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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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at St. Matthew Cathedral

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Bishop Rhoades challenges Holy Cross College graduates to live the Gospel

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS



EMILY WACK

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Holy Cross Brother John Paige, president of Holy Cross College, enter during the Holy Cross College graduation procession on May 9.

NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross College celebrated their 48th Commencement Exercises, welcoming Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades as honorary keynote speaker on Saturday, May 9.

Addressing the graduating class of 2015, Bishop Rhoades began by exclaiming the need to remain focused on the reality of the cross. "This college is named in honor of the cross of Jesus, the tree of life. Our faith is in a God who has broken open His heart in love in order to save us. He died in order that we might have life and have it to the full. It's a radical faith, this religion of the cross!"

He continued, "A bland, secularized, lukewarm Christianity is not real Christianity. We live in an age and culture where the dominant elites want to silence the voice of the Church in the public square. They wish to force conformity to the materialism, relativism and hedonism they embrace. They may or may not explicitly attack Christianity and Catholicism; they just want a watered-down version: Christianity without the cross or a cross without Jesus. Neither is true Christianity."

Bishop Rhoades, who was awarded doctor of humane letters by college president Holy Cross Brother John Paige emphasized the very real

HOLY CROSS, PAGE 16

Stephanie Patka named Secretary for Communications

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has named Stephanie Patka as the new director of the Secretariat for Communications. Patka, who most recently was the executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Elkhart County, will oversee all communication activities of the diocese, particularly that of communication director and business manager of *Today's Catholic*, the TV Mass, Seventh Floor Productions and *Today's Catholic Travel*.

Patka has strong ties within the diocese. She grew up on a farm in LaGrange and had been a member of St. Joseph Parish where she has been music director and involved with parish faith formation. Currently Patka attends St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Elkhart. She graduated from Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame with a degree in communication studies and humanistic studies and resides in Elkhart where she directed Big Brothers Big Sisters of Elkhart County.

Patka is the oldest of four and enjoys a close relationship with her parents, her two brothers and their wives and her younger sister. She is



STEPHANIE PATKA

proud of her Polish Catholic heritage. A gardener at heart and self-professed nature lover, Patka enjoys growing plants, a trait she says she inherited from her mother.

Patka also has a passion for writing, and though she says she's dabbled in community theater, her heart belongs to improv. "That's kind of where my heart is — comedy and improvisation," she admits. Musically inclined, Patka also plays the piano and guitar, not only for Masses at St. Joseph Church and other church events, but for personal pleasure as well and says, "That's a stress relief for me."

Patka is eager to join the team of *Today's Catholic* newspaper and communications department and says, "Our Catholic faith is so beautiful. I'm excited about the role I think this department can play in making it more accessible to the people who don't know they love it yet."

She believes that although the Catholic experience for the faithful of the diocese is vastly different across the region, that the Church is the connecting point.

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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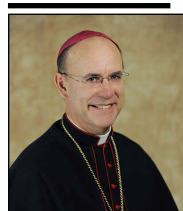
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Dorothy Day – Radical discipleship



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

The following is the homily that Bishop Rhoades preached on May 14th at Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception during the Dorothy Day Conference sponsored by the University of Saint Francis:

Today we celebrate the feast of Saint Matthias, the apostle chosen to replace Judas, as we heard in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles. Matthias is not mentioned anywhere else in the New Testament, so we know very little about him. We do know that he was suited for apostleship because of his experience of being with Jesus from His baptism to His ascension, as Acts tells us. He must also have been suited personally or he would not have been considered and nominated for so great a responsibility. Perhaps the Gospel today can help us to see what made him suitable, indeed, what makes us suitable for discipleship and the apostolate.

First and foremost, it involves remaining in Jesus' love. This is what Jesus said to the disciples in His farewell discourse: *Remain in my love*. Jesus and the apostles shared an intimate friendship. Jesus told them that He no longer calls them *slaves*, but He calls them *friends*. As He prepares to take leave from them, Jesus asks the apostles to remain in His love, in His friendship. This entails keeping His commandments: *If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love*. And Jesus gives them the new commandment: *love one another as I have loved you*.

It's all very simple when we think about it. *Remain in my love*. That's the essence of the Christian life, together with the command: *Love one another as I have loved you*. Dorothy Day understood this. With her conversion, she became a true friend of the Lord who, through a devoted prayer life, learned to remain in His love. She understood, of course, that this love for God could not be separated from love of neighbor, especially the poor and destitute. I think of her powerful and challenging words: *I really only love God as much as I love the person I love the least*.

Dorothy Day desired to change the world. She and fellow members of Catholic Worker fought for the rights of workers and the poor. In the midst of this battle for justice, she said, *there is nothing we can do but love, and, dear God, please enlarge our hearts to love each other, to love our neighbor, to love our enemy as our friend*.

We can learn so much from the words and example of Dorothy Day. She challenges us with the radical truth of the Gospel. She challenges us to love one another as Christ has loved us. She challenges us, as Pope Francis challenges us, to be a Church of and for the poor. They challenge us with the words of Jesus in the parable about the last judgment: "whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do to me." In her typically incisive way, Dorothy Day wrote that "those who cannot see Christ in the poor are atheists indeed."



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Dorothy Day is pictured with children in an undated photo. Co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement and candidate for sainthood, Day was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1897, and died at the Catholic Worker's Maryhouse in New York in 1980. The University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne is the sponsor of the "Dorothy Day and the Church: Past, Present, and Future" conference, May 13-15.

Pope Francis is very critical of a Church that is egocentric, that is engaged in an ego-drama, what he calls a "self-referential Church," one that is turned in on itself. He is calling us to go out from our comfort zone in order to reach all the peripheries in need of the light of the Gospel. This is what Dorothy Day did. At the same time, Dorothy Day and Pope Francis do not mean that we rush out aimlessly into the world. We go out with a mission, a clear mission, the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ, the Gospel that invites us to respond to the love of the God who saves us. Dorothy Day's life was anchored in the Word of God and in the Eucharist. The Word and the Mass strengthened and nourished her. She experienced the Eucharist as the sacrament of love, the mystery of the cross made present, the most amazing encounter we can have with God on this earth.

Dorothy Day teaches us that Christianity isn't about embracing abstractions. It's about living the Gospel. Dorothy Day would quote the words of Dostoevsky: *Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing compared with love in dreams*. Think of the saints: they were men and women who embodied the Gospel. They didn't just talk about it in lofty language. When they saw someone hungry, they gave them food. When they saw someone suffering, they helped them. This is our vocation as well. As Dorothy Day wrote: *everything a*

baptized person does every day should be directly or indirectly related to the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

We are called to sanctity: the perfection of charity, to love God and neighbor, and to love one another as Christ has loved us. Encountering a multitude of challenges in her life and efforts, Dorothy Day kept this at the center: love of God and neighbor. She wrote that *love and ever more love is the only solution to every problem that comes up*.

When we think of Dorothy Day or of the lives of the saints, we should realize that they were not born perfect and they had their weaknesses. But they lived their lives with passion and purpose. What animated their lives was that *they recognized God's love and they followed it with all their heart without reserve or hypocrisy. They spent their lives serving others, they endured suffering and adversity without hatred and responded to evil with good, spreading joy and peace* (Pope Francis, November 1, 2013). This is our calling too. And here at this altar, we see and we experience the epitome of such love, the sacrifice of Jesus. We hear anew the words of Jesus and the real truth of those words: *No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends*. And yes, we truly are His friends if we do what He commands us, which is really to live the Eucharist we celebrate and receive.



Priest assignments

Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has assigned **Reverend Andrew Curry**, Pastor of Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish, North Manchester, to summer Spanish studies in Guatemala from May 30, 2015 to July 31, 2015. During this time, Bishop Rhoades has assigned **Reverend Mark Enemali, CSSp**, as temporary Administrator of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish.

Pope: Marriage is brave promise to love like Jesus, not showy ceremony

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Christian marriage isn't just a big ceremony held in a church with nice flowers and everyone wearing fancy clothes and taking lots of pictures, Pope Francis said.

Marriage is an act of faith between a man and woman who are both fragile and limited, but courageous enough to follow Christ and seek to love each other as He loves them, the pope said May 6 during his general audience in St. Peter's Square.

"Men and women, courageous enough to carry this treasure in the 'earthen vessels' of our humanity, are an essential resource for the Church and for the whole world," he said. "May God bless them a thousand times for this!"

The pope continued a series of talks about the family by focusing on the beauty of Christian Marriage as a sacrament that builds up the Church and the world.

A Christian Marriage "is not simply a ceremony that you have in church with flowers, the dress, photos. Christian Marriage is a sacrament that takes place in the Church and is also something the Church does, ushering in a new domestic community," he said.

All Christians "are called to love each other like Christ loves them," and to be at the service of each other, he said. But the love between husband and wife is given greater, even "unthinkable," dignity when St. Paul says the love between a husband and wife reflects the love between Christ and His Church, the pope said.

Just as Christ loves His Church, every husband, too, must love his wife and give himself completely for her, he said.

Looking up from his text, the pope asked all of the married men in the crowd if they fully grasped what was being asked of them. Such responsibility and a commitment to offer so much love and dignity to a woman "is no joke, you know; it's serious," he said to applause.

While the analogy between husband-wife and Christ-Church may be imperfect, he said, its spiritual significance is "revolutionary, and simple at the same time, and within the means of every man and woman who trust in God's grace."

This love has been inscribed by God in the human creature, "and with Christ's grace, countless Christian couples, even with their limits, their sins, have achieved" it, the pope said.

The selfless, reciprocal, fruitful



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Francis smiles as he plays with a basketball next to members of the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team during his weekly audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican May 6.

and indissoluble union between a man and a woman is part of God's original plan and "the sacrament of Marriage is a great act of faith and of love," he said.

Marriage "gives witness to the courage to believe in the beauty of the creative act of God and to live that love that drives one to always go beyond, beyond oneself and beyond one's own family," he said.

"The Christian vocation to love without reserve and without measure is what, with Christ's grace, is at the foundation of the free consent that constitutes Marriage," the pope said.

The pope said the Church is intimately bound up in every Christian marriage and it is edified with each union's "successes" and suffers with every failure.

"But we must ask ourselves in all seriousness: Do we fully accept — we as faithful and pastors, too — this indissoluble connection between the relationship of Christ and the Church with the relationship of marriage and the human family? Are we willing to seriously take on this responsibility? That is, that every marriage takes the path of the love Christ has for the Church? This is something huge."

Such a path takes courage, and that is why whenever "I greet newlyweds, I say, 'Look, the courageous ones!' Because you need courage to love each other as Christ loves the Church," he said to applause.

At the end of the audience, the pope noted May 8 marked the 70th

anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe.

He said he hoped humanity would "learn from past mistakes."

Given the "current conflicts that are tearing apart" certain parts of the world, the pope asked all leaders to commit themselves to "seeking the common good and promoting a culture of peace."

Among the tens of thousands of faithful present in St. Peter's Square was a large group of Chinese Catholics from the Diocese of Wenzhou.

The pope met with them before the start of the audience after he gave indications to Vatican security to deviate the popemobile's usual route through the square and head to where the group was standing, sending a few undercover Swiss Guards scurrying when the vehicle did not take its expected turn.

The pope descended from the popemobile to greet members of the large and enthusiastic group of pilgrims who waved Chinese and Vatican flags. They vigorously shook the pope's hands or grabbed at him while he smiled and blessed a few babies.

Also in the audience was a uniformed delegation from the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team.

The Globetrotters performed for Pope Pius XII in 1951, St. John XXIII in 1959 and Pope Paul VI in 1968. They met St. John Paul II a number of times and even awarded him "honorary player" in 2000.



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, May 17, 9 a.m. — Commencement Ceremony, University of Notre Dame
- Monday, May 18, 8 a.m. — Morning Prayer with Investiture of Franciscan Brothers Minors Novices, St. Andrew Church, Fort Wayne
- Monday, May 18, 5 p.m. — Mass with Profession of Vows of Franciscan Brothers Minor, St. Andrew Church, Fort Wayne
- Tuesday, May 19, 12:30 p.m. — Meeting of Diocesan Finance Council, Holiday Inn Express, Warsaw
- Wednesday, May 20, 5:30 p.m. — Baccalaureate Mass of Bishop Dwenger High School, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Thursday, May 21, 12 p.m. — Meeting of Board of Directors of Saint Anne Home and Retirement Community, Fort Wayne
- Thursday, May 21, 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass at St. Mary Church, Huntington
- Friday, May 22, 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Angola
- Saturday, May 23, 11 a.m. — Diaconate Ordination Mass, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend



DIOCESAN CELEBRATION OF "YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE"

All are cordially invited to join Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and the men and women of our diocese in consecrated life for the celebration of Evening Prayer (Vespers) on Sunday, May 31, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, at 4:30 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame. This will be a celebration of prayer and thanksgiving for the over 700 consecrated men and women in our diocese.

Plenary indulgence to be offered at Diocesan Vespers for Year of Consecrated Life

NOTRE DAME — At 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 31, in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will preside at a special celebration of Vespers (Evening Prayer) for religious communities within the diocese. This event is open to all, and anyone participating in this celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours fulfills the requirements established by Pope Francis for obtaining a plenary indulgence as part of the Year of Consecrated Life.

An indulgence is defined by the Catechism of the Catholic Church (No. 1471) as "a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints."

Through indulgences, the infinite merits of Christ, as well as the merits of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints, are applied to our purification in this life or in the life to come (in purgatory). A plenary indulgence removes all of the temporal punishment due to sins, and may be applied to oneself or to the souls of the deceased.

Those intending to obtain this plenary indulgence must also meet the following usual conditions:

- 1.) Being truly repentant and receiving sacramental absolution in the Sacrament of Penance
- 2.) Reception of Holy Communion
- 3.) Praying for the Holy Father's intentions.
- 4.) Total detachment from any inclination to sin, even venial sins.

The first three actions may be fulfilled within 20 days.

In addition, as decreed by the Apostolic Penitentiary, those members of institutes of consecrated life who cannot be present at this event due to infirmity or other grave cause may still obtain the plenary indulgence — provided that they fulfill the aforementioned usual conditions and also make "a spiritual visit with deep desire and offer the infirmities and pain of their own life to the Merciful God through Mary." They should then also pray the Our Father, the Profession of Faith in any legitimately approved form, and offer pious invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

WCC garners largest donation in nation on Give Local day

BY ANN CAREY

SOUTH BEND — A pregnancy help center headquartered in South Bend led the entire country in donations made to a single charity during the Give Local national giving day event on May 5.

The Women's Care Center of St. Joseph County received \$454,980, leading the 9,000 individual charities that participated in 180 communities across the United States, including big cities like Seattle, New Orleans and Charleston.

The generous donors helped put to rest the myth that pro-life people do not care about women with a crisis pregnancy or the babies that are already here, said Ann Manion, president of the board of the Women's Care Center, which has four locations in St. Joseph County.

"Amazing" was the word Manion used to describe the outpouring of donations. Yet, she had often witnessed such generosity because the centers rely entirely on donations, and whenever lean times occurred that stressed the local centers' \$1 million annual budget, "Our donors always come through; it's just miraculous," she said.

"But I had no idea we would lead the nation! It's really a testimony to the people who deeply value our mission and are willing to contribute greatly," Manion related.

That mission was first established in 1984 by the founder of the first Women's Care Center, Janet Smith, then a University of Notre Dame professor, and now the Michael J. McGivney Chair of Life Ethics at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. Manion said that Smith set the tone for creating an environment in which trained counselors assist women in an unconditionally loving, nonjudgmental manner.

"When women feel loved and supported, they can make good



ANN CAREY

The Women's Care Center on Notre Dame Avenue in South Bend is one of 23 Women's Care Centers in seven states.

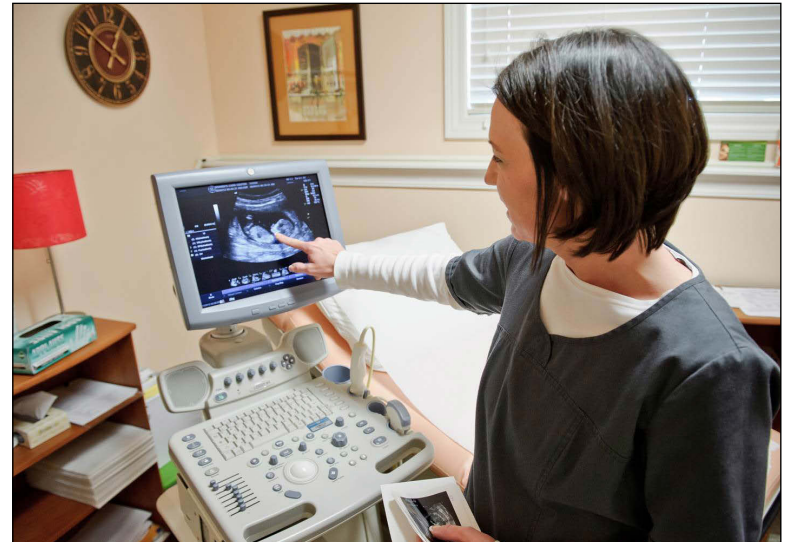
decisions, and more and more women choose life," Manion said.

"Over 50 percent of our budget goes to help women who make the choice for life," she continued, explaining that it can be a long process for some women to choose life because of various challenges and risk factors the women face. That is why highly skilled counselors are so vital to what the centers do, and the results are "unbelievable success stories," said Manion.

Once the choice for life is made, the Women's Care Center has a variety of programs to help the women have a healthy pregnancy, learn parenting skills and set appropriate life goals of their own choosing, whether they decide to keep their babies or place them for adoption. By participating in the programs, the moms can earn cribs, car seats, baby clothing, diapers and other required items for baby and mother care.

After the baby is born, the centers provide any ongoing support that is needed by the mothers and also offer parenting classes for the families.

"We do whatever is needed for our clients," Manion said, noting that grateful former clients often return to the centers to offer their assistance to other women in need of a shoulder to lean on, a



PROVIDED BY THE WOMEN'S CARE CENTER

All Women's Care Center clients are offered a free sonogram. Here, sonographer Barb Nichols shows a new mom the image of her developing baby.



PROVIDED BY THE WOMEN'S CARE CENTER

The four St. Joseph County Women's Care Centers served nearly 2,000 newly pregnant women in 2014.

"powerful" testimony to the work of the centers.

The word has gotten out that the Women's Care Center is the place to go for help, and the St. Joseph County centers served nearly 2,000 newly-pregnant women in 2014 and hosted 24,000 visits by clients. Now half of all pregnant women in St. Joseph County visit one of the county's four Women's Care Center locations.

"Every other baby born in this community now starts with Women's Care Center," Manion said.

About 23 percent of the centers' clients are married, eight percent are engaged and the rest are single. Fully 90 percent of the pregnant teens in the county have come to the centers. In this county, about 20 percent of the clients are "abortion-minded" or "abortion vulnerable," meaning someone is pushing them toward abortion, Manion said. In Indianapolis, the rate is about 50 percent.

In addition to the four St. Joseph County locations, centers have been established in seven other cities in Indiana and in six other states: Michigan, Florida, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Ohio.

Manion explained that people

started hearing about the success of the St. Joseph County centers and asked for help in establishing Women's Care Centers in their cities. Five of the more distant locations are licensees, with staff trained by Women's Care Center personnel, but financially independent. Presently some Baltimore residents are working to establish a Women's Care Center there with the strong support of Archbishop William E. Lori, who will serve on the center's board in Baltimore.

Although the Women's Care Centers are nondenominational and serve any woman who comes, they were started by Catholics, operate on Catholic-based values and strongly supported by the Catholic community. Manion gives much credit to local bishops who have wholeheartedly supported the establishment of centers in their dioceses, and several of them serve on the boards of their local centers, including Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI of Milwaukee, Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin of Indianapolis, Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito of Palm Beach and Bishop Frederick F. Campbell of Columbus, Ohio.

The 23 centers in seven states serve 21,000 women annu-

ally, with those women making 100,000 visits each year, making the Women's Care Centers the largest, most successful pregnancy resource center in America, according to the Women's Care Center Foundation. Presently, clients of the 23 centers are expecting 6,687 babies.

And how do the centers serve so many moms and babies?

"The answer is simply by the grace of God, and that we have been blessed with so many Catholic friends who have supported our mission of hope," said Bobby Williams, director of the foundation. "The best part is it's done in a way that's beyond reproach: unconditional love, non-judgmental service, an outpouring of love to each and every woman who walks through our doors. It works."

Williams said the organization looks forward to bringing the centers "to any region of the country where committed people of good faith want to significantly reduce abortions in their community while fully supporting women throughout their pregnancies and beyond."

And what about that number-one-in-the-nation Give Local donation that will be increased somewhat by matching funds? Manion said that 25 percent will go into the organization's endowment to insure that this valuable work can continue into the future.

The remainder will help provide a cushion so that the hand-to-mouth months will be fewer and farther between, insuring that staff can be paid and facilities maintained. And, as always, the need remains great for more ultrasound machines, pregnancy tests, pre-natal vitamins, cribs, car seats, diapers and care for the mothers who choose life.

"It's pretty striking if you look at every single community we're in, even some of the new ones, the abortion decline is just dramatic," said Manion. "So eventually the center will keep growing and touch more and more moms and babies."

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Fortnight 2015: Freedom to Bear Witness

The Fortnight for Freedom: Freedom to Bear Witness will take place from June 21 to July 4, a time when the liturgical calendar celebrates a series of great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political power — St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher, St. John the Baptist, Sts. Peter and Paul, and the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome. The theme of this year's Fortnight will focus on the "freedom to bear witness" to the truth of the Gospel.

Religious liberty under attack: Hobby Lobby wins!

The Green family began what became Hobby Lobby Stores, a retail chain of arts and crafts stores, out of a garage in the family's home in Oklahoma. The Hahn family likewise began Conestoga Wood Specialties, a cabinet-making business, out of a garage in the family's home in Pennsylvania.

The Greens are evangelical Christians who strive to operate Hobby Lobby in a manner consistent with biblical principles. Hobby Lobby pays full-time employees at almost double the minimum wage, offers generous health benefits, and allows employees ample time off from work. The Hahns, who are Mennonite, similarly strive to operate Conestoga Wood in a way that honors their faith.

Both the Hahns and the Greens believe that life begins at conception, and their religious beliefs prohibit them from facilitating abortion. Unfortunately, a mandate from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) would force the Greens and the Hahns to cover certain drugs and devices that can end life after conception. Coverage of these drugs and devices is required in the companies' health plans under threat of potentially fatal fines by the federal government.

The Greens and the Hahns were forced to sue the federal government to vindicate their rights under the U.S. Constitution and federal law to exercise religion. They argued that Americans do not give up their freedom when they open family businesses.

The U.S. Supreme Court decided on June 30, 2014, that closely held businesses like Hobby Lobby and Conestoga can exercise religion under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, a law that passed Congress nearly unanimously and was enthusiastically signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1993. The Court also found that the HHS Mandate constitutes an unjustified, substantial burden because of the millions of dollars in annual fines that both companies would face if they did not comply with it.

The U.S. bishops have voiced their strong support for families like the Greens and the Hahns. The bishops have filed a friend-of-the-court brief with the U.S. Supreme Court supporting Hobby Lobby and Conestoga in their challenge to the HHS Mandate. The bishops



explained that they oppose "any rule that would require faithful Catholics and other religiously motivated business owners to choose between providing coverage for products and speech that violate their religious beliefs, and exposing their businesses to devastating penalties."

The bishops have repeatedly voiced their concern for faithful people in business so that they can continue to live out their faith in daily life.

Local majority rule threatens minority rights in Mexico

According to a Pew Forum study, Christians are the group most harassed and persecuted in the largest number of countries in the world. In Mexico, religious freedom violations have risen significantly in recent years, with some statistics finding Mexico to be the world's most dangerous country for Roman Catholic priests and lay leaders in 2014. Some persecution can be traced to incidents between Catholics and Protestants that cast a different light on religious freedom concerns.

Although Mexico has signed many international human rights treaties and their constitution guarantees freedom of religion or belief, it also has a Law of Uses and Customs that, at times, is misused. This law gives considerable autonomy to places where there is a large indigenous population and grants certain rights, "including the right to implement their own social, economic, political and cultural organization and the right to maintain and enrich their language and culture."

Most religious freedom violations linked to the Law of Uses and Customs are concentrated in those states that have significant indigenous populations. Under this law, religious majority local communities have taken it upon themselves to make life difficult for religious minorities. In the most benign form, this can involve levying fees to support religious festivals of the majority, or fines for non-participation. In other instances, water and electricity are cut off or children from the religious minority cannot attend school. Such discrimination can escalate into beatings, imprisonment, forced displacement from homes and lands and even murder. But because of the Law of Uses and Customs, federal and state governments have been slow to hold people accountable for these human rights abuses, or to protect religious minorities seeking to reclaim what is rightfully theirs or simply asking that justice be done.

In Chiapas, despite a National Human Rights Commission of Mexico ruling that Protestants should be allowed to return to their homes after being forcibly displaced, Protestants were stoned and beaten by some Catholics. Two Protestant pastors were taken hostage before state officials intervened. The negotiated agreement stipulated that these Catholics would not continue to mistreat the Protestants or force them to pay fines to be released; in return the Protestants would not press charges. But the reverse can also happen. In a primarily Protestant village in Chiapas, a Catholic priest was attacked and 13 Catholic families fled after the local council sanctioned the Catholics for failing to obtain permission to remodel their church; the new construction was destroyed and land confiscated. Christian Solidarity Network reports instances where one Protestant denomination signed a pact with local Roman Catholics to exclude another Protestant group.

These cases demonstrate an increase in the practice of "majority enforcement of religion." This trend undermines advancing international religious freedom for all. Many abuses take place in rural areas making it hard for state and federal governments to monitor. In addition, some illegal cartels may target churches and religious leaders, either to force them to launder money, or to challenge the Church's programs and teachings that offer alternatives to a life of violence. Even if government officials are aware, they are sometimes reluctant to intercede given limited resources, preferring to defer to local customs, or they are unwilling to go against organized crime. This leads to a culture of impunity.

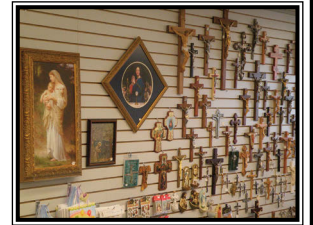
To fight this culture of impunity, in February 2015, the Mexican bishops issued a powerful statement that called for all elements of government and civil society to combat corruption in all its forms. The Mexican Bishops' Conference urged authorities to solve in a comprehensive and inclusive manner the violence afflicting so many individuals and families, so that citizens can live in peace, as is their right. In an earlier statement, the Bishops of Mexico affirmed their support for international religious freedom, stating they "want a truly democratic country with a secular and pluralistic state, that does not promote any religion nor any antireligious current" and called for the state to respect churches, religious associations and their members.

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Lawsuit seeks HHS records on abortion access for unaccompanied children

LEVITTOWN, Pa. (CNS) — The American Civil Liberties Union wants the Department of Health and Human Services to provide records related to government policies on abortion and contraception access for unaccompanied and refugee children. The organization filed a lawsuit in April against the HHS and the Administration for Children and Families under the Freedom of Information Act seeking the records on policies regarding children in the custody of the government or various grant recipients. An ACLU representative said the information is necessary to learn whether HHS officials are violating the rights of immigrant children by allowing religious organizations, including Catholic social service agencies, to limit access to abortion and contraception. Brigitte Amiri, senior staff attorney at the ACLU, said the organization has been concerned about this issue for several years. She said the ACLU respects religious freedom and fights for those rights, but that when Catholic or other religious organizations accept funding from the government to care for children, "they must abide by what they sign up for." The ACF and HHS declined requests for an interview but issued a statement through a spokesperson. It said the ACF is cooperating with the FOIA request filed in September, which asks for information dating to 2009.

Sister Prejean tells Boston jury Tsarnaev told her of regret for victims

BOSTON (CNS) — Sister Helen Prejean, the death penalty abolition advocate, told a jury May 11 that convicted Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev expressed remorse in discussions with her. Sister Prejean, the Sister of Saint Joseph of Medaille and author of "Dead Man Walking," said during the defense's portion of the sentencing phase of Tsarnaev's trial that she had met with him five times since March. In their conversations, she said, he eventually discussed his feelings about the victims of the April 15, 2013 bombing that killed three and left more than 260 people injured. "He said emphatically, 'No one deserves to suffer like they did,'" Sister Prejean told the jury, according to various news sources. She said she believed Tsarnaev was sincere in the regret he voiced. A police officer was killed a few days later as law enforcement officers closed in on Tsarnaev and his elder brother Tamerlan. Tamerlan Tsarnaev was killed in a shootout with police before Dzhokhar was captured. Although he pleaded not guilty to the charges against him, as his trial opened, Tsarnaev's attorney acknowledged he had a role in the bombings. The defense strategy through the main trial and the penalty phase focused on the influence of the elder brother as the principal organizer of the crimes. Tsarnaev was convicted of all 30 counts on which he was indicted, including use of a

CARITAS STAFF CHECK EARTHQUAKE RELIEF MATERIAL PACKETS AT CATHOLIC CHURCH IN NEPAL



CNS PHOTO/ANTO AKKARA

Caritas staff from Poland and Nepal check earthquake relief material packets at Assumption Catholic Church in Lalitpur, Nepal, May 7. The Catholic community across the United States will respond to the suffering through the special collection at Masses on the weekend of May 16-17 for the work of our Catholic Relief Services in Nepal.

weapon of mass destruction resulting in death. Some of the charges carry the possibility of the death penalty.

Texas governor: Response to prayer after accident made him stronger

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has not always lived life in a wheelchair. He was on his morning jog 31 years ago when a falling tree broke his spinal cord, leaving him partially paralyzed. Abbott, a Catholic, noted at the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast, held May 7 in Washington, there are times when "our prayers are answered differently than the way we expect." He said he can recall, "I spent months praying and hoping for the best possible outcome" after the accident. God, instead, "responded by giving me challenges that made me even stronger." Abbott told the audience at a Washington hotel ballroom, "In hindsight, I am tremendously thankful that God did not grant me my wish," adding, "If you had seen what I had gone through, you would never again question the Lord." As his prayers had in the period following his accident, "have you ever noticed how our prayers increase in time of great need?"

asked Abbott, who had been Texas' attorney general for 12 years before becoming governor in January. He said the United States is in such a time right now. He told of two challenges to religious liberty that Texas successfully fended off in the courts. One would have removed a monument to the Ten Commandments on government property; another would have deleted the words "one nation under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance. Abbott outlined three such challenges in the courts today: the Little Sisters of the Poor's lawsuit challenging the federal Department of Health and Human Services' contraceptive mandate under the Affordable Care Act; what he called "the never-ending battle to defend the unborn"; and the legal challenge to "marriage defined by God."

Work together to promote, defend life, pope says on Mother's Day

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — People must work together to protect life, Pope Francis said on Mother's Day, the day Italy celebrates its annual March For Life. After praying the "Regina Coeli" at noon May 10 with people gathered in St. Peter's Square, the pope greeted all those who took

part in the pro-life initiative that morning, saying "it is important to work together to defend and promote life." He also expressed his gratitude and affection for all of the world's mothers and asked the thousands of people in the square to give a round of applause, a form of "embrace," for "all of our dear mothers: those who live with us physically, but also those who are with us spiritually." Several thousand people participated in the March for Life in Rome, including U.S. Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, patron of the Knights of Malta. He told Vatican Radio May 10 that "St. John Paul II urged us, in his wonderful encyclical letter on the Gospel of Life, to make public manifestations to demonstrate the incomparable beauty, the inviolability of innocent, defenseless human life." He said the march was an important sign of people's dedication to restoring "respect for all human life, from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death."

Report details damage to Nigerian diocese where Boko Haram operates

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — A new report has revealed the scale of suffering of Nigerian Catholics

at the hands of Boko Haram militants, with 5,000 Catholics killed in one diocese alone. A further 100,000 Catholics in the Diocese of Maiduguri, in the northeast of the country, have been displaced by the six-year campaign of violence conducted by the Muslim militant group, according to the "Situation Report on the Activities of Boko Haram in the Catholic Diocese of Maiduguri." There are now about 7,000 widows in the diocese and nearly 10,000 orphaned children, said the report. Among the diocese's displaced are 26 of 46 priests, 200 catechists and 20 religious sisters, the report found. The diocese includes the entire states of Borno and Yobe and part of Adamawa state. More than 350 churches in the diocese have been the targets of terror attacks with "a good number of them destroyed more than once," the report said. Aid to the Church in Need said 22 of the Maiduguri Diocese's 40 parish centers and chaplaincies have been deserted by Catholics. Many are occupied by Boko Haram militants, who control about three-quarters of the territory of the diocese, the report said. It said 32 of the 40 Church-run primary schools have been deserted, and four of the diocese's five convents are closed.

Kenya expects 100,000 at beatification of WWI-era nun

NYERI, Kenya (CNS) — Kenyan officials are expecting more than 100,000 people at the May 23 beatification of Sister Irene Stefani, an Italian member of the Consolata Missionary Sisters who cared for wounded and sick soldiers in Kenya and Tanzania during World War I. A Kenyan government official announced May 6 that the beatification would be a state function and would be accorded proper security. Sister Irene was born Aug. 22, 1891, in Anfo, Italy, and died at Gikondi Parish in Kenya Oct. 31, 1930. The fifth of 12 children, Sister Irene was named Aurelia Giacomina Mercede and known as Mercede. As well as facing their mother's death when Aurelia was 16, she and four sisters lost their seven siblings to various illnesses. When she was almost 20, she joined the congregation of Consolata Missionaries in Turin, Italy. In 1914, she took final vows and left Italy by ship for Mombasa, Kenya. Sister Irene's first two years in Africa were spent working on a mission farm in Nyeri, learning the local language, Kikuyu, while doing manual labor. In response to mounting casualties during World War I, Sister Irene was among missionaries who left Nyeri in August 1916 and traveled 230 miles to Voi to work in a hospital there, after a short course in first aid. During the war, she also cared for sick and dying soldiers in hospitals in Tanzania. While caring for patients, Sister Irene often went without food so that she could give her share of community meals to the sick.

St. Patrick to celebrate 125th anniversary

FORT WAYNE — A festive celebration to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the founding of St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne, is planned for Sunday, June 14, beginning with an 11 a.m. trilingual Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and former pastors. All are welcome to attend a second planning meeting on Sunday, May 17, in the parish rectory at 3:30 p.m.

St. Joseph students compete in National History Bee

FORT WAYNE — Students from St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel School participated in the National History Bee under the direction of Social Studies Teacher Brett Rupright. Those students included Luke Braun, Mary Braun and Paul Braun, who all earned scores to move on to the regional finals in Indianapolis over spring break. After regional competition, they qualified and moved onward to the National Championship Bee in Louisville, Kentucky. Out of thousands of contestants, only a select few qualify for the National Championship Bee.

Bishop Luers High School Class of 1965 to hold 'Golden Knight Ceremony'

FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Luers High School Alumni Office has invited the class of 1965 to participate in a "Golden Knight Ceremony" on May 29 at 3:30 p.m. in the school library.

The class of 1965 will celebrate the 50th anniversary of their walk across the stage at Bishop Luers High School to receive their diploma.

The Golden Knight alumni will be presented with gold sashes, alumni buttons, a Golden Knight lapel pin and be recognized during the class of 2015 graduation commencement. The class of 1965 is invited to a reception, a tour of Bishop Luers, photos and friendship after the graduation ceremony.

The class of 1965 will have their 50th class reunion on Aug. 22 at Parkview Field — 400 Club. For more information, call Melissa Hire at Bishop Luers High School 260-456-1261 ext. 3040.

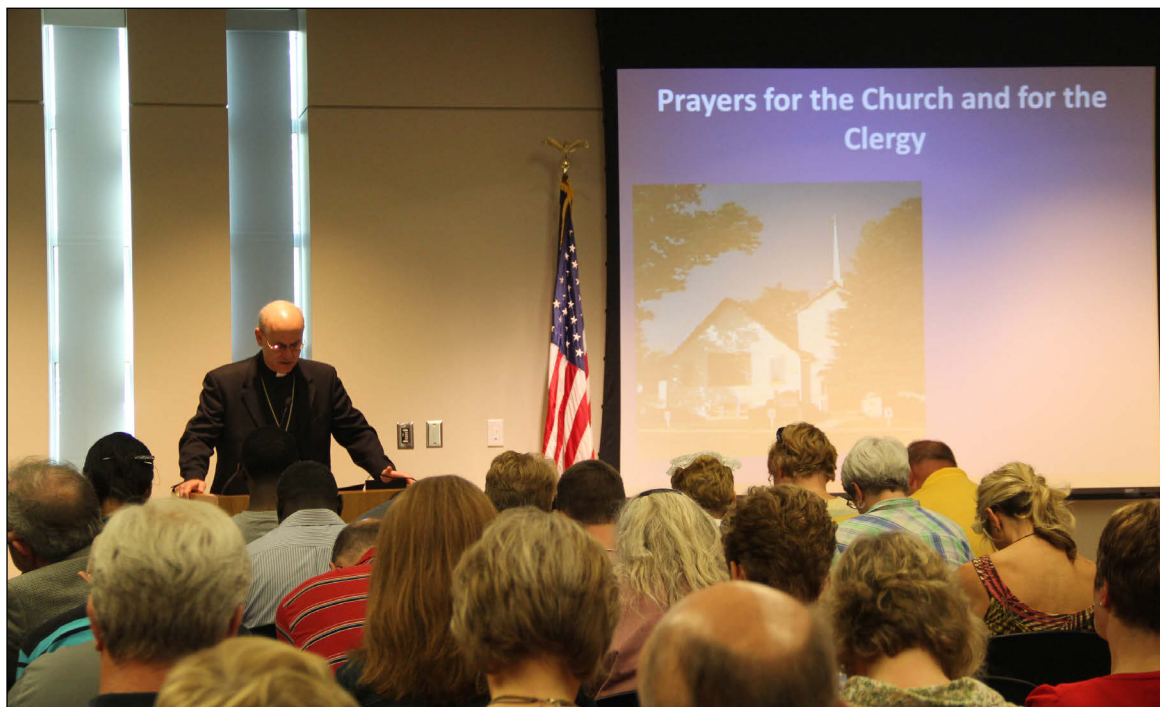
College financial aid workshop presented by the Adult Learning Center

FORT WAYNE — The Adult Learning Center at St. Joseph Parish, Fort Wayne, will offer a free workshop, "Get the Funds You Need for College: Your College Financial Aid Journey in Five Steps," on Wednesday, May 20, at 6 p.m.

Parents and high school students are encouraged to attend. The workshop will be held in the St. Joseph Catholic School cafeteria, at 2211 Brooklyn Ave.,

AROUND THE DIOCESE

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER UNITES AREA FAITHFUL



KAY COZAD

The Allen County National Day of Prayer was held at the Allen County Public Library on May 7. A nondenominational standing-room-only crowd gathered over the noon hour to pray for the community and for the nation with the theme "Lord, Hear Our Cry." Area clergy and civic leaders focused on prayers from family and educators to clergy and government leaders. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades prayed for the church and for clergy saying, "Grant that Your church, faithful to the mission entrusted to her, may continually go forward with the human family and always be the leaven and the soul of human society to renew it in Christ and transform it into the family of God. ... We implore you Lord to make fruitful the work of Your church. ... Strengthen us in unity." First Mennonite Church and a committee of various faiths organized the day of prayer, held each year on the first Thursday of May since 1952.

and will be offered in English and Spanish.

Presented by Wells Fargo Bank, the discussions will cover the topics of financial aid, scholarships and grants.

Our Sunday Visitor is the sponsor of the Adult Learning Center.

To reserve a seat, contact Terry Stuczynski at 260-432-5113, ext. 355.

St. John Destination Imagination teams collect items for Charis House, hold fundraiser

NEW HAVEN — The St. John the Baptist School in New Haven Destination Imagination teams will move on to compete at the global competition next month in Knoxville, Tennessee. The teams recently placed first and second at the state level.

Destination Imagination is a non-for-profit problem solving organization. Each year in October, the team chooses one of the seven challenges presented by Destination Imagination. Each team of up to seven students must then create a skit, props, backdrop along with the other elements per-

taining to their particular challenge.

One of the St. John middle school teams collected socks, toiletries and small toys, to fill the socks and donated them to the Charis House, with their logo attached "Heeling Soles." The second team chose a theatrical challenge involving a character overcoming a phobia, two art forms and an illusion. The students range from fifth through eighth grade.

To help fund the trip to Tennessee, the teams hosted a spaghetti dinner and silent auction on May 8. They also presented their eight-minute performances.

William Green receives rank of Eagle Scout

SOUTH BEND — William R. Green of South Bend received the rank of Eagle Scout last December. He held the Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony on April 26



WILLIAM R. GREEN

at Corpus Christi School in South Bend.

Green is a member of Troop 444 and a graduate of Corpus Christi. He is a senior at Washington High School in South Bend. Green plans to attend Purdue University in West Lafayette this fall and major in physics.

Green's Eagle Scout project consisted of building a storage bin for athletic equipment at Corpus Christi School.

He is the son of Rodney and Debbie Green. The family belongs to Corpus Christi Parish.

Carozza chosen to participate in Notre Dame Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program

SOUTH BEND — Sofia Carozza, a senior at Saint Joseph High School, is one of 25 incoming first-year students from across the U.S. and eight other countries chosen



SOFIA CAROZZA

as a member of the sixth class of the University of Notre Dame's Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program, a comprehensive undergraduate merit scholarship and enrichment program.

Selected from a pool of hundreds of applicants, the Class of 2019 Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars embodies the program's vision of leadership, scholarship, personal integrity and social responsibility. Each student receives an annual award of \$25,000 during his/her undergraduate tenure. The program includes four fully funded summer enrichment experiences, in addition to academic advising, seminars and service-learning projects, career preparation, alumni mentoring and networking.

In 2009, Notre Dame graduates Mark W. and Stacey Miller Yusko of Chapel Hill, N.C., made a commitment to establish the program and provide a select group of outstanding students with the tools to become transformational leaders in the image of the late Holy Cross Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, who served as Notre Dame's president from 1952 to 1987.

Two St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel alums at top of their high school class

FORT WAYNE — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Parish is pleased to claim the top two students of the 2015 graduating class at Heritage High School.

Adam Beard, son of Bill and Sandy Beard, earned the honor of valedictorian for 2015. Beard plans to attend IPFW and pursue a degree in business finance.

Robert Ottenweller has been named the salutatorian and is the son of Tom and Greta Ottenweller. Ottenweller will also enroll at IPFW this fall declaring a major in mechanical engineering.

Both young men attended St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel for their K-8 education and were also the top two in their eighth-grade class. — Michelle Castleman

South Bend native to be ordained a Dominican priest

WASHINGTON — The Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Joseph announced the upcoming ordination of eight of their brothers to the Priesthood on Friday, May 22, at St. Dominic Church in Washington, D.C. Archbishop Charles J. Brown, the apostolic nuncio to Ireland, will ordain the priests.

Dominican Brother Innocent Vincent Smith, formerly Philip Carl Smith, grew up in South Bend where he received his first Communion and Confirmation.

Correction

The name of Holy Cross Father David Guffey, a board member of Ave Maria Press, was misspelled in the May 10, 2015 issue of *Today's Catholic*. We apologize for the error.

MEET THE THREE SEMINARIANS TO BE

Ordination to the diaconate set May 23 at St. Matthew Cathedral

By Kay Cozad

Three men from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are preparing for their ordination to the diaconate. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will ordain seminarians Craig Borchard, Bob Garrow and David Violi at St. Matthew Cathedral, 1701 Miami St. in South Bend on May 23 at 11 a.m. Tickets are required, but there is limited general admission seating. Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

Craig Borchard to promise fidelity to God and His Church as deacon

SOUTH BEND — Craig Borchard has been praying fervently in anticipation of his upcoming ordination to the diaconate on May 23 at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. He not only prays for graces for himself and fellow seminarians but for the families of his next parish assignment.

"I have been meditating on the diaconate ordination rite all throughout this year. It has been an enriching exercise to pray with the words that the bishop will use to ordain me a deacon. The ordination is a focus of my prayer, and I especially have been praying for all the people that I will be preaching to this summer. I pray that the Lord gives me good words that will strengthen the faith of the people of God," he says.

Borchard grew up in Rochester Hills, Michigan, the son of Sandra and Phil Borchard. After graduating from Brother Rice High School in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, in 2004, Borchard went on to earn a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and theology from the University of Notre Dame in 2009.

Borchard's faith formation was influenced by not only his inspiring teachers who encouraged him during his 24 straight years of Catholic education but also his father. "My dad was a big influence on my faith. He took me to Mass every week and was always an amazing role model of morality and faith," he says.

But the soon-to-be deacon reports that God truly entered his heart during a high school retreat. "My biggest moment of faith formation was a Kairos retreat I



went on in my senior year of high school. It was there that I had an extraordinary encounter with God that changed my life forever and set me on the course towards seminary," he says.

Following that retreat Borchard "did a 180" and began to practice his newfound faith in earnest. He says, "It was just after that retreat that I first heard the call to the Priesthood. This extraordinary gift of God's love had been given to me in the Eucharist, and after realizing that on the retreat, all I wanted was to give that gift back to the world."

Borchard entered Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, in 2010 where he has found a rich educational experience as well as fraternity among the other seminarians. "While I am certainly excited to be nearing the end of my formal education, it is such a blessing to learn about the faith by many expert priests and laity assembled here at the Mount. I am receiving the best education that the Church

can offer so that I can share that education with the people of God," he says, adding, "We are all there for the same reason, to become holy men of God. We all support each other in that journey. That support includes having a lot of fun together as well! There are ample opportunities to develop lifelong friendships that will be so important as we all go our separate ways to begin priestly ministry."

Summer parish assignments at St. Joseph in Fort Wayne and St. Anthony de Padua in South Bend taught him much about the Priesthood and parish life, says the eager seminarian and led him closer to the Priesthood. "I love getting to know the wonderful parish communities of our diocese," he says, adding, "Then, of course, my home parish of St. Pius X in Granger has been unbelievably good to me. Msgr. Bill Schooler has been a great mentor and shown me the great joy of the Priesthood."

As a deacon, Borchard looks forward most to performing Baptisms and weddings. "I trust that I will learn much about the infinite gratuity of God ... the gift of Holy Orders is truly amazing and I cannot wait to experience it," he says enthusiastically.

Support from friends has meant much to Borchard as he prepares for his special day. "My friends have been very supportive of my vocation and ordination. I may even have some friends from Philadelphia make it out for the diaconate. It will be a great moment of joy to see so many of my loved ones present there as I promise my fidelity to God and His Church," he says.

Bob Garrow puts his trust in Jesus for diaconate

SOUTH BEND — Seminarian Robert A. Garrow has been spending time praying and trusting in Jesus as he prepares for his diaconate ordination on May 23 at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. "I turn to Jesus placing all my trust in Him. Trusting all that I do is for the glory of God," he says.

A native of South Bend, Garrow is one of three sons of Mike and Norma Fitzmaurice. He calls St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend his home parish where he received the sacraments of Baptism, first Reconciliation, first Holy Communion, Confirmation and soon Holy Orders. A 1994 graduate of Marian High School, Garrow feels he first heard the call to the Priesthood in eighth grade, but went on to earn a bachelor's degree in education from Indiana University in South Bend in 1999. For the next 11 years he taught in grades 7-12 and had the opportunity to coach high school and college basketball for 15 years.

But God continued to tug at his heart. "Later in my life I felt again the tug from God that I was being called to the Priesthood. I felt that I needed to discern this call. I did not feel worthy of this call, but I felt I needed to address this tug at my heart," says the soon-to-be deacon.

Garrow credits the many fine priests and bishops he has encountered in his formative years as well as his dear grandparents Clare and Georgina Fitzmaurice and John and Edna Bunch for his deep faith formation. And he is grateful to St. Matthew pastor Msgr. Michael Heintz for his inspiration. "I feel that my current priest Msgr. Mike has helped me grow in my faith. He is so knowledgeable of the faith and has a wonderful sense of spirituality," he says.

Five years ago, when Garrow was accepted into Mount St. Mary's Seminary, in Emmitsburg, Maryland, he found a place where he could focus on deepening his relationship with God. "You truly see yourself and learn to conform your heart to Jesus, to love like He does," he says. During his formation Garrow has had the opportunity to experience pastoral assignments at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C., Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, with hospital ministry, and working in campus ministry at Mount St. Mary's University. He also has served



as the chaplain for the Mount St. Mary's men's basketball team. He is grateful for the "great priests and lay faculty that help one grow closer to Christ, both spiritually and academically."

On his path to the Priesthood, Garrow has experienced summer parish assignments at St. Jude in Fort Wayne, St. Monica, Mishawaka, and St. Vincent de Paul in Fort Wayne. "I was afforded the opportunity to work with wonderful pastors, associates, staff and the people of God," he says. "At each stop it has only brought about more peace and joy, and has affirmed my sense of God's call. ... At each assignment I gained valuable experiences that will help me in the future. Additionally it only reinforced my call to the Priesthood as I grew more deeply in love with the dioceses every day." He also spent eight weeks in Guatemala in order to understand the culture and learn the Spanish language.

In anticipation of his diaconate duties, Garrow has hope that in his diaconate year he will continue to conform his heart to Jesus. And he looks forward to working with parish priests, administering Baptisms and preparing couples for marriage, as well as "helping people see the beauty of our faith." He hopes to learn more about parish life and how to administer a parish as well as spiritually feed the people of God.

Of his upcoming diaconate ordination Garrow says, "My family and friends are excited and happy about this ordination. When I received my call to the order of diaconate I received many well wishes from both family and friends. My family has been supportive during this process and I know they are proud."

*May the graces of
Our Blessed Mother and her Divine Son
follow these Marian graduates whom we
honor as they enter the Order of the Diaconate
through the Sacrament of Holy Orders.*



Mr. David Violi
St. Pius X Parish
Granger
Class of 2006

"Whoever serves me must follow me,
and where I am, there also will my servant be.
The Father will honor whoever serves me."

Jn 12:26



Mr. Robert Garrow
St. Matthew Cathedral
South Bend
Class of 1994

Marian High School 
MISHAWAKA

ORDAINED TO THE DIACONATE

David Violi discerns a deeper understanding of God's call in diaconate

SOUTH BEND — Since entering the seminary in 2010, David Violi has been preparing for May 23, his day of ordination to the diaconate at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, with prayer and study. "I am spending much time in prayer, contemplation and study concerning the diaconate, trying my best to come to an even deeper and deeper understanding of what God is calling me into," he says.

A native of Granger and member of St. Pius X Parish, Violi is one of the four children of Mike and Mary Violi, including older sister Kristina, older brother Michael and his twin sister Jennifer. A graduate of both St. Thomas the Apostle Elementary School, Elkhart, and Marian High School in Mishawaka, (Class of 2006), Violi attended Purdue University and earned his bachelor's degree in biological science with a minor in philosophy.

This soon-to-be deacon first heard the call to the Priesthood around his eighth-grade year, focused greater attention on his spiritual life in high school and college and says his calling was not any one moment, but an enduring longing. "My 'calling' to the Priesthood was not a single moment, but a constant desire that arose slowly from a young age. ... Nearing graduation (from college), that desire remained and I knew that I needed to enter seminary to discern the Priesthood. From there, I began the application process with the diocese," he says.

Born into the Catholic faith, Violi credits his family first for his ever-deepening faith, saying, "My parents, Mike and Mary, raised my siblings and me in the faith since birth and put a strong emphasis on participating in parish life and Catholic education."

He adds that priests and friends were influential as well, "My parish priests also influenced my formation through their own vocations. Being involved in the Catholic schools, I often was able to see our priests living out their own priesthoods with a joy that left me with a great impression."

Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, has been home for Violi for the past five years where he has found an "amazing experience."

"At Mount St. Mary's, there has been, on average, 160 seminarians living in community every year for the past five years. To meet so many interesting men and develop close friendships with them has been a truly amazing experience. God has truly called a very diverse group, each with many unique talents, to the seminary. And, as diverse as we are, we are all able to live together simply because we are together for



a single purpose: To be priests of Jesus Christ," he says enthusiastically.

Looking forward to his diaconate, Violi feels that his past summer parish assignments at Most Precious Blood, Fort Wayne, St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne, and St. Joseph, Garrett, have been of great value in his formation as future priest. "Summer parish assignments offer us a refreshing reminder as to why we are studying for the Priesthood. It reminds us for whom we are studying, the people of God in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Each assignment has offered its own challenges, as we are present in the parish for several weeks. But, meeting all of the wonderful people, being involved with schools and parishes, make all of the challenges worthwhile," he says.

Becoming a deacon of the Church has Violi eager to learn the best ways to serve the people of God. In the coming year he hopes to have the opportunity, as he had in his past summer assignments, to mentor under a priest and learn the various needs of the people of God in the diocese. "Each experience I am able to have will only help me prepare for Priesthood and full-time parish ministry," he says.

Seminarian Violi is looking forward to his diaconate and the many ways he will serve. "As a deacon, I am most looking forward to preaching at Mass. To be able to expound upon the Word of God to the faithful is truly a daunting and terrifying endeavor, but one that also sets my heart on fire as I will be able to share the love of God through preaching," he reports eagerly.

As he looks forward to the rich traditional Rite of Ordination to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate, Violi is grateful for the loving support he has enjoyed throughout his seminary faith formation. "I am blessed to have had a family that has been wonderfully supportive of my vocation. I look forward to sharing this day with them," he says with great joy.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

A look at the diaconate

Who is a deacon?

A deacon is an ordained minister of the Catholic Church. There are three groups, or "orders," of ordained ministers in the Church: bishops, presbyters and deacons. Deacons are ordained as a sacramental sign to the Church and to the world of Christ, who came "to serve and not to be served." The entire Church is called by Christ to serve, and the deacon, in virtue of his sacramental ordination and through his various ministries, is to be a servant in a servant-Church.

What are these "various ministries" of the deacon?

All ordained ministers in the Church are called to functions of Word, sacrament and charity, but bishops, presbyters and deacons exercise these functions in various ways. As ministers of Word, deacons proclaim the Gospel, preach and teach in the name of the Church. As ministers of sacrament, deacons baptize, lead the faithful in prayer, witness marriages and conduct wake and funeral services. As ministers of charity, deacons are leaders in identifying the needs of others, then marshaling the Church's resources to meet those needs. Deacons are also dedicated to eliminating the injustices or inequities that cause such needs. But no matter what specific functions a deacon performs, they flow from his sacramental identity. In other words, it is not only WHAT a deacon does, but WHO a deacon is, that is important.

Why do some deacons become priests?

For many years ordained ministers "ascended" from one office to another, culminating in ordination to the presbyterate, or Priesthood. The Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), however, authorized the restoration of the diaconate as a "permanent" order of ministry. So, while students for the Priesthood are still ordained deacons prior to their ordination as priests, there are more than 13,000 deacons in the United States alone who minister in this Order permanently. There is no difference in the sacramental sign or the functions between these so-called "transitional" and "permanent deacons."

Is a deacon ordained for the parish or the diocese?

Whenever a person is ordained, he is to serve the diocesan Church. Deacons are no different in this regard: they are assigned by the bishop to ministries for which the bishop perceives a great need, and for which the deacon may have special gifts or talents. Most often, this will be within a parish setting, just as most priests serve in a parish. Once assigned to the parish, the deacon and any other clergy assigned to the parish minister under the immediate supervision of the pastor. However, this assignment may be changed at the request of the deacon or the initiative of the bishop.

— Provided by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C.

THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF *Saint Pius X* CATHOLIC CHURCH

gives thanks to God for parishioners

Craig Borchard and David Violi



Congratulations to you and Robert Garrow on
your upcoming Diaconate Ordination!

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

~John 12:26

USF kicks off downtown campus renovations, USF president named Sagamore of the Wabash

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — A renovation celebration marked the official start of the conversion of the former Chamber of Commerce building in downtown Fort Wayne into the new location of the University of Saint Francis Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership on May 6.

During the renovation kickoff celebration, Franciscan Sister M. Elise Kriss, president of the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, was named a Sagamore of the Wabash. USF Board of Trustees President Bill Neizer made the announcement for Gov. Mike Pence. The award recognized Sister Kriss for her outstanding service, strong institutional leadership and support of the community, region and state.

Sister Kriss proclaimed her deep gratitude for the award and admitted, "It's not easy to surprise Sister Elise."

She later added, "It's a wonderful feeling. Surprise is a feeling I don't often have. ... I'm very honored."

Sister Kriss, Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and other community dignitaries and friends of USF gathered at the 826 Ewing St. location to witness the kickoff of the downtown campus project.

During the ceremony, Sister Kriss noted that the renovations were beginning in 2015, USF's 125th anniversary year.

She said, "Two city treasures, the former Chamber building and the USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center, begin their transformation as unique spaces for higher education. These spaces will be filled with students beginning with fall 2016 classes."

In addition to housing the Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership, the university's signature project-based learning program, META, will also be located in the building and four floors of the West Annex of the



PHOTOS BY KAY COZAD

Shown are speakers who participated in the demolition of the ceremonial wall, including, from left, Ron Dick, partner at Design Collaborative; Jon Gilmore, president and CEO of Tonn and Blank Construction; Bill Neizer, chair of USF Board of Trustees; Rachelle Reinking, 2015 graduate of USF music tech program; Brad Hartman, current USF Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership student (Class of 2016); Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry, and Sister M. Elise Kriss with USF mascot Johnny Cougar standing to her right. Guided tours of the building followed the ceremony.

USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center (former Scottish Rite) will be renovated as well, to house the School of Creative Arts Music Technology program.

Mayor Henry read an official city proclamation naming May 6, 2015 as the University of Saint Francis Downtown Campus Renovation Day.

Franciscan Sister M. Elise Kriss, president of the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, was surprised on May 6 as she was named a Sagamore of the Wabash. Shown, from left, are Sister Kriss, USF Director of Communication Rob Hines and USF Vice President of Institutional Advancement Matt Smith.



Gerry Dahle retires from tenure on Catholic Cemetery board

FORT WAYNE — Gerald Dahle has recently retired as a member of the Board of Catholic Cemetery. His 37-year tenure has seen much growth and change at the cemetery — all to meet the needs of the Fort Wayne area residents.

Dahle, now retired from a career in commercial insurance, came to the board in 1978 when asked to bring his expertise in insurance to the Catholic Cemetery. "It was a good cause with good people," says Dahle. "I was glad to participate."

During the almost four decades he served, Dahle says the board assisted with maintaining and improving the cemetery. "The grounds and conditions kept getting better," he says. At one point the cemetery acquired a home adjacent to the property where more space was made available as the cemetery office.

More importantly, Dahle reports, are the four garden crypts offering above ground burial that were constructed during his term on the board. "There were very little provisions in the past for above ground burial," he says. Three additional buildings were constructed housing niches for above ground remains burials as well as another building that offered both crypts and niches. With the construction of eight buildings in total Dahle says, "It was all necessary. Soon cemeteries will run out of in ground space and will need above ground burial space."

Casey Miller, superintendent of Catholic Cemetery is grateful to Dahle for his longtime service and says, "I would like to sincerely thank Gerry for his numerous contributions as a member of the Board of Catholic Cemetery and I wish Gerry a very long and fulfilling retirement enjoying all that Florida has to offer."

Dahle retired from the Board of Catholic Cemetery following its May meeting. St. Charles Borromeo parishioners, he and his wife Helen, who have five children and 12 grandchildren, will be relocating to Naples, Florida this month.

— Kay Cozad

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SCHOOL HOSTS CAREER DAY



TIM JOHNSON

Dr. Ron Sarrazine, a Fort Wayne pediatrics and internal medicine physician, shows students how to use the ophthalmoscope, a lighted instrument that is used to examine the inside of the eye including the retina and the optic nerve, during his presentation to eighth-grade students of St. Vincent de Paul School. The school hosted its 10th annual Eighth Grade Career Day on May 10. Over 30 notable business and professional people presented information about their careers. People in media, doctors, lawyers, therapists, engineers and other careers spoke about how they pursued a career in their fields, explained their roles and duties and gave advice on how to achieve a career in their field of expertise. Jodi Helmer, school counselor, organized the day, which offers a positive approach by the school to prepare the eighth graders for their future in high school and beyond.

Vatican unveils logo, prayer, details of Holy Year of Mercy

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Holy Year of Mercy will be an opportunity to encourage Christians to meet people's "real needs" with concrete assistance, to experience a "true pilgrimage" on foot, and to send "missionaries of mercy" throughout the world to forgive even the most serious of sins, said Archbishop Rino Fisichella.

The yearlong extraordinary jubilee also will include several individual jubilee days, such as for the Roman Curia, catechists, teenagers and prisoners, said the president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, the office organizing events for the Holy Year of Mercy.

During a news conference at the Vatican May 5, Archbishop Fisichella unveiled the official prayer, logo, calendar of events and other details of the special Holy Year, which will be celebrated from Dec. 8, 2015, until Nov. 20, 2016.

The motto, "Merciful Like the Father," he said, "serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure."

Pope Francis announced in March his intention to proclaim a holy year as a way for the Church to "make more evident its mission to be a witness of mercy."

One way the pope wants to show "the Church's maternal solicitude" is to send out "missionaries of mercy" — that



is, specially selected priests who have been granted "the authority to pardon even those sins reserved to the Holy See," the pope wrote in "Misericordiae Vultus," ("The Face of Mercy"), the document officially proclaiming the Holy Year.

Archbishop Fisichella said the priests will be chosen on the basis of their ability to preach well, especially on the theme of mercy, and be "good confessors," meaning they are able to express God's love and do not make the confessional, as Pope Francis says, like "a torture

chamber."

The priests will also have to "be patient" and have "an understanding of human fragility," the archbishop said.

Bishops can recommend to the council priests from their own dioceses to serve as missionaries of mercy, he said, and priests themselves can submit their request to serve, he said.

When a priest volunteers, however, the council will confer with his bishop to make sure he would be "suitable for this ministry" and has the bishop's approval to serve temporarily as a missionary of mercy, he said.

The archbishop emphasized the importance of living the Holy Year as "a true pilgrimage" with the proper elements of prayer and sacrifice.

"We will ask pilgrims to make a journey on foot, preparing themselves to pass through the Holy Door in a spirit of faith and devotion," he said.

More than a dozen individual jubilee celebrations will be scheduled in 2016, such as a jubilee for consecrated men and women Feb. 2 to close the Year of Consecrated Life; a jubilee for the Roman Curia Feb. 22; a jubilee for those devoted to the spirituality of Divine Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday April 3; and separate jubilees for teenagers; for deacons; priests; the sick and disabled; and catechists.

A jubilee for "workers and volunteers of mercy" will be celebrated on Blessed Mother Teresa of Kolkata's feast day Sept. 5 and a jubilee for prisoners will be celebrated Nov. 6.

Archbishop Fisichella said

the pope wants the jubilee for inmates to be celebrated not only in prisons, but also with him in St. Peter's Basilica. He said the council is discussing the possibility with government authorities and is not yet sure if it can be done.

The Vatican is asking bishops and priests around the world to conduct "similar symbolic gestures of communion with Pope Francis" and his vision of reaching out to those on the margins.

"As a concrete sign of the pope's charitable love," he said, "effective measures will be taken to meet real needs in the world that will express mercy through tangible assistance."

At the news conference, the council distributed copies in several languages of the Holy Year prayer and logo, which features Jesus — the Good Shepherd — taking "upon His shoulders the lost soul, demonstrating that it is the love of Christ that brings to completion the mystery of His incarnation culminating in redemption," the archbishop said.

The image, created by Jesuit Father Marko Rupnik, also shows one of Jesus' eyes merged with the man's to show how "Christ sees with the eyes of Adam, and Adam with the eyes of Christ."

The council has joined with the United Bible Societies to distribute to pilgrims 1 million free copies of the Gospel of Mark; the texts will be available in seven languages.

The Jubilee of Mercy has an official website in seven languages at www.im.va; a Twitter handle @Jubilee_va; a Facebook page; and accounts on Instagram, Flickr and Google+.

Fatima 'lifts veil' on evil, Christian persecution, says cardinal

BY LAURA IERACI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The so-called "secrets" of Our Lady of Fatima tell of today's Christian persecution, in addition to the martyrdom of the past century, said Cardinal Angelo Amato.

The prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes opened a conference May 7 on "The Message of Fatima between Charism and Prophecy." The text of his talk was published May 8 on the website of the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*.

Cardinal Amato said he had "the privilege" of reading the original manuscripts of the secrets of Fatima when he served as secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith from 2002 to 2008.

"I meditated on them at length because they cast a light of faith and hope on the very sad events of the past century, but not only," he said.

Despite popular hopes that the 20th century would be a time of reason and brotherhood, "it was in fact a tragic period for Christianity," he said.

Besides the two world wars, he said, "most tragic" incidents of Christian persecution occurred, including "the Armenian genocide, the Mexican repression, the Spanish persecution, the Nazi massacres, the communist extermination and, in this first part of the third millennium, Islamist persecution."

"There are millions of victims of evil ideologies, which generated conflicts and continue to generate conflicts, hatred and division," he added.

"As Pope Francis often repeats, the Church today is a Church of martyrs, of those Christians who, defenseless, are killed daily out of hatred for their unshakeable faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ," he continued.

"The message of Fatima, in a visionary way, evokes this tragedy, lifting the veil on concrete historical events," where the devil "opposes God's benevolence" and "continues to tempt" the Church, just as he tempted Jesus, "instilling in men's hearts feelings of enmity and death," he said.

Cardinal Amato described the Fatima message, with its concrete allusions to war, division and trag-

edies, as "without a doubt the most prophetic of modern apparitions."

However, he dismissed claims that there is more to the secrets of Fatima than what has been made public. Canadian Father Nicholas Gruner, who died April 29 of a sudden heart attack, founded the "The Fatima Crusader" magazine and was among the strongest voices claiming that there was more to the message of Fatima than had been revealed.

"There is no fourth secret and there are no other hidden secrets," said Cardinal Amato.

Mary appeared to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917, and confided in them three secrets. Years later, Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos, one of the visionaries, wrote them down. The first two secrets included a vision of hell, along with prophecies concerning the outbreak of World War II, the rise of communism and the ultimate triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, especially in Russia if the country was consecrated to her Immaculate Heart. They were made public in the 1930s.

Sister Lucia wrote down the third secret, and gave it to her local bish-

op in a sealed envelope. It was sent to the Vatican in 1957, where successive popes read it but decided not to reveal its contents. It was finally made public in 2000. It told of a "bishop in white" who falls dead after being shot by soldiers on a hill. Behind him are many martyred priests, bishops and faithful.

Cardinal Amato said the interpretation of the third secret was entrusted to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who was prefect at the time, suggested in his interpretation that it referred to the 1981 assassination attempt on St. John Paul II and he "affirmed that Fatima helps us 'to understand the signs of the times and to find the correct responses for them in the faith,'" said Cardinal Amato.

"The maternal hand that diverted the bullet without killing the pope indicates that an immutable destiny does not exist and that the power of faith and prayer can influence history: prayer is more powerful than bullets," explained Cardinal Amato.

Cardinal Amato said Fatima also reveals the opposition between Mary and the devil.

"There is the need to recognize the presence and action of evil on people and populations in history," he said. "Humanity is constantly seduced by the opponent of good, which is always ready to make (humanity) fall into the abyss of perdition."

"But the Son of God came precisely to destroy the works of evil," he continued. "And in this fight, Mary, fully involved in the saving work of Christ, cooperates effectively with her divine Son against Satan."

Mary "accompanies the Church and humanity" through history and arouses in the hearts of the faithful "forces for good" that win against the "assaults of men and perverse ideologies."

"In this resides the charisma of Fatima," he said, which he described as "a gift of the Trinity" that allows people and the Church "to become increasingly aware of the struggle of good versus evil and of the inevitable victory of grace over sin."

"The vision of Fatima lifts the veil on the hell that exists on earth, but it also offers the consoling prophecy of our heavenly home," he concluded.

My friend Matthew

A few months ago my friend and patient Matthew passed away. He died at the tender age of 29. He was bright, funny, compassionate and loving. He lived his whole life under the shadow of illness and the threat of death, but he was never without a kind word, a smile or a fervent hope in his Savior.

Matt had Down syndrome. He lived a full life: he went to work, he had a girlfriend, he loved grandma's cooking and he snuck extra dessert. He got upset with me (when I counseled him about his diet); he got sad when he had to stay in the hospital another day; he got scared when it was time for another surgery or test.

With his quiet faith and gentle demeanor he never left anyone poorer for having met him. Matthew talked openly about his friend Jesus. Far from being a burden or source of sadness, he was a source of joy to me, to his

family and all whom he met. He showed me the face of Christ.

The patron of our local Catholic medical association guild is Jerome Lejeune. He was a French pediatrician and a brilliant scientist. Until the time of Dr. Lejeune, there was a great social stigma to having a child with Down syndrome. It was believed that the illness was caused by one of the parents having a sexually transmitted disease (syphilis). Dr. Lejeune demonstrated that it was an abnormality of DNA, not syphilis, that caused Down syndrome. He spent hours with children and their families providing information, comfort and hope. Lejeune saw each child as a gift, a wonder of creation regardless of disability or illness. He demonstrated the authentic mission of healthcare: to uphold the dignity of every human being from conception to natural death.

This perspective put him directly at odds with the French

THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

DR. EUSTACE FERNANDES

government and the scientific community. They saw his discovery as a way to screen for and selectively abort children with Down syndrome, thereby ridding the world of one disease. Lejeune vigorously opposed these proponents of death. In doing so, he incited the wrath of the French government and the scientific community. Indeed, patients with Down syndrome were labeled "Lejeune's monsters." He was denied any accolades for his research and he was shunned by

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Ascension is important feast day



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Feast of the Ascension of the Lord Mk 16:15-20

The Acts of the Apostles supplies the first reading for this important feast day in the Church, the celebration of the Lord's wondrous Ascension into heaven.

This reading begins as if it were a letter. It is addressed to Theophilus, as was the Gospel of Luke itself. Who was Theophilus? Was he a person with this as his name? Or, instead, was he a devout Christian? The second is possible because Theophilus actually may have been a title. In Greek, it means "friend of God."

Regardless, both Acts and Luke were sent, as it were, to the same person, arguing for a common authorship of these two revealed works of the Christian Scriptures.

In this reading, Acts states that it continues the story of salvation in Jesus begun in the Gospel of Luke. It describes the Ascension of the Lord into heaven, an event occurring after Jesus had risen from the dead and had been among the Apostles and others faithful to God.

As the moment of the Ascension approached, the Apostles still were confused. This confusion simply reveals that they were human. Their ability to grasp the things of God, and the mind of God, was limited to say the least.

Jesus eases their confusion. He affirms that they are limited, but Jesus also affirms that all is in God's plan. The Apostles have been commissioned. To enable them to fulfill their commissions, Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will be with them. The Spirit will guide them to proclaim the Gospel even "to the ends of the earth."

The Epistle to the Ephesians provides the next reading. The reading is a prayer. It begs the blessings and guidance of God upon the faithful Christians of Ephesus. They need God, as all humans need God. God's strength will be mighty. After all, divine strength raised Jesus from the dead. It is a power over everyone and everything.

St. Mark's Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is the very last section of Mark. As such, it is the First Gospel's conclusion. It is a Resurrection Narrative.

The Lord, having risen on Easter, appears to the Eleven, the surviving Apostles reduced by one in number because of the suicide of the despondent, traitorous Judas.

In a final commission, Jesus sends the Eleven into the world, far and wide. They are to proclaim the Gospel to all creation. He has prepared them, instructed them and guided them. Anyone who accepts this proclamation will be saved. Anyone who believes in the Gospel will be capable of marvelous deeds. The Lord will protect them.

The graphic examples must not be taken literally, but they nonetheless are profound in their meaning. No true believer will ever die an eternal death.

Then, the story says that Jesus ascended into heaven. Faithful to the Lord, the Apostles went forward and proclaimed the Gospel as they had been commissioned.

Reflection

Celebrating the Ascension of the Lord in the form of a special liturgical feast day is very revered in the Church.

Once, in early Christianity, seemingly, it was celebrated together with Pentecost. For 17 centuries, however, it has been a feast of its own.

Such is proper. The Ascension revealed much. Fittingly, the Eastern Church sees in the Ascension a particularly meaningful revelation for Christians.

Many lessons come from this feast. It again reveals Jesus, divine and human, crucified but risen. It reveals that we are not alone. Christ did not leave us. He lives with us, and teaches us still, through the Apostles and the structures and sacraments of the Church they formed in the Lord's name and at the Lord's command.

In summary, Jesus loves us and gives us life. Whatever threatens us, the power of God will protect us from everlasting death.

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 1:1-11 Ps 47:2-3, 6-9 Eph 1:17-23 Mk 16:15-20

Monday: Acts 19:1-8 Ps 68:2-5d, 6-7b Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27 Ps 68:10-11, 20-21 Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38 Ps 68:29-30, 33-36b Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11 Jn 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21 Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20b Jn 21:15-19

Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31 Ps 11:4-5, 7 Jn 21:20-25

Let's spring into action!

Growing up in Florida, I often heard comments from friends and family living up North about how beautiful the transitions of the changing seasons were. Still, I was content in my subtropical paradise and shrugged off any idea that I could be missing out on anything important. Yet having recently experienced (and survived) my first northern winter, I've learned valuable lessons about shifting from the dark of winter to the welcoming glow of spring.

Like winter creeping in, our thoughts may sometimes become dark and somewhat jaded as we attempt to build a culture that welcomes and respects human life. But spring brings a promise of new hope and new life. It is a season of renewal and a chance to clear our minds of negative thoughts and ponder our lives and whether we are sowing good seeds through simple acts of generosity and mercy. This is helpful to contemplate as we journey through the Easter season, having renewed our baptismal promises — and thus our commitment to follow Jesus — at Easter. As followers of Christ, we are called to build His kingdom here on earth — a kingdom in which every person is cherished and every human life respected and protected. And although we trust in the ultimate victory of Christ over sin and death, our task is not easy.

We may become discouraged with the advances of the "culture of death," especially when media outlets inaccurately portray our intentions, motivations and efforts. We may feel as though we need to constantly be on the defense. But what if we try a new approach? Instead of being reactive, let's take a proactive approach. When we encounter others, let's share a positive message of joy and love. After all, as Pope Francis frequently reminds us, pro-life is pro-love. As he said in his Christmas message last December, abortion destroys children "before they ever see the light of day, deprived of the generous love of their parents and buried in the selfishness of a culture that does not love life."

As we take time to "spring clean" our homes, let us also entrust our burdens to the Lord and ask Him to cleanse and renew our hearts. Going to the

LIFE ISSUES FORUM

MARY PRENTIS

sacrament of Reconciliation, we receive the graces necessary to grow in holiness and to strengthen our resolve to grow in love and do God's will. Scripture says it best: "God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work" (2 Cor. 9:8).

Now that the cold has passed, I am spending more time outside appreciating the beauty that this time of year brings. I am filled with the joy of renewal, both interior and exterior. We should apply this joy to our endeavors to build up the kingdom of God — a kingdom of life. Although it might seem like we are fighting an uphill battle, our side will eventually prevail, and we can celebrate the fact that our efforts are not in vain.

In the meantime, we must lift up in prayer each other, our Church leaders and others who work to protect all human life. This new season is a perfect opportunity to create a new course of action and to commit (or re-commit) to promoting respect for life at all stages, in and out of season. If you haven't visited the website for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities lately, there are many resources, such as educational articles, videos and prayers that we hope you will find useful as you seek to spring into action to support life!

Mary Prentis is staff assistant for the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more information on the bishops' pro-life activities, visit www.usccb.org/ prolife. Join the Bishops' Call to Prayer and Fasting for Life, Marriage & Religious Liberty at www.usccb.org/pray.

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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'The Avengers' and Friedrich Nietzsche

C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien and their colleagues in the Inklings wanted to write fiction that would effectively "evangelize the imagination," accustoming the minds, especially of young people, to the hearing of the Christian Gospel. Accordingly, Tolkien's Gandalf is a figure of Jesus the prophet and Lewis's Aslan a representation of Christ as both sacrificial victim and victorious king. Happily, the film versions of both "The Lord of the Rings" and "The Chronicles of Narnia" have proven to be wildly popular all over the world. Not so happily, Joss Whedon's "Avenger" films, the second of which has just appeared, work as a sort of antidote to Tolkien and Lewis, shaping the imaginations of young people so as to receive a distinctly different message.

It is certainly relevant to my purpose here to note that Whedon, the auteur behind "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "Firefly" and many other well-received films and television programs, is a self-avowed atheist and has, on many occasions, signaled his particular dissatisfaction with the Catholic Church.

I won't rehearse in too much detail the plot of "Avengers: Age of Ultron." Suffice it to say that the world is threatened by an artificial intelligence, by the name of Ultron, who has run amok and incarnated himself in a particularly nasty robotic body. Ultron wants to destroy the human race and has produced an army of robots as his posse. Enter the Avengers — Tony Stark (Iron Man), the Hulk, Black Widow, Captain America, Hawkeye and Thor — to do battle with the dark forces. There is an awful lot of CGI bumping and banging and blowing things up, but when the rubble settles, we see that the real struggle is over a perfect body — a synthesis of machine and flesh — that Ultron, with the help of brainwashed scientists, is designing for himself. After pursuing the bad guys on a wild ride through the streets of Seoul, the Avengers recover the body, and Thor, using one of the fundamental building blocks of the universe or lightning or some-

thing, brings it to life. Exuding light, intelligence and calmness of spirit, this newly created robot/human/god floats above the ground and announces that his name is "I am." Just before his climactic battle with Ultron, "I am" declares that order and chaos are two sides of the same coin and that wickedness is never eliminated but keeps coming around in an endless cycle.

Although some have seen Biblical themes at work in all of this, I see pretty much the opposite, namely, an affirmation of a Nietzschean view of life. Whedon, who was a philosophy student at university, delights in dropping references to the great thinkers in his work, and one of the most cited in "Ultron" is none other than the man I take to be the most influential of the 19th century philosophers, Friedrich Nietzsche.

At a key moment in the film, Ultron in fact utters Nietzsche's most famous one-liner: "What does not kill me makes me stronger," and the observation made by the newly-created "I am" is a neat expression of Nietzsche's doctrine of the eternal return of the same. At the heart of the German philosopher's work is the declaration of the death of God, which signals that all values are relative — that we live in a space "beyond good and evil." Into that space, Nietzsche contends, the *Übermensch*, the superman, should confidently stride. This is a human being who has thrown off the shackles of religion and conventional morality and is able to exercise fully his *Wille zur Macht* (Will to Power). Asserting this will, the superman defines himself completely on his own terms, effectively becoming a god. Here we see the significant influence of Nietzsche on Sartre and the other existentialists of the 20th century.

"The Avengers" is chock-a-block with *Übermenschen*, powerful, willful people who assert themselves through technology and the hyper-violence that that technology makes possible. And the most remarkable instance of this technologically informed self-assertion is the creation of the savior figure, who self-identifies with

WORD ON FIRE



FATHER ROBERT BARRON

the very words of Yahweh in the book of Exodus. But he is not the Word become flesh; instead, he is the coming together of flesh and robotics, produced by the flexing of the all too human will to power.

I find it fascinating that this pseudo-savior was brought about by players on both sides of the divide, by both Iron Man and Ultron. Like Nietzsche's superman, he is indeed beyond good and evil — which is precisely why he cannot definitively solve the problems that bedevil the human race and can only glumly predict the eternal return of trouble. If you have any doubts about the Nietzschean intention of Joss Whedon, take a good look at the image that plays as "The Avengers" comes to a close. It is a neo-classical sculpture of all of the major figures in the film locked in struggle, straining against one another. It is in complete conformity with the aesthetic favored by Albert Speer, Leni Riefenstahl and the other artists of the Nazi period.

What the Christian evangelist can seize upon in this film is the frank assertion that the will to power — even backed up by stunningly sophisticated technology — never finally solves our difficulties, that it, in point of fact, makes things worse. See the Tower of Babel narrative for the details. And this admission teases the mind to consider the possibility that the human predicament can be addressed finally only through the invasion of grace. Once that door is opened, the Gospel can be proclaimed.

Father Robert Barron is the founder of the global ministry, Word on Fire, and the rector/president of Mundelein Seminary. Learn more at www.WordonFire.org.

truth. They both showed me that there is much yet to be done.

Indeed, 92 percent of all babies who are diagnosed with Down syndrome are destroyed within their mother's womb. Those that are born, face constant struggles with access to care, pity rather than compassion and a culture eager to rid itself of perceived imperfection. Our challenge in building the culture of life could never be simpler or clearer. Uphold the dignity of each life from conception to natural death. Regard those with disabilities as wonders of creation, not burdens. See the face of Jesus in everyone we meet and, in return, show them His loving face.

DOCTOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

the scientific community. Later in life, he developed a close friendship with St. John Paul II and became the first head of the Pontifical Council for Life only weeks before his death from cancer in 1994.

My patient Matthew and Dr. Lejeune had much in common: they were gentle, joyful and faithful. They both went out to meet the Lord with quiet resolution and with dignity and hope. They provided examples of heroic virtue and endurance of suffering for the

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for May 14 or 17, 2015

Mark 16:15-20

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Ascension: Jesus' farewell promise to his disciples. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

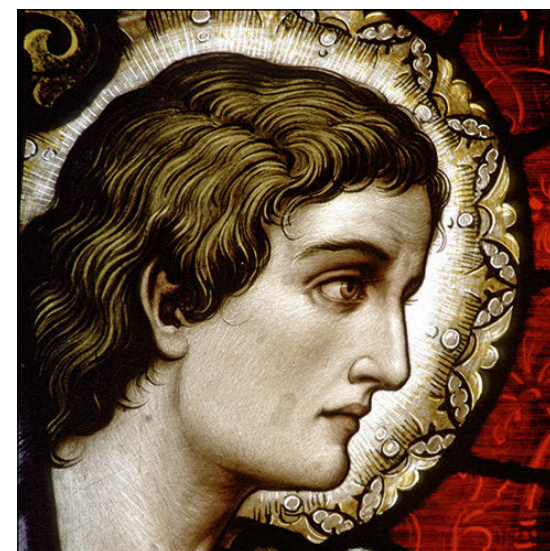
GO INTO	WORLD	BELIEVES
SAVED	DOES NOT	CONDEMNED
SIGNS	MY NAME	DEMONS
HANDS	DRINK	DEADLY THING
SICK	RECOVER	LORD JESUS
TAKEN	HEAVEN	RIGHT HAND
WORKED		CONFIRMED

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Saint of the week:



Matthias

First Century
 Feast May 14

Matthias was the replacement for Judas Iscariot in the Twelve Apostles. Two men, Matthias and Joseph Barsabbas, met the condition set down by Peter in the Acts of the Apostles (1:21-22): That he "accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus came among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which he was taken up from us." After praying first, the apostles chose Matthias by drawing lots. Later traditions had Matthias evangelizing in Judea, Cappadocia (now Turkey) or Ethiopia, before being martyred. Perhaps more reliable is the early writing of Clement of Alexandria, who said Matthias insisted on the importance of mortification and was among the 72 disciples sent out by Jesus in the Gospels.

Dr. Eustice Fernandes is an intensive care specialist and pulmonologist at Lutheran Medical Group.

For more information about the Dr. Jerome Lejeune Catholic Medical Guild of Northeastern Indiana visit <http://www.fort-waynecma.com>.

For more information about the continuation of Dr Lejeune's mission visit <http://lejeuneusa.org>.

Sports

USF NAMES JASON RIDGE NEW WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH Jason Ridge has been named new University of Saint Francis women's basketball coach by USF Athletic Director Mike McCaffrey. "I am very pleased to announce the selection of Jason Ridge as our next women's basketball coach," McCaffrey said. "During this process it became clear to our entire search committee who was the right fit for our university, and for our women's basketball program at this time. Jason is a man of high integrity, character and has shown an ability to guide young student-athletes to extraordinary things." Ridge, 39, becomes the 14th coach in the 41-year history of the program and is excited about continuing the tradition of excellence.

Pope: Love of sports doesn't mean 'timeout' from Church, friends, poor

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Never let practice and competition get in the way of going to Mass, studying for school, being with friends and helping the poor, Pope Francis told an Italian sports association.

And never let Italy's infatuation with soccer — like in the pope's native Argentina — crowd out all the other sports, which are just as important for teaching kids the benefits of teamwork and sacrifice, he said May 7.

In the Vatican's Paul VI audience hall, the pope met with athletes, coaches, sports fans and team owners that belong to the Lazio Sports Society, which was established in 1900 by young people who wanted an organization that was open to everyone and upheld sports' ethical and moral values.

Back then, organized sports were geared toward those who had natural athletic talent, the pope

said, but the group's founders wanted people of all abilities and backgrounds to be able to take part.

"I encourage you to continue to be welcoming, to value diverse talents" and offer a way for people to experience friendship and harmony "without discrimination."

The pope read out a saying by the fourth-century philosopher Sallustius, in Latin, and jokingly remarked how "interesting it would be to ask one of your kids for the translation."

"Hmm. Better not to," he remarked. Instead he provided his own translation to the quote "Concordia parvae res crescunt, discordia maximae dilabuntur," saying it means "With harmony, small things grow; with discord, great things decay."

He praised the sports association for giving "equal dignity to all sports. In Italy, like in my country, too, in Argentina, there's the risk of always talking about soccer and neglecting all the other sports."

Every sport has its worth — not just in physical and social benefits, but also morally in the ways it can offer people, especially kids, a chance to experience a more balanced life, "self-control, sacrifice and loyalty toward others," he said, especially today when it seems "betrayal" is on the rise.

The Bible teaches that the human person is both body and soul, he said.

"Sometimes it happens that a boy or girl forgets about Mass, catechism because of work-outs and competition. This is not a good sign" because it means they do not have their priorities right, he said.

"Studying, friends, serving the poor" also are important and should not be "neglected in order to do just one thing. No. Everything together," he said.

Sports done right helps build a more caring, brotherly and just world that helps overcome "human and social disadvantage," the pope said.

St. Charles dominates track and field action

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — In Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) track and field action, St. Charles dominated both the girls' and boys' meets over St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne/St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel (SJFW/SJHC), Queen of Angels/Most Precious Blood and St. Aloysius at Bishop Luers High School on April 30.


Cardinal winners included all relay teams and individuals: Charlie Howe (discus, shot put, relay), Carter Spencer (200, long jump, relay), Sydney Conn (hurdles, relay), Anna Morris (800, relay), Patrick Finley (400, 800, relay), Julia Broerman (1,600, high jump) and Keaton Broerman (1,600, high jump). Other top place finishers for the evening were Adelaide Knipp (400, discus), Rachel McKinnon (shot put), Dori Javens (100, 200, long jump) and Paul Braun (100, hurdles) from SJFW/SJHC.

At Bishop Dwenger, both the young men and women from St. Jude topped the point tally to win the team title.

Winners for the Eagles were their 4x200 relay team and the following individuals: Gabe Hendricks (discus, shot put), Katie Nix (200, long jump), T.J. McGarry (200, long jump), Rachel Landstoffer (high jump), Gar Kenna (hurdles), Caroline Miller (800, 1,600) and triple winner Emmett Delaney (800, 1,600, relay).

For St. John the Baptist, New Haven, Leticia Johnson won the discus and shot put throws, while Meg Howe claimed the 100-meter dash for St. Vincent and was anchor on the winning short relay team.

St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth had top place finishes from their girls' 4x200 relay team and boys' short relay. Maria Denning and Ben Miles were the top individuals in the 400-meter dash. Miles also won the high jump, Annie Thoma the hurdles and Anthony Ventruella the 100-meter dash in 12.5 seconds.



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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.

Father William Kummer to celebrate Mass of Thanksgiving

Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Parish will celebrate Father Bill Kummer's 40th Jubilee of his ordination as a priest during a Mass of Thanksgiving May 24 at 12:30 p.m. in the church. A reception will follow in the parish hall, 11337 US Hwy 27 S., just south of 469/US 27 interchange.

Theology on Tap

Fort Wayne — Theology on Tap for young adults in their 20s and 30s, single or married, will be held at Soups Salad and Spirits, 1915 S. Calhoun St., Thursday, May 21, at 6:30 p.m. The topic is "The Beautiful Body of Christ: Lessons in community and service from Dorothy Day

and the Catholic Worker." Bryce Wiseman, local young adult, graduate theology student, former traveling missionary and parishioner of Sacred Heart Parish, will be exploring the role played by beauty in the spiritual and social development of Dorothy Day and of her gifts to the Catholic Church. Visit www.diocesefwsb.org/TOT for information.

Theology on Capp

Mishawaka — High School teens are invited to Theology on Capp Monday, May 18, from 7-8:45 p.m. at the Knights Hall, 114 W. First St. Eric Morin will speak on the prophesies and dreams of St. John Bosco. Cappuccino, hot chocolate or soft drinks are free. Guests are welcome to bring snacks.

Central Catholic plans all alumni reunion

Fort Wayne — The Central Catholic High School Alumni Association will have an all alumni reunion Saturday, June 20, from 4 p.m. to ? at the Classic Catering and Event Center, 4832 Hilligas Rd. Contact Leanne at 260-485-0290 for reservation form due by June 12. Tickets are \$22 per person.

Germanfest kicks off at St. Peter

Fort Wayne — St. Peter Parish will open Germanfest with a German Mass on Sunday, June 7, at 11 a.m. celebrated by Father Charles Herman. A German meal will follow in the pavilion. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 6-12 for the dinner.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, May 20, from 5-6:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit Special Olympics.

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Evelyn Moberg, 91, St. Anthony of Padua

Sandra Drake, 69, St. Anthony of Padua

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Patricia J. Galligher, 85, Immaculate Conception

Decatur

Ronald D. Aspy, 79, St. Mary of the Assumption

Fort Wayne

William Fugate, 45, St. Vincent de Paul

Florence Sordelet, 77, St. Vincent de Paul

Michael J. Brita, 62, St. Jude

Evelyn M. Martin, 90, Our Lady/Good Hope

Virginia M. Runser, 74, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Granger

Vicki Diol, 63, St. Pius X

Audria Maria Wiegand, 99, St. Pius X

Mishawaka

Mary E. Roy, 78, St. Joseph

South Bend

John D. Geary Jr., 83, St. Matthew

Janet Gloster, 71, St. Patrick

Frank Czelatko, 90, St. Patrick

Nellie Katie Shanley, 83, St. Therese Little Flower

Bernadette R. Claffey, 79, Holy Family

Mary Ann Tice, 98, Holy Cross

Gregory Calhoun, 71, St. Therese Little Flower

Dolores Rybak, 82, St. Stanislaus

Sister Agnes

Arvis, 93, Church of the Immaculate Conception, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Sister served at St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne.

Sister Dolores Ann

Linhart, 88, Church of the Immaculate Conception, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Sister served at Central Catholic High School, Fort Wayne.



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HOLY CROSS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

choice each person has to either focus their lives selfishly inward or to courageously pour out one's self to God and others. "Your journey of life is like a drama. It can be an ego-drama or a theo-drama. An ego-dramatic life is one that is just about me, about self: my desires, my pleasures, my power and riches and fame. But this is not true life; it is not liberating. It's not what we were created for."

"The true life, the good life, the fulfilling life is part of a theo-drama, one centered in God," Bishop Rhoades said. "It is an adventure of love, with its gaze outward. It seeks truth, beauty and goodness. Thankfully, we have a Savior who lifts us up to experience this life, the life of grace, merited for us by Him who was lifted up on the cross."

To live this God-centered life, Bishop Rhoades offered students both spiritual and practical suggestions.

"Have a daily time of prayer, a daily conversation with the Lord, to prayerfully read Scripture each day, and be immersed in the power of the Eucharist, the great sacrament of love," he said. "Additionally, engage in the works of mercy. This is an essential part of a holy life: love of God expressed through love of neighbor, the opposite of an egocentric life."

"Think of the saints," he said, "they embodied the Gospel and they didn't just talk about it in lofty language. When they saw someone hungry, they gave them food. When they saw someone suffering, they helped them. When we give of ourselves, we find ourselves; it's about learning to



EMILY WACK

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades receives an honorary doctor of humane letters from Holy Cross College on Saturday, May 9.

love. I pray that you will never forget Christ's instruction to take up your cross as His disciples. He reminds us that 'whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.' When we live this, we become able and free to live every day with passion and purpose!"

Following Bishop Rhoades' speech, Matthew Wingard, a member of Holy Cross' 2005 inaugural baccalaureate class and senior Ana Davidson presented their insights and advices for the new graduates. Wingard encouraged the students to each carry with them a "SWAG, as Saints With an Attitude for God," to make a positive and transformative difference in the world. Davidson highlighted the importance of carrying forward the lessons and experiences gained from Holy Cross. "Through our education, we have been cultivated in both mind and heart. Our family, friends and community here have helped us see how we can truly make a difference, providing us with both the competence to see

and the courage to act."

President Paige, after bestowing each new graduate with their diploma, commended the efforts of the students, faculty, staff, parents and all those who have contributed to this year's success as a college community.

Afterwards, Student Government President Rob Lulgjuraj expressed his gratitude to "have the opportunity to serve and represent the students of Holy Cross" and thanked Bishop Rhoades for "both his blessing of the graduating class and for guiding us on our new path to continue to serve God's people through our vocations."

Graduating senior Michael Tarala also wished to convey his appreciation having received a Holy Cross education. "Living the Gospel means not only seeing Christ in others but actually being Christ to others. Holy Cross has given me not only the understanding that we are all children of God, but it has helped me be a better man and example in hopes to make a lasting impact on future generations."

PATKA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"There's a lot to learn from each other," she says, adding, "A lot we can share, celebrate and support each other in."

The effervescent and articulate Patka brings a long list of skills to the position of communication director from leadership and organization to writing and public speaking. Her experience includes board development, fund raising and managing a not-for-profit organization.

"I'm looking forward to this new set of challenges and working for the Church in a way that utilizes my strengths and talents," she says.

As for the future of *Today's Catholic* newspaper and communications department, Patka hopes to involve parishioners across the diocese. "I love the idea of empowering people to help us do our job well. It's about internal and external communication — internal communication to parishioners of the diocese — and being relevant," she says. "Articulation of what you do is just as important as what you do if you want it to get covered by the media. I'd love to find an avenue to teach our family across northern Indiana — if you want it in the paper, this is how you say it. ... We can all help shape our message. There are a lot of ways we can be accessible."

Communication is a two-way street, says Patka. "While we are looking to project our voices and our message from the seventh floor of the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, if anything we ought to welcome and encourage voices from all over northern Indiana to start engaging with us," she says. "We welcome communication to this office!"

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