

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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A brotherly embrace brings pope and Russian patriarch together

BY CINDY WOODEN

HAVANA (CNS) — At long last, Pope Francis and Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow embraced, kissing each other three times.

"Finally," the pope told the patriarch Feb. 12 as they met in a lounge at Havana's Jose Marti International Airport. "We are brothers," he told the patriarch.

Amid the clicking of cameras and multiple flashes, Patriarch Kirill was overheard telling the pope, "Things are easier now."

"It is clearer that this is God's will," Pope Francis told him.

A flight of almost 12 hours capped months of intense negotiations and more than two decades of Vatican overtures to bring a pope and a Russian patriarch together for the first time.

Cuban President Raul Castro played host to the pope and patriarch, who was on a visit to Russian Orthodox communities on the island-nation. Pope Francis had a pastoral visit to Mexico planned for months; the stop in Havana was announced only a week before the meeting.

Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill signed a joint declaration that emphasized the things the two churches have in common.



CNS/Paul Haring

Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and Pope Francis meet at Jose Marti International Airport in Havana Feb. 12. The pope was traveling to Mexico for a six-day pastoral visit.

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Pope makes long-awaited visit to Our Lady of Guadalupe

BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis fulfilled his much-desired wish to pray in silence before the miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

After celebrating the first Mass of his papal trip to Mexico Feb. 13, the pope made his way to the "camarin" ("little room") behind the main altar of the basilica dedicated to Mary. The miraculous mantle, which normally faces the congregation, can be turned around to allow a closer and more private moment of veneration.

Laying a bouquet of yellow roses in front of the image, the pope sat down in prayerful silence with eyes closed and head bowed. After roughly 20 minutes, the pope stood up, laid his hand on the image and departed from the small room.

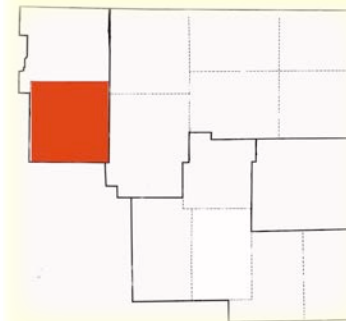
About 12,000 people packed the basilica for the papal Mass and another 30,000 were watching on screens set up in the outer courtyard. Built in 1976, the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe is located near Tepeyac hill, the site of Mary's apparitions to St. Juan Diego in 1531. With some 12 million people visiting each year, it is Catholicism's most popular Marian shrine.

In his homily, the pope reflected on the Gospel reading, which recalled Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth. Mary's humility in saying "yes" to God's will, he said, is a response "which prompted her to give the best of herself, going forth to meet others."

That very humility also led her to appear to a poor indigenous man, he said. "Just as she made

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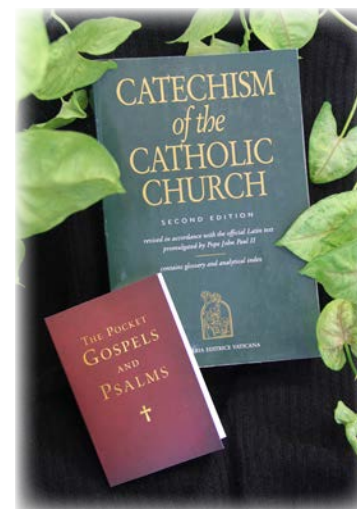
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www.myyearofmercy.org

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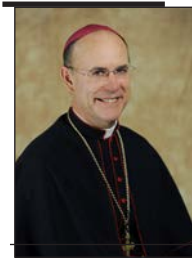
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Politics and our Faith



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

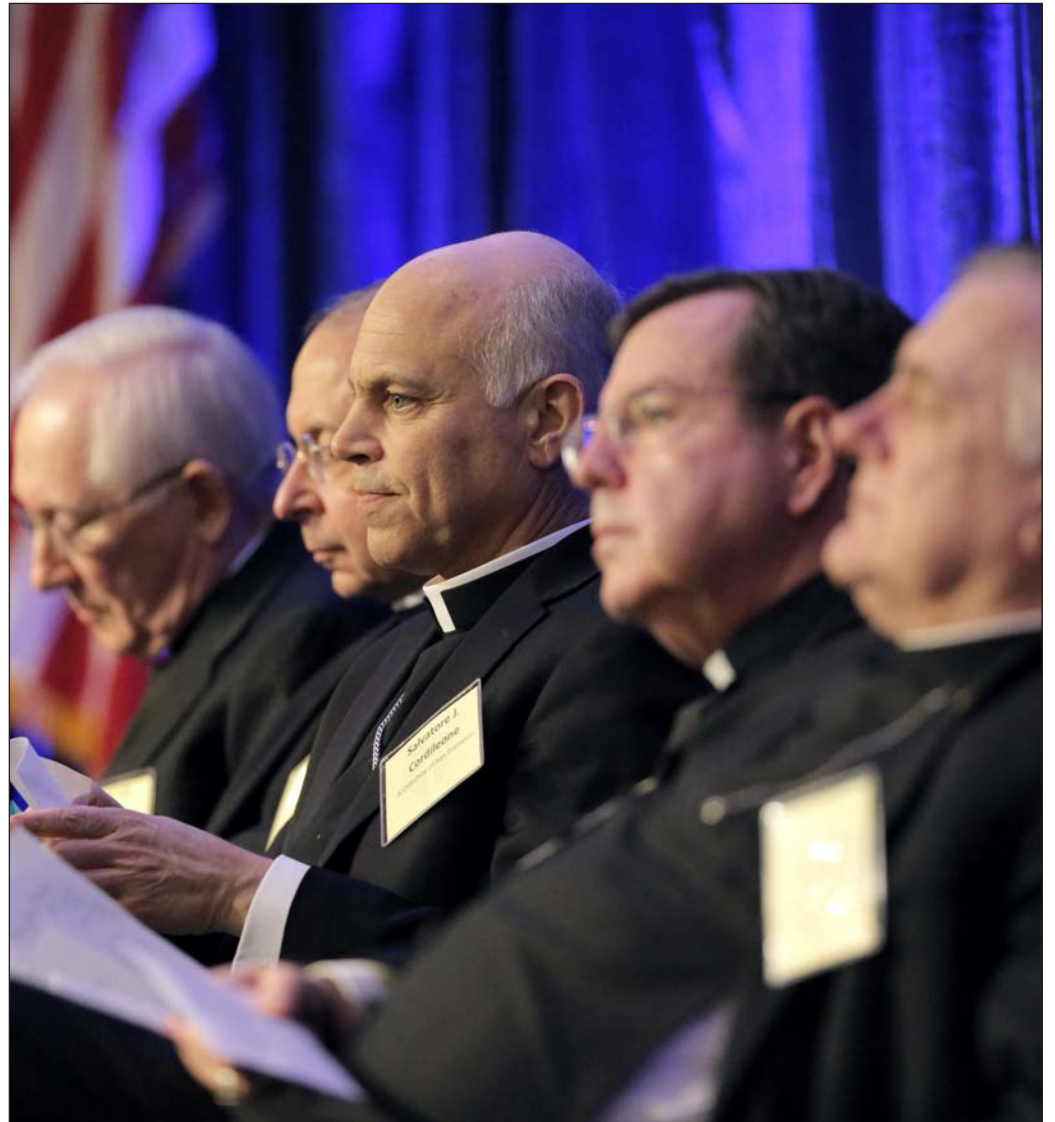
A few weeks ago, I attended a dinner in Indianapolis with the Catholic legislators of our state, along with Archbishop Tobin of Indianapolis and Bishop Doherty of Lafayette. It was an enjoyable evening, especially having the opportunity to greet several of the Catholic legislators of our diocese. In my remarks at the dinner, I reminded our elected representatives that Catholic social teaching sees politics as one of the highest forms of charity because it serves the common good. Though it may degenerate into something else, politics is meant to be a form of charity and a true service to the common good.

In my remarks, I also offered a prayer for our legislators. I remembered the words of Pope Francis: "A Christian who does not pray for those who govern is not a good Christian." The Holy Father made that statement in light of the teaching of Saint Paul that we are to pray for those in public authority. Following Pope Francis, I prayed that our men and women in government may govern well, love their people, serve their people, and remain humble. I also prayed: "Help them to act always with honesty, integrity, and love for the truth, to serve and protect human life and dignity, the good of marriage and the family, and to have a special love and active concern for the poor and the needy in our midst."

We are in the midst of the primary campaign season. Though the Indiana primary does not take place until May 3rd, I imagine you are following the various races, especially the contenders for the Republican and Democrat presidential nomination. I've watched several of the televised debates. There is an evident political polarization in our country. Political debate is healthy for society and can be helpful to voters, but, unfortunately, personal attacks and lack of civility too often detract from the substance of the debate and the discussion of important challenges facing our nation and the world.

For many years, the Bishops of the United States have sought to share Catholic teaching on political life through a series of statements issued every four years focused on "political responsibility" or "faithful citizenship." We do so again this year. This past November, we approved a revised statement entitled, as before, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. It is not a thorough revision of the 2012 document, but an updated version of it in order to incorporate more recent teachings of Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis and also to take account of recent developments in the United States in both domestic and foreign policy, listed as follows in the Introductory Note of the revised document:

- The ongoing destruction of over one million innocent human lives each year by abortion.
- Physician-assisted suicide.
- The redefinition of marriage — the vital cell of society — by the courts, political bodies, and increasingly by American culture itself.
- The excessive consumption of material goods and the destruction of natural



CNS photo/Bob Roller

Members of the working group for the Faithful Citizenship document are seen Nov. 17 during the 2015 fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore. Pictured are Archbishop Leonard P. Blair of Hartford, Conn.; Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori; San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone; Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron; and Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami.

resources, which harm both the environment and the poor.

- The deadly attacks on fellow Christians and religious minorities throughout the world.
- The narrowing definition of religious freedom, which threatens both individual conscience and the freedom of the Church to serve.
- Economic policies that fail to prioritize the poor, at home or abroad.
- A broken immigration system and a worldwide refugee crisis.
- Wars, terror, and violence that threaten every aspect of human life and dignity.

I encourage you to read prayerfully the document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, which can be found on the USCCB website. We bishops do not endorse particular political candidates. This is not our role. We do have the responsibility, however, to be teachers of the moral truths of our faith, the truths that should shape our lives and our political choices. There are many public policy issues being debated in our country that we should evaluate in light of the Gospel and the moral and social teaching of the Church, not just according to self-interest or expediency. Good moral discernment is

required, discernment through one's correctly formed conscience. Such discernment should focus on the dignity of every human being and on the pursuit of the common good. I encourage all to assess issues, political platforms, and campaigns in light of the moral truths known by faith and reason.

As Catholics, we should bring our convictions and concerns into public life. In fact, we have a responsibility to do so. Participation in political life is a moral obligation. The Catechism teaches: "It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person.... As far as possible, citizens should take an active part in public life" (#1913-1915). This includes exercising the right and responsibility of voting according to a well-formed conscience shaped by moral principles found in Sacred Scripture and Catholic moral and social teaching. This is part of truly faithful citizenship.

Besides reading and reflecting upon the document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, I also encourage you to pray for our nation during these months, asking for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us, our leaders, and our future leaders. May the Holy Spirit give us the courage to bear witness to our faith with truth and charity in the public square!



EMBRACE

Continued from Page 1

Addressing the situation in the Middle East and North Africa, they said that “whole families, villages and cities of our brothers and sisters in Christ are being completely exterminated.” They called on the international community “to act urgently in order to prevent the further expulsion” of Christians, to end violence and terrorism and to ensure that large amounts of humanitarian aid reach the victims of violence.

“In raising our voice in defense of persecuted Christians, we wish to express our compassion for the suffering experienced by the faithful of other religious traditions who have also become victims of civil war, chaos and terrorist violence,” they said.

“Attempts to justify criminal acts with religious slogans are altogether unacceptable,” they said. “No crime may be committed in God’s name.”

They spoke of the need to be vigilant against European integration that is “devoid of respect for religious identities.” They also spoke of extreme poverty, the “millions of migrants and refugees knocking on the doors of wealthy nations” and consumerism.

They spoke of life issues: abortion, euthanasia, new reproductive technologies and threats against the churches’ view of marriage.

After they signed the document, the two leaders embraced, and each spoke briefly.

Patriarch Kirill said they had a two-hour, “open discussion with full awareness of the responsibility we have for our people, for the future of Christianity and for the future of human civilization itself. It was a conversation filled with content that gave us the opportunity to understand and hear the position of the other.

And the results of the conversation allow me to assure that currently both churches can cooperate together to defend Christians around the world; with full responsibility to work together so that there may be no war; so that human life can be respected in the entire world; so that the foundations of human, family and social morality may be strengthened through the participation of the Church in the life of human modern society.”

Pope Francis said: “We spoke as brothers, we share the same baptism, we are bishops, we spoke about our churches. We agreed that unity is done walking (together). We spoke clearly without mincing words. I confess that I felt the consolation of the Spirit in this dialogue. I am grateful for the humility of His Holiness, his fraternal humility and his good wishes for unity. We left with a series of initiatives that I believe are viable and



CNS photo/Paul Haring

Pope Francis and Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow embrace after signing a joint declaration during a meeting at Jose Marti International Airport in Havana Feb. 12.

can be done.”

He thanked Patriarch Kirill and others involved in arranging the meeting and also thanked Cuba, “the great Cuban people and their president here present. I am grateful for his active availability; if it continues this way, Cuba will be the ‘capital of unity.’”

Patriarch Kirill gave Pope Francis a small copy of an icon of Our Lady of Kazan, which itself is a symbol of Vatican-Russian Orthodox detente, but also of failed hopes. The oldest known copy of the icon, an ornate 18th-century piece had been hanging in St. John Paul II’s study for a decade as he hoped to return it to Russia personally. Instead, in 2004, he had Cardinal Walter Kasper take it back to its country of origin as a gesture of goodwill.

The icon is one of the most revered and replicated icons in Russian Orthodoxy.

Pope Francis gave Patriarch Kirill a reliquary with a relic of St. Cyril, the patriarch’s patron saint, and a chalice, which not only is a sign of hopes for full communion between the two churches, but also a sign that the Catholic Church recognizes the validity of the Orthodox sacraments.

The addition of a stopover in Cuba was widely seen as a sign of Pope Francis’ willingness to go the extra mile to reach out a hand in friendship. At the same time, observers said, it gave those Russian Orthodox opposed to ecumenism a sense that their church is special and that it bowed to no one in agreeing to the meeting.

In a commentary distributed Feb. 11, Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Borys Gudziak of Paris said: “The pope is demonstrating humility; he is going to the territory of the other. In the eyes of nostalgic Russians, Cuba is almost home territory, a last outpost of a lost Soviet Empire.”

For decades, the Russian Orthodox told the Vatican that a meeting between the patriarch and pope was impossible because of the activities of Latin-rite Catholics in Russia and, especially, the Eastern-rite Catholics in Ukraine.

The Moscow Patriarchate had

said that while those problems still exist with the Catholic communities, they take a backseat to the urgency of defending together the rights and very existence of persecuted Christians in the Middle East.

The harsh persecution of Christians and other minorities in Syria, Iraq and other parts of the region has been a cause Pope Francis has pleaded before world leaders and for which he has rallied the prayers of Christians across the globe.

He speaks often of the “ecumenism of blood,” the fact that Christians are killed for believing in Christ with the persecutors not knowing or caring what denomination or church they belong to. Christians are fully united in that suffering and, the pope has said, those who die for their faith are in full communion with each other and with centuries of martyrs now in the presence of God.

But the fate of persecuted Christians was not the pope’s primary motive for meeting Patriarch Kirill. Simply meeting him was the point.

Metropolitan Hilarion Volokolamsk, head of the Moscow Patriarchate’s external affairs department, told reporters a week earlier that Patriarch Kirill chose Havana in the “New World” because Europe, the “Old World,” was the birthplace of Christian division.

Ukrainians, Catholic or not, have expressed concerns about Pope Francis’ meeting with Patriarch Kirill given the patriarch’s apparently close ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin at a time of ongoing fighting in Eastern Ukraine.

“The topics of discussion will not be explicitly political ones,” Bishop Gudziak wrote. “The gist of the rendezvous will be the encounter of church leaders representing very different experiences, agendas, styles and spiritualities of ecclesial leadership. One can hardly expect revolutionary results. Yet, it is through encounter that spiritual change occurs. Let us pray for good spiritual fruit.”

Contributing to this story was Junno Arocho Esteves in Mexico City.



Public Schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

- Sunday, Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m. — Adult Education Session, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne
- Saturday, Feb. 27, 6 p.m. — Saints Alive Dinner and Auction, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne Conference, Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne

Antonin Scalia, Supreme Court justice, dies

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, the longest-serving justice on the Supreme Court, died of apparent natural causes at a resort in West Texas Feb. 13. He was 79.

Scalia, a Catholic, was appointed in 1986 by President Ronald Reagan. Five of the remaining eight justices also are Catholic.

In a statement, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott called Scalia “a man of God, a patriot and an unwavering defender of the written Constitution and the rule of law.”

“He was the solid rock who turned away so many attempts to depart from and distort the Constitution,” he said in a statement in which he promised to keep the Scalia family in his prayers.

Scalia was the speaker at the brunch following the Fort Wayne Red Mass on Oct. 14, 2001. “Have courage to reject the sophisticated world,” Justice Scalia emphasized in his talk. “We attorneys and intellectuals who don’t like to be regarded as unsophisticated can have no greater model” than St. Thomas More, “foolish, childish man (that) he was. St. Thomas More, pray for us.”

He also visited the University of Notre Dame on three occasions. In February 1997, he gave a speech interpreting the Constitution. He later received an honorary doctor of laws degree at the university’s 1997 commencement ceremony. In 2007, Scalia made an unpublicized appearance at the Notre Dame Law School and spoke at a conference about the separation of federal powers.

In 1992, Scalia told a group of high school students at Washington’s Georgetown Visitation High School that, as Catholics, they might feel out of step with the rest of the world, but they should learn to accept it and take pride in it.

He said he was raised a Catholic when the religion was



CNS photo/Joshua Roberts, Reuters

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia leaves the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington in 2010 following the annual Red Mass. Scalia, 79, was found dead of apparent natural causes at a resort in West Texas Feb. 13.

not in the mainstream.

“When I was the age of you young ladies, the Church provided obtrusive reminders that we were different,” he said, referring to meatless Fridays and Sunday morning fasts before receiving Communion. These practices “were not just to toughen us up” but to “require us to be out of step,” he said.

Scalia noted the sense of “differentness” should have enabled Catholics “to be strong enough on bigger issues” such as abortion, contraception and divorce.

He also spoke of what he called the necessary distinction between Church and state.

“The business of the state is not God’s business,” he said.

In 1994, he was honored by The Catholic University of America with the James Cardinal Gibbons Medal, given for service to the nation, the Catholic Church or the university.

He was born in Trenton, N.J., March 11, 1936. In 1953, he graduated first in his class from Jesuit-run Xavier High School in Manhattan. He then attended Georgetown University and Harvard Law School.

Tim Johnson contributed to this article.

Holy Cross Father Corpora commissioned as Missionary of Mercy

BY KAY COZAD

NOTRE DAME — With the Year of Mercy as declared by Pope Francis clearly underway with the faithful around the world participating in meaningful events with joy and enthusiasm, a special initiative began on Ash Wednesday in Rome. There Pope Francis commissioned over 700 of the 1,142 specially-chosen priests from every continent to be Missionaries of Mercy, authorized to pardon even those sins reserved to the Holy See.

One of the chosen is Holy Cross Father Joseph Corpora, priest in residence at the University of Notre Dame. After expressing an interest in the initiative to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Father Corpora



FATHER JOSEPH CORPORA, CSC

responded to the call for Missionaries of Mercy. And on Dec. 22, 2015, he received notification that Pope Francis had accepted his name. "Why?" said Father Corpora, "My deepest self-definition is that I am a sinner whose sins are forgiven. I live in and out of this truth. Perhaps in God's Providence, this is why I was selected."

The Holy Father met with the Missionaries of Mercy on Feb. 9 in Rome where he expressed the meaning of the initiative and on Ash Wednesday, Pope Francis celebrated a special Mass, along with the Missionaries of Mercy, during which they were given the mandate to offer others God's mercy as well as the faculty to absolve those sins reserved to the Holy See.

Father Corpora holds great vision for this Year of Mercy initiative. "My hope is that I will be able to do some good in spreading the mercy of God by being a person of mercy. The Holy Father wants the missionaries to be liv-

ing signs of the abundance of God's mercy and forgiveness," he said, adding, "In being accepted to be a Missionary of Mercy, one is asked to make oneself available to bishops and pastors who request help for the duration of the jubilee. During Lent I will give Days of Recollection to all the priests in our diocese as well as to the priests in the Archdiocese of Newark. I have five penance services in our diocese. I have made several other commitments to bishops and pastors outside of Lent. I continue to receive requests."

Upon his return to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Father Corpora brought a renewed sense of God's love and mercy to the faithful of the area. And along with his current work at the University of Notre Dame with the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) and Campus Ministry as chaplain of the Latino students, he looks forward to his role as Missionary of Mercy. "I am excited, grateful



Provided by Father Corpora

Holy Cross Father Joseph Corpora is shown preaching at a wedding at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago in this 2012 photo.

and humbled. I know that I will be enriched and fortified by the many people that I will come into contact with through this assignment. I hope to be more open to the relentless mercy of God in my own life and in accepting that mercy, I hope to be a more merciful person," he said expectantly.

Father Corpora concluded, "I am so grateful to be a priest at this point in the Church when the Holy Father is inviting us to really be open to the mercy of God. When he opened the

Holy Door of Mercy at St. Peter's Basilica, he said, 'How much wrong we have done to God and His grace when we speak of sins being punished by His judgment before we speak of their being forgiven by His mercy. We have to put mercy before judgment, and in any event, God's judgment will always be in the light of His mercy.'

"I love that. I want to be part of spreading that truth and helping people to more fully accept the mercy of God," he said.

Pope sends off missionaries of mercy to help people open hearts to God

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis marked the beginning of the Church's Lenten journey by sending off several hundred religious and diocesan priests on their own special path as "missionaries of mercy" in local parishes.

"Look upon Your servants, Lord, that we are sending as messengers of mercy, salvation and peace. Guide their steps" and sustain them with "the power of Your grace," the pope said during a special Ash Wednesday liturgy in St. Peter's Basilica Feb. 10.

"May Christ's voice resound in their words and Christ's heart in their gestures," he said.

More than 700 of the 1,142 missionaries specially appointed by the pope attended the Mass. Dressed in white vestments and purple stoles, the men received the pope's mandate to preach about God's mercy and special authority to pardon even those sins reserved to the Holy See.

Their mission was echoed in the day's second reading from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians, in which he proclaims, "We are ambassadors for Christ" with God working and speaking through them, imploring people to "be reconciled with God."

In his homily before commissioning the priests at the end of Mass, the pope said their mandate is to be "signs and instruments of God's pardon."

"Dear brothers, may you be able to help open the doors of people's hearts" as well as bless, heal and raise them up" with a

father's love, he said.

God knows the sins, weakness, wounds and fatigue people experience in their lives and "He knows how much we need forgiveness, He knows that we need to feel loved in order to carry out the good," he said.

People cannot keep going on their own, and that is why the Apostle Paul doesn't urge people to "do something, but to let themselves be reconciled by God, to allow Him to forgive us," he said.

In fact, the first step on the road of a Christian life is recognizing the need for divine mercy and to pass through that "open door which is Christ," who offers everyone a new and joyful life.

The problem, the pope said, is there may be many barriers that keep people from ever approaching or opening that door.

People may be so hardened by sin or pride that "they bolt the lock on the soul," justifying their errors or believing they are "no worse than others," thereby remaining "prisoners of evil."

Another obstacle people face is being ashamed "to open the secret door of the heart." While shame is a good sign since "it shows that we want to detach ourselves from evil," it must never turn into "dread or fear."

The third danger is when people walk away from Christ, becoming distant or isolated by holing themselves up with their own suffering, wallowing endlessly in negative thoughts and sinking into the darkest recesses of the soul, he said.

"Let's listen to Jesus, who says to those who are weary and



CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano

Cardinal Angelo Comastri, archpriest of St. Peter's Basilica, sprinkles ashes on the head of Pope Francis during Ash Wednesday Mass at the Vatican Feb. 10.

burdened, 'Come to Me,' since "only the Lord's grace liberates us" and offers peace and rest, the pope said.

He said the Lord asks people to close the distance that has grown and "return to Me with your whole heart."

The Lenten journey invites people to "be protagonists, embracing three remedies, three medicines that heal (people) from sin" — prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

"May Lent be a time of a healthy 'pruning' back of falsehood, worldliness, indifference; of no longer thinking that everything is fine as long as I am doing well; of understanding that what matters isn't acceptance, seeking success or approval, but the cleansing of one's heart and life."

The pope broke with the tradition of walking from the Benedictine monastery of St. Anselm to the Dominican-run Basilica of Santa Sabina in order to commission the missionaries of mercy from St. Peter's Basilica. Before the main altar were the mortal remains of St. Padre Pio and St. Leopold Mandic, two Capuchins popular as miracle workers and known particularly for the long hours they would spend hearing Confessions.

Pope Francis had asked the Capuchins to bring the relics of the two saints to Rome for the Year of Mercy, particularly the celebration of Ash Wednesday and the commissioning of the official missionaries of mercy as an encouragement and inspiration to be generous with God's love.

Indiana lawmakers consider lifting lifetime ban on food stamps for reformed drug felons

INDIANAPOLIS — Should a lifetime ban on food stamps for reformed drug felons be lifted? State Senator John Broden, D-South Bend, believes Indiana should join the 39 other states that have lifted the lifetime prohibition on food benefits. The Indiana Catholic Conference also supports lifting the ban.

Broden's proposal, Senate Bill 132, would allow convicted drug felons to receive access to the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) if they meet certain criteria including showing they are actively working to reform their lives.

The proposal allows individuals to receive food stamp assistance under SNAP if: 1) the individual has not received any other drug convictions during the previous five years; and 2) the person is actively participating in some form of legitimate substance abuse program which includes drug testing to ensure the individual is not using drugs.

The House Family, Children and Human Affairs Committee heard SB 132, Feb. 10. Representative David Frizzell, R-Indianapolis, who chairs the panel, did not take a vote, but heard compelling testimony in support of the legislation.

Currently, Indiana bans persons convicted of a drug felony from receiving food stamps. The ban is permanent and is not lifted even after the individual pays restitution and reforms his or her life. Legitimate need for food is irrelevant under the current law if the person has been convicted of a drug felony.

Broden said he became aware of the issue a few years ago when a constituent who goes to

his parish and works at a half-way house, brought this concern to his attention. After listening to this constituent's concern, Broden said he thought this was wrong, that those who commit a sexual offense or commit armed robbery can get food stamps. Broden said that after investigating, he discovered the constituent was correct.

Broden said, "My goal is to get some change in this policy. I believe it's important for those people who have served their time, and as the old adage goes, paid their debt to society, they shouldn't be singled out for their offense when those convicted of other felonies can go and get SNAP benefits." Broden said he was very encouraged earlier this session when he heard Gov. Pence and Chief Justice Loretta Rush say that the state is not going to incarcerate its way out of the drug problem in Indiana.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference, testified in support of SB 132. "All persons have a right to food and shelter," said Tebbe. "Individuals, after serving their sentence and are released from jail or prison, have many obstacles when rejoining the community."

Tebbe noted that in addition to the culture and family adjustments, employment is often denied because of the conviction and prison record and many employers refuse to hire them, which contributes to recidivism. When jobs are available, often these are temporary or part-time.

Tebbe said that food stamp assistance is tangible and needed. "This benefit will go a long way to assisting persons to

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BRIGID CURTIS AYER

maintain themselves and their dignity. While food banks are willing and provide assistance, these institutions are stretched to serve all who are in need," said Tebbe.

"Moreover, denying aid to those convicted of a drug felony makes it costlier for some nonprofit agencies like homeless centers, women shelters and Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Centers to provide services for those convicted of a drug felony," said Tebbe. "The money for these meals comes from the nonprofits operating budgets. Money that would be better spent on other needed services like education and counseling."

Cheryl Ashe of South Bend, a volunteer and long-time advocate for lifting a food assistance ban, said when individuals leave prison they typically go live with their families. While families can provide housing, they may not be able to provide food. She said that those who do not receive SNAP benefits may have to go to two or three food banks per week to get enough food and the bus

routes do not always go near the locations of food pantries.

The drug felon ban was enacted in Aug. of 1996 with the national Welfare Reform Act. It allowed states the choice to make former drug offenders ineligible for the federal SNAP food assistance benefits, a move intended to discourage drug offenders from exchanging food stamps for drugs. Indiana Department of Workforce Development reports that nearly three-quarters of Hoosier employers are reluctant or refuse

to hire former offenders.

Senate Bill 132 passed the Senate, 43-7. The bill was held for another week of hearings in the House Family, Children and Human Affairs Committee. Tebbe said he expects the panel to hear further testimony and he is hopeful the bill will pass out of committee, and move to the House floor for passage before the end of February.



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MEXICO

Continued from Page 1

herself present to little Juan, so too she continues to reveal herself to all of us, especially to those who feel — like him — ‘worthless,’” the pope said.

Recalling the miraculous appearance of Mary’s image, Pope Francis noted that through such a miracle, “Juan experienced in his own life what hope is, what the mercy of God is.”

The pope said that despite the indigenous saint’s feelings of inadequacy, Mary chose him to “oversee, care for, protect and promote the building of this shrine.”

“In this way, she managed to awaken something he did not know how to express, a veritable banner of love and justice: no one could be left out in the building of that other shrine: the shrine of life, the shrine of our communities, our societies and our cultures,” he said.

God’s true shrine, he added, is the life of His children, especially young people without a future, the elderly who are often unacknowledged and forgotten and families lacking even the most basic necessities.

“The shrine of God is the faces of the many people we encounter each day,” the pope said.

Pope Francis said that those who suffer do not weep in vain and their sufferings are a silent prayer that rises to heaven, “always finding a place in Mary’s mantle.”

Like St. Juan Diego, Christians are called to be Mary’s ambassadors and console those who are overwhelmed by trials and sufferings, he said.

“Am I not your mother? Am I not here with you?” Mary says this to us again. Go and build my shrine, help me to lift up the lives of my sons and daughters, your brothers and sisters,” the pope said.



CNS photos by Paul Haring



Pope Francis touches the original image of Our Lady of Guadalupe after celebrating Mass in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City Feb. 13. The Marian image was rotated for the pope to pray in the “camarin” (“little room”) behind the main altar.



Pope Francis addresses Mexico’s bishops in the cathedral in Mexico City Feb. 13. Pope Francis demanded forceful denunciations of drug violence in Mexico from the country’s bishops, who have preferred timid pronouncements instead of speaking prophetically on a tragedy that has claimed more than 100,000 lives over the past 10 years and left another 25,000 Mexicans missing.



A large crowd is seen gathered for Pope Francis’ celebration of Mass in Ecatepec near Mexico City Feb. 14. Pope Francis began his travels to Mexico’s “peripheries” by visiting an overcrowded, sprawling settlement known internationally as a hunting ground for girls to force into prostitution and for boys to enlist in the drug trade. Ecatepec, on the northern edge of Mexico City, also has tidy gated communities and a new shopping mall with department stores like Sears, a big WalMart, Starbucks and dozens of other shops and restaurants. Pope Francis celebrated Mass Feb. 14 on a vast open field with some 300,000 people. The high altar platform was decorated with Aztec designs — flowers and birds — made of flowers and petals.

Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion celebrated in South Bend

The Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates was celebrated at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend on Sunday, Feb. 14. Catechumens are those unbaptized individuals who will be entering the Catholic Church by receiving all the sacraments of initiation — Baptism, Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist — at the Easter Vigil on the night of March 26. Candidates are those who are already baptized and are now preparing to complete their initiation or enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.



Kevin Hagggenjos

Candidates and their sponsors are shown during the rite.



Kevin Hagggenjos

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades signs the Book of the Elect during the rite.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County to host retreat

SOUTH BEND — The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County Spirituality Committee will host a mini-retreat, "Vincentians: Messengers of Mercy" on Saturday, Feb. 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the St. Anthony de Padua Church Meeting Room at 2114 E Jefferson Blvd., in South Bend. Enter on the west side between the church and school. Sign in at 8:30 a.m., with opening prayer at 9 a.m. Session I: "Bring Glad Tidings to the Poor" with Paul Fujawa, St. Adalbert/St. Casimir Conference, begins at 9:20 a.m. Session II: "Proclaim Liberty to Captives" with Patrick McGuire, St. Jude Conference, begins at 10:10 and Session III: "Recovery of Sight to the Blind" with Mary Froning, St. Anthony Conference, begins at 11 a.m. Closing prayer will follow.

For more information or advance registration contact Amy Potter, conference services coordinator at 574-234-6000, ext. 12132 or amy.potter@svdpsb.org.

Indiana Catholic Women's Conference offers speakers on 'Mercy for All,' with Father James Blount returning

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Catholic Women's Conference, organized by the Marian Center of Indianapolis and sponsored by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, will take place at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown hotel from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 19. The theme of this year's conference is "Mercy for All."

This year's speakers include:

- Back by popular demand, national speaker and retreat leader Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Father James Blount. He returns to share his message that "through the power of the Holy Spirit, God's Church can make a difference in the world today."

- Michelle Faehnle, co-author of "Divine Mercy for Moms: Sharing the Lessons of St. Faustina." Faehnle gave up her job as a labor and delivery nurse to raise her four children at home and to answer the call to the New Evangelization.

- Emily Jaminet, co-author of "Divine Mercy for Moms: Sharing the Lessons of St. Faustina." Jaminet hosts "Mother's Moments" on Gabriel Catholic Radio in Columbus, Ohio. After a brief stint working for a Christian non-profit in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, she returned home to raise her six children and be a "worker in the vineyard of the Lord."

- Anthony Mullen, national coordinator for the international

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Scouts participate in Scout Sunday Mass in Mishawaka



Mike Furfaro

Boy Scouts from St. Joseph, Mishawaka, Troop 105, participated in the Mass on Sunday, Feb. 7, Boy Scout Sunday, with the Scouts proclaiming the two readings and reciting the prayers of the faithful. After Mass, the troop posed with Father Terry Fischer, pastor of St. Joseph. The observance, held annually in early February across the country, marks the anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America Feb. 8, 1910. It also provides an opportunity for faith communities to recognize and honor their local Scout troops.

Flame of Love Movement of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which promotes the Church-approved late 20th century messages of Jesus and Mary to a Hungarian woman. The messages promise the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Mullen is also chairman of MyConsecration.org, one of the world's largest providers of materials on consecration to Mary, promoting a life dedicated "to Jesus through Mary."

Also returning are Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin, who will celebrate Mass at 11 a.m., and singer/songwriter Annie Karto.

Tickets for the Indiana Catholic Women's Conference on March 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. with registration at 8 a.m., are \$50, or \$25 for students and religious. For groups of 10 or more, tickets are \$45. Members of the largest group will receive a prize and VIP seating in the front row. The conference will be held at the Indianapolis Downtown Marriott, 305 W. Maryland St. Parking is available across the street in the Government Center Parking Garage, 401 W. Washington St., for less than \$10. To register for the conference, log on to www.indianacatholicwomen.com, or mail a check and num-

ber of attendees to the Marian Center of Indianapolis at P.O. Box 47362, Indianapolis, IN 46247 (checks made out to St. Michael Foundation). For questions, call 317-888-0873 or email mariancntr@aol.com.

USF rewarding high school artistic talent with scholarships

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis will award scholarships to incoming students on Talent Scholarship Day, Friday, March 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Mimi and Ian Rolland Center for Art and Visual Communication off Leesburg Road, as well as the Fort Wayne Ballet downtown and the music technology facilities at the USF North Campus, 2702 Spring St.

Talent Scholarship Day gives new USF students with an interest in art, dance, communication or music the opportunity to submit a portfolio for review and/or audition for scholarship consideration.

Scholarships are available in art history, music technology, dance, studio art, graphic design, art education, anima-

tion, communication, pre-art therapy, theatre, jazz ensemble, guitar ensemble, marching band, color guard, drum line and the University Singers. High school juniors are invited to receive reviews and advice in preparation for their senior year.

Awarded scholarships are renewable for eight semesters, if the required grade point average is met, and can be added to any academic scholarships or need-based grants a student might also receive.

Appointments are required. To reserve a time or receive further information, contact the School of Creative Arts at 260-399-8064.

St. Joseph County Right to Life to hold annual essay contest

SOUTH BEND — St. Joseph County Right to Life is now accepting submissions for the annual Pro-Life Essay Contest. There is a middle school and high school category, and all interested students are encouraged to consider submitting an essay by March 1. The theme this year follows the focus on adoption and supporting birth mothers to make

this courageous and sacrificial decision. Winners will receive a scholarship and one winner will read his or her essay at the annual RTL Prayer Dinner on April 12. Contest details and entry information are available at www.prolifemichiana.org/essaycontest.

Dominic Lancia earns Eagle Scout Award

FORT WAYNE — Dominic Lancia, son of Matt and Laura Lancia, received the honorable Eagle Scout Award on Sunday, Feb. 7 at the St. Vincent Scout lodge. Lancia is currently a senior at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne, and is a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish.



DOMINIC LANCIA

Lancia's Eagle Scout project was completed at Deer Run Park in Allen County. The project involved rebuilding a pathway and installing drainage pipes underground to prevent the path from flooding during heavy rains.

Lancia is also a volunteer for Special Olympics Allen County. He races go-karts and enjoys water and snow skiing in his free time. After high school graduation, Lancia plans to study mechanical engineering.

Lenten healthcare retreat focuses on works of mercy

FORT WAYNE — The Catholic Medical Guild of Northeast Indiana will present a Lenten retreat open to all healthcare workers in the area. The retreat will be Saturday, March 5, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the St. Vincent Msgr. John Kuzmich Life Center on Wallen Road in Fort Wayne. Brother Leo Maria and physicians will present reflections on mercy. Please RSVP at www.fortwaynecma.com or call 260-222-6978 for questions.

St. Pius teacher receives grant to teach in Fiji Islands

GRANGER — The blue ribbon year continued at St. Pius X Catholic School in Granger, as Kelly Lohr, kindergarten teacher, received a Lilly Endowment Teacher Creativity Fellowship. With a grant of \$12,000, Lohr will travel to the Fiji Islands where she will be staying with a host family while teaching English to economically disadvantaged children during the month of March. Lohr will earn a Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) certificate upon completion.

Lohr is one of 100 educators taking part in the 2016 fellowship program.

Students and staff celebrate multicultural day at St. Mary School



Sara Lake

The students and staff of St. Mary School in Avilla celebrated a multicultural day during Catholic Schools Week with students taking their "passports" and making stops in Africa, Burma, Germany, Puerto Rico and Vietnam. Students experienced food, song, dance, stories, crafts and video clips from the respective countries. Deacon Mel Tardy is shown helping some students experience food, song and dance originating in Africa.



Diocese announces Jubilee Year of Mercy event, 24 Hours for the Lord

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy with its motto, "Merciful Like the Father," parishes throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will join the universal Church on March 4-5 in the celebration of 24 Hours for the Lord. Pope Francis called for a 24 Hours for the Lord to be celebrated on the Friday and Saturday preceding the Fourth Week of Lent.

Where can I find 24 Hours for the Lord?

- St. Francis Xavier, Pierceton
- Christ the King, South Bend
- Holy Family, South Bend
- St. Therese, Little Flower, South Bend
- St. Joseph, South Bend
- St. Mary of the Annunciation, Bristol
- St. Thomas, Elkhart
- St. John the Evangelist, Goshen
- Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne
- St. Jude, Fort Wayne
- St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne



"So many people, including young people, are returning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation; through this experience they are rediscovering a path back to the Lord, living a moment of intense prayer and finding meaning in their lives." — Pope Francis

What events can I expect at 24 Hours for the Lord?

The emphasis will be on Reconciliation, but parishes will also include Eucharistic Adoration, Stations of the Cross, various prayers and quiet prayer throughout the 24 hours at the parishes.

Is there more information?

Yes! Find the full schedule of events at individual parishes at www.MyYearOfMercy.org. Schedules, Confession guides and more information will be published in the Feb. 28 issue of *Today's Catholic*.



Blessed Sacrament students study corporal works of mercy



Provided by Susan Curtis

The faith formation students at Blessed Sacrament Parish, Albion, prepared for Lent by gathering to learn more about the corporal works of mercy, then decorated jars to keep a visual of the caring deeds they do throughout Lent.

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Living the Year of Mercy

Instruct the Ignorant

First writing attempt wins award

FORT WAYNE — Moira Hamilton, a student in Sondra Federspiel's first-grade class at Most Precious Blood School, Fort Wayne, is one of 12 Catholic elementary school students in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend recently awarded tuition assistance for school year 2015-2016 from The Bishop D'Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund.

The fund was established in 2007 on the occasion of the late Bishop John M. D'Arcy's 50th golden jubilee of his Priesthood.

In addition to a recommendation from the pastor and principal for tuition assistance based on financial need, each student was required to submit a written essay titled "Why Catholic Education Is Important to Me."

"She often has wanted to write stories, but this was our first attempt at ever writing something more than a sentence describing a photo or a statement about things she likes," said her mother, Jodi Hamilton. It took mother and daughter a month of questions and answers on the topic. Jodi said she would write Moira's answers in a notepad and then each night they would write one sentence, "with me helping her spell some of

the words and formulating her thoughts into complete sentences," said Jodi. "It definitely was something she had never had to do before. It was a difficult process. She and I were both able to learn from one another," she added.

Moira understands the \$1,000 financial award will go toward her education.

Most Precious Blood Principal Stan Liponoga read Moira's winning essay during morning public address announcements and congratulated her on a job well done. Her essay reads as follows:

"I feel a Catholic education is important because it helps us stay close to God. It is important to keep God in our lives. I like to go to church. I like that we get to pray and say the pledge every morning to start our day.

"I like that we learn so that when we go to college we will know what to do. Then with our families we will have a happy life and make good choices. Most of all I like that all of my friends care about others and their feelings. I wish that all kids could have a Catholic education like all of us at Most Precious Blood Catholic School."

— Vince LaBarbera



MOIRA HAMILTON

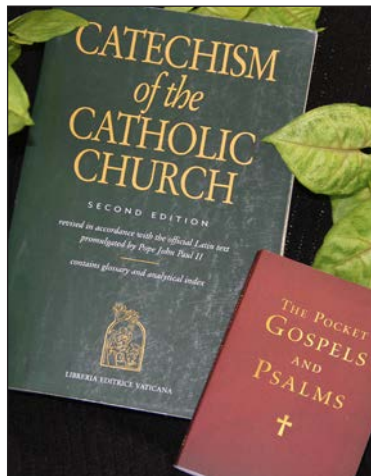
Instructing every morning



Provided by Redeemer Radio

Deacon Jim Tighe is the host of "Redeemer Mornings," a daily program on Redeemer Radio. Many Catholics journeyed to the Church or returned to the faith through Redeemer Radio's programming.

Tools of the trade



The Catechism of the Catholic Church and "The Pocket Gospels and Psalms" are two sources of instruction for the faithful.

Educación para el Ministerio



Lourdes Silva

The "Educación para el Ministerio" program provides instruction for the Hispanic parish leaders, catechists, proclaimers and others who instruct within their parishes on a variety of levels. The Education for Ministry program offers courses in Fort Wayne and South Bend for Catechists, Catholic School teachers, directors of religious education, RCIA teams, youth ministers and others interested in learning about their Catholic faith.



Steve Donndelinger

St. Jude Catholic School in South Bend is committed to helping its students develop their spiritual, academic and social potential for success as lifelong learners. Seventh-grade students worked on an achromatic (without color) value painting while celebrating the Sacred Heart of Jesus in this Year of Mercy.

Year of Mercy day 75

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— St. John of the Cross

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Our Lady of Hungary School celebrates its multicultural, multigenerational history

BY IRENE COPENHAVER

SOUTH BEND — On a day that the icy wind whipped snow outside, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was greeted by the warm smiling faces of the students inside Our Lady of Hungary School. He made his pastoral visit on Feb. 12.

Opening with the celebration of Mass, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was joined by Father Kevin Bauman, pastor of Our Lady of Hungary Parish.

In this Year of Mercy, Bishop Rhoades' homily was a lesson on the seven corporal works of mercy. Coming out of the sanctuary and into the middle aisle among the 197 students, he explained each of the works. Many eager hands shot up in the air when he asked questions. He challenged them to learn the seven works.

The bishop visited all the classes in the school, preschool to eighth grade. In each classroom he reviewed the corporal works and how they can be practiced especially during Lent.

In Christopher Nowak's sixth-grade class Bishop Rhoades gave them a lesson in geography. On a world map he showed them where he had lived in Italy for seven years.

On behalf of the school, Marguerite Jay, an eighth grader in Natalie Jaksa's science class, presented Bishop Rhoades with a gift of four coffee mugs commemorating Our Lady of Hungary's 100th anniversary as a parish.

He also received a gift from Heather Snavelly's fifth-grade class. Money collected from "jean days" was donated to the Christ Child Society in the bishop's name.

Kindergarten teacher Anne DeMott invited the bishop to sit in the prayer circle. The children are learning about Pope Francis.

The largest class in the school, the second-grade, has 24 students and is taught by Alexandra Brandt. She is preparing them for their first Confession and first Communion in May.

Bishop Rhoades' last stop was to the preschool room. He said he was thoroughly impressed with the depth of knowledge of the children. They are learning about the Holy Trinity and the miracles of Jesus.

Our Lady of Hungary has a rich multigenerational history. And that is true for Brandt, a second-grade teacher at Our Lady of Hungary School for the last five years.

"Our Lady of Hungary Church and School have always been a great part of my life growing up — from my grandparents attending church here, my father being an altar server, to myself teaching in the school," Brandt shared. "Many of my family members, myself included, have been baptized and

married in this church. My family attended school here at Our Lady and lived in the surrounding neighborhood. It is a place that has always been a part of my family's memories and photographs throughout the years."

Brandt noted, "The school has become a second home and family for me. It is a huge part of my life. This is a community where everyone cares for one another and the students follow you home at night in your heart."

"Our staff works very hard to help our students grow both academically and in their faith," she said. "As a staff we are constantly trying to better ourselves for our students. Every action we make in the classroom is intended for student growth. The staff is focused on student development and growth here at Our Lady."

When asked about the academic strengths of the school, Principal Kevin Goralczyk told *Today's Catholic*, "Our Lady of Hungary School has identified the students needs through NWEA assessments. We work as a staff to use the data to drive instruction in the classroom."

He noted, "The staff has had to change their approach to teaching. They have differentiated their instruction to meet the students where they are at. The instructors continue to redefine themselves through professional development opportunities and challenges."

Carmen Del Real, a parent of a fourth-grade student at Our Lady of Hungary, said, "Our Lady has other programs like ELL (English Language Learners), reading and math tutoring that complement academics — that's one of the strengths. The kids get all the help they need in a more personal basis, with programs designed based on their needs."

The Catholic faith is vibrant in the school as well.

"At Our Lady, kids participate in their faith," Carmen Del Real added. "They go to Mass, they get their lessons. They live their faith rather than read about it. They see Our Lady as their second home."

"The locus of Our Lady of Hungary School is The Risen Christ," Goralczyk said. "Students and staff attend and participate in daily Mass, pray within the classrooms underscoring the importance of living out our baptismal promises: loving God and loving neighbor. The doctrinal and moral teachings of the Church are woven into every lesson and put in to practice by teachers and students alike."

The school opened in 1927 to serve immigrant communities of Hungary and Eastern Europe. Today the majority of students are first generation Latinos.

Where the Ca



Photos by Kevin Haggenjos

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass at Our Lady of Hungary for students and staff as he began his pastoral visit there on Feb. 12.



Students at Our Lady of Hungary listen to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades' homily during Mass at his pastoral visit to the school on Feb. 12.

Our Lady of Hungary students Marguerite Jay and Lauren Moutray present the Offertory gifts during Mass at Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades' pastoral visit to the school Feb. 12.



Catholic faith is vibrant

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades visits the school Feb. 12



Students at Our Lady of Hungary School eagerly answer Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades' question in Amy Black's first-grade classroom.



Sixth-grade student Mario Gallegos watches as Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades points out a text in Christopher Nowak's social studies class.



Principal Kevin Goralczyk, left, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Father Kevin Bauman, pastor of Our Lady of Hungary, stand beneath a statue of Our Lady in the school.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades speaks to students in Angelica Rodela's preschool class.

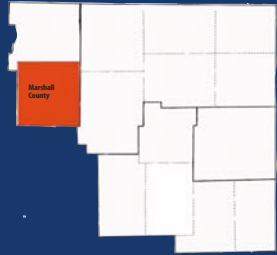


Our Lady of Hungary

Principal: Kevin Goralczyk
Staff: 20
Students: 197

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www.ourladyofhungary.com



In MY diocese

Marshall County

Marshall County home to the Poor Handmaids

BY JULIE DOWD

DONALDSON — The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, an international congregation of apostolic women religious, ministers to and with people of all faiths. They minister with the poor, the sick and children in nine countries. They live and serve in the United States' rural, urban and inner city settings, mainly in the Midwest.

The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ congregation was founded in Germany when Catherine Kasper and four companions took vows as Poor Handmaid Sisters in 1851.

In 1868, at the request of Bishop John Henry Luers of the Fort Wayne Diocese, Catherine Kasper sent the first eight Poor Handmaids to America where they staffed a school and cared for the sick in Hessen Cassel, Indiana.

The motherhouse, home to the American Province Sisters, was located in Fort Wayne from 1868 to 1923 when it was moved to Donaldson, in Marshall County. Since then, PHJC Sisters have ministered to the people in Marshall County, both in Donaldson and in the local area.

Over the years, a variety of ministries have developed. The campus is now called The Center at Donaldson.

The Center at Donaldson is home for Poor Handmaids living in Catherine's Cottage and Convent Ancilla Domini. Also located at The Center is the Ancilla Beef and Grain Farm, which operates in a manner that values and respects the soil and animals. All-natural beef sup-



The Ancilla Domini Chapel is shown in this photo.

plies The Center at Donaldson and is offered to the local public through Earthworks Market. Ancilla College, a Catholic two-year, liberal arts college is also part of The Center.

Catherine Kasper Life Center, a faith-based Continuing Care Retirement Community, is comprised of Maria Center, senior independent living apartments; and the Catherine Kasper Home, a licensed skilled nursing facility providing short-term rehabilitation, long-term nursing care and a memory care unit. Earthworks, an environmental education center, teaches adults and children to live in harmony with all of earth's inhabitants.

Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center offers those who visit The Center, both individuals and groups, an environment for faith development, personal growth, team building and artistic endeavors.

MoonTree Studios, the new-

est ministry at The Center, challenges people to experience mindfulness as they fearlessly explore the interconnectedness of art, nature and the Spirit within.

People around the world have visited The Center at Donaldson to enjoy its unique events and offerings. Many call The Center home, from college students to the residents of Catherine Kasper Life Center. The Center also provides hundreds of people a place to work and to feel part of something bigger than themselves as they carry forth the mission, values and charism of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

For additional information visit www.poorhandmaids.org.

Julie Dowd is the communications director for the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

Ancilla College is on a roll

The small, private college in Donaldson, hosts about 500 students each year and, under the direction of President Dr. Ken Zirkle, has built its first residence hall and is working on number two.

As the least-expensive private college in Indiana, the two-year, accredited school offers exceptional value and close, personal attention. It is located in a safe, rural area on 1,100 acres of land with a lake at The Center at Donaldson — also home to assisted living facilities, an art studio and more.

According to Campus Minister Albert Escanilla, the ideals and principles that have characterized the college's sponsor, The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ (PHJC), are the backbone of Ancilla's mission.

"Catholic social teaching and community building is fundamental to allowing students to develop unique gifts and insights at Ancilla. We offer reflection, service, intellectual inquiry, retreats and faith communities," he said. "Students are challenged to engage in service opportunities and team-building activities in addition to their course work at Ancilla. We hope to guide them to become men and women of faith and in the service of others, especially the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. These values are at the core of Ancilla's identity, binding the Ancilla Family across diverse backgrounds, faiths, cultures and traditions."

Escanilla said that Ancilla College Campus Ministry's inspirations are from our foundress Blessed Katherine Kasper and the PHJC's charism of simplicity, service to the marginalized and discernment

for God's calling. Our Campus Ministry is the pastoral expression of Catholic higher education, by being the "hands and feet of Christ," we can better serve everyone in our ecumenical climate.

With this underlying element of ecumenical faith, the college's academic offerings are growing. The school offers more than 20 associate degrees including a thriving nursing program and has recently added agriculture, culinary arts and sports management to its catalog. Zirkle has also expanded athletic options to include bowling, lacrosse, cross-country, wrestling, dance, tennis and more, in addition to standard college teams.

Athletic Director Gene Reese is quick to note that the vast majority of student-athletes receive over a 3.0 GPA due largely to emphasis on academics and coaches who see their team as family.

As the second residence hall construction completes summer of 2016, the new dining hall and student life center is open for delicious and healthy on-campus meals. Students can get made-to-order foods in addition to fresh comfort favorites, such as pizza and burgers.

There is also an ice cream machine.

"Ninety-five percent of our students receive financial aid of some kind," Zirkle said. "We see it as our mission to help every student from every background earn a degree. Education is the key that unlocks all doors."

For more information, go to ancilla.edu or call 866-ANCILLA to learn more.

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St. Michael bicultural community serves mission of church

BY KAY COZAD

PLYMOUTH — St. Michael Catholic Church has its roots in the farmland of Plymouth, with a congregation dating back to 1862. Holy Cross Father John Korcsmar is pastor there and shepherds the over 1,200 families in the bicultural parish. St. Michael boasts a school that educates students from kindergarten through grade 8.

The current church building, built in the early 1900s, underwent a \$222,000 renovation and was rededicated in 1994. Of the parish, Father Korcsmar notes the area demographics are changing and the needs of his congregation as well. The bicultural parish, hosting Anglo and Hispanic populations, work together to share the vision and mission of the church. St. Michael currently offers four Mass times in English and two Masses in Spanish celebrated by Parochial Vicar Father Eloy Jimenez Zuniga.

The faith ministries of St. Michael, led by dedicated staff and lay faithful, provide religious education for adults in its RCIA program and for children of the parish in its religious education program. Additionally, St. Michael offers Eucharistic Adoration, the sacraments, the Why Catholic? program, Bible studies, a prayer line, quinceañera, bereavement support, a health care ministry, youth group and much more.

Catholic organizations hosted in the parish include Knights of Columbus, Harvest House for 55 and better, and Angels Girls' Club.

St. Michael School building was dedicated in 1954 and in 2000 expanded with an addition of a science/art room, four classrooms and a gymnasium with a stage and storage area. And in 2009 a full city block sized playground was constructed for the school.

The school curriculum is unique in that it employs the Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts and Math (STREAM) process that enables the students to work through the scientific method to learn about a subject. Recently the fifth through the eighth grades completed their work to present in a science fair.

To meet the needs of the bicultural school population the school now employs a parent-training specialist, who assists parents with increasing their involvement with their students' education. Future hope is for more bi-lingual speakers on staff as well.

Long-time parishioners of St. Michael Parish, Leonard Isban and his wife JoAnn have been staunch supporters of the



Kevin Haggenjos
St. Michael Church in Plymouth is shown in this photo.

excellent Catholic education provided by St. Michael School. Following JoAnn's death

in 2013, Leonard began a search for an appropriate statue of St. Michael for the school in memory of his dear wife. His search took him in a different direction and a meeting with artist Keith Blanton. Isban commissioned Blanton to portray a guardian angel protecting the students as they entered and exited the school. The painting, completed in 2015, currently hangs near the main door of the school.

Another long-time parishioner of the parish is Anita Fox who acts as maintenance person and jack-of-all-trades there. What began 25 years ago when she and her husband volunteered to mow the church lawn has gradually turned into a ministry of its own. Fox, an octogenarian and now widowed, continues to provide the lawn care for the church and schoolyard, as well as the snow removal and general maintenance. "I do what I can," Fox said with quiet humility. Her day begins with a walk across the street from her home to the church to open its doors for worship by 5 a.m. She then cleans the church basement and the upstairs before the activities of the day begin, all on a volunteer basis.

St. Dominic's expanded facilities enhance parish life

BY TIM JOHNSON

BREMEN — St. Dominic in Bremen is still in a celebration mode with the opening of its new Good Shepherd Hall, a new building that includes a chapel, kitchen and gathering space. Daily Mass is now celebrated in the "more intimate" setting of the chapel and the first coffee and doughnuts held Feb. 7 was a big hit, said Father Bob Lengerich, pastor of St. Dominic.

The new hall was dedicated on Dec. 8 last year, but before that, the parish hosted a Forty Hours Devotion that turned into a Fifty Hours Devotion. "I was so impressed, the people loved it," said Father Lengerich. He said great graces came from the devotion. One gentleman decided it was time to officially join the Catholic Church.

Another use for the new building is a new ministry that is in formation called the Joyful Song Sing-Along, which is a special prayer service that meets the needs of people with special needs — not just at St. Dominic Parish, but in the Bremen community as well. It is an ecumenical outreach.

Joyful Song Sing-Along is a praise-and-worship-based service, which includes music and activities. After the first session, Father Lengerich said, "These people have brought joy to St. Dominic."

Another ecumenical aspect of the community is Bremen's Ministerial Association. "About half of the pastors in town meet every month," Father Lengerich noted. "And we discuss together how we can lead the town closer to God."

During Lent, the association will gather at a different church each Sunday evening for Lenten services. "It's really neat that the Christians in this town can pray with one another and love each other in Christ's name," Father Lengerich noted.

St. Dominic is a diverse multi-cultural parish consisting of an Anglo and Hispanic parishioners. Father Lengerich celebrates three Masses in English and one in Spanish on weekends.

Other active ministries at St. Dominic include youth group, Bible study, the Why Catholic? program, the Knights of Columbus, and Spanish and English



Father Bob Lengerich takes a turn at the snowblower after an Ash Wednesday Mass.

choirs.

During Lent, there is a live Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, a tradition of the Hispanic community in the parish.

During the Year of Mercy, the parish is hosting a prayer workshop or mini-retreat for each of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Just recently, about 25 participants prepared Valentines for local inmates at the Marshall County Jail and for the homebound, elderly and widows of the parish.

The Good Shepherd Hall has also been used to show movies such as "The War Room." The recent production drew not only parishioners, but welcomed the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration from nearby Mishawaka.

And every October, the parish hosts the Men's Stag, which draws nearly 500 men to St. Dominic for a day of fun.



Father Bob Lengerich

St. Dominic Church in Bremen is shown during the construction phase of the Good Shepherd Hall, right, which was blessed last Dec. 8.

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St. Mary of the Lake Parish partners with Culver Military Academy to serve community

BY KAY COZAD

CULVER — St. Mary of the Lake Parish is a thriving Catholic community tucked in the south-western corner of Marshall County in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Established in 1948, now with close to 400 families, Father Jeffery Largent, pastor, shepherds his flock with foresight and faith. The sacraments are celebrated regularly and other ministries include RCIA and religious education for children. Associations of lay faithful supported within the parish include Knights of Columbus, the Fatima Group and Youth and Adult Formation.

Area teens from St. Mary of the Lake and St. Michael Parish in Plymouth participate in YDisciple, a grant funded pilot program centered around small groups of teens emphasizing intentional discipleship, as well as strong parent support and participation. “Beginning with only three teens, St. Mary’s small groups have grown in discipling 11 teens in just a short year; a big step for a small parish trying to grow roots in youth ministry,” noted Jannie Zehner, office administrator of St. Mary of the Lake. Beyond discipleship groups, teens engage in “fun-fellowship” activities, as well as local community service projects, and also volunteer cleaning St. Mary Church once a month as a group.

St. Mary of the Lake Parish has built a strong and enduring relationship with the students of Culver Military Academy, a college preparatory boarding school and summer camp located in the same area. Of the 290 Catholic students on campus, nearly 70 volunteer as lay ministers during St. Mary/Academy Masses and several are volunteering their time by teaching the fifth-grade religious education class at the parish. “The children absolutely adore this arrangement. The students from the academy feel self-fulfilled and also earned their community service hours,” said Zehner, who added that there are many opportunities for service for these students.

Father Largent’s official title at Culver Academies is “Defender of the Faith,” and said, “Most people in the diocese do not realize how large a part of the community the Culver Military and Culver Girls Academy truly is. One half of the winter students are Catholic, which is roughly 400 plus and three quarters of the summer school students are Catholic numbering at times 1,100 plus. Most might think of Culver, and St. Mary of the Lake as a resort parish and not realize the permanent Catholic influence our parish has at the academies. The priest at St. Mary of the Lake is one who has a shared assignment with the academy



Provided by St. Mary of the Lake

St. Mary parishioners and Culver Academy members participate in the Gold Star Ceremony on Memorial Day recognizing Culver alumni killed during times of conflict.



St. Mary of the Lake Parish altar is adorned with floral pieces during the Easter Season.

and is responsible not only for the parishioners of St. Mary but those of Catholic faith, and those desiring to be Catholic at the academies as well. When we are able, we encourage the two communities to come together and celebrate services and events, but due to limited space that is not always a possibility.”

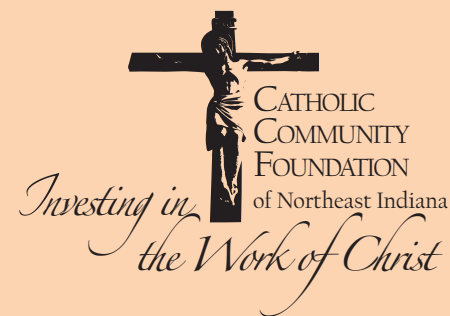
Each year St. Mary of the Lake and the Culver Military Academy come together to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation. This year, six students from the eighth-grade Confirmation class of St. Mary and 25 Culver Academy students in grades 9-12 will receive the sacrament of Confirmation together at the Culver Military Academy Chapel in April as the academy and St. Mary alternates each year for venue for Confirmation.

Cultivating community relationships and deepening roots, St. Mary, in the past, has joined other area churches in taking a turn to host a community meal. Each month St. Mary would host a free dinner open to the community made possible by the dedicated parishioners and Culver Academy students who would volunteer providing, preparing and serving food,

and cleaning up before and after the meals.

St. Mary parishioners and Culver Academy students also have joined in community service by volunteering at Our Lady of the Road located on Main Street in South Bend — one of the Catholic Worker houses closest to the parish. Parishioners of St. Mary have also donated socks, hats

and gloves for its “winter closet.” Several parishioners continue to volunteer their time each month at Our Lady of the Road. Confirmation and religious education students have also volunteered their time for local area and county projects such as Blessing in a Backpack and the Marshall County Christmas Basket/Gift Programs. St. Mary of the Lake parishioners have also been one of the largest donors for the local area food bank. Food and personal items are donated every week for those in need. Each year money is donated by parishioners to help with the county Christmas Basket Program. Children are also selected by only knowing the age, gender and a gift idea by members to buy something for children who are less fortunate. These gifts then are accompanied with the food baskets and distributed to local families. St. Mary of the Lake Parish also works every year with the Cross Catholic organization and others like it, to donate monies for its charitable causes such as No Room at the Inn, which builds homes for those still without places to live in Haiti.



What is the Catholic Community Foundation?

The Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana consists of 137 endowments collectively invested to fund the various ministries and services of the Church throughout the diocese. The ultimate purpose of these endowments is not simply to build financial stability, but rather to fund the mission that has been entrusted by Jesus Christ.

Here are some important facts about the Catholic Community Foundation:

- Established in 1994 by then Bishop John M. D’Arcy
- A 501(c) (3) tax-exempt entity
- Contributions are deductible under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code
- Only the fund earnings are disbursed and used exclusively for donor intentions
- Endowment funds are invested following Church teachings as given by the U.S. bishops in their document “Socially Responsible Investment Guidelines”
- A minimum amount of \$5,000 can start a new endowment

There is one endowment invested within the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana for parishes, schools and/or ministries in Marshall County, and it is the **St. Michael, Plymouth, Endowment Fund** created from a donor’s bequest. The interest earnings of this fund are designated for the general support of St. Michael Parish and School.

Making a gift to the Catholic Community Foundation

There are many ways to give to one of these endowments, other than cash. In some instances, a donor is able to give even more than expected by simply using a planned gift option to create or build an endowment. For example, leaving a gift in a will (bequest) can be an advantage to a parish, school or charity and provide tax advantages. Those interested are encouraged to talk to their financial advisor to determine what would be best.

For more information on the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana, how to create a new endowment, or about giving to an existing endowment, contact the Office of Stewardship and Development in South Bend at 574-258-6571 or in Fort Wayne at 260-969-9148 or by email at plannedgiving@diocesefwsb.org. There is also additional information, including frequently asked questions, at www.diocesefwsb.org/Catholic-Community-Foundation.

Today's Catholic spotlights In MY diocese

In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, we are all unique. From the urban cities to the rural farms, we each have a different Catholic story to tell. And yet — we are all One Diocese — One Catholic Church. “In MY diocese” is a monthly section of *Today's Catholic* that will feature parishes and the Catholic community within a particular county. See when your county will be featured and how you can be involved at www.todayscatholicnews.org/advertising.

Save a life by staying alive

You're out shopping at your favorite mall with your kids and an elderly man about 30 yards away suddenly falls to the floor and is unresponsive. A crowd quickly gathers around him to see if he needs help but nobody is actually doing anything. You sprint over to the man and try to rouse him but he is unconscious and turning blue. You feel for a pulse and can't find one. You ask the bystanders: "Has anyone called 911?" A young lady says she has them on the phone right now. You then ask: "Does anyone know CPR?" Deafening silence is the answer you get. Your kids look at you and say: "Do something!" It's up to you. New recommendations now make it easier for witnesses to help a victim of cardiac arrest and maybe be a hero.

The American Heart Association recently published a Guideline Update for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation. The truth is that when someone suddenly collapses in cardiac arrest most bystanders are not trained in CPR. Although you may not really know how to do it, most bystanders do have a pretty good idea of what it entails. That includes mouth-to-mouth resuscitation — right? Let's be honest now, what's the first word you just thought of — "yuck!" So, I have some great news for all you untrained bystanders. You just need to pump on the chest. The recommendation now is to do compression only CPR for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest victims if you are untrained in CPR. It turns out that there is plenty of

oxygen in the blood already during a sudden cardiac arrest and you do not have to do mouth-to-mouth to have a successful outcome. Rescuers should lock their hands together over the sternum and perform chest compressions at a rate of 100-120 per minute. The depth of the compressions should be a minimum of two inches and a maximum of 2.4 inches (realizing that you might not get this exactly right — do your best). I know what many readers are thinking now. That compression rate is awfully fast. How do I know I am in that 100-120 per minute rate? Well, we all probably love the Bee Gees, so it is time to bring back one of their biggest hits ever — "Stayin' Alive."

"Whether you're a brother or whether you're a mother, you're stayin' alive, stayin' alive. Feel the city breakin' and everybody shakin,' and we're stayin' alive, stayin' alive. Ah, ha, ha, ha, stayin' alive, stayin' alive. Ah, ha, ha, ha stayin' alive."

Now just concentrate on the last two lines and you will be doing chest compressions at just the right speed. I'm not really suggesting you sing it (probably inappropriate) but play it in your head as you're doing CPR. Now, for you reading this who are appalled by a little humor in this serious situation, I do apologize, but we can all celebrate when this man or woman is living a fruitful life once again.

There are a few other suggestions that we should think of as well. If this occurs in a public place, like my example above, there is a good chance that there

THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

DR. DAVID KAMINSKAS

is an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) available. Send someone to get it, open it up and follow the directions. Do NOT stop chest compressions until it tells you to "clear." Most cardiac arrests are caused from sudden ventricular tachycardia or fibrillation and one shock could very well save them.

It is also now recommended to use social media to summon qualified rescuers. If you are a bystander, after someone calls 911, send out a Tweet or make a post on Facebook — there could be a medic, nurse or doctor right around the corner that could help. ... Ah, ha, ha, ha, stayin' alive, stayin' alive.

Dr. David Kaminskas is a board certified cardiologist and member of The Jerome Lejeune Guild of Northeast Indiana.

Love, peace and justice

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES: RICE BOWL

MELISSA WHEELER

"We can help by acts of charity, reaching out to both those near and far through the Church's many charitable organizations. Lent is a favorable time for showing this concern for others by small yet concrete signs of our belonging to our one human family." This quote from Pope Francis's 2015 Lenten Message reminds us that during the Lenten season, we are especially called to pray, fast and give alms for those in need both in our local community and abroad. CRS Rice Bowl brings this message to life this week in the example of literacy and hunger programs in Laos and the life of St. Francis Xavier.

Laos is one of the poorest countries in Southeast Asia. With a population of about 7 million people, this landlocked nation lacks the infrastructure to support the development of its people through education and health care. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) works with the Laotian government to provide free lunches for schoolchildren, training for teachers and principals and nutrition training for families. Parents volunteer to cook the school lunches and are provided with a monthly ration of food. Your contribution to CRS Rice Bowl helps to fund programs like this one thousands of miles away. The Gospel message of love, peace and justice comes to life for us when participating in programs such as these. This missionary message is as old as the Church herself.

We read in Acts of the Apostles that apostles were to be sent to the ends of the earth to spread the message of the Gospel. St. Francis Xavier is a marvelous example of this missionary spirit.

In the 1500s, after shedding his wealthy roots, Francis committed himself to a life of poverty to more fully devote himself to the love of God. Francis was ordained a priest with Ignatius of Loyola. A few years after the ordination, the two men found themselves in front of the pope. There they were formally recognized as members of the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits.

St. Francis Xavier then embarked on the life of a true traveling preacher. Francis would eventually travel through India, the Philippines and Japan. Imagine that kind of travel in the 1500s. In each place, Francis lived among the people amidst their culture and traditions to proclaim the message of love, peace and justice.

All of us may not be able to travel the world as a missionary like St. Francis Xavier or develop programming in the developing world to provide for people's basic needs, but we can support those who do through prayer and almsgiving. This week, take time to prayerfully examine your life to see how you proclaim love, peace and justice. Who proclaims love, peace and justice to you?

Melissa Wheeler is the diocesan director for Catholic Relief Services.

God loves us even in our humanness



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

2nd Sunday in Lent Lk 9:28b-36

The Book of Genesis is the source of the first reading. It is a story about Abraham, whom the Jews regard as the father of their race. In addition, Abraham is seen as the spiritual father of all who know and honor the one God, hence he is a special figure in the religious traditions of Christians and Muslims.

Scholars believe that Abraham was an actual person, not the figment of imagination, or a figure constructed in some literary effort. He actually lived. Even Muslims revere him.

Several points are important

in hearing, or reading, this passage. First, God communicates with Abraham, and God is in Abraham's world, but God is above and beyond Abraham's world. God is no human's peer. People do not relate to God as if God were an equal, nevertheless God is present and interacts with them.

God has command over nature and the living beings of nature. God can order Abraham to capture animals and then to sacrifice them. Since the animals that Abraham captured were sacred, as they were intended for sacrifice to praise God, Abraham protected them from being taken by birds of prey. It is not as if birds of prey were inherently evil, although Jewish tradition later would proscribe eating the flesh of any bird of prey, or any other predator. Rather, they simply were victims of their own instincts and unaware of the most important of all realities, that God is and is merciful.

Abraham himself is vulnerable. Darkness overtakes him. The sun sets. He is terrified. Without

God, he is at risk, powerless before the elements, helpless before whatever might come.

The second reading is from the Epistle to the Philippians. Philippi was a city Greek by background, its name honoring the father of Alexander the Great. It was home to a Christian community.

Paul wrote to these early Christians to give them direction and encouragement. He expanded their knowledge of Jesus. He challenged them to be more loyal and fervent disciples.

In this reading St. Paul says that human beings are imperfect, even more so with their willful sinning. Human bodies are "lowly," or limited, subject to death, the epistle declares. Christ elevates and restores humans. In Jesus, human beings never die if they earnestly follow the Lord.

St. Luke's Gospel provides the last reading. It is Luke's story of the Transfiguration, a story found also in Mark and Matthew.

The story is brilliant and powerful. As is so often the case

in New Testament accounts, apostles are with Jesus at a very important moment. In this case, Peter, James and John accompany Jesus. The apostles knew Jesus. They interacted with Jesus. They certainly saw the human characteristics of Jesus.

Because of the Transfiguration, they saw the divinity of Jesus. The Lord showed them this divinity. On their own, being only human, they were unable to see it. Strong symbols from Hebrew tradition conveyed the reality of this divine identity. God spoke from a cloud. Gleaming light surrounded Jesus.

Jesus was fully in the tradition of God's relating to, and with, people. On either side of Jesus were the prophets Moses and Elijah.

Reflection

As we progress in Lent, the Church offers us several important lessons, intended to strengthen us in our Lenten resolve, and ultimately in our

Christian commitment.

First, we are not almighty or all knowing. We are humans. Second, in our human limitation we are shortsighted, even blind very often. Third, we all will die. Fourth, God loves us with a love shown Abraham and the prophets. He loves us in Jesus, the Son of God. Jesus is our only hope. He is our only access to true and eternal life.

READINGS

Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18 Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14 Phil 3:17 — 4:1 Lk 9:28b-36

Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4 Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6 Mt 16:13-19

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20 Ps 50:8-9, 16b-17, 21, 23 Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20 Ps 31:5-6, 14-16 Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a Ps 105:16-21 Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Ps 103:1-4, 9-12 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

China's population crisis: An evangelical opportunity?

State-sponsored cruelty has been a staple of the human condition for millennia. But has there ever been a more wicked policy, with more disastrous social consequences, than the "one-child policy" China began to implement in the early 1980s — a state-decreed population-control measure that resulted in, among other horrors, untold tens of millions of coerced abortions? In her new book, "One Child" (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt), veteran China-watcher Mei Fong describes both the impact of the policy on the destruction of China's traditional social fabric and its draconian effects on China's medium- and long-term future.

While demographic predictions can be perilous, there is also a relentlessness about demographic realities. And China, demographically speaking, is heading over the cliff, as the effects of state-mandated infertility, brutally enforced by a totalitarian regime, begin to be felt. For starters, China is about to experience a massive crisis in caring for its elderly — a task traditionally undertaken in Chinese culture by one's children, but impossible when there aren't enough children to do the job. Moreover, the pampered survivors of the one-child policy, often referred to as the "little emperor generation," aren't going to easily forget that it's all about me as they face the challenge of inter-generational responsibility. So what happens when, in 10 years or so, there will be more retired and elderly Chinese than there are Europeans, in a country that has nothing resembling western social safety nets?

One somehow suspects that a 2013 Chinese law that requires children to visit their elderly parents regularly — a coercive

attempt to repair some of the social damage caused by even worse coercion — is not going to do the trick.

The effects of the one-child policy are also going to be felt in world politics. A shaky Chinese regime is likely to try and displace public discontents over the policy's impacts on the Chinese economy and Chinese society by chest-thumping in its immediate neighborhood; signs of this are already visible in the South China Sea. The situation could become even more dramatic because the one-child policy has led to a grotesque distortion of the male-female ratio among young Chinese adults. In a culture that values sons more than daughters, the one-child policy took a terrible toll on baby girls. The result, according to Mei Fong, is that, in another decade, there will be more than 30 million young Chinese men who have no prospects of finding a wife.

So what do you call 30 million men with volatile hormones and no marriage prospects? "Marauding army" sounds like a reasonable description — the kind of marauding army that could, for example, try to wrest a large chunk of Siberia and its mineral riches out of Russia's control.

We're so used to the default trope that China is "the world's most populous nation" that it will come as a shock to many that, by some demographers' estimates, China's current population, 1.4 billion, will shrink to 500 million by the turn of the next century. But China's demographic crisis could also be an evangelical opportunity.

Unlike India, where Christian mission has long been impeded by a thick, culturally-transmitted religious system, there is no



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

such impediment in 21st century China. The only impediment to Christian mission in China is the state: the Chinese communist regime's determination to control all aspects of social and cultural life. But despite that determination, and the persecutions and martyrdom to which it leads, Chinese Christianity is growing rapidly. Old cultural traditions have been obliterated by communism; Christianity provides a compelling and compassionate alternative to the hollowness of the regime's materialism; and unlike Europe, which has largely rejected its Christian heritage in a decades-long spasm of anti-clericalism, "Christianity" in China rings up "modern" and "humane," rather than "pre-modern" and "inhumane."

China in the late 21st century will be the greatest field of Christian mission since the Europeans crossed the Atlantic a half-millennium ago. The Chinese communist regime is about to become deeply unpopular, thanks to the effects of the one-child policy. It would be strategically unwise, to put it gently, if the Catholic Church, through the Vatican, were to embrace that regime diplomatically, just as it was beginning to feel the enmity of its people.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for February 21, 2016

Luke 9:28b-36

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Lent, Cycle C: Peter, James, John and Jesus on the mountaintop. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

WHITE	BEHOLD	TWO MEN
MOSES	ELIJAH	APPEARED
IN GLORY	ACCOMPLISH	PETER
SLEEP	MASTER	MAKE
THREE	A CLOUD	ENTERED
A VOICE	CHOSEN	LISTEN
SPOKEN	ALONE	HAD SEEN

NOW LISTEN

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

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Saint of the Week Josephine Bakhita

Feast February 8th



As a child this first Sudanese saint was kidnapped by Arab slave traders. A Muslim owner named her Bakhita, meaning "lucky"; other owners included an Arab chieftain and a Turkish general. She endured years of cruelty, even torture, before being sold to an Italian consul who planned to free her. He took her to Italy, where she worked as a nanny for another family. In 1889 she won her freedom in court. She was baptized Josephine, entered the Canossian Sisters and served her order in Italy for more than 50 years.

Ashes: An urgent call for our souls

I am puzzled by a fairly well-established statistic: Ash Wednesday Mass tends to draw a large attendance, right up there with Masses at Christmas and Easter. I asked around and never got a satisfactory answer. Someone said it is Catholic guilt and the sense of obligation.

But Ash Wednesday is not a holy day of obligation. Some bloggers have said that this is clever marketing, as the attendees are getting something for nothing. Really? Ashes?

Ashes and the intonation, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," are reminders of our mortality and sinfulness and a visible marker of our remorse. These are intended to compel us to confront our reality with an intensity and urgency meant to change our hearts and then our lives.

For me, these serve the same purpose as my primal shriek. You see, whenever I experience a potentially life-threatening accident-about-to-happen when my husband is driving, all I can manage is a guttural shriek. It is my primal alarm for danger. Another analogy comes from living in Indiana where we got tornado warnings commanding our total and immediate attention to get to safe shelter.

Though the rites of Ash Wednesday are administered through quietly spoken words and simple gestures, often in a stately church and accompanied by beautiful hymns, they are nevertheless meant to jolt us out of our daily routines and gripping priorities that lure us away from God and into the spiritual dead zone.

It is an urgent call for our



OUR GLOBAL FAMILY

CAROLYN WOO

souls, as close to danger as a car crash or a deadly tornado. I think we want to do the right thing, but our choices and actions are littered with the good that we postpone doing, preoccupation with success, our pride that forgets and refuses grace, desire for things that turn them into idols, self-centeredness that places our needs over others' needs, worries that steal the joy from the present, feelings that we hurt, grudges that we nurse, gossip that inevitably diminishes others, etc.

But Lent is not primarily about what we have lost, but what we stand to gain. The ashes are not random smudges on our foreheads but trace the sign of the cross: our hope and salvation. The alternative charge from the minister is to "repent and believe in the Gospel."

The hymn, "Ashes (We Rise Again From Ashes)," calls us to rise from ashes at the beckoning of God, to start anew, to overcome our sinfulness not by our own power, but by God's power. Lent revisits the promise that, when we fail to love and lose our way, God is there. We always have a way home. Ashes make it clear that now is the time for us to rekindle our desire for God.

We do so by making time to put ourselves in God's presence (prayer), by acknowledging and serving Him in the other (alms-

giving) and by learning to let God and not things fill our void and define our appetites (fasting).

I suspect that Mass attendance spikes on Ash Wednesday because we know our sinfulness and, as hard as it is, we make an explicit nod to our human mortality. But transcending all, it is the people of faith expressing the desire to make good with God and do better.

For this reason, Lent is a joyful season. May we who enter through the threshold of Ash Wednesday make an effort to go further and deeper into our Lenten journey as an invitation and opportunity to turn our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh.

Carolyn Y. Woo is the president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services in the United States.

Sports

USF SENIOR RIDLEY SELECTED CROSSROADS LEAGUE PLAYER OF THE WEEK University of Saint Francis senior Brooke Ridley has been named Crossroads League Player of the Week for Feb. 1-6. Ridley, a Bishop Luers High School graduate, averaged 25.8 points per game in a 1-1 week for USF. Ridley sat out the second quarter against third-ranked Marian University yet scored 26 points in the 82-76 loss. Ridley became just the third player in USF history to score 1,900-or-more points in a career and has 1,914 with four games to play in the regular season. Ridley continues to lead CL overall scoring with a 20.2 average.

Marian celebrates Demetrius Jackson Night

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — The Inter-City Catholic League and the Marian High School community celebrated Demetrius Jackson Night as the alum entered the gymnasium that saw spectacular dunks and many victorious evenings thanks to him and his fellow Knights.

The starting point guard for the University of Notre Dame continues to be an inspiration to the community's youth and this night was no exception.

In his playing days at the corner of Logan and Dragoon Trail, Demetrius became St. Joseph County's all-time leading scorer that coupled with being a McDonald's All-American, an Indiana All Star, two-time All-State and the three-time Northern Indiana Conference MVP.

Family members and former coaches accompanied Demetrius on his night and he happened to bring along six of his Fighting Irish teammates.

The event was hosted by Marian High School's beloved Bob Nagle and highlighted by Demetrius receiving the key to the City of Mishawaka by Mayor



Ray Derucki

Dave Wood that was accompanied by a proclamation making Feb. 9, 2016, Demetrius Jackson Day.

As the Knights battled conference foes, the Jimmies of Jimtown — winning 71-49 — Jackson and his fellow teammates signed autograph after autograph to the many ICCL players that hope one day to play at the next level.

As many times before, Demetrius humbly accepted the accolades bestowed on him and quietly left the campus after all the handshakes and autographs were signed.

During halftime of the Marian vs. Jimtown basketball game at Marian High School on Feb 9, family, friends, current students and ICCL feeder schools basketball players gathered to honor Demetrius Jackson, Marian class of 2013, for his extraordinary basketball achievements while at the school.

CYO girls' champions crowned at tournament

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — In its annual year-end tournament, the CYO crowned three new girls' champions on Saturday, Feb. 13, at the St. Charles Hession Center. Winners for 2016 were St. Charles 7, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel and St. Vincent 8.

For the seventh-grade White League, an elated St. Charles Coach Andrea Fisher explained, "Our team is an example of the definition of team. They have rooted for each other from try-outs until now. It didn't matter who was in the game, the entire bench was always rooting and cheering for those on the floor."

She continued, "Jordyn Smith was the catalyst for our team all year. She did whatever the team needed her to do, whether it was scoring or distributing. Claire Frazier was also a key factor for us. Claire stepped up and made some big shots throughout the year. Defensively, Kate Rashevich was a rebounding monster. Kate wasn't the tallest one on the floor but she accepted the challenge to be the one with the most rebounds and usually succeeded."

The No. 1 seeded Cardinals received a bye then beat a talented team from St. Jude before downing a scrappy St. Vincent squad, 39-28, in a hard-fought battle for the championship avenging their 25-28 regular season loss. Fisher was fortunate to be joined on the bench by her husband, Jason, and daughter, Sierra. A year ago, the family went back to coaching girls' basketball at St. Charles, where their daughters played and son is now an eighth grader. They were pleased to add Cecilia Garrett as a starter this year to their 2015 championship team.

In the final game for the season, Smith had 19 points and Frazier finished with 10. Victoria Parent led the Panthers with 7. Even without a daughter on the team, Fisher summarized, "We were the biggest fans of these girls. They were a great group. We had a blast."

In the small-school showdown, powerhouse St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel claimed the blue medals for the fourth year in a row, beating St. Rose-St. Louis, 22-17.

"I couldn't think of a better way to end my eight-year coach-

ing career than with my daughter and her friends," detailed Coach Maria Parsenow. The No. 1 seed and regular season Blue League champs got a bye then defeated a very good team from Queen of Angels in the semifinals before battling it out against the Twins one last time.

Parsenow added, "The girls all came with the heart and desire to win the tournament starting Thursday night and ending with Saturday's championship win." In the final game, Hannah Sweeney was a key player for the Squire defense holding Twins' sharp shooter, Abby Sheehan, to seven points. Jelena Girod led the team in scoring with nine followed by Maddie Parsenow with five points, which included a big trey in the fourth quarter that held off the Twins for good. Ali Beard, Madalyn Rauner and Sweeney all contributed to the 22-team points.

Parsenow continued her individual praises stating, "Rauner played tough under the basket pulling down rebounds offensively and defensively to lead the team to a win, while Rachel McKinnon's speed stopped a few key fast breaks in the final quarter." Her sister, Mallory Wagner, assisted Parsenow this season.

Finally, in what proved to be the least likely of champions and most thrilling game of the day, six young ladies from St. Vincent got by the Gold League's "upset" team from St. Elizabeth, 47-41, in overtime.

Still amazed at the outcome, a beaming Coach Dan O'Brien explained, "It is one thing to be expected to win and then win. It is a whole other animal to prevail as champs, when you struggle to have enough players to even be called 'a team' for most of your games. The strange thing is, that is exactly what we had to mold ourselves into — 'a team,' — a team that had ups and downs, but remained dedicated to a higher purpose, — 'the team.'"

During the regular season, it was not uncommon for the Panthers to barely field a team, even finishing games with four players. Yet somehow they managed a 3-2 record in the Gold League and got a second-place seed. It was assumed when they made it past a talented team from St. Jude, they would be

CYO, page 18

PROVIDENCE

Our Lady of Providence Jr. - Sr. High School in Clarksville, Indiana

is currently accepting applications for the position of president. The school serves a growing student population of 520 and is accredited by the State of Indiana. The institution is blessed with exceptional teaching and administrative staff and a dedicated group of parents, friends, and alumni.

The position of president is an administrative position. Qualified applicants will have spent the majority of their career in the corporate or non-profit world in a leadership role. The president of the school is the chief executive, advancement, and financial officer of the institution and is responsible for all facets of its operation. The president leads and articulates the school's mission and vision, creates and implements strategic plans, and builds and nurtures relationships. The president reports to and is evaluated by the superintendent of Catholic schools for the archdiocese with inputs from the Board of Trustees. The president works in close partnership with the principal who is the chief operating officer of the school.

Applicants must foster a proven Catholic identity, have sound marketing and financial skills, and possess strong leadership and interpersonal skills. Applicants must be practicing Roman Catholics who have demonstrated their commitment to servant leadership. Preferred candidates will have a corporate or executive background, a Master's degree or equivalent work experience, be able to model their faith, set strategy and direction, lead the administrative team and allocate capital to priorities while building community and serving others. This position does not require a teaching license.

Interested, qualified candidates are encouraged to apply by April 15, 2016; applications will be accepted until the position is filled. To apply, please submit the following items electronically to Cynthia Clark (cclark@archindy.org):

• Letter of interest, including responses to the following two questions: •How do you express your faith? •What skills will you bring to a Catholic school? •Resume •Three letters of reference or contact information for three professional references. For questions about this position, please e-mail or call:

Rob Rash

Office of Catholic Education rrash@archindy.org

(317) 236-1544

Sacred Heart girls win City Elementary Basketball Championship



Provided by Sacred Heart School, Warsaw

The Sacred Heart fourth- through sixth-grade girls won the Warsaw City Schools Elementary Girls' Basketball Championship finishing their season with a perfect 12 wins and no losses. Pictured are the following: front row, from left, Hannah Burkholder, Maddy McSherry, Dalaney Vilamaa, Leah Henderson and Sophia Johnston; middle row, Joey Rastrelli, Maia Young, Jasmine Ochoa, Isabella VantWoud, Bonnie Hampton, Marie Frazzetta and Elena Sullivan; back row, Kris Rastrelli (coach), James Faroh (principal), Sarah Ropp, Bailie Stephens, Mackenzie Sokol, Erin Dawson, Shane Henderson (coach) and Melanie Stephens (coach). Sacred Heart School participates with the 10 schools in the Warsaw City area.

CYO

Continued from Page 17

facing the top-ranked, regular season champions, St. John, Fort Wayne (SJFW), but the fifth-place seed from St. Elizabeth changed all that, dashing the Eagles' tournament hopes by beating them, 42-29, in the semifinals.

Fueled by Kennedy Glenn's 22 points, the Pioneers "finally started playing some basketball" according to Coach John Reibold. They hoped to carry the momentum into the championship and certainly did for four quarters until the determined Panthers pulled away in overtime.

Sophia Vandergriff had 20 points in the loss and Glenn finished with eight. For the victors, Kaley Lyons led all scorers with 22 and Sam O'Brien chipped in 11.

O'Brien summarized, "We won the biggest game of the year, on the biggest stage for their grade-school career. I am so very proud of them."

Susan Beeber, Taya Dazey, Anna Munson and Molly Pastor rounded out the small, but mighty St. Vincent roster.

Also incredibly proud of his team's accomplishments was SJFW Coach Clancy Shank. His Eagles beat each and every CYO team they played this season and went 5-0 in the Gold League to earn the regular season championship — an amazing feat no eighth-grade level girls' team has done at the school since 2003.

Shank, who started with this group as fifth graders, recalls their first game ever when they lost 32-0 and marvels, "This group stuck with it, came so far, worked so hard and made our whole parish proud."

Becky Pape and Kathy Novak assisted Shank. His eighth graders were Taylor Bransfield, Libby Bierbaum, Dori Javins, Maddie Pape, Sarah Podzelinski and Morgan Zimmerman.




St. Vincent was the championship winner of the CYO Gold League.



St. Charles 7 girls were champions of the seventh-grade White League.



St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel is the small-school CYO girl's champion.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. View more Catholic events and submit yours at www.diocesefwsb.org/bulletin. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at 260-456-2824 to purchase space.

St. Joe HASA plans Fun Run

Decatur — St. Joseph Home and School Association will be holding a one-mile Fun Run and 5K race on Saturday, April 16. The race will begin and end at the Knights of Columbus Hall. The cost is \$20 for 5K, \$15 for Fun Run and includes a T-shirt. All proceeds will benefit HASA. For information or to register contact Brian Baker at 260-724-2765 or email bbaker@stjosephdecatur.org.

Medical decision making topic of talk

Fort Wayne — Dr. David Kaminskis will be presenting: "Spirituality and Medicine: How to Follow the Teachings of the Catholic Church in Medical Decision Making," on Monday, Feb. 29, at 7:15 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in the parish hall. The 45-minute talk will focus on case studies and take the audience through various decisions. For more information contact Carole Yaney at cyaney@SEASFW.ORG.

Christ the King Jonah fish fry planned

South Bend — Christ the King Parish will have a Jonah fish fry Friday, March 11, from 4-7 p.m. in the lower level of the church located at the corner of State Route 933 and Darden. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$5 for children 10 and under, and available at the door or at the rectory office. Dine-in and drive-through carry-out available. A macaroni and cheese option is available for children. Proceeds will benefit Christ the King's sister parish in Jalchatra, Bangladesh. For information call 574-272-3113.

Lenten Pierogi dinner

South Bend — St. Stanislaus Parish will be having their annual Lenten pierogi dinner on Saturday, March 12, following the 4:30 p.m. Mass. Dinner will be served from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6-12 and \$30 for a family and must be purchased by March 1. Choose cheese or sauerkraut perogi, vegetable, soup, homemade bread and dessert. Cost includes a drink. Call 574-289-6954 for information.

Friday evenings in Lent

Fort Wayne — Friday evenings during Lent at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1502 E. Wallen Rd., will include 5:30 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 6:30 p.m. Mass and 7:15 p.m. stations of the cross.

Trivia night at St. John

Goshen — A Leap Year Trivia Night for adults will be on Saturday, Feb. 27, at St. John the Evangelist Parish, 109 W. Monroe St., from 6-9:30 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. for "table-gating." Adult beverages are welcome and childcare will be provided if needed. A team of eight players is \$80. Ten rounds of trivia will start at 7 p.m. Prizes for best table decoration and for winning team. Businesses may sponsor a round to have their business advertised. Contact the parish office at 574-533-3385 to register or for information. Proceeds benefit the St. John Welcoming Committee.

Dinner and auction at the Hayloft

Monroeville — St. Rose of Lima Parish and School will have a dinner and auction on Saturday, March 5, at The Hayloft, 15112 Brunson Rd., Hoagland. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner served at 6:30 p.m. Cash bar. Tickets are \$13 in advance and \$15 at the door. For information contact St. Rose School at 260-623-3447.

St. Patrick Church plans Fish fry

Arcola — St. Patrick Church, 12305 Arcola Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, March 11, from 4-7 p.m. in the parish hall. Fish, potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, applesauce and dessert. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches available for children. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 5-10 and children 4 and under free. Seniors 60 plus \$9. Drive-through and carry-out available.

Kentucky mission donations needed

Fort Wayne — Donations of mattresses, appliances, furniture, clothing, household items, etc. will be collected at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, Friday, March 4, from 6-7 p.m., bound

for Queen of All Saints Parish in Beattyville, Kentucky, to help one of the poorest areas of the country. For pickup of large donations, contact D.Kistner@comcast.net.

Day of Reflection

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

Bishop Luers to host the 42nd annual Show Choir Invitational

Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers will host a show choir invitational Friday, March 11, for middle school competition at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door. The high school competition will be Saturday, March 12, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. for the day competition and at 8 p.m. for the evening competition. Tickets are \$10 for day show, \$10 for evening show or \$15 for both and available at the door.

Last Seven Words of Christ

Fort Wayne — A Lenten Day of Reflection entitled "The Seven Last Words of Christ," will be held in the St. Vincent de Paul Spiritual Center, 1502 E. Wallen Rd., on Saturday, March 5, from

REST IN PEACE

Fort Wayne

Edward Abe Muldoon, 89, Sacred Heart

Stephen E. Neuhaus, 68, St. Charles Borromeo

Katherine DeWald Bail, 96, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Marjorie Ann Orth, 93, Sacred Heart

Joseph F. Henry, 82, St. Charles Borromeo

David L. Abbott, 81, St. Henry

Jerry Keener, 78, Most Precious Blood

Patricia A. Miller, 61, St. Patrick

Huntington

Ruth E. Garshwiler, 91, St. Mary

Douglas J. Boone, 60, Ss. Peter and Paul

Mishawaka

Charlotte L. Ganser, 68, St. Monica

Rebecca Morris, 60, St. Joseph

New Haven

Theresa Louise Coonrod, 97, St. Louis Besancon

Notre Dame

Edward G. Groody, 85, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Brother Camillus William Kirsch, CSC, 99, Our Lady of Holy Cross

South Bend

Ernest V. Garza, 52, St. Casimir

Bernice F. Wiczorek, 90, St. Adalbert

James E. McGinn, 80, Holy Cross

Charles Poinatte, 90, St. Therese Little Flower

Lorraine Werntz, 82, St. Matthew

Sister Regina Therese Shaughnessy, 94, Church of the Immaculate

Conception, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana.

Sister served at Central Catholic in Fort Wayne.

Parishes should submit obituaries to kcozad@diocesefwsb.org

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The day will focus on seven talks, which will take participants on a spiritual journey to the cross. Lunch will be served and participants are asked to bring a side dish upon registering for the event. Call Bob Deck at 260-909-2113 to register. There is no fee, but a freewill offering will be accepted to cover the cost of materials.

Notre Dame smoker on tap

Fort Wayne — The 20th annual Notre Dame Football Smoker will be Sunday, Feb. 28, from 12:30-5:30 p.m. at the St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Activity Center. All you can eat and drink, casino games and senior Notre Dame football players will be attending. This is a male-only event. Must be 21 years or older to enter. \$20 pre-sale or \$25 at the door. For information or tickets call Jay at 260-445-6054.

Our Lady of Hungary plans Trivia night

South Bend — Our Lady of Hungary School, 735 W. Calvert St., will have a trivia night

Saturday, Feb. 20, in the gym. Doors open at 6 p.m., game starts at 7 p.m. Group of 10 people are \$100 per table or \$10 per person. Bring snacks for sharing with your table, no carry-in beverages, drinks available for purchase. Reserve a table at 574-520-8491 or mjay@olhsb.org.

St. Joseph Knights plan fish fry

Bluffton — The Father Aloysius Phillips Council 7555 will have a fish fry Friday, March 11, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 1300 N. Main St. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$6 for children 6-12 and children 5 and under free. Drive-through and carry-out available.

Fish fry planned

South Bend — Our Lady of Hungary School, 735 W. Calvert St., will have a fish fry, Friday, March 4, from 4-6:30 p.m. in the school gym. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4.50 for children 6-12 and children under 6 free. Carry-out available.

Catholic Grade School Principal

St. Augustine Catholic School in Rensselaer, Indiana seeks a leader to serve as principal beginning July 5, 2016.

Areas of responsibility include grades preK-5:

Spiritual Leadership, Educational Leadership, and Professional Leadership.

Qualifications:

- Candidate must be an active practicing Catholic committed to the educational mission of the Church.
- Candidate should hold an Indiana Building Level Administrator License or be eligible for Emergency Licensure.
- Graduate degree(s) from an accredited college or university.
- Outstanding oral, written and interpersonal communication skills.

Please send a letter of application and resume by February 29, 2016 to:

Reverend Donald Davison, c.pp.s.

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The Cross Word

February 21 and 28, 2016

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'Value yourselves as infinitely loved by God'

Bishop Rhoades visits Marian High School

BY IRENE COPENHAVER

MISHAWAKA — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades' annual pastoral visit to Marian High School in Mishawaka appropriately took place on Feb. 11, the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, the patroness of the school. He celebrated Mass and visited with the students and staff.

During the visit, Principal Mark Kirzeder announced the top students for the graduating class of 2016. The three co-valedictorians were Christian Dennis from St. Monica Parish, Mishawaka, Erica Gerstbauer from St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka, and Theresa Rice from St. Matthew Parish, South Bend. The salutatorian was Katherine Rice from St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Elkhart. The honorees received enthusiastic applause from their classmates.

Bishop Rhoades dropped in on Tom Dlugosz' and Erin Pierce's theology classes. The freshman and sophomore students were treated to impromptu lessons about the early Church.

After visiting several classrooms, the bishop shared lunch and casual discussion with leaders from the student council, campus ministry and other student groups.

The 700 Marian students filled the auxiliary gym to celebrate this feast day Mass. Bishop Rhoades talked about the need for teens to get their self worth from God and not from others. Some teens, he said, suffer from a poor self-image and sometimes harm themselves.

"We need young people to realize God's love for them," Bishop Rhoades said. "Their dignity and self worth are not according to what other people say or think (about them) and not according to physical appearance, one's intellectual talents or athletic skills."

He added, "Value yourselves as infinitely loved by God."

A hurtful comment from someone or a personal failure should not define you, he said. "Remember that is not who you are (because) you are a beloved child of God," Bishop Rhoades said.

Reaching into his pockets the bishop showed the students what he carries with him. In his left pocket was a rosary. From his right he produced a small book: "The Pocket Gospel and Psalms." He keeps it with him for easy referral and reflection. Inspired by Pope Francis, who gave everyone present at a Mass in St. Peter's Square a prayer book, the bishop personally gave a copy of the one he carries to each student.

He encouraged the students to live life deeply and to do as Mary did, "ponder all these things in her heart. That is prayer." "The Pocket Gospels and Psalms," which is published by Our Sunday Visitor in Huntington, can help with prayer. "When we take time and spend some time reflecting, it adds depth to our lives," Bishop Rhoades said.

Currently serving on the board of directors of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Bishop Rhoades relayed several stories from his recent trip to Haiti and the unthinkable poverty he witnessed. Looking forward to a jog on the beach, he instead found the shoreline strewn with garbage being scavenged by wild animals. A system to manage the waste doesn't exist there yet.

He also had stories of the good that CRS does — from providing health care and education programs, to building soccer fields.

CRS provides aid worldwide. One way all can assist is through its annual Operation Rice Bowl campaign during Lent.

When putting money into the cardboard boxes, he encouraged all "to think about our brothers and sisters around the world who suffer such great poverty and our commitment to love, care and pray for them."

On his pastoral visit, Bishop Rhoades also met with students enrolled in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Teens at the school. They are Audrey Carr, Savannalouise Dennig, Andrea Guzman Ortez, Samantha Jones, Jacob Parker and Emily Stallman.



Photos by Kevin Haggenjos

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades gifts the "Pocket Gospel and Psalms" to Marian students. Principal Mark Kirzeder, right, assists.



Bishop Rhoades visits the classroom of Tom Dlugosz.



Bishop Rhoades speaks about the pocketsize Gospel and Psalms. He visited the school on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, patroness of the school.



Bishop Rhoades poses with student leaders and Principal Mark Kirzeder during his pastoral visit to Marian on Feb. 11.