under 5 free.

Knights of Columbus to host fish fry
Plymouth — The Knights of Columbus Council 1975 will have a fish dinner on Friday, March 27, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 901 E. Jefferson, from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are \$8.50 for adults, \$4 for children 5-10 and children under 4 are free. The fish will be prepared by Tyner Oddfellows. Proceeds will benefit local charitable organizations.

Fish fry at PB
Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Parish, corner of Spring and Barthold, will host a fish fry on Friday, March 20, in the school gymnasium from 4-7 p.m. Adult dinners are \$9, children 6-12 are \$5 and a donation is appreciated for children ages 5 and under. Cheese pizza also available. Carry-out and drive-through will be available.

Fish fried by Tyner at Sacred Heart
South Bend — Sacred Heart of Jesus, 63568 U.S. 31-South will have a Lenten fish fry Friday, March 20, from 4-7 p.m. (carry out/drive through closes at 6:30 p.m.) Tickets are \$9 for adults and all carry-outs, \$4 for children ages 6 through 12 and children 5 and under free. Call 574-291-3775 for more information.

Fish fry planned
Fort Wayne — The St. Therese Knights will have a fish fry on Friday, March 20, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the St. Therese Hall, 2304 Lower Huntington Rd. Tickets are adults \$9, children 5-12 \$5, under 5 free. Carryout available.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Casino night planned
Monroeville — St. Rose Parish will have a casino night/Texas hold 'em tournament on Saturday, March 21, at the Park Pavilion, 421 Monroe St. Free admission. Must be 21. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with \$30 registration at 6 p.m. Tournament begins at 7 p.m. Cash prizes for top 10 finalists. License No. 136616. Contact Tony at 260-623-6368 for information. Proceeds will benefit St. Rose of Lima School.

Anniversary Knight
Mishawaka — Marian High School's annual auction will have the theme Anniversary Knight, celebrating 50 years, on March 28. For more information and to purchase tickets, call the Marian High School development office at 574-258-7676.

Knights to host Sunday breakfast at Most Precious Blood
Fort Wayne — The Most Precious Blood Knights will have a breakfast Sunday, March 22, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the gymnasium, 1515 Barthold St. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 6-12 and \$20 per family. Carry-out meals will be available for \$5. Proceeds will benefit the Bill Roth Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Card party and salad bar planned
New Carlisle — The Altar and Rosary Society of St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish will have a card party and deluxe salad bar on Sunday, March 22, at 11:30 a.m. The event will have a Downton Abbey, Tea Party theme. Tickets are \$5 purchased in advance by calling 574-654-8208. Proceeds purchase needed altar items.

REST IN PEACE

Fort Wayne
Wilfred J. Amstutz, 95,
St. Vincent de Paul

Paul E. Roy, 91,
St. Charles Borromeo

Linda Lee Ruffolo, 73,
St. Charles Borromeo

Sharon J. Fromm, 74,
Queen of Angels

David W. Yee, 64,
St. Vincent de Paul

Norma Jean Bradner,
84, St. Therese

Huntington
Sister Betty Lorenz,
OLVM, 97, Victory Noll

Mishawaka
Matthew Benko, 97,
St. Bavo

Notre Dame
Brother Donard L.
Steffes, CSC, 100, Our
Lady of Holy Cross
Chapel

Plymouth
Janelle A. Bottonoff, 50,
St. Michael

South Bend
Phillip J. Gallivan, 84,
St. Anthony de Padua

Rosemary G. Hartman,
90, St. Jude

Sophia Kuta, 95,
St. Casimir

Dorothy F. Nurkowski,
94, Holy Cross

Frank F. Sojka, 86,
St. John the Baptist

Sophia C. Brooks, 96,
Holy Family

Rummage sale planned
Kendallville — The Immaculate Conception Parish Rosary Sodality will have a rummage sale Friday, March 27, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, March 28, from 9-11:30 a.m. Bag sales start after 3 p.m. on Friday.

Bake and rummage sale planned
South Bend — St. John the Baptist Parish Altar and Rosary Society will have a bake and rummage sale Saturday, March 28, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, March 29, from 9 a.m. to noon and will offer a bag sale for \$1 on Sunday.

Easter candy and bake sale
Fort Wayne — The Rosary Society of Most Precious Blood Church will have an Easter candy and bake sale Saturday, March 28, from 4-6 p.m. and Sunday, March 29, from 8 a.m. to noon.

Women's morning of reflection
Columbia City — St. Catherine of Alexandria, 9989S. St. Rd. 9, will have a Morning of Reflection on Saturday, March 21, from 8-11 a.m. Call 260-433-1255 for information.

The CrossWord

March 22 and 29, 2015

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PIANO LESSONS AND WRITING TUTORING
Local Catholic wife/mother is offering piano lessons and writing tutoring (both online and in-person) to students of all ages.
Check out www.shanntalentstudio.com
or contact Katie at writersblocktutor@gmail.com

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Famous Lenten FISH FRY!
At St. Pius X Church, Granger
FRIDAY, MARCH 20
4:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Adults \$8.00 • Children \$4.00 • Under 6 FREE
ALL YOU CAN EAT!
New this year: *Drive-thru Pick-Up!*
Follow signs in parking lot
Brought to you by Father Badin Council KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS
St. Pius X Church, 52553 Fir Road, Granger 46530



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EGIDIO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and Daniel Philpott, the community will participate in this worldwide tribute with a special memorial led by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades to acknowledge Christians of all denominations who have, in recent years, willingly laid down their lives for Christ. This service will be held at St. Matthew Cathedral at 7:15 p.m. on March 29 and is open to people of all faith traditions.

LaSalvia shared that "one of the martyrs who will be recognized is Msgr. Oscar Romero, former archbishop of San Salvador, a man of peace in a country marked by injustice and civil war, who was killed on the altar while celebrating the Eucharist on March 24, 1980." In January, the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes officially recognized Romero as a martyr and he will be beautified in El Salvador on May 23 of this year. "The Community of Sant'Egidio assisted Romero's beautification cause through the efforts of the spiritual director Bishop Vincenzo Paglia," LaSalvia said.

LaSalvia, who has led and served with Sant'Egidio for over 10 years, primarily through organizing nursing home visits and weekly prayers with the sick and elderly, has helped bring much

desired mercy and friendship to those often left feeling isolated and alone. He shared that the work of the community involves ministering to the various needs of the Church and walking in friendship with people of all ages.

In explaining why the community seeks to unite Christians through this type of memorial event, he revealed, "From the beginning, we recognized that prayer was the first work of the community. Everything that we do starts with prayer. It is our essential and fundamental task as Christians, and in addition to educating ourselves about what is happening, it is our most important response! Prayer is the work of the whole Church, which is why Bishop Rhoades has invited the priests, religious, laity and other Christians of the diocese to participate in this prayer service."

He also recalled the various ways in which the community has responded to the violence so often inflicted upon Christians throughout the world. "We seek to come together through what Pope Benedict called and Pope Francis is now calling an "ecumenism of blood." The 20th and 21st centuries have been periods of incredible persecution, especially in the Middle East. There, our founder, Andrea Riccardi is currently taking action to help Christians in Aleppo, Syria, one of the cities recently bombed by all sides and where many Christians have been killed. It was there that two Syrian Orthodox bishops, close

friends of the Sant'Egidio community, were kidnapped. We are currently working to find them and return them home. Riccardi has also been working on opening a humanitarian corridor in Aleppo to bring out the innocent civilians currently in hiding."

Additionally, LaSalvia shared, "Riccardi, who also has good relations with the Coptic Church in Egypt, sent condolences to Coptic Patriarch Alexandria Tawadros II, following the brutal killing of the 21 Christians who were beheaded in Libya. He responded with grateful affection for the sympathetic words and prayed, "the Lord of Life protect us from hatred and intolerance."

LaSalvia further remarked that Pope Francis has been very supportive of the mission of the Sant'Egidio community, sharing that when he visited its members in Rome this past June, "He encouraged them to continue to remain vigilant in their prayer, to continue going to the peripheries and serving the marginalized, and to steadfastly work to achieving worldwide peace."

The prayer vigil is co-sponsored by the Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the Catholic Peace Fellowship.

Grammy Award-winning singer Aaron Neville to receive Notre Dame's 2015 Laetare Medal

NOTRE DAME — Aaron Neville, a four-time Grammy Award-winning singer and musician, will receive the University of Notre Dame's 2015 Laetare Medal, the oldest and most prestigious honor given to American Catholics, at Notre Dame's 170th University Commencement ceremony May 17.



AARON NEVILLE

"Aaron Neville proudly embraces and honors his faith through his God-given musical talents," said Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, Notre Dame's president. "Through tumultuous times in his life, Aaron turned to God, the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Jude for strength, forgiveness and salvation. His example of repentance and devotion shine bright for all who see him perform."

A rhythm and blues and soul artist, Neville has had four platinum-certified albums and four Top 20 hits in the United States, including three No. 1 songs on the Billboard Adult Contemporary charts and a 2015 Grammy Hall of Fame Recording inductee, "Tell It Like It Is," which topped the R&B chart in 1967. He is also

a member of the musical group The Neville Brothers with his brothers Art, Charles and Cyril.

He won the 1989 Grammy Award in the Best Pop Instrumental Performance category for the song "Healing Chant" by the Neville Brothers, as well as the 1989 Grammy for Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals when he teamed with Linda Ronstadt for the song "Don't Know Much." The following year, he and Ronstadt claimed the 1990 Grammy in the same category for "All My Life." Later, Neville and Trisha Yearwood won the 1994 Grammy in the Best Country & Western Vocal Collaboration category for the song "I Fall to Pieces." He was named *Rolling Stone* Critics Poll Best Male Singer in 1992 and 1993, and has been inducted into the Delta Music Museum Hall of Fame and the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame. He was also awarded the James Cardinal Gibbons Medal by Catholic University of America in 2002.

"My music is my connection with God. It's something I'm giving to Him," the 74-year-old Neville has been quoted as saying. "I want to see the world through God's eyes, and I want people to see Him in me."



Community of
SANT'EGIDIO

PRAYER IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THE GOSPEL

**Palm Sunday, March 29, 2015
At 7:15 p.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral
1701 Miami St., South Bend
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Presider**

In many parts of the world, Christians do not cease to proclaim the Gospel of Christ's peace, even at the risk of their own lives. This strong, nonviolent witness of our brothers and sisters helps us to understand the meaning of the Cross of Jesus, of His Passion and Resurrection. Continuing a tradition started in Rome and encouraged by St. John Paul II, this memorial prayer remembers the faithful of all Christian traditions of the 20th and 21st centuries who have been given the grace to offer their lives for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All are invited to begin Holy Week with Bishop Rhoades by honoring the Christian martyrs of today at this event, which is hosted by the Community of Sant'Egidio.

"At the end of the second millennium, the Church has once again become a Church of martyrs ... The witness to Christ borne even to the shedding of blood has become a common inheritance of Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans and Protestants." (St. John Paul II, Tertio Millennio Adveniente, 37)

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Shawn Storer at sstorer@diocesefwsb.org