



# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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# Year of Consecrated Life celebrated

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — Scores of men and women who are members of religious orders serving in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend nearly filled the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on May 31 for a Vespers service led by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

Vespers, also called Evening Prayer, is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office. Bishop Rhoades invited all men and women in consecrated life to the Vespers service as part of the celebration of 2015 being proclaimed the Year of Consecrated Life by Pope Francis. Laity also were invited to attend.

Bishop Rhoades entered the darkened basilica carrying the Paschal Candle down the center aisle. Once at the front, he and basilica rector, Holy Cross Father Peter Rocca, shared the flame from the candle with the congregation. As the flames gradually were relayed from candle to candle, the faces of hundreds of consecrated persons were illuminated.

The basilica's community choir led the enthusiastic congregation for the hymns, prayers and psalms of Vespers for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. As Felician Sister Mary Catherine Ryzewicz, an administrator at St. Adalbert School in South Bend, told *Today's Catholic* after the service: "It was a very lovely service, very inspiring, especially to see so



KEVIN HAGGENJOS

The faithful and those in consecrated religious life gather for Vespers at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame on May 31 to celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades led the Evening Prayer.

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## South Bend Mass celebrates 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city

BY TIM JOHNSON

SOUTH BEND — The faith-filled 150-year history of South Bend was celebrated at a Mass May 31 at Saint Joseph High School. Originally planned as an outdoor Mass at Father Bly Field at Legihton Stadium, inclement weather relocated the faithful indoors to the Saint Joseph High School gym. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated the Mass for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the City of South Bend.

Saint Joseph High School's location has historical significance in South Bend's 150-year history.

Saint Joseph Hospital was erected by the Sisters of the Holy Cross in 1882 on the current site of Saint Joseph High School. Although South Bend was already 17 years old, the hospital was the first institution in the city to care for the sick. It was directed by Civil War veteran Sister Mary Edward and staffed by other Sisters of the Holy Cross, lay nurses and five volunteer physicians.

Today, it is not uncommon for Saint Joseph High School students — and even their parents

and grandparents — to have been born on the hospital property where they now attend high school.

The Saint Joseph High School property, being the former site of Saint Joseph Hospital, was also the location of Notre Dame football legend George Gipp's famous purported deathbed speech where he told Knute Rockne to tell a future team to "Go out there and win one for the Gipper!"

Michiana parishes provided the talent for a diocesan strings, woodwinds and brass orchestra for the Mass and prelude. And a diocesan choir provided the sacred music for the Mass, all directed by Jeremy Hoy, music director at St. Pius X Parish, Granger.

Bishop Rhoades' homily incorporated the day's feast, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, and then captured the history of the Catholic faith in South Bend.

He spoke of the earliest French missionary priests who celebrated the first Masses in the area in the late 1600s. And French Jesuits brought the faith to the native Potawatomis.

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## Ordination to the Priesthood

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will ordain to the Priesthood Deacons Royce Gregerson, Bill Meininger, Jonathan Norton and Matt Soberalski at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 1122 S. Clinton St. in Fort Wayne, on June 6 at 11 a.m. This will be the largest number of priests ordained since 1975.





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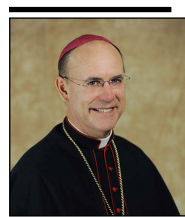
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# The rich heritage of faith in South Bend



## IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

*The following is the homily that Bishop Rhoades delivered at the Mass on May 31, 2015, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the city of South Bend:*

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. We contemplate the mystery of God in Himself: one God in Three Divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is the greatest mystery of our faith, a mystery we cannot fully comprehend, but which Jesus, the Son, revealed to us. He revealed to us that God is eternal and infinite love, a communion of three divine Persons. God is not infinite solitude, but an eternal communion of life and love. The Holy Trinity is a mystery that transcends us, yet the reality that is closest to us, the life that dwells in us and sustains us. We were all baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Through Baptism, we were introduced into the life of the Blessed Trinity: the love of God was poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. We are reminded of this every time we make the sign of the cross in the name of the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity.

Faith in the Most Holy Trinity was proclaimed and lived here in this area of northern Indiana long before South Bend was incorporated as a city 150 years ago. The first Mass in this region was probably celebrated in the late 1600's by French missionary priests. We know that in the 1680's Jesuit missionaries formed Saint Joseph Mission for the Native Potawatomi, a mission located between present-day Niles, Michigan, and South Bend. This mission laid the foundation for the Christian faith in this region. In the latter part of the 1700's, the mission was left without resident priests for six decades, but thanks to Potawatomi Chief Leopold Pokagon, the missionary priest Father Stephen Badin, and his lay catechist Angelique Campeau, the mission was revived in 1830. The Catholic faith was reactivated among the native Americans. Today's celebration would not be complete without our remembrance of the first native Catholics of this region, the Potawatomi. Nor would it be complete without our remembering the holy missionaries: Father Stephen Badin, Father Louis Deseille, and Father Benjamin Petit, beloved and holy priests who stood by the side of the Potawatomi faithful during those difficult and tragic times. I especially remember the young Father Petit who accompanied the Potawatomi on the Trail of Death, when so many of our brothers and sisters were expelled from this region. Father Petit himself died while returning to Indiana, at the age of 28. Though he is not canonized, I think he is our first saint of northern Indiana.

It was just three years after Father Petit's death that the young French priest, Father Edward Sorin, with six religious brothers



KEVIN HAGGENJOS

**Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades speaks about South Bend's rich heritage of faith during his homily at the 150th Anniversary Mass of the City of South Bend. Bishop Rhoades celebrated the Mass in Saint Joseph High School's gymnasium.**

of the Congregation of Holy Cross, arrived here. They moved into a log building and chapel on a 524 acre property given to Father Sorin by the Bishop of Vincennes. This was property that was originally bought by Father Stephen Badin in 1832 and named by him Notre Dame des Lacs. With the arrival of Father Sorin and the Holy Cross brothers in 1842, a new era in the history of Catholic life in this region began. They began the school that became the University of Notre Dame. Father Sorin and later, a succession of Holy Cross priests, brothers and sisters ministered to the Catholics living in this area and beyond.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne was established in 1857 and encompassed the whole northern half of the state of Indiana. There were probably about 20,000 Catholics in the whole diocese at that time. The Catholics in this area worshiped at Sacred Heart at Notre Dame until 1853 when Father Sorin and Holy Cross priests bought the land where we now stand and built a chapel in 1853 on the northeast corner of what is today Hill and LaSalle Streets. It was named Saint Alexis Chapel, in honor of the patron saint of South Bend's founder, Alexis Coquillard. This became Saint Joseph Parish, the oldest Catholic parish of South Bend, though some debate this, since at that time, this property was part of Lowell, a town that was only annexed to South Bend in 1867. We can say, however, that it is the oldest parish in present-day South Bend. The first parishioners were mostly French, many from Canada, and a few German and Irish families. The first parish on the west side of the Saint Joseph River was founded in 1859 in honor of Saint Patrick. Saint Patrick's was a multiethnic, but mostly Irish, parish. In 1865, when South Bend was incorporated as a city, Saint Patrick was the only Catholic parish within the city boundaries.

The Catholic population of South Bend grew steadily beyond the original Native-Americans, French, and French-Canadians with the arrival of not only Irish and German immigrants, but later more numerous Polish, Hungarian, Italian and Belgian immigrants. Many ethnic parishes, along

with Catholic schools, were established in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The Polish Catholic presence has been especially prominent in the history of the Church in South Bend. In 1927, a specific ministry to South Bend's fifty African-American Catholic families began and became Saint Augustine Parish in 1941. The Hispanic Catholic presence in South Bend began in the 1950's and has grown significantly in the past several decades. We see a beautiful, rich tapestry of ethnic Catholic communities throughout South Bend's history, a unity in diversity that is still evident today.

I don't have time to discuss all the rich history of the Church in South Bend these past 150 years, but I must mention the significant decree from the Vatican in 1960 changing the title of our diocese from the Diocese of Fort Wayne to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Bishop Leo Pursley asked for this change to honor South Bend and its religious heritage. With this re-naming of the diocese, Saint Matthew Church was promoted to the rank of the diocese's co-cathedral.

Today it is good to give thanks to the Most Holy Trinity for the rich heritage of faith here in South Bend, to remember our ancestors in the faith, and to be resolved to continue their beautiful legacy in the present and future. We pray for the city of South Bend during this 150th anniversary year, for all our brothers and sisters of different faiths. Together we are called to work together for the good of this city, especially mindful of those who are in need or struggling to make a living. We pray for the peace and prosperity of this city.

Finally, on this Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, we praise God from whom all the blessings of our life flow. We praise the Father who is the origin of all life. We praise the Son who redeemed us by His death and resurrection. We praise the Holy Spirit who refreshes us and renews the face of the earth. We praise the One God who is love and who calls us to enter into the embrace of His love. May God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you and bless this city of South Bend!



# Pope Francis lists abortion, unsafe workplaces among 'attacks on life'

BY LAURA IERACI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Abortion, abandoning migrants at sea, unsafe working conditions, malnutrition, terrorism and euthanasia are all “attacks on life,” said Pope Francis.

In an audience with members of the Italian Science & Life Association May 30, the pope said “life is a gift” and urged more reflection on how people are treated throughout all stages of life.

“The degree of progress of a civilization is measured precisely by its capacity to care for life, especially in its most fragile phases,” he told the association, which had gathered its members in Rome the previous day to mark its 10th anniversary.

“When we speak of humanity, let us never forget the attacks on the sacredness of human life,” he said. “The plague of abortion is an attack on life. Allowing our brothers and sisters to die in boats in the Strait of Sicily is an attack on life. Death at the workplace, because minimum safety conditions are not respected, is an attack on life. Death because of malnutrition is an attack on life. Terrorism, war, violence, euthanasia as well, is an attack on life.”

The pope affirmed the association’s work as important, especially in a society marked by a throwaway mentality, and urged its members to “relaunch a



CNS PHOTO/ALESSANDRO DI MEO, EPA

**Migrants are seen in a boat after being rescued in late April in the Mediterranean Sea. Abortion, abandoning migrants at sea, unsafe working conditions, malnutrition, terrorism and euthanasia are all “attacks on life,” said Pope Francis.**

renewed culture of life.”

“To love life is to care always for others, to want their good, to cultivate and respect their transcendent dignity,” he said.

Pope Francis told association members to be “unafraid of undertaking fruitful dialogue with the entire world of science, even with those who do not profess to be believers but who remain open to the mystery of human life.”

Underlining the vital link between science and life, the pope said “it is the miracle of life in its unfathomable depths that gives rise to and accompanies the scientific journey.”

“Christ, who is the light of

humankind and of the world, illuminates the path so that science may always be knowledge at the service of life,” he said. “When this light ceases and when knowledge is no longer in touch with life, it becomes sterile.”

He urged scientists to maintain a high regard for the sacredness of human life, “so that science is really at the service of humankind and not humankind at the service of science.”

It is thanks to scientific analysis, he said, that the Church reaffirms “a just society recognizes the primacy of the right to life, from conception until its natural end.”

# Nebraska bishops welcome override of veto of bill ending death penalty

LINCOLN, Neb. (CNS) — Nebraska state senators overrode Gov. Pete Ricketts’ veto of a bill repealing capital punishment that had been supported by the state’s Catholic bishops.

In a 30-19 vote May 27, the senators supported a bill that replaces the death penalty with a sentence of life in prison without parole.

The bill had gained the support of Nebraska’s three Catholic bishops, who earlier commended lawmakers for their historic vote May 20 to repeal capital punishment. They said then that support for the bill reflects the teaching of the Catholic faith and that use of the death penalty cannot be justified today.

Ricketts vetoed the bill May 26, but legislators acted quickly. The 30 votes were just enough to override the veto. Under state-house rules in the unicameral legislature, at least 30 of 49 senators must vote to overturn a gubernatorial veto.

“Our support for this bill also flows from our prayerful reflec-

tion on the words of Jesus Christ Himself: ‘Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father,’” said the state’s three bishops, Archbishop George J. Lucas of Omaha and Bishops James D. Conley of Lincoln and Joseph G. Hanefeldt of Grand Island.

Their joint statement was issued by the Nebraska Catholic Conference, which represents the bishops’ public policy interests.

Lawmakers had originally voted 32-15 to pass the bill.

With the vote, Nebraska became the 19th state to end the use of the death penalty.

Ricketts had lobbied against repeal but supporters of the bill were optimistic that lawmakers could muster the 30 votes needed to override the veto, said Greg Schleppenbach, executive director of the state Catholic conference.

In an email message to members of the Catholic Advocacy Network of Nebraska, the Catholic conference’s new grassroots faithful citizenship initia-

tive, Schleppenbach urged people to send a note of thanks to senators who voted for repeal.

Earlier in May, Archbishop George J. Lucas of Omaha joined about 15 religious leaders, priests and nuns at a news conference in Omaha in calling for an end to the death penalty. At the May 13 event, Archbishop Lucas said he was pleased and privileged “to join friends from other faith communities at this important moment.”

The effort to override the veto was led by state Sen. Colby Coash, a Republican who is Catholic. He told the *Lincoln Journal Star* that he was motivated by his faith and Church teaching on the death penalty to urge fellow legislators to first pass the bill and then override the veto.

“This is consistent with my pro-life views, but it’s also consistent with trying to make government more efficient. With the death penalty, taxpayers are not getting what they’re paying for,”

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## PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, June 7, 11 a.m. — 175th Anniversary Mass at Saint John the Evangelist Church, Goshen
- Monday, June 8 to Tuesday, June 9 — Meetings of the Board of Catholic Relief Services, Saint Louis, Missouri
- Wednesday, June 10 to Friday, June 12 — General Assembly of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Saint Louis, Missouri

## HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN MEMORIAL DAY



JOE MILLER

Students from Holy Family School in South Bend participated in the 92nd Annual West-Side Memorial Day Parade in South Bend. Holy Cross Principal Joe Miller, right, is shown with several Holy Family students before the 92nd Annual West-Side Memorial Day Parade.

Below, students in the parade include Chosan Macon, left, and Santana Suarez, right.



## Report: Papal encyclical named after St. Francis prayer of praise

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis’ encyclical on the environment will be titled “Laudato Sii” (Praised Be), a line from St. Francis of Assisi’s “Canticle of Creatures,” and will be released June 16, said the head of the Vatican publishing house.

Salesian Father Giuseppe Costa, speaking at an event in Naples May 30, told reporters that publishers from around the world had been asking for the rights to reprint “Laudato Sii” when it is released in mid-June.

The Vatican press office declined to confirm the title of the document and the release date, although it also declined to say Father Costa was wrong.



# Church should make views on homosexuality understandable, says priest

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Church not only needs to provide pastoral care for those with same-sex attraction but it should also make its teaching “accessible, understandable and compelling for people,” said the director of a Church apostolate that ministers to homosexuals.

Father Paul Check, director of Courage for the past eight years, said Catholics with same-sex attraction would be also more likely to “understand what the Church teaches if it became more plain to them that they have a place in the Church.”

He aims to get that message across through the work of his apostolate, which particularly focuses on providing clergy training, but he said the message still needs to “get to the ground to people who need it.”

The priest, who considers himself “an advocate for an underserved population,” said the Church’s teachings on chastity and contraception are not well understood, and added that they are “all part of one tapestry and they include the question, obviously, of homosexuality.”

One way to get this across will be through an international conference focusing on the Church’s ministry to homosexuals. The conference, taking place near Detroit this August, is a lead-in to the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in September and the world Synod of Bishops on the family at the Vatican in October.

It aims to help those in pastoral care ministries gain a better understanding of the Church’s teaching on homosexuality as well as insight on how to put into practice the U.S. bishops’ 2006 document “Ministry to Persons With a Homosexual Inclination: Guidelines for Pastoral Care.”



FATHER PAUL CHECK

said Father Check.

He said the theme of the Aug. 10-12 gathering is Christian friendship and the importance of building relationships.

The event, sponsored by Courage International, Our Sunday Visitor and the Archdiocese of Detroit, will feature about 30 national and local speakers and will include Courage members “who will tell their stories,” the priest told Catholic News Service in a May 22 interview in Washington.

Father Check, a diocesan priest from Bridgeport, Connecticut, said the conference will answer some of the questions posed in the “lineamenta,” or outline, for the Oct. 4-25 synod on the family at the Vatican, particularly about the Church’s response to homosexuality.

Some of those questions included: “How can the Christian community give pastoral attention to families with persons with homosexual tendencies?” and “What are the responses that, in light of cultural sensitivities, are considered to be most appropriate?”

Last year he said Courage took a small step in spreading the Church’s message about homosexuality through a documentary movie, “Desire of the Everlasting Hills,” which tells the stories of three people who transitioned from homosexual lifestyles to chastity in accordance with the Church’s teachings.

“It’s an easy introduction to the solicitude and care the Church has for people,” Father Check said, adding that the hour-long film “doesn’t sound like sterile teaching from the catechism but a lived reality.”

He pointed out that many people do not even know Courage exists, unless they “Google ‘Catholic Church and homosexuality’” and when people “find us eventually” they often say: “We never knew the Church had something” like this.

Courage chapters, which currently number about 100, are support groups where people meet confidentially and build relationships. “Isolation is really one of the more difficult problems our members face,” the priest said.

He said word of this apostolate needs to appear in parish bulletins, announcements, pamphlets in Church vestibules and should be mentioned in diocesan newspapers and even in confessionals.

Father Check said this ministry has “changed my Priesthood considerably.”

He said as a teacher of moral theology and sexual ethics, “this is already my field,” but he has been particularly impacted by “sitting down with men and women for whom this is part of their life.”

**For information** about the Courage/Encourage apostolate in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend visit [www.diocesefwsb.org/courage](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/courage).

## DEATH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

he said in an interview with the newspaper.

“If any other programs were as costly or inefficient as this, we would have gotten rid of them,” he said.

The Catholic Mobilizing Network, an organization working to end the use of the death penalty around the country, welcomed the override in a statement May 27.

“Republicans, Democrats and independents reached across the aisle to champion repeal, making Nebraska the first red state in recent years to end the death penalty,” the organization said. “The bipartisan success today demonstrates growing recognition that the death penalty is a broken and morally bankrupt public policy.”

Nebraska is the seventh state to abolish capital punishment since 2007; it is the first state with a Republican-controlled legislature to do so since 1973.

Ricketts condemned the decision in a statement released just after the override vote: “My words cannot express how appalled I am that we have lost a critical tool to protect law enforcement and Nebraska families. While the Legislature has lost touch with the citizens of Nebraska, I will continue to stand with Nebraskans and law enforcement on this important issue.”

The office of Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson issued a statement taking issue with the provision of the repeal measure, known as L.B. 268, saying the new law will apply retroactively, giving those currently on death row a sentence of life without parole.

Peterson’s office said the provision is unconstitutional.

“Nebraska’s Constitution reserves to the Board of Pardons the exclusive power to change final sentences imposed by the

courts,” it said, adding that Peterson will “seek a court decision, at the appropriate time, to resolve the issue of the state’s authority to carry out death sentences previously ordered by Nebraska’s courts for the 10 inmates now on death row.”

Bishop Conley took to Twitter to commend legislators for their vote. In the hours leading to the vote he asked Nebraskan Catholics to call their legislators to urge them to override the veto. He also called for prayers for public safety forces and the victims of crime.

After the vote he tweeted: “The Nebraska Leg admirably repealed the death penalty today. All human life has dignity — it’s time to end abortion and euthanasia too!”

In a May 29 statement, Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, said the repeal of Nebraska’s death penalty is another step in the building of a culture of life.

He said the Church is in solidarity with victims of violence and all attacks on human life, offering prayers for them and their families.

However, Archbishop Wenski said, “even as we seek justice for these grave wrongs, our faith impels us to call for the building up of a culture of life where all human life is valued. We are a people of deep hope, even for the most lost souls among us. We continue to say that we cannot teach killing is wrong by killing.”

**Contributing to this story** were Joe Ruff and David Gouger, news editor and senior writer, respectively, at the *Catholic Voice*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Omaha.



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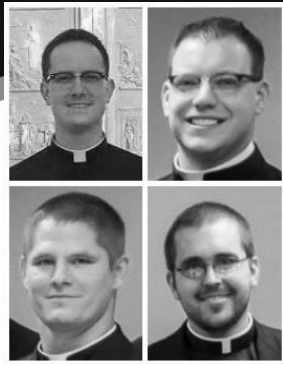


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## ORDINATION COVERAGE



**Special Mass Broadcast:**

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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 our 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.

## Redefining marriage and the threat to religious liberty

WASHINGTON, USCCB — The Catholic Church teaches: "Marriage and the family are institutions that must be promoted and defended from every possible misrepresentation of their true nature, since whatever is injurious to them is injurious to society itself." — *Sacramentum Caritatis*, 29. The following examples illustrate that efforts to redefine marriage are harming the religious freedom of believers in the true definition of marriage.

- Idaho — In 2014, two Protestant ministers (a husband and a wife) who operate a wedding chapel in Coeur d'Alene said they would not officiate at a same-sex "wedding." City officials informed the ministers that their refusal to officiate violated the city's ordinance outlawing discrimination in public accommodations on the basis of "sexual orientation." The city eventually declined to prosecute the ministers.

- New Mexico — The owners of a photography studio would not take the pictures of a same-sex "commitment ceremony" because they did not want to participate in behavior contrary to their religious beliefs. In 2013, the New Mexico Supreme Court denied the owners' appeal, affirming the lower court opinion that the studio violated the state Human Rights Act. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the case.

- Washington — A florist who declined to provide flowers for a same-sex "wedding" was sued by the state Attorney General. In February 2015, a state judge ruled against the florist and found that she "cannot comply with both the law and her faith if she continues to provide flowers for weddings as part of her duly-licensed business, Arlene's Flowers."

- Colorado — Two men "married" in Massachusetts requested a Denver bakery make a "wedding" cake for their wedding reception in Denver. For religious reasons, the owners of the bakery declined to make the cake. The two men filed a complaint with the Colorado Division of Civil Rights, which found that the bakery violated the law. Then the Attorney General's office filed a complaint against the bakery, resulting in further court rulings against the bakery.

- Vermont — For allegedly not hosting a "wedding" reception for a

same-sex "couple," Catholic owners of a bed and breakfast settled a discrimination lawsuit, requiring them to (1) pay a \$10,000 civil penalty, (2) pay \$20,000 to a charitable trust, and (3) not host wedding receptions of any kind. Upon settling the lawsuit, the owners of the bed and breakfast said, "But no one can force us to abandon our deeply held beliefs about marriage."

- New Jersey — The New Jersey Division on Civil Rights found that a Methodist organization violated a public accommodations law by not allowing a same-sex civil union ceremony at its boardwalk pavilion.

- Catholic Charities — Catholic Charities of Boston (2006), Catholic Charities San Francisco (2006), Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., (2010), and Catholic Charities affiliates in Illinois (2011) had to cease adoption services or face civil liability for not placing children in the homes of same-sex couples.

Legislation called the Marriage and Religious Freedom Act has recently been introduced in the U.S. Congress to try to remedy some of these problems and ensure that people can live out their beliefs on marriage.

## Boko Haram adopts a strategy similar to ISIS

In 2014, the extremist group Boko Haram expanded its terrorist attacks on Christian and Muslim Nigerians in the northeast and extended its reach to other parts of the country. In April of that year, Boko Haram gained global notoriety when they kidnapped 276 schoolgirls in Chibok, forcibly converting them to Islam, "marrying them off" to Boko Haram soldiers, or selling them into slavery. This atrocity led to the #BringBackOurGirls movement. In the past year Boko Haram killed 6,374 people, a huge increase over the number killed in 2013. And 2015 has started off badly with a Boko Haram attack on Baga that may have killed up to 2,000 people.

The year 2014 also marked a significant change in Boko Haram's strategy. Instead of simply creating terror, they started to take over and hold territory. By September 2014, Boko Haram had gained control over a significant portion of northeast Nigeria that it called its "caliphate." Its fighters repelled the Nigerian army's attempts to take back ground and conducted numerous attacks into neighboring Cameroon, killing many soldiers and even kidnapping the Cameroonian Vice President's wife. Boko Haram also took aim at disrupting elections to further undermine the legitimacy and credibility of the government. As a result, the February elections were postponed until the end of March 2015.

The attacks into Cameroon forced neighboring countries to recognize the regional threat that Boko Haram now poses. Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Benin joined Nigeria to formulate an armed force of 8,700 troops that has taken back a significant number of towns from Boko Haram



**Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will conclude the Fortnight for Freedom with the celebration of Mass on Saturday, July 4, at 9 a.m. at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne. All are welcome.**

fighters since the start of 2015. In response, Boko Haram has returned to its terror attacks, launching daily suicide bombings in many cities, some by children, killing scores.

Boko Haram, a designation that means, "Western education is forbidden," has evolved significantly since its inception in 2002. The group started off as a small, insignificant sect of Islam that considered the secular Nigerian government and all Muslims that collaborated with it as illegitimate. It aimed to establish Sharia law in Nigeria as a purer form of government. In 2009, after the death of its leader while in police custody, the group turned radical, attacking police and military barracks and places of worship. The group has intentionally targeted Christian churches, schools and gatherings but also attacked mainstream Muslims whom they see as corrupt apostates. Overall, more Muslims have been killed in these attacks than Christians. The high level of corruption in the Nigerian government and police and military abuses of civil and human rights also served to radicalize Boko Haram followers.

The Catholic Church has a major presence in Nigeria that has worked to calm religious tensions. In February 2015, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria deplored the ongoing violence, death and destruction and the use of innocent children as suicide bombers. Earlier they condemned the kidnapping of the girls in Chibok and called on politicians to stop radicalizing and mobilizing young people against political opponents. With regard to the elections, the president of the conference said, "The Church wants to make sure that the election results are credible and accurate, hoping that this will contribute to peace in our country." The Church deployed significant resources to educate voters and to monitor the validity of the electoral process. For years the Church has worked with other Christian religious leaders to build mutual respect and peace with Muslims. The Church has also worked to strengthen good government, reduce corruption and protect religious freedom.



## USCCB plans fourth annual Fortnight for Freedom with events nationwide

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Threats to religious freedom continue to emerge, making it more urgent for people of faith to take action to defend the full realm of religious practice, said Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore.

Speaking during a May 28 webinar announcing the fourth annual Fortnight for Freedom, Archbishop Lori called on Catholics to learn about the importance of religious liberty throughout the history of the United States and to actively promote free religious practice during the two-week period beginning June 21.

This year's fortnight observance will open with Mass at 10:45 a.m. (EDT) June 21 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore. It closes with Mass at noon (EDT) July 4 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate Mass July 4 at 9 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne to conclude the Fortnight for Freedom.

"Religious freedom is not something that stands alone. It's not simply a legal question for the Church. It pertains very much to the New Evangelization," Archbishop Lori explained.

This year's fortnight observance theme is the "Freedom to Bear Witness," stemming from the Gospel message that Jesus came to the world to bear witness to the truth, explained Hillary Byrnes, assistant general counsel for the

USCCB, who joined the archbishop during the webinar.

She said dozens of local events in dioceses across the country are planned, including prayer services, discussions and charitable works.

"We would definitely encourage people to attend those events as well as read and educate yourself on religious freedom," Byrnes told the nationwide audience of diocesan employees and parish leaders.

"We're looking this year to raise awareness of religious freedom so people don't take it for granted," she added.

Archbishop Lori said government policies, such as the federal mandate to include a full range of contraceptives in employee health insurance and the redefinition of marriage throughout the country, pose growing threats to religious freedom.

The fortnight, he said, also is meant to draw attention to the dangers to religious liberty around the world as Christians and people of other faith traditions face persecution, limits on their freedom and death.

"Pope Francis pointed out that we are truly living in an age of martyrs," the archbishop said. "I think we have to pay a lot of attention to the sacrifices which people are making for their faith around the world. Many Christians are being persecuted, beheaded. And Muslims are being persecuted for not being Muslim enough."

**Information about the fortnight** and various resources to help plan local observances are available online at [www.Fortnight4Freedom.com](http://www.Fortnight4Freedom.com).



DIGITAL LEARNING

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# VESPERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

many participating so wholeheartedly: you could feel the rafters shaking just a little.”

Sister Lois DeLee, who is director of vocations, novices and postulants for the Immaculate Heart of Mary Province of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, was the Scripture reader. Holy Cross Brother Joseph Fox, rector of St. Joseph Chapel on the Holy Cross College campus, read the intercessions.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades said that ever since Pope Francis designated 2015 as the Year of Consecrated Life, he had wanted to gather in prayer with the consecrated men and women in the diocese. Citing Pope Francis, he noted that “consecrated life is not an isolated or marginal reality in the Church.”

Rather, consecrated life is a deep part of the very life of the Church, he continued, saying that fact is evident in this diocese, which is home to some 800 consecrated men and women of 31 religious institutes. Furthermore, six of those religious institutes have their generalates or provincialates in the diocese.

“The marvelous activity of religious men and women shines forth as instrumental to the growth of the Church in our diocese since its very beginning and even prior to the establishment of the diocese in 1857. The consecrated life has been deeply a part of the life of our diocese and continues to be so today,” Bishop Rhoades said.

The bishop noted that the Vespers service celebrating consecrated life was appropriate on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity because consecrated people have put their lives “at the service of the Most Holy Trinity and the Church” and committed themselves to a radical way of living the Gospel through the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience — known as the evangelical counsels.

He observed that St. Pope John Paul II had taught that the evangelical counsels are a gift of the Holy Trinity, and “the heart of poverty, chastity and obedience is love for the Trinity.”

The fraternal life in community of consecrated people also has a Trinitarian dimension, the bishop continued, for like the early Christians, consecrated persons strive to live in Christ with one heart and soul.

“This too is a witness to the Trinity, the unity, the oneness, of the three Divine Persons,” Bishop Rhoades said, noting that at this contentious time in the world, this model of community is greatly needed.

Bishop Rhoades stressed that “the Church and the world need your witness to Christ, your witness of communion, and your example of holiness.”

He thanked those present and asked them to extend his deep thanks, love and prayers to the ill or elderly religious unable to attend, saying: “I am always conscious of the power of their presence here in

our diocese: their prayers and also their sufferings offered up for the Church.”

In his closing remarks, Bishop Rhoades said that in addition to members of religious institutes, the diocese is also home to other forms of consecrated life: hermits and consecrated virgins, who also are important to the life of the Church.

One of the largest contingents in attendance at the Vespers service was that of the brown-robed Franciscan Brothers Minor. Brother Isaac Mary told *Today's Catholic* that the brothers have five friaries in the diocese, and they try to attend any communal event the bishop holds for the diocese.

“The Vespers service was beautiful,” he said. “It’s always helpful to be with other consecrated persons to build that bond and that friendship.”

For Holy Cross Father William Wickham, now retired after 30-plus years in ministry, the service was “a renewal of our commitment to the Church, to helping people and to proclaiming the Word.”

Felician Sister Mary Anthony Kubat, who has a special ministry to the ill and elderly at St. Adalbert/St. Casimir Parish, told *Today's Catholic* that “Just feeling that power of the spirit with everybody at once praying together was very nice. There are just two of us in community here in South Bend, and it’s a lot different than praying with such a large group. It was powerful, beautiful.”

Bishop Rhoades had planned the event to make people more aware of “the gift of the presence of consecrated men and women in the Church, contributing to the mission of the Church in a decisive manner,” and to provide “a greater awareness in our culture and in the Church of the value and beauty of the consecrated life.”

For those who witnessed the Vespers service, the conclusion was: mission accomplished.



**Holy Cross Brother Joseph Fox, rector of St. Joseph Chapel on the Holy Cross College campus, reads the intercessions.**



PHOTOS BY KEVIN HAGGENJOS

**Above, Holy Cross Father Peter Rocca shares the flame from the Paschal Candle with the congregation gathered for Vespers.**



**At left, the faithful and those in consecrated religious life gather holding candles during the Vespers at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame on May 31 to celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life.**



**Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades greets those in consecrated life and the faithful after the Vespers service that celebrated the Year for Consecrated Life at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame on May 31.**



**Sister Lois DeLee, who is director of vocations, novices and postulants for the Immaculate Heart of Mary Province of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, proclaims Scripture.**



## Holy Cross sisters on podcast

Two Sisters of the Holy Cross will be featured in a June 9 podcast that is live-streamed (audio and video) over the Internet as part of an innovative way to engage with people about God, faith and religious life. Sponsored by A Nun's Life ministry, the podcast airs at 5 p.m. Eastern Time at <http://nunslife.org/live>. There is also a live chat room where on-line listeners interact with each other and the sisters during the hour-long podcast. Two Holy Cross sisters also will be in the chat room.

## Larissa Nanna awarded Celebration of Youth Scholarship

FORT WAYNE — Larissa Nanna has been awarded the Celebration of Youth Scholarship presented by the YMCA for her generous public service. The scholarship



LARISSA NANNA

awards juniors and seniors who most represent the YMCA core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. Of the 18 nominations Nanna was one of six students who were selected for the honor.

Nanna, parishioner at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, has been an altar server there, as well as assistant catechist and currently holds the position of co-first-grade Sunday schoolteacher. She has been a part of the youth group at the church and has volunteered in many public service activities at the cathedral. She has volunteered her time and treasure at the St. Mary's Soup Kitchen, the Cathedral Easter Egg Hunt, Cathedral Soup and Stations of the Cross, Cathedral Easter Vigil Reception, Cathedral Giving Tree and other parish functions through the years.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## RITE OF ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY FOR HOLY ORDERS



BY KAY COZAD

Seminarist Spenser St. Louis publically declared his intention to pursue Holy Orders and was officially accepted as a candidate for ordination during the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders at a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd in the Archbishop Noll Center in Fort Wayne on May 27. This fall St. Louis will attend North American College in Rome as a seminarian.

Nanna has been active in the Girl Scouts and has served at several annual events. In junior high and high school, she has been part of the Youth for Christ program, served on student council for four years and is

a current member of the Interact Club at Carroll High School in Fort Wayne. Nanna has also donated her hair to help those in need of support due to illness to the Locks of Love program, and since she was a child,

she and her father have volunteered to "ring the bell" for the Salvation Army at Christmas time.

Larissa is the daughter of Brett and Laura Nanna.

## Knights offer Chicago Cubs game bus trip

GRANGER — The Knights of Columbus Council 4263 in Granger will offer a bus trip to the Cubs vs. Arizona baseball game in Chicago on Friday, Sept. 4. Tickets cost is \$15 and includes coffee and rolls, door prizes, peanuts, bus fare and reserved terrace seats behind home plate. Bus leaves St. Pius X Church parking lot at 10 a.m. For information call Joe Stackowicz, chairman, at 574-272-1565.

## Three honored with Brother Andre Mottais, CSC, award

SOUTH BEND — A Holy Cross Associates' wine and cheese party to honor three outstanding Catholics with the Brother Andre Mottais, CSC, Award will be Saturday, June 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the Pfeil Center on the Holy Cross College campus. Honored with the awards will be Ellie and Ken Peters of St. Joseph Parish, South Bend. The Peters have been active in the St. Joseph choir for decades and involved in regular visits to area nursing homes. The Peters have been long-time active members of the Holy Cross Associates. Ken has been editor at Ave Maria Press and is a Catholic author.

Also receiving the award is Holy Cross Brother James Reddy, who has been a dedicated supporter of the Holy Cross Associates. Brother Mottais was the most important historical link between the Brothers of Holy Cross and the Congregation of Holy Cross.

All are welcome but there is a requested reply to Rosalie at [grcamp4040@global.net](mailto:grcamp4040@global.net) or 574-631-0992.

## Correction

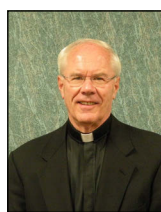
Father Barry England was in priestly ministry for 47 years. The story about Father England's retirement in the May 31, 2015 issue of *Today's Catholic* had posted 37 years.

# Tis the season to celebrate our jubilarians

## Msgr. John Kuzmich celebrates golden jubilee as priest

JUBILARIAN STORIES BY KAY COZAD

SOUTH BEND — Msgr. John M. Kuzmich celebrates 50 years in the Priesthood this year and says of his life in Christ, "I have much for which to be grateful."



MSGR. JOHN KUZMICH

Born in 1938, into the close-knit faithful Catholic family in South Bend of Hubert and Katherine Kuzmich, Msgr. Kuzmich was one of four children.

Msgr. Kuzmich does not recall having a strong desire to become a priest during his primary education at St. Patrick School or his high school years at Saint Joseph High School in South Bend, though he credits his exemplary Catholic education as an important element in his

faith formation.

His parents' faith, especially his mother's devotion to the Blessed Mother, their faithfulness to Mass, and friendships with priests were firm examples that helped the young John grow to deeply respect the Priesthood. He says, "With this good foundation, when the call from God came, I was ready to say yes."

It was during his freshman year in college that the call to the vocation of Priesthood came. "God was tugging at my heart, as I experienced an intense desire to serve Him and the Church," Msgr. Kuzmich says. He completed his college education at the University of Notre Dame and entered Our Lady of the Lake, Wawasee, and later Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Ohio.

Bishop Leo A. Pursley ordained the young John Kuzmich to the

Priesthood on May 29, 1965, at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, after which the new Father Kuzmich was appointed as assistant at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. Three years later he took on the role of Master of Ceremonies for the Fort Wayne Deanery. He later served as assistant at St. Matthew Cathedral (1969) and at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne (1970).

In July of 1977, Father Kuzmich was appointed rector of Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne as well as Vice Chancellor of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Later in 1982, Father Kuzmich was appointed Consultor of Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. By 1984, he was serving as pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne, from which

he retired in June of 2013. In October of 2009 Father Kuzmich was appointed by The Holy See as Chaplain for His Holiness and became known as Msgr. Kuzmich.

Other appointments in which Msgr. Kuzmich served include the Presbyteral Council and the Retired Clergy Committee.

Of his 50 years of serving God and His people Msgr. Kuzmich says, "The life of a priest is not easy because it requires the sacrificial gift of one's self in the service of the Church. The priest can become disillusioned and discouraged because of the nature of his work. But if he keeps his eyes fixed on Jesus, he will find much joy in serving God's people. This, I have tried to do. I know that God, through my priestly ministry, has touched the lives of many persons. Celebrating Mass,

preaching, teaching, baptizing, officiating at marriages, comforting the grieving at funerals, is what I like most about being a priest."

In his retirement Msgr. Kuzmich says, "I still live in a rectory and am serving in a nice small parish as a priest-in-residence. I do manage to keep busy. Retirement is a big and good change for me. I loved the parishes where I served, but I appreciate the opportunity for rest and relaxation that retirement brings."

Msgr. Kuzmich is planning to celebrate his golden jubilee with "a Mass of Thanksgiving with my family and relatives at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, followed by a nice meal at the University of Notre Dame, one of my favorite places."

Msgr. Kuzmich is a resident priest at Sacred Heart Parish, South Bend.



# 50 Father Matthew Kafka celebrates 50 years of Priesthood

**MICHIGAN**  
— Father Matthew S. Kafka celebrated his golden jubilee as priest on May 29 this year. Born in 1933 to Matthew and Helen Kafka in Chicago the young Matthew received his primary education at Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Helen schools in Chicago, and his high school education at DePaul Academy in Chicago. His college studies were completed at DePaul University in Chicago before he entered seminary training at Ss. Cyril and



**FATHER MATTHEW KAFKA**

Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake, Michigan.

Ordained to the Priesthood on May 29, 1965, by Bishop Leo A. Pursley at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, the young Father Kafka served first as assistant at St. Adalbert Parish in South Bend. In 1971 he was appointed assistant at St. Patrick Parish in Fort Wayne and three years later to Holy Family Parish in South Bend again as assistant.

Father Kafka served as assistant at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Elkhart in 1976 and was appointed administrator for St. Mary of the Lake in Culver in 1978. By 1979, Father Kafka was appointed as pastor of St. Mary of the Lake and shepherded the faithful there until 1986 when

he was appointed pastor of St. Hedwig Parish in South Bend.

In 1988, Father Kafka went into hospital ministry and by 1990 he was assigned as chaplain at St. Joseph Medical Center, Fort Wayne, with residence at St. Patrick Church. Eight years later he served once again in a parish setting, this time as associate pastor at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, then at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, both in Fort Wayne. In July of 2000, Father Kafka was called to serve as pastor at St. Patrick in Arcola.

In June of 2001 Father Kafka took a medical leave and retired on Sept. 1, 2002. Father Kafka currently resides in Michigan.

# Friar Alex Cymerman celebrates 50 years of Priesthood

**MISHAWAKA**

— Friar Alex B. Cymerman, a Conventual Franciscan priest with Our Lady of the Angels Province, is celebrating his golden jubilee to the Priesthood on June 17. Friar Cymerman is a friar in residence at the St. Francis of Assisi Novitiate and Friary on West Dragoon Trail in Mishawaka.



**FRIAR ALEX CYMERMAN**

Born in Buffalo, New York, Friar Cymerman attended Catholic elementary and high schools in New York. After high school graduation he entered the Franciscan Novitiate in Becket, Massachusetts, and pronounced his first vows on Aug. 15, 1957, and his solemn vows three years later while a student at St. Hyacinth College and Seminary, Granby, Massachusetts.

After theology studies at St. Anthony-on-Hudson at Rensselaer, New York, he was ordained a priest by Cardinal Lawrence Sheehan on June 17, 1965 at St. Casimir Church, Baltimore, Maryland.

He received his bachelor's degree from St. Hyacinth College and Seminary, and his master of theology from the State University of New York, and did graduate work in guidance and psychology at Loyola College in Baltimore.

Friar Cymerman taught and provided guidance services at Archbishop Curley High School in Baltimore, served as director of novices at the St. Joseph Cupertino Novitiate in Ellicott City, Maryland, as vicar provincial for the St. Anthony Province, and director of seminary formation at St. Hyacinth's in Granby.

He then served as pastor at St. John Kanty Parish in Clifton, New Jersey, and Mater Dolorosa Parish in Holyoke, Massachusetts. After a merger of parishes in Holyoke,

he became the first pastor of the merged Our Lady of the Cross Parish in Holyoke.

For the past year (October 2014 to present) he has been in residence at the St. Francis of Assisi Novitiate in Mishawaka.

Friar Cymerman said, "The example of the Franciscan priests at our parish and at St. Francis High School in Athol Springs, New York," drew him to the Priesthood.

"These were good men, ordinary people doing extraordinary things," he said. "They seemed to be happy in their lives and that was attractive to me."

Friar Cymerman explained what he appreciates the most about the Priesthood. "First and foremost, I know that I am doing what God wants me to do," he said. "After 50 years I should know that, right?"

"The greatest personal satisfaction is being invited to enter the everyday lives of people of faith," he said. "To be with them in the important moments of their lives, and to bring God into all that, is very satisfying."

When he was a young priest, Friar Cymerman said, "I always thought that I should come into a parish and make saints of its people. Through the years, I have learned that when I get to a parish, the saints are already there. It is my job to get to know them, to love them and be worthy to serve them."

Celebrations took place May 24 with a Mass and cookout at the novitiate. "Our local superior, Friar Giles Zakowicz, is celebrating his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, so that doubles our joy," he said.

"I will also celebrate with my former parishioners in Holyoke, Massachusetts, on June 13 and at a small family celebration in Buffalo, New York, on June 21. On the feast of Corpus Christi — the day of my ordination — there will be a special quiet celebration, just Jesus and me," he concluded.

— Tim Johnson

# Father James Ferguson celebrates 50 years as Holy Cross priest

**NOTRE DAME**  
— Holy Cross Father James Ferguson has spent 40 of his 50 years of Priesthood serving Holy Cross missions at home and abroad.



**FATHER JAMES FERGUSON**

A native of Syracuse, New York, Father Ferguson was born into a close-knit and ecumenical home. His Catholic father made sure he and his sister Marianne attended Catholic schools — and both became religious and theologians. But, "we were never able to convert (our mother) to Catholicism, though we do consider her the best Christian in the family," Father Ferguson said.

After high school in Buffalo, Father Ferguson studied engineering at Notre Dame and entered the seminary program there. His seminary studies took him to Rome during the Second Vatican Council. In seminary, he met Bishop Vincent

McCauley, the first Holy Cross missionary to Fort Portal, Uganda and later served as bishop. After ordination, Father Ferguson was assigned to the District of Uganda.

"My first years in Uganda were in parishes doing exactly what the missionary mandate advertised (Mt. 28: 19-20)," Father Ferguson said. "I went on safari to different villages, taught, baptized and made disciples for Christ. Then, I was given a more permanent assignment to be a tutor in a government teachers college, Butiti Teacher Training College, and chaplain to the Holy Cross Brothers there. I taught religious education and science education. Life was peaceful and enjoyable until a dictator by the name of Idi Amin staged a coup and took over the government for eight years."

Father Ferguson returned to the U.S. to finish his theology degree and return to Uganda as a seminary teacher.

"But before I could return to Uganda," Father Ferguson said, "I was asked to be the founding director of the newly created Holy Cross

Mission Center for Cross-Cultural Ministries. After some years working in the Mission Center and in the formation program at Moreau Seminary, I returned to East Africa where I taught theology and served in the formation programs of the district. I first taught at Kinyamasika Seminary in Uganda and then at Tangaza College in Kenya. My last assignment included the job of being religious superior at the formation house in Nairobi."

Father Ferguson had a brief stay at St. Joseph Parish in South Bend before serving in Glendale, Arizona.

Two years ago, he moved to Fatima House on the Notre Dame campus.

"My present ministries include weekend assistance at St. Gabriel's Mission in Berrien Springs, Michigan," he said, "and being a volunteer chaplain in the Indiana State Penitentiary."

"I am most grateful to God, my family and the Holy Cross community for calling me and supporting me in my 50 years of Priesthood," Father Ferguson said.

— Tim Johnson

# Msgr. John Suelzer celebrates golden jubilee

**FORT WAYNE**  
— Msgr. John N. Suelzer marked his golden jubilee this year on May 31 at a special Mass at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne with a reception that followed in the Hession Center Gym. His vocation to the Priesthood, he says, was nurtured by his mother



**FATHER JOHN SUELZER**

as well as the holy example of four priests.

Born in 1939 to John and Hildegard Suelzer in Wilkensburg, Pennsylvania, the young John received his primary education at St. Peter, St. Joseph and St. John the Baptist schools, Fort Wayne, and St. Aloysius School in Yoder. As a young high school student, Msgr. Suelzer felt a call to the Priesthood and continued his studies. His college studies took place at Our Lady of the Lake Seminary, Syracuse, and St.

Gregory Seminary, Cincinnati, Ohio. Msgr. Suelzer completed his seminary training at Mount St. Mary Seminary in Ohio.

Ordained to the Priesthood by Bishop Leo A. Pursley on May 29, 1965, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, the young priest served first as assistant at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. In 1966, he was appointed Spiritual Director of Notre Dame Circle 572, Daughters of Isabella, South Bend. Then in 1969, Father Suelzer was appointed assis-

tant at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Elkhart and later as assistant at St. Bernard Parish in Wabash and St. Henry in Fort Wayne.

Father Suelzer served as pastor of St. John the Baptist, New Haven, from 1978-1986 when he was appointed administrator of St. Aloysius Parish in Yoder. In 1986, he was appointed pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish where he shepherds God's faithful today.

Father Suelzer was honored with the title of monsignor in July of 1995 appointed by the Holy

See as Chaplain for His Holiness. The newly named monsignor then served a five-year term on the Clergy Retirement Board and in 2010 was appointed to serve on the Board of Saint Anne's Home and Retirement Community.

Msgr. Suelzer has enjoyed his 50 years of priestly service and says, "celebrating the sacraments and being with people as they experience the sacraments" brings him great satisfaction. He also enjoys listening to classical music and reading.



## Father James Shafer celebrates 40-year jubilee

FORT WAYNE — Father James Shafer, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne, celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination to the Priesthood on May 31 this year. The seeds of his vocation, he says, were planted when as a young boy he became fascinated with the Latin Mass and all that the celebrant would perform.

Though Father Shafer admits his call was an “on and off thing for many years,” he found it nurtured by many along the way including his fourth-grade Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart teacher, who encouraged his “real awakening.”

Born to John and Dorothy Shafer in 1946 in Garrett, the young Jim attended St. John School, Garrett, before entering Our Lady of the Lake Seminary, Syracuse, for high school and college studies. Father Shafer studied at St. Francis College from 1964 to 1965 and proceeded to serve in the United States Army. From 1969-1971 Father Shafer studied at St. Gregory Seminary in Cincinnati before entering Mount St. Mary's Seminary where he earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy and a master's degree in biblical studies.

Following his ordination to the Priesthood by Bishop Leo A. Pursley at the Cathedral of the



FATHER JAMES SHAFER

Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, on May 31, 1975, he served as assistant at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne. In 1980 Father Shafer was appointed associate pastor of St. Joseph Parish and the next year as chaplain of Bishop Dwenger High School with residence there. Father Shafer also served as pastor of St. Bavo Parish in Mishawaka and chaplain of Marian High School as well. He was elected to the Presbyteral Council in 1999.

For the past 15 years Father Shafer has shepherded the flock of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish as pastor and says of this joy-filled ministry, “I love serving the people of the Church. I come from the pew so I can serve the people in the pew. I love celebrating Mass, preaching and hearing Confession.”

Other appointments in the past 15 years have included Diocesan Consultor, administrator of St. Joseph Parish, Fort Wayne, Synodal Judge, and to the College of Consultors.

A parish wide celebration was held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish to honor their beloved pastor on his 40<sup>th</sup> jubilee on May 31 that included a Mass and reception in the parish hall. Father Shafer will also celebrate with his immediate family at a later date.

He says joyfully of his life as a priest. “I would not have done anything else that could have given me such purpose, joy and satisfaction as this has.”

## Father William Kummer celebrates 40 years of Priesthood

# 40

FORT WAYNE — Father William Kummer, administrator of St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Parish in Fort Wayne, marks his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on May 31 this year and says growing up in a fertile Catholic environment set him on his path to priestly service. “It did then and it does now seem like God for whatever reason wants me, and I want Him,” he says.

A Fort Wayne native, young William was born to Joseph and Germaine Kummer in 1948. His family's strong Catholic background offered a variety of opportunities to witness the joy of Priesthood. “Growing up in a Catholic family made being a priest attractive. Being a priest was always talked about. It was also the same in our Catholic grade school,” he says, adding “and most of all my parish church, there I always felt at home and happy.”

Following his elementary education at St. Peter School, Father Kummer attended Wawasee Preparatory School, Wawasee, where students prepared for seminary. He says of his time there, “It seemed like a good thing, and I never found any reason to leave.”

Entering Mount St. Mary



FATHER BILL KUMMER

Seminary, in Ohio, Father Kummer earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy and went on to acquire a Master of Divinity.

Father Kummer was ordained to the Priesthood by Bishop Leo A. Pursley at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on May 31, 1975, and first appointed as associate pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Fort Wayne. He was also appointed as Advocate for the Tribunal in 1978. Father Kummer has served as associate pastor at St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, and as pastor at St. Bernard Parish, Wabash, St. Mary, Huntington, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, and St. Michael Parish, Plymouth.

In 1988, Father Kummer was appointed Chaplain to the State Council of the Knights of Columbus as well as Diocesan Director for the Permanent Diaconate. He has also served as co-Vicar for Vicariate E, on the Presbyteral Council, as Episcopal Vicar for Vicariate E, temporary Administrator of St. Patrick, Walkerton, on the Clergy Retirement Committee, and currently as administrator at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Parish, Fort Wayne. Father Kummer was a member of the teachers' salaries committee and served on the Board of Advisors of the Catholic Community Foundation for a three-year term as well.

The life of a priest has been one of joy and trust for Father

Kummer, who says, “It is the celebration of the Mass and the sacraments I like, and a second thing would be the trust of God's people, they invite priests into their lives.”

In recent years the good Father has experienced a need for change of lifestyle when he fell and broke his femur. His former hobbies of walking and touring are over, he says, adding, “I now find myself enjoying reading historical biographies and some novels. I enjoy a game of cards with friends, and unfortunately I also watch television news and entertainment.”

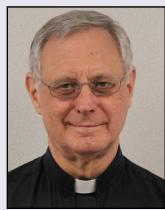
To mark his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Father Kummer celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving on Pentecost at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Parish with his beloved flock after which a reception was held. He also celebrated Mass at St. Michael Parish in Plymouth, his former pastorate, on May 14. And he says, “My sisters don't know this yet, but they will take me for a steak dinner.”

## Msgr. Robert Schulte celebrates 40 years of Priesthood

FORT WAYNE — Msgr. Robert C. Schulte celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> jubilee this year at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne where he has shepherded God's people as rector since 2000.

A Fort Wayne native, Msgr. Schulte was born to Harold and Marjorie Schulte in 1949. He received his primary education at St. Peter School in Fort Wayne and at the age of 14 entered Our Lady of the Lake Seminary at Wawasee. He completed his seminary studies at St. Meinrad Seminary where he earned a bachelor's degree in English and later a Master of Divinity.

Msgr. Schulte credits his early faith formation to the example and encouragement of his parents and family members.



MSGR. ROBERT SCHULTE

“I was privileged to grow up in a family of practicing Catholics. My paternal grandma would go to church with us each weekend. She was devout in her own way, praying her rosary and saying certain prayers during Mass, but was a great example of a woman of simple and profound faith. My dad was also a strong Catholic and mom converted to the Catholic faith when she married my father,” he says. The young Schulte also found the priests in his home parish of St. Peter to be inspiring as well. “They were a good example to me of insightful and caring men who had dedicated their lives to priestly ministry. The Sisters (School Sisters of Notre Dame) in the parish who taught me in grade school were an inspiration as well. Two sisters especially encouraged me to consider the Priesthood and this meant a great deal to me,” he says.

Father Schulte was ordained to the Priesthood by Bishop Leo A. Pursley in the Cathedral of

the Immaculate Conception on May 31, 1975. His first assignment was as associate pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Fort Wayne. In 1979, he was appointed Director of the Permanent Diaconate program and as judge in the Matrimonial Tribunal. Other appointments include Diocesan Director of Vocations, and administrator of St. Francis Xavier Church in Pierceton.

In 1988, then Father Schulte was appointed pastor of the new parish, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Aboite Township where he oversaw the construction of the new church building. While pastoring the faithful at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton he was appointed coordinator of Teens Encounter Christ for the Fort Wayne area, as well as the director of the Ecumenical Office for the diocese.

On Sept. 5, 2000, Father Schulte was appointed vicar general, chancellor, moderator of the Curia as well as rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate

Conception. In the following nine years Father Schulte was appointed the Diocesan Finance Council, College of Consultors, Vicar for Education, Presbyteral Council and temporary administrator for St. Patrick Church.

Father Schulte was appointed by the Holy See as Chaplain for His Holiness and was awarded the title of monsignor on Oct. 5, 2009. The newly named monsignor remained as Vicar General of the diocese while welcoming the new bishop, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, as well as continuing his service as director of the Permanent Diaconate and Diocesan Finance Council.

Serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend as Vicar General and Chancellor, Msgr. Schulte feels the past 15 years of his priestly service has been a unique journey. “I have the opportunity to help many priests from time-to-time and also to give what wisdom I have acquired over the years,” he says, adding, “I appreciate being

able to serve the Church and God in this unique way as an ordained priest.”

This quiet, unassuming monsignor declares celebrating Mass his greatest joy. “The greatest gift to me is celebrating Sunday Mass with the people of the parish. I really enjoy that opportunity to pray, to celebrate Mass and to preach the Word of God,” he says. Outside of his priestly ministry Msgr. Schulte finds biking and travel by train of great interest. And he adds, “Another great hobby is reading, primarily literature, which gives me insight into life and human beings who were made by God in such a unique, captivating and amusing way.”

Msgr. Schulte's 40<sup>th</sup> jubilee celebration included a Mass on Sunday, May 31, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception with a reception that followed at the Botanical Gardens in Fort Wayne.



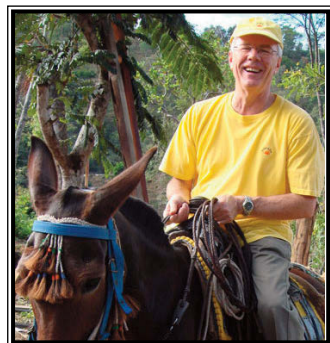
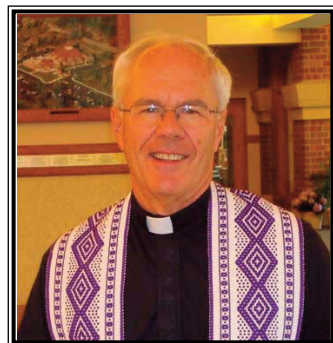
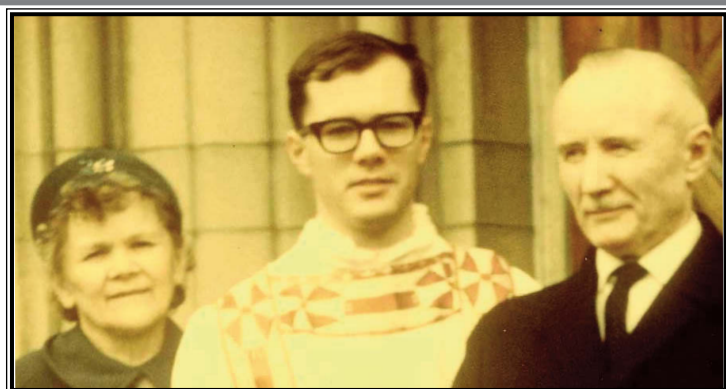


ST. GASPAR del BUFALO PARISH  
at Rome City

*Extends prayerful best wishes to*

**Father Bernard Ramenaden, OSB**  
*as he observes 40 years of priesthood  
in the Order of St. Benedict.*

We also wish to express our appreciation for his distinctive and enhanced attention to St. Gaspar's worship space.



Dear Monsignor John Kuzmich,

*Fifty years of Faithful Service  
Fifty years of Love,  
Fifty years of Ministry  
Blessed by God above*

The Saint Vincent de Paul Community in Christ  
thanks you for your  
selfless devotion to our parish  
for so many years of your priesthood.  
We love you!!!!

*"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd  
lays down his life for the sheep.*

John 10:11

ST. PATRICK PARISH  
ARCOLA

Sends warmest wishes  
to a former pastor

**FATHER MATTHEW KAFKA**

as he celebrates 50 years  
in the priesthood of Jesus Christ.



# 40

## Father Bernard Ramenaden celebrates 40 years in God's service as priest monk



**FATHER  
BERNARD  
RAMENADEN**

ROME CITY — As a Benedictine priest monk, Father Bernard Ramenaden has a world of experience in priestly ministry as he celebrates the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood this year. His faith formation, he says, was enriched by his involvement in parish life.

Born in 1948 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, to Nicholas and Irene Ramenaden, Father Ramenaden is one of five children. The family attended St. Mary's Dehiwela Parish where the young Bernard was involved there as an altar server and member of Legion of Mary and the Youth Club. He first heard the call to a religious vocation in his early 20s. Following his studies at St. Peter's College, Father Ramenaden entered monastery to become a religious in 1966. He was ordained as priest monk by Bishop Paul Perera on Nov.

29, 1975. His studies took him to Rome where he earned a baccalaureate in theology, BTH, and a licentiate in spirituality, STL.

Father Ramenaden's first assignment as priest monk was as administrator at St. Benedict's Monastery in Sri Lanka in 1976. Then from 1977-1983 he served as administrator of St. Anthony College, Sri Lanka. He began his service as superior and administrator of St. Benedict's Monastery in 1984 and continued there for 12 years. In 1997 he was assigned as Formation Master of Professed Monks in Sri Lanka and in 2001 he resided in Rome as Abbot General's Council as Procurator and Councilor.

Father Ramenaden then traveled to the United States where he began his priestly service in 2005 to the faithful of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne as associate pastor. In 2008, he was appointed pastor of St. Gaspar Parish in Rome City where he continues to shepherd his flock today. His brother Father Ronald Ramenaden served in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend as well.

Father Ramenaden embodies a quiet spirit and quick sense of humor. As a busy pastor he finds helping with projects in the Monastery of Sri Lanka of special interest as well as "preparing myself spiritually," he says. Hobbies include raising tropical fish and sports.

Of his priest monk life of service to God and His people, the good Father finds fulfillment by being "of service and being available to minister to parishioners needs," he says. The meaningful work of preaching and teaching God's Word and working with young people bring Father Ramenaden great joy.

Father Ramenaden plans to celebrate his 40th jubilee in the Monastery of Sri Lanka with his community when he travels home in September. A special Mass will be celebrated at St. Gaspar Parish with Father Jim Shafer, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne, as celebrant, followed by a luncheon in the church hall by the Altar and Rosary Sodality on Nov. 29.

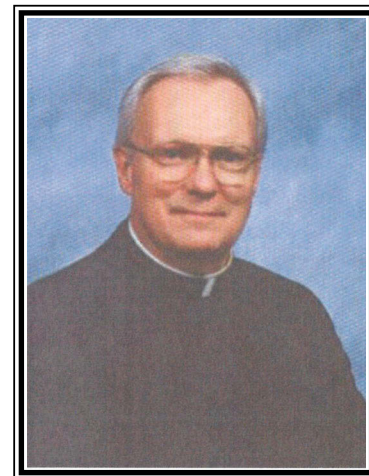
## St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church

gives thanks to God for  
**Monsignor John N. Suelzer**

*Congratulations on the  
50th Anniversary of  
Your Ordination  
to the Priesthood.*

*"A priest is a mediator between God  
and the people because he bestows  
divine things on them, offers to God  
their prayers, and in a certain way  
makes satisfaction for them."*

St. Thomas



**"You are a Priest forever."**

*Congratulations to all the Jubilarians!*



# Father Thomas Shoemaker celebrates 25 years as Priest

# 25

**SOUTH BEND —** Father Thomas Shoemaker, pastor at St. Therese, Little Flower Parish in South Bend, celebrates 25 years of Priesthood this year and says, "The Priesthood has been an enormous blessing from God." And he means it.



**FATHER THOMAS SHOEMAKER**

Born in 1957 to Richard and Alice Shoemaker in Bangor, Maine, this silver jubilarian says of his vocation journey, "My path to the Priesthood involved a few curves." After completing his primary and high school education in the Mississinewa School Corporation, young Thomas earned a bachelor's degree from Wabash College and went on to Indiana University School of Dentistry, where in 1983 he earned a Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.).

Dr. Shoemaker soon was serving his community as a dentist in Kendallville. He says, "I had a good profession, good health, good family and friends, an active dating life and a respectable income. I found, though, that something inside was drawing me to do more with my life. I needed to devote my life to something. I needed something bigger than I had."

So the young dentist spoke with a priest and "soon found myself in the seminary, discerning that the voice inside of me could be from God and that Priesthood could be the call."

Leaving his practice behind Father Shoemaker entered St. John Seminary, Brighton, Massachusetts, in 1985, and was ordained to the Priesthood on Nov. 10, 1990, by Bishop John M. D'Arcy at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. Following his ordination the newly vested Father Shoemaker was appointed associate at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. Three years later he became the chaplain of Marian High School. In 1997, the good Father served as temporary administrator of St. Matthew Cathedral.

In 1998, Father Shoemaker was called to shepherd the faithful at St. Henry Parish in Fort Wayne as their pastor and served as part-time chaplain of Bishop Luers High School as well. That same year pastoring Sacred Heart Parish in Fort Wayne was added to his ministry.

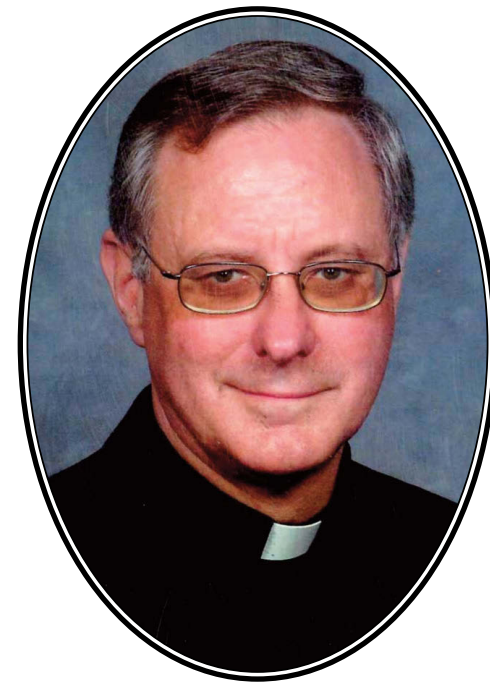
St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne became Father Shoemaker's new home in 2001 and there he served the parish as pastor until 2013 when he was appointed pastor of St. Therese, Little Flower, South Bend, where he currently serves. Other appointments during his

25 years as priest include Vicar Forane-Vicariate E, Diocesan Consultor, Presbyteral Council, Bishop Dwenger High School Board of Education, College of Consultors, Synodal Judge and Vicar Forane-Vicariate D.

Father Shoemaker has also served as Catholic chaplain at Bethel College and on the Board of Advisors of the Catholic Community Foundation. This busy priest somehow always finds time for his favorite hobbies of gardening, woodworking and painting. He says, "I get a kick out of returning to parishes and recognizing trees that I planted and furnishings that I built."

Even more he says, "I keep a list of the babies I have baptized in those parishes. I have also traveled to many strange parts of the world, learning as I go, praying with the local Church, and using my miniature Mass kit to celebrate the Mass in significant places."

Father Shoemaker has found great fulfillment in the 25 years he has been a priest and says, "I was ordained a priest in 1990 and I have served in five parishes in my 25 years. I am convinced that I have found that 'something bigger.' A priest, standing in the person of Christ, stands in the middle of the mysteries of salvation."

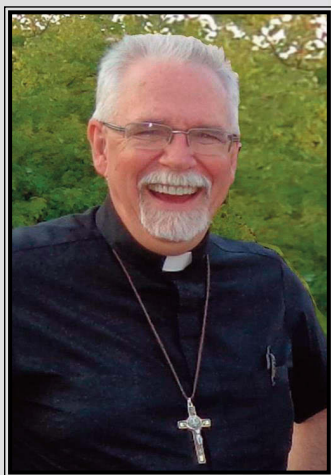


*With Thanksgiving and Gratitude for our beloved pastor Msgr. Robert C. Schulte We share his joy as he celebrates 40 Years of Priesthood*

**The Parishioners of The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Fort Wayne**



**ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON Catholic Church**



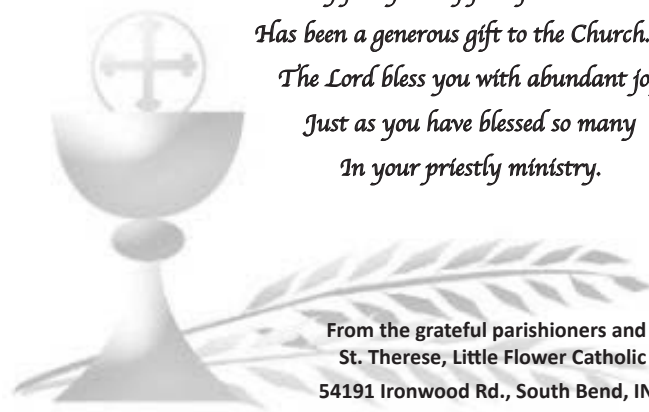
**Many blessings to you Fr. Jim Shafer as you celebrate the 40th anniversary of your Ordination to the Priesthood.**

**"Love for Jesus and His Church must be the passion of your life."**

- St. Pope John Paul II

**Father Thomas R. Shoemaker**

*Your twenty five years of faithful service Has been a generous gift to the Church. The Lord bless you with abundant joy Just as you have blessed so many In your priestly ministry.*



From the grateful parishioners and staff of St. Therese, Little Flower Catholic Church 54191 Ironwood Rd., South Bend, IN 46635



**CONGRATULATIONS and Prayerful Best Wishes to Father William Kummer as he celebrates the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.**

**THE STAFF, FACULTY, STUDENT BODY AND PARISHIONERS OF ST. JOSEPH HESSEN CASSEL PARISH FORT WAYNE**



## On being a woman; on being a man

From the driver seat of my car in the school parking lot today, I watched as a nice looking, sandy haired, high school boy carried my daughter's books out to the car. My daughter's backpack was weighed down heavily as was evidenced by its bulkiness, and later I found out she had cleaned out her locker since it was the last day of school and finals were about to begin.

The heaviness of the bag didn't seem to bother the boy, who chatted and laughed with her as they walked. When they reached the side of the car, the boy nodded toward me, opened the door and plopped her bag on the seat, and then said goodbye. My daughter was smiling and thanked him warmly before he went back into the school building. "See you tomorrow!" she called after him. Last week, a different but equally thoughtful young man had carried her books out to the car with similar enthusiasm. And my daughter had smiled, talked and thanked him too.

My daughter isn't dating around (or whatever the modern term is for that these days). In fact, she's not dating at all. Per her dad's and my desire to delay one on one dating until age 18 or beyond, she is simply learning to enjoy friendships. She is enjoying being a girl. The young men who walked with her out to the car in friendship and assistance the last couple weeks seemed to enjoy carrying her books. They looked confident as they did so. They walked with a purpose. It seemed each had a certain kind of pride about offering this basic courtesy and really seemed to enjoy being a helpful guy.

A giver. A receiver. An offer. An acceptance. Politeness. Kindness. It was nice, kind of like a dance of sorts. What's more, the action was completely natural, even while some may find it quite surprising that a couple of modern 17 year olds from 2015 were behaving traditionally and graciously, without prompting, as though they had stepped out of the 1950s.



Theresa A. Thomas

### EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

My daughter's younger sister, who was in the back seat of the car this afternoon, commented when we had driven off, "Geez! Why do all the guys want to carry your books?"

"I don't know," the other daughter replied, looking out the window thoughtfully, "I guess they know I need help and when they offer and I tell them thank you, they know that I really appreciate it." They want to be nice. They want to please.

Indeed.

I believe that young or old, a

EVERYDAY, PAGE 13

## The call of the birds: slowing down and tuning in

"The only essential equipment for seeing birds is a pair of eyes. Good ears are a help too."

The first edition of "Birds: A Guide To The Most Familiar American Birds" smells like an old missal and reads like a manual for living well — birding as a hobby, a lifestyle and a meditation.

Its intro is written in the voice of a sensible grandma, and the best lines in the 1949 Simon and Schuster book are the ones that got cut from the 1987 edition released by Golden Press: "Don't be in a hurry to buy (field) glasses." "Practice is essential. Go looking for birds as often as you can." "Dashing through the woods will get you nothing but shortness of breath."

There is none of the panicky, pandering language used today by aging clubs in search of the next generation. No, this little cloth book lets you come to it. And what tremendous rewards await if you do.

For the retail price of \$1, it delivered 118 paintings, maps, measurements and the most lovingly gathered details. The book celebrates every centimeter: yellow-crowned, gray-cheeked, black-chinned, ruby-throated, rose-breasted, white-rumped. It conjures all their songs: "a low-pitched croak," a "hoarse 'quock,'" "harsh, rattling call," "a deep, penetrating hoot," an "unforgettable drumming sound."

"Birds" is not much bigger than an iPhone 6 Plus and feels like its antidote: a faded ticket to a bygone era, an invitation to simpler living through the tools we were born with, "a pair of eyes" and "good ears."

Rachael Butek, a 23-year-old from Colfax, Wisconsin, sees it that way. She doesn't look like your stereotypical birder of the silver-headed variety, but she can identify 100 birds by their song.

Birding has changed the way she sees the world and deepened her Catholic faith, attuning her to the intricacy of God's creation. "People underestimate the importance of beauty in our lives," she told me. "It's not practical, per se, but it is vital."

In her mind, most of us have blinders on, oblivious to the flights of fancy in our very own backyards.



Christina Capecchi

### TWENTY SOMETHING

"More young people should be birders," she says. "They're all buried in their phones."

Rachael has filled 10 journals with penciled-in notes and has witnessed an array of memorable moments: courting kinglets, dueling orioles, sipping hummingbirds, a stretching crow. Her favorite bird, she likes to say, is whichever one she's currently watching.

This summer Rachael is working as a wildlife technician for the DNR and surveying the Chippewa County Forest through dozens of "point counts": parking herself in a specific point for eight minutes, tallying the birds there and then moving on.

She filled out her application for the internship during Eucharistic Adoration at St. John the Baptist in nearby Cooks Valley. She has the 7 to 8 Tuesday morning slot. "Having that hour of peace and solitude with Christ is very helpful to review my week, give thanks to God and get perspective," Rachael said.

God's call in her life may not ring out as clearly as a Song Sparrow, but she's allowing for the silence to hear its faintest hums.

Like Rachael, the most vibrant young Catholics I know embrace elements of the old as they rely on the new. Their Instagram feeds show comic books and vinyl records, knitting needles and calligraphy, gardens, libraries, things that take time. They are compelled to insert the vintage amid the modern, stimulated by the contrasts, drawn to the tactile in a touch-screen world.

We can claim the oldest Christian faith, the one with the most patina, the first edition. We inscribe our name in its book, the ultimate field guide.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn., and editor of SisterStory.org.

## Unite with Christ through Communion



### THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Msgr. Owen F. Campion

### Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

The Book of Exodus is the source of this feast day's first reading, the story of an event that occurred as the Hebrews were making their way across the Sinai Peninsula, in flight from Egypt and slavery.

To modern ears, the story may sound gruesome, giving the details as it does of the ritual sacrifice of a young bull. It is necessary to recall that these instructions were given long ago.

Also long ago they passed out of Jewish religious ceremonies, but the meaning of these ancient sacrifices still has a message. For example, the ceremony in this case required that the blood be sprinkled on the people.

The idea was that life in a special way resided in the blood of a creature. It is not difficult to understand how this notion originally arose. The ancients had a very limited knowledge of physiology, but they knew if the blood stopped flowing, the creature died; if enough blood escaped from the body due to injury, then death followed.

Offering the bull to God made the bull holy. Its blood therefore was holy, and that meant the blood somehow was touched by God's own life. By sprinkling

this blood on the people, they in turn were touched by God in a special way.

Beyond these circumstances, the lesson is that from the earliest stages of Revelation, God used processes and materials that people understood and could access to assist them in expressing themselves in their religious faith.

The Epistle to the Hebrews is one of the New Testament's most eloquent sources for knowledge about the person, and the mission, of the Lord. This feast's selection is no exception.

This particular reading stresses that Jesus is the perfect victim of sacrifice as well as the great high priest. The sacrifice of bulls is no longer necessary. In its place is the sublime offering of the innocent Lamb of God, Jesus the Lord.

The three Synoptic Gospels report the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist by giving the actual words used by Jesus, "This is My body," "This is My blood."

In this feast day's case, the reading is from Mark's Gospel. Before the mention of the meal itself, the Gospel says that Jesus sent two disciples into the city. He told them that they would see a man carrying a water jar. They should follow this man. The man will go to a house, Jesus said, whose owner the disciples should encounter and ask for a room in which the Lord and the disciples could gather to eat the Passover meal.

It is an interesting passage. It reveals that the Last Supper, and all that happened at the Last Supper, were utterly within the Providence of God. It was no ordinary meal. God planned that it would provide the means for uniting with Jesus.

### Reflection

Biblical scholars long have looked at the words, "This is my body," "This is my blood." They often view it from a denominational perspective. In other words, many Protestant scholars see them as symbolic. Catholic scholars see them as literal. The early Church, by the way, saw them as literal.

Strictly from the standpoint of the language, the words are brief, direct and clear. Look at them without any predispositions. Read them as they appear. The message is unambiguous. The bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus.

This holy body and blood actually become part of the person who consumes them, as the body absorbs any nourishment. In this consumption, the person becomes one with Christ, and Christ with the person. Christ is God.

The nourishment therefore is from God and is God. It intimately unites us with God, Holy Communion.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Ex 24:3-8 Ps 116:12-13, 15-18 Heb 9:11-15 Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

**Monday:** 2 Cor 1:1-7 Ps 34:2-9 Mt 5:1-12

**Tuesday:** 2 Cor 1:18-22 Ps 119:129-133, 135 Mt 5:13-16

**Wednesday:** 2 Cor 3:4-11 Ps 99:5-9 Mt 5:17-19

**Thursday:** Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3 Ps 98:1-6

**Friday:** Hos 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9 (Ps) Is 12:6 Eph 3:8-12, 14-19 Jn 19:31-37

**Saturday:** 2 Cor 5:14-21 Ps 103:1-4, 9-12 Mt 5:33-37

### Donations help Central and Eastern Europe

Dear Bishop Rhoades,

It is with great gratitude that I write to acknowledge your contribution of \$42,360.78 from your 2014 Collection to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe (CCEE). Through your support, the collection helps to provide a stable future for the Catholic Church in this region, one long suffering spiritual repression and economic hardship. CCEE grants specifically focus on repairing and building Church structures, strengthening Catholic education and social services, and develop-

ing Church leadership to ensure a solid future for the Church. In 2014, the collection funded 290 grants totaling \$7.85 million benefiting the Catholic Church in 24 out of 28 countries it serves.

The 2015 collection aims "to restore the Church and to build the future" in ways that will eventually enable a strong Church in this region — one that is able to independently provide pastoral, educational, charitable and formation resources and emerge from the long shadow of strict communism. One way to accomplish this is by funding projects that focus on caring for every human life.

+Blase J. Cupich  
Archbishop of Chicago



# Men such as these: a Memorial Day reflection

Like most denizens of Washington, I pay too little attention to the sites other Americans make sacrifices to visit. Earlier this month, though, prompted by reading James Scott's "Target Tokyo," a comprehensive history of the famous Doolittle Raid of April 18, 1942, I strolled through Arlington National Cemetery in search of three graves.

They were in Section 12, side-by-side, each marked with a headstone identical in its simplicity to so many thousands of others: William G. Farrow, Dean E. Hallmark, Robert J. Meder. Hallmark was the pilot of the sixth B-25 to take off from the pitching deck of USS Hornet, 73 years ago; Meder was his co-pilot on the plane they dubbed Green Hornet. Farrow was the pilot of Bat Out of Hell, the last of the 16 planes to roar down the flight deck of what President Franklin Roosevelt later called "our secret base at Shangri-La." Captured in Japanese-occupied China, Hallmark and Farrow were shot by their captors on Oct. 15, 1942, after months of torture and deprivation and a bogus "trial"; Meder died of starvation in a Japanese prison on Dec. 11, 1943. All three were cremated, their names deliberately falsified on the urns that bore their ashes. The urns were properly identified after the Japanese surrender and returned to the United States, where they now rest, sheltered under a tree, down the hill from the equally simple grave of the flyers' commander, Jimmy Doolittle.

"Target Tokyo" is harrowing in its description of what these men, and four of their fellow-airmen whose death sentences were commuted to life imprisonment, suf-

fered in Japanese prisons. One day, however, the imprisoned Doolittle Raiders were given an old Bible, which they began to share, taking turns reading in their cells. As Carroll Glines, another historian of the Doolittle Raid, writes, "Up to this time, each man resorted to various methods to pass away hundreds of lonely hours ... (But) it was the Bible, they admitted unanimously later, that had a profound impact on their respective outlooks ... None of the four men would have called himself religious and none had ever read the Bible through before ... (Yet) they attributed their survival to the message of hope they found in its tattered pages."

That hope, I suspect, would not have been nourished so well, had the imprisoned, emaciated Raiders been given "The Origin of Species" or the "Critique of Pure Reason"; a death-defying hope might not even have been nurtured by "David Copperfield" or "Pride and Prejudice." It was the Psalms, the Hebrew prophets and the Gospels that inspired in these men, living under extremities of cruelty that beggar the imagination, a life-sustaining hope; a willingness to forgive their captors; gratitude to God for their survival — and for one, a new vocation. Jacob DeShazer, the bombardier on Farrow's plane, became a Methodist missionary, returned to Japan, and converted Mitsuo Fuchida, the Japanese pilot who led the attack on Pearl Harbor, to Christianity.

Where did America get men like the Doolittle Raiders? Jimmy Doolittle was already a world-famous pilot (with a doctorate from MIT) when he talked his way into leading the raid that will forever



## THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

bear his name. The 79 other Raiders were known to few others except their families, friends and fellow soldiers. The Hollywood gloss of "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" notwithstanding, they weren't all handsome and they weren't angelic. But they believed their country was worth defending, and that its defense was worth risking their lives on a volunteer mission that wasn't even disclosed to them until Hornet passed beneath the Golden Gate Bridge, steaming west in harm's way.

I think it's safe to say that none of the Doolittle Raiders thought America an ill-founded republic or the source of the world's ills, although many of their families had struggled through the Great Depression. They were brave men and patriots, the products of an imperfect but intact public culture that nurtured millions of heroes like them. Standing under that tree in Arlington, I could only wonder what Bill Farrow, Dean Hallmark and Bob Meder might say about American culture today.

**George Weigel** is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

and men embrace their natures, when men chivalrously offer to do helpful things when appropriate, and when the women are sweet and gratefully accept assistance that is offered to them. Politeness helps the relations between any two people, but especially when opposite sexes interact. Men and women each bring different unique gifts and talents to the table, both because of their maleness and femaleness and because every person is made distinct, unique and special. Thank God there are differences. Thank God when there is chivalry and acceptance and civility.

Alice Von Hildenbrand, philosopher and author of "The Privilege of Being a Woman" said once in an interview, "... Men truly become 'themselves' thanks to the love of their wives ... wives are transformed by their husband's strength and courage." If this is indeed true, then surely this begins when men and women are boys and girls and their natures, which are hardwired by biology, are allowed to develop instinctively.

When the Book of Genesis speaks of "help," "it is not referring merely to acting, but also to being. Womanhood and man-

hood are complementary not only from the physical and psychological points of view, but also from the ontological. It is only through the duality of the 'masculine' and the 'feminine' that the 'human' finds full realization."

As I watched the exchange between my teenaged girl and her friend this afternoon, those lofty thoughts swirled in my mind. And I came to a simple conclusion. The world needs a little more offers and acceptances, politeness and kindness for seeds of peace, a truly civil society, to grow. The world needs a little more of God's own plan, and it can start with our youth. Boys, be the carriers of backpacks, and girls, be sweet and appreciative. Together, in this way, little by little, both sexes can reclaim a bit of goodness in the world.

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

# SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for June 7, 2015

Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

UNLEAVENED CITY WATER GUEST ROOM A CUP COVENANT THE VINE	BREAD CARRYING FOLLOW HIM BROKE IT THANKS FOR MANY DRINK	LAMB A JAR ENTERS BODY MY BLOOD FRUIT THE KINGDOM
--	--	---

## SAID THE BLESSING

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

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# EVERYDAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

man's natural inclination is to be helpful and protective, chivalrous even, and a culture benefits when that is welcomed warmly. The word "civilization" has the root word "civil" in it. To be civil is to bring up from barbarism; to train to live with others. Politeness and chivalry build strong civilizations ... cultures that are orderly and pleasant and help people be the best they can be.

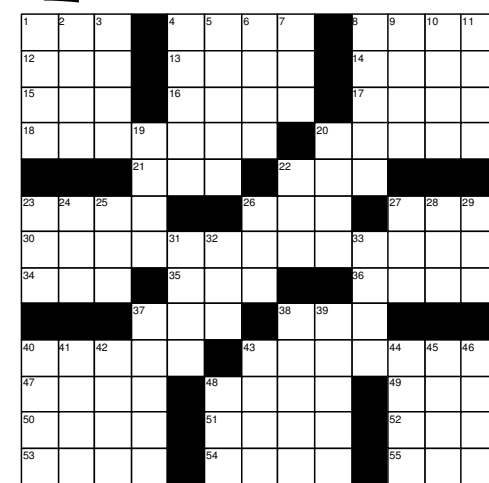
In modern society, however, chivalrous behavior is not always valued. One of my sons recalls several instances of opening the door for a girl when she followed behind him into a college classroom. He rarely heard "thank you" or received a warm smile, but instead received a snotty "I can do that myself." Or "I don't need you to do that for me. I'm capable." With this reaction it sure would be easy to stop trying to do polite things when one is not only not met with appreciation but is met with snarky-ness instead.

What a shame.

Society benefits when women

# The Cross Word

June 7 and 14, 2015



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Based on these Scripture Readings: Ex 24:3-8; Hb 9:11-15; Mk 14:12-18 22-26 and Ez 17:22-24; 2 Cor 5:6-10; Mk 4:26-34

### ACROSS

- 1 The Trinity
- 4 Gape
- 8 Crests
- 12 Flurry
- 13 Ash Wednesday color
- 14 Fencing sword
- 15 Turf
- 16 Fashionable
- 17 unblemished
- 18 Ezekiel was one
- 20 Son of God
- 21 Possessive pronoun
- 22 Mardi Gras day
- 23 "Let us not be put to the \_\_\_\_"
- 26 Baby goat

- 27 What a nurse gives
- 30 Between U.S. and Europe (2 wds.)
- 34 Arctic
- 35 Picnic visitor
- 36 God's ordinances
- 37 Piece
- 38 "Until the end of the \_\_\_\_"
- 40 Pilgrim's symbol
- 43 God's rule
- 47 Field game
- 48 Reverse
- 49 Self
- 50 In addition
- 51 Appear
- 52 Wing

- 53 Sower plants
- 54 Withered
- 55 Bog

### DOWN

- 1 Puff
- 2 Burning incense smell
- 3 Extinct bird
- 4 Fancy boat
- 5 Left from heifer
- 6 Not one \_\_\_\_
- 7 New York City
- 8 Conical tent
- 9 "\_\_\_\_ Dei"
- 10 S. American country
- 11 Bishops' turfs
- 19 Pocket bread
- 20 Jujitsu
- 22 Twitching
- 23 Thai
- 24 And so forth
- 25 Foxy
- 26 Fox's offspring
- 27 Chinese drink
- 28 Commandments are "The \_\_\_\_"
- 29 Nervous system
- 31 Used in crucifixion
- 32 Explosive
- 33 Horsefly
- 37 Body and \_\_\_\_ of Christ
- 38 Samaritan
- 39 Dwarf
- 40 Baths
- 41 Nail mark in Jesus' hand
- 42 Otherwise
- 43 Genuflect on
- 44 Jesus healed the \_\_\_\_ and mute
- 45 Eye
- 46 Groan
- 48 Ship initials

Answer Key can be found on page 15



# Sports

**SAINT JOSEPH CLAIMS SECTIONAL TITLES** The Saint Joseph High School boys' track team claimed the sectional title. Final scores: Saint Joseph High School, 119 points, Penn High School, 94 points, and Mishawaka High School, 92 points. The Saint Joseph High School girls' tennis team is the South Bend sectional champions. This is the eighth-straight sectional title for the Lady Indians.

## CYO crowns soccer champions

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — In post season Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) soccer action, St. Jude, the defending champs, claimed the 2015 boys' varsity title with a 7-0 win over St. Vincent 7.

The Eagles allowed just one goal the entire season and finished with a perfect 10-0 overall record. Coach Thom Oberfell was pleased to report that 12 players scored for the Eagles this season and this was the fourth consecutive CYO championship for the eighth graders on his squad. Their career record was 25-1-3.

For the varsity girls, Coach Matt Bobay's St. Charles squad capped off a stellar season by downing St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 2-0, to win this year's title.

In junior varsity action, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton beat St. Jude, 2-1, for the girls' championship. The Lady Pioneers finished with a 7-1 overall record, and it was the third CYO championship



St. Jude, the defending champs, claimed the 2015 boys' varsity title with a 7-0 win over St. Vincent 7.

for this group of fifth graders. They also won in volleyball and basketball.

It took not one, but two overtimes and a sudden death to determine a winner for the boys, but St. Vincent 6 finally slipped by St. Jude, 5-4. The Panthers led 2-1 at the half, but at the end of regulation, the score was all knotted up at 4-4. The score remained

tied after two overtimes forcing penalty kicks, which went 3-3. A 1-0 sudden death situation ultimately declared a winner. St. Vincent ended with an impressive 9-2 overall record.

"We really played well as a team," Coach Allen Renfrow explained.

"That's what won us the championship," he summarized.



St. Vincent 6 slipped by St. Jude, 5-4, to take the junior varsity boys' title for 2015.



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton junior varsity girls took the championship with an overall 7-1 record.

## Dwenger rugby team crowned Division 1 junior varsity state champions

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Dwenger rugby team was crowned the 2015 Division 1 junior varsity state champions at the Moose Rugby Grounds in Elkhart by defeating Hamilton Southeastern (HSE) in a big way at the rainy showdown, 18-0, on May 30. This was the club's first appearance in the finals since winning it all in 2004.

The Saints earned the return trip after defeating Fishers, 35-0, in the semifinals and went on to avenge the tie with HSE from a shortened game earlier in the season.

"We played defense most of the first half and stayed strong the whole match not allowing HSE to score even when they were on the goal line," Coach Sam DiFilippo explained.



PROVIDED BY SAM DEFILIPPO

Isaac Tippmann, who kicked for two penalties and a conversion, led the Saints in scoring, while Bart Tippmann scored the first try of the game with a gritty run through defenders. Simon

Perez added the second try with a 60-meter breakaway in the second half. Charlie Perez was named most valuable player. Bishop Dwenger finished with a 5-5-1 overall record.

## SAINT JOSEPH SOFTBALL TEAM WINS SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



PROVIDED BY SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

The Saint Joseph High School softball team is the Class 3-A 2015 sectional champs. In the win on Saturday, May 30, the Saint Joseph Indians defeated the Rochester Zebras, 14-4.

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

### Rosary for marriage offered

**Warsaw** — Sacred Heart Church will offer a rosary for traditional marriage on Saturday, June 13, at noon at the Sacred Heart School playground. Contact Carole Jaroch at 574-267-5403 for details.

### Christ Child Society plans garage and bake sale

**Fort Wayne** — The Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne will have its annual garage and bake sale to benefit children in need in the Fort Wayne area, Thursday, June 11, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday, June 12, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Queen of Angels Activity Center, 1500 West State St.

### Spaghetti dinner planned

**South Bend** — The Knights of Columbus Council 5570, 5202 Linden Ave., will have a spaghetti dinner Thursday, June 11, from 4-6 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$2.50 for children 5-12.

### Notre Dame season ticket raffle

**South Bend** — The St. Hedwig Holy Name Society will have a raffle for two Notre Dame football season tickets. Donations of \$1 for one, \$5 for six and \$10 for 15 tickets can be made to Norb at 574-233-9008 or mailed to 1104 N. Elliot St., South Bend, 46628. Drawing will be held Aug. 30.

### Summer camps planned at Bishop Luers High School

**Fort Wayne** — Bishop Luers High School will host athletic and performing arts camps during the summer. Camps are being offered for: football lineman — June 22-25; dance — June 24-26; volleyball — July 6-7; girls' basketball — July 13-16; football — July 20-23; show choir —

Aug. 4-7. All registration forms and camp details are available at [www.bishopluers.org](http://www.bishopluers.org).

### Knights plan fish fry

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

### Knights plan fish fry

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

### 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 Hillegas Rd. Contact Leanne at 260-485-0290 for reservation form due by June 12. Tickets are \$22 per person.

### Alumni memorial Mass planned

**South Bend** — Saint Joseph High School will hold an alumni memorial Mass on Monday, June 8, at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of Saint Joseph. The Mass will commemorate deceased members of the Saint Joseph High School community. For information contact Henry Chandler at [hchandler@saintjoehigh.com](mailto:hchandler@saintjoehigh.com).

### Statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe raffled

**Fort Wayne** — St. Henry Church will raffle off a beautiful statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe with proceeds to benefit the building fund. The value of the statue

from Italy is over \$2,000. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20. For information call the rectory at 260-447-4100.

## The CrossWord

June 7 and 14, 2015



## REST IN PEACE

### Bluffton

Herbert Wendel Lohmuller, St. Joseph

### Decatur

Charles E. Cook, 65, St. Mary of the Assumption

### Fort Wayne

Helen M. Gillieron, 93, St. Vincent de Paul

Robert V. Keplinger Sr., 85, Our Lady of Good Hope

Joan E. Kleber, 94, Most Precious Blood

Daniel Lee Layton, 67, St. Patrick

Gennaro Barile, 84, St. Charles Borromeo

Edwina Zielinski Snyder, 81, St. Charles Borromeo

Richard P. Ummel, 89, Most Precious Blood

Raleigh E. Myers, 84, Most Precious Blood

Keely A. Spalla, 48, St. Vincent de Paul

### Huntington

Catherine Casey M. Stahl, 98, Ss. Peter and Paul

Norma J. Holzinger, 82, Ss. Peter and Paul

### Mishawaka

Carol A. Baldwin, 80, St. Joseph

Lillian Cook, 94, St. Joseph

Florence L. Ernst, 101, St. Joseph

Derna J. Sowell, 90, St. Bavo

Renzo W. Grilli, 90, St. Bavo

### New Haven

Rose L. Adams, 85, St. John the Baptist

### Notre Dame

Sister Margaret Ann Nowacki, CSC, 88, Our Lady of Loretto

### Rome City

Charlene B. Strawser, 81, St. Gaspar

### South Bend

Theresa F. Windham, 72, Little Flower

Leonard C. Kapalczynski, 86, Holy Family

Alma Del Real Galindo, 22, Our Lady of Hungary

Blanche Margaret Cenova, 100, Holy Family

Rose Marie Antoucci, 82, St. Stanislaus

Carol J. Byrd, 76, St. Adalbert

Donald Nelson Rink, 81, Little Flower

Frank A. Pennino, 81, Holy Cross

### Warsaw

Deborah A. Simmons, 68, Sacred Heart

## Polish leaders hope Pope Francis visits Auschwitz when he comes in 2016

BY JONATHAN LUXMOORE

**OXFORD, England (CNS)** — Although no date has been set, Church leaders in Poland hope Pope Francis will visit the former Nazi concentration camp of Auschwitz during a July 2016 visit to Poland for World Youth Day.

"We hope Pope Francis will come to Auschwitz and deliver a warning to the world by again demonstrating the horrors of war and the camps, so they'll never recur," Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow told the Polish Catholic news agency KAI.

An administration official at the Auschwitz Museum, Jolanta Kozuch, told Catholic News Service May 28 a date had not yet been agreed upon for a stopover by Pope Francis at the camp, 20 miles west of Krakow, where 1.2 million mostly Jewish prisoners died at German



CNS PHOTO/STANISLAW ROZPEDZIK, EPA

**Participants in the "March of the Living" carry Israeli flags inside the former Nazi death camp Auschwitz April 16.**

hands in 1940-45.

Retired Bishop Tadeusz Pieronek, a former bishops' conference general secretary who now

lives in Krakow, told CNS he hoped more details would be available shortly.

"Any visit by the head of the Catholic Church to Auschwitz, in the footsteps of John Paul II in 1979 and Benedict XVI in 2006, would always have huge significance," Bishop Pieronek told CNS May 28.

Cardinal Dziwisz spoke to KAI about preparations for July 26-31, 2016, World Youth Day in his diocese. He said bishops and youth groups from abroad were arriving in Krakow daily to check on preparations.

**Visit the diocesan World Youth Day** page, [www.diocesefwsb.org/wyd](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/wyd) for information about the diocesan pilgrimage to Poland.



## MISHAWAKA CATHOLIC SCHOOL HAS OPENINGS

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or Vikki Wojcik, Principal, Mishawaka Catholic School  
230 S. Spring St., Mishawaka, IN 46544



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For more information, contact Marsha Jordan:  
[mjordan@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:mjordan@diocesefwsb.org)

Applications available at [www.diocesefwsb.org/Administrative-Application](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/Administrative-Application)





PHOTOS BY KEVIN HAGGENJOS

The diocesan choir, comprised of members of Michiana parishes, provided the sacred music for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass of the City of South Bend.



Deacon David Violi assists with Communion at the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass of the City of South Bend on May 31.



Greg Neumann leads the congregation in the responsorial psalm.

## 150TH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Today's celebration would not be complete without our remembrance of the first native Catholics of this region, the Potawatomi," the bishop said.

The bishop also traced the history of Father Edward Sorin, and the six religious brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross to the community.

"With the arrival of Father Sorin and the Holy Cross brothers in 1842, a new era in the history of Catholic life in this region began," Bishop Rhoades said. "They began the school that became the University of Notre Dame. Father Sorin and later, a succession of Holy Cross priests, brothers and sisters ministered to the Catholics living in this area and beyond."

The diocese was established in 1857 and encompassed the entire northern portion of Indiana.

The Catholics in the area worshiped at Sacred Heart at Notre Dame until 1853 when Father Sorin and Holy Cross priests bought the land and built a chapel in 1853 on the northeast corner of what is today Hill and LaSalle streets. It was named St. Alexis Chapel, in honor of the patron saint of South Bend's founder, Alexis Coquillard.

"This became St. Joseph Parish, the oldest Catholic parish of South Bend," Bishop Rhoades said, "though some debate this, since at that time, this property was part of Lowell, a town that was only annexed to South Bend in 1867. We can say, however, that it is the oldest parish in present-day South Bend."

The Catholic population grew

as Irish, German, and later more numerous Polish, Hungarian, Italian and Belgian immigrants moved into the community. In 1927, a specific ministry to South Bend's 50 African-American Catholic families began and became St. Augustine Parish in 1941. And since the 1950s, South Bend has been home to a growing Hispanic community.

"We see a beautiful, rich tapestry of ethnic Catholic communities throughout South Bend's history, a unity in diversity that is still evident today," Bishop Rhoades said.

In 1960, a Vatican decree changed the name of the diocese from Diocese of Fort Wayne to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Bishop Rhoades said, "Bishop Leo Pursley asked for this change to honor South Bend and its religious heritage. With this re-naming of the diocese, St. Matthew Church was promoted to the rank of the diocese's co-cathedral."

"Today it is good to give thanks to the Most Holy Trinity for the rich heritage of faith here in South Bend, to remember our ancestors in the faith, and to be resolved to continue their beautiful legacy in the present and future," Bishop Rhoades said. "We pray for the city of South Bend during this 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, for all our brothers and sisters of different faiths. Together we are called to work together for the good of this city, especially mindful of those who are in need or struggling to make a living. We pray for the peace and prosperity of this city."

Robert Kloska served as chair to organize the anniversary Mass. The Mass sponsors included Our Sunday Visitor Institute, Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, Notre Dame Federal Credit Union, Saint Joseph High School, St. Anthony de Padua Parish, Redeemer Radio and Shirk's Piano Gallery.

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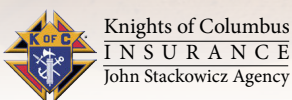
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Robert Kloska served as chair of the Mass Committee and organized the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass of the City of South Bend at Saint Joseph High School on May 31.