

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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TODAYSCATHOLICNEWS.org



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Working for mothers

since 1993

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Timothy O'Malley, University of Notre Dame

Students, faculty and friends gathered Sunday, May 1, for the May Crowning in front of the Main Building on the campus of the University of Notre Dame.

Institute for Church Life revives beloved Catholic tradition

NOTRE DAME — A Marian procession and May crowning will take place Sunday, May 1, at the University of Notre Dame. The procession started at the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto behind the Sacred Heart Basilica and ended at Geddes Hall with a crowning ceremony, blessing and reception.

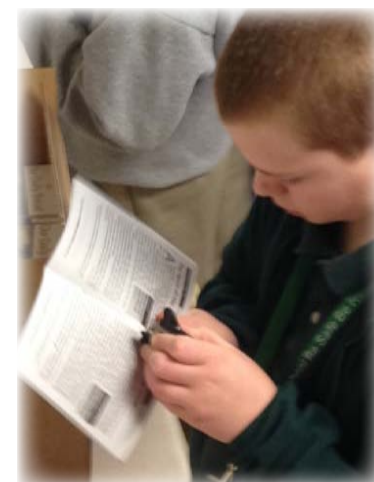
"Mary is the most inculturated person in the Church because she is the mother of all people," said John Cavadini, McGrath-Cavadini Director of the Institute for Church Life at Notre Dame. "We are so happy to restore the gift of this beautiful tradition honoring Mary, the Mother of God, for whom this university was named."

A statue of Mary was blessed at the Grotto and processed through campus accompanied by prayer and song. The procession traveled to the Coleman-Morse Center and then passed by the Main Building on the way to the Geddes Hall Chapel where Mary

was crowned and enshrined. A final blessing was offered by Holy Cross Father Terry Ehrman and a reception followed in Geddes Hall.

"Events like this nourish the Catholic imagination," said Cavadini. "A May crowning and procession is a beautiful way to participate in a devotional practice that makes the faith more accessible, and it offers an inspiring spectacle for those who want to know more."

The Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame connects the intellectual life of the academy to the pastoral needs of the Catholic Church. Dedicated to forming faithful Catholic leaders at all levels of Church life, the institute partners with dioceses, parishes and schools to offer programming and resources in theology education, faith formation and leadership development.



Living the Year of Mercy

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www.myyearofmercy.org

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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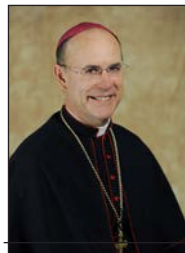
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The Ascension of the Lord



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

This coming Sunday is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. We are still within the fifty days of the Easter season which will end next Sunday, the Solemnity of Pentecost. The feast of Christ's Ascension into heaven is the culmination of His glorification at Easter. On this feast of the Ascension, an integral part of the Easter Mystery, we prepare for Pentecost, like the Apostles to whom Christ promised, at the moment before His Ascension, that they would soon receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

We should not think of the Ascension of Jesus as His definitive departure from His disciples or from this world. Though He will no longer be physically present, the Risen Jesus begins a new kind of presence with them and also with us. It is an invisible presence through the Holy Spirit, a presence not limited by geography or space. It is His presence in the Church and in the sacraments. He has not abandoned us. In the glory of the Father, the Risen Jesus supports, guides, and intercedes for us. From His throne of glory, Jesus sends us, His Body the Church, to evangelize the world.

Since Christ, the Head of the Church, reigns in glory at the right hand of the Father, we live in hope. Christ entered heaven as our Head. Pope Saint Leo the Great taught that at the Ascension of Jesus "the glory of the Head became the hope of the Body." Christ's victory is ours. In ascending to heaven, Jesus opened for us the way to our blessed homeland and has given us the greatest hope for our journey on earth.

Our Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI, wrote the following: "In Christ ascended into Heaven, the human being has entered into intimacy with God in a new and unheard-of way; man henceforth finds room in God forever. 'Heaven': this word Heaven does not indicate a place above the stars but something far more daring and sublime: it indicates Christ himself, the divine Person who welcomes humanity fully and forever, the One in whom God and man are inseparably united forever.... We draw close to Heaven, indeed, we enter Heaven to the extent that we draw close to Jesus and enter into communion with him."

On this upcoming Solemnity of the Ascension, the Church invites us to be in profound communion with Jesus. He is not distant from us. He did not ascend to some far-off galaxy or enter into outer space. He entered with His glorified body into God's presence. Thanks to His being with the Father, He is close to each one of us forever. He is invisibly present in our life. He is always close to us, though we are free to turn away from Him.

On the feast of the Ascension, it is good to remember that Jesus takes humanity with Him into glory. We see this beautiful truth first and foremost in His Mother. Her Assumption into heaven is the first-fruits of our ascension into glory. During this month of May, we honor Mary in a special way. Many parishes and schools have May crownings, a beautiful tradition. May Mary, the Queen of Heaven, help us to share her joy that her Son has triumphed over sin and death and has been exalted at the right hand of the Father!



Wikimedia Commons

Ascension (1651) by Francisco Camilo. Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya - MNAC, Barcelona

World must respond to Islamic State genocide actions, U.N. conference hears

BY DAPHNIE VEGA

UNITED NATIONS — While religious freedom in much of the Middle East is under siege and the civil war in Syria seems to have no end in sight, Carl Anderson, CEO of the Knights of Columbus, and others called the United Nations to action.

The U.N. plays a crucial role in securing the future of the region, particularly for people being tortured, kidnapped and killed because of their religious beliefs, Anderson said during a daylong conference April 28.

Anderson's presentation came during one of three panel discussions at the conference sponsored by the office of the Vatican's permanent observer to the U.N. and joined by In Defense of Christians and other organizations focusing on human rights abuses in the Middle East.

Presenters included people who experienced or witnessed atrocities being committed against religious minorities.

Led by remarks from Archbishop Bernardito Auza, the Vatican's permanent observer to the U.N., the event had an intensely sensitive agenda.

A 278-page report submitted to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry that was co-authored by the Knights of Columbus and the group In Defense of Christians in March outlined what it called "genocide" being carried out against religious minorities by the Islamic State. Its contents focused largely on Christians who have been murdered and those indigenous communities who will or have been displaced from their region.

On March 17, Kerry designated Islamic State actions as genocide, but the United States has yet to offer a plan to respond.

The U.N. estimates that more than half of Syria's pre-civil war population of about 22.1 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. Four million Syrian refugees now live outside of their homeland. Overall, at least 8 million people have been displaced throughout the region, human rights organizations estimate.

Anderson mentioned published threats in the Islamic State's magazine, Dabiq, specifying what the group has called the "Crusader army" from the West. Such threats have not only been carried out in many parts of the Middle East but have haunted the lives of innocent men, women and children, he said.

The Knights of Columbus has raised more than \$10.5 million for relief since 2014 while partnering with dioceses and religious organizations to pro-



CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

Samia Sleman, 15, a Yazidi who was held hostage and raped by members of the Islamic State when she was 13, cries while speaking at a conference addressing the persecution of Christians and other minorities in the Middle East and Africa at the United Nations April 28. Also pictured is human-rights advocate Jacqueline Isaac. The Vatican mission to the U.N. was a co-sponsor of the conference.

vide victims with food, clothing, shelter, education and medical attention, he said.

Anderson concluded his presentation by proposing that the U.N. take legal action against the Islamic State and other terrorist groups to prevent the eradication of long-standing and indigenous communities in the Middle East. He called for punishment of the perpetrators and for the establishment of international standards of justice, equality, the rule of law and religious freedom.

Sister Maria de Guadalupe Rodrigo, a member of the Congregation of the Incarnate Word who has spent 18 years in the Middle East as a missionary, spoke of her experiences living in Aleppo, Syria, a major battleground in the civil war.

"I remember the first two months when this all started, we all remained inside," she said. "There were constant explosions and gunshots. We couldn't sleep. But these weeks turned into months and the months into years."

Sister Maria de Guadalupe described how children playing on the street collect bullets and trade them with one another because they could find nothing else to play with. Children should not be concerned about safety,

but safety is all they think about, she said.

A child captured and tortured by ISIS also addressed the conference. Samia Sleman, 15, of Hardan, Iraq, a village north of Mount Sinjar, gave an emotional speech about her time in captivity. A member of the Yazidi minority, Sleman spent six months sequestered along with other girls who were starved, raped and sold to other Islamic State members.

Sleman brought attention to the many girls whom Islamic State members take as sex slaves while their mothers are killed for being "too old." Some enslaved girls are as young 7 or 8 years old, she said.

Despite the horrific actions of her captors, Sleman, whose family is still being held, spoke on their behalf so the U.N. and world governments would act to end the genocide taking place.

In another session, Jacqueline Isaac, vice president of Roads of Success, a Southern California organization addressing human rights in the Middle East, asked, "Where are you, world?"

Victims of ISIS are more than numbers, but human beings, she said, as many in the audience rose to their feet and applauded.



Public Schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

- Sunday, May 8, 5 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Saint Adalbert Church, South Bend
- Tuesday, May 10, 3:30 p.m. — Meeting of Indiana Bishops, Evansville, Indiana
- Wednesday, May 11, 9:30 a.m. — Meeting of Indiana Catholic Conference, Evansville, Indiana
- Saturday, May 14, 5 p.m. — Baccalaureate Mass, Mount Saint Mary's University, Emmitsburg, Maryland



An interpreter for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will be present at the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 8, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

1122 S. Clinton Street, Fort Wayne. If you would like to find out more on the Ministry for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing under the Office of Evangelization, contact Allison at 260-399-1452 or at asturm@diocesefwsb.org.

Trevi Fountain illuminated in memory of Christian martyrs

BY GABY MANISCALCO

ROME (CNS) — The Trevi Fountain, a Rome landmark, was lit up in red April 29 in a graphic commemoration of the thousands of modern Christians martyred for their faith.

The event was sponsored by the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need, which wanted to "draw attention to the dramatic issue of anti-Christian persecution."

The evening event also featured four guest speakers who shared the personal stories of Christians killed for their faith. After the speeches, the fountain was lit to represent the blood of the Christian martyrs. Throughout the night, images of Christians persecuted for their faith were projected onto the

fountain. The photos included the four Missionaries of Charity murdered in Aden, Yemen, in early March.

Pope Francis frequently mentions his belief that today, "perhaps more than in the early days" of Christianity, Christians are "persecuted, killed, chased out, robbed just because they are Christians."

In ecumenical gatherings, the pope has noted how the persecution unites Christians of all denominations. During an audience Feb. 29 with Patriarch Mathias of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, the pope said: "Just as in the early church the shedding of the blood of martyrs became the seed of new Christians, so today the blood of the many martyrs of all the churches has become the seed of Christian unity."



CNS/Paul Haring

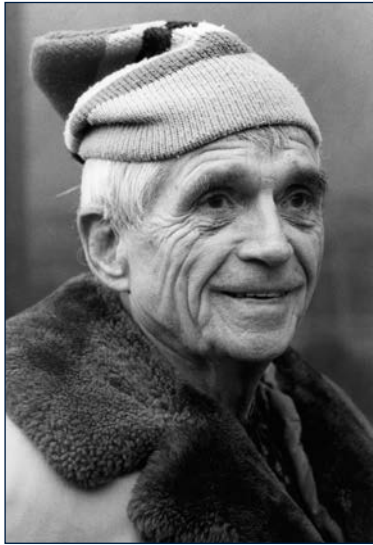
The Trevi Fountain in Rome is lit in red during an event to raise awareness of the plight of Christian martyrs April 29.

Father Daniel Berrigan, advocate for justice, peace, poor, dies at 94

NEW YORK (CNS) — Jesuit Father Daniel Berrigan, an early critic of U.S. military intervention in Vietnam who for years challenged the country's reliance on military might, died April 30. He was 94.

The author of several books of poetry and one of the first Catholic priests to receive a federal sentence for peace activism, Father Berrigan protested government policies in word and in deeds, which garnered several stays in jail and in federal prison.

Father Berrigan died in the company of family. In a statement issued shortly after the priest's death, the family said, "It was a sacrament to be with Dan and feel his spirit move out of his body and into each of us and in the world."



CNS photo

Jesuit Father Daniel Berrigan died April 30 at 94. He is pictured in an undated photo.

"Dan taught us that every person is a miracle, every person has a story, every person is worthy of respect," the statement said. "And we are so aware of all he did and all he was and all he created in almost 95 years of life lived with enthusiasm, commitment, seriousness and almost holy humor."

The "heavy burden" of peacemaking will continue among many people, the family added, saying, "We can all move forward Dan Berrigan's work for humanity."

A funeral Mass was planned for May 6 at St. Francis Xavier Church in New York. Family members and others were to gather prior to the Mass for a peace witness followed by a march to the church.

A poet whose works inspired

people to reflect and act on behalf of justice and peace, Father Berrigan began speaking against U.S. military involvement in February 1965 at a rally in a Protestant church in New York City.

"To men of conscience, such works cry out to heaven for redress. They also sow into man's future a poison which the unborn will be condemned to breathe — hatreds, divisions, world poverty, hopelessness. In such an atmosphere, the world comes ever closer to the actuality of hell," Father Berrigan told the crowd.

He told various groups and retreats he led over the years that Catholics are called to live a life of nonviolence as expressed in the Gospel and to protest injustices when they are encountered.

Daniel Berrigan was born in Virginia, Minnesota, May 9, 1921, the fifth of six sons of Thomas Berrigan, a second-generation Irish-American who was working there as a railroad

engineer, and Frieda (Fromhart) Berrigan, who was of German descent. Fired for militant Socialist Party activity, the father moved the family to his birthplace, Syracuse, New York, where they lived on a 10-acre farm.

Attracted to the priesthood from his earliest years, he sent inquiries to religious orders when he was a senior in high school. He finally applied to the Jesuits, because their response was the lowest-keyed of those he received. In 1939, he began the Jesuit training program.

After his novitiate, he studied philosophy at Woodstock College in Maryland, taught French, English and Latin for four years at St. Peter's Prep in Jersey City, New Jersey, studied theology for three years at Weston College in Massachusetts, and was ordained on June 19, 1952.

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Read the entire obituary at
TODaysCatholicNews.org



2016 National Marian Conference

University of Notre Dame

May 20, 21, and 22



Speakers include



Al Kresta is a broadcaster, journalist, and author. He is president and CEO of Ave Maria Radio and host of *Kresta in the Afternoon*. Al draws from his unique faith background as a former evangelical pastor to create what is arguably the most fascinating and informative talk radio program on the air today. His profound conversion story is told in the best-selling book *Surprised by the Truth*.

Dr. Ray Gaurendi is the father of ten children, clinical psychologist, author, professional speaker, and national radio and television host. His radio show, *The Doctor Is In*, is heard on over four hundred forty stations and his TV show, *Living Right With Doctor Ray*, is broadcast in one hundred forty countries. His talks are very entertaining, full of humorous stories about family life and his path of conversion.



Fr. Willy Raymond, C.S.C., is president of Holy Cross Ministries and continues the international outreach work of its founder, Fr. Patrick Peyton, in promoting the family rosary. *The family that prays together stays together*. He is also involved in the production of dramas and documentaries for broadcast on television, in theaters, and on the internet. In 2007, Fr. Willy coordinated the Rosary Rally in Pasadena, CA, that drew over fifty thousand people.

Fr. Bill Zimmer is a special assignment bilingual priest in the Archdiocese of Chicago. After graduation from Marquette University he worked for ten years in the business world. He then entered the seminary at Mundelein and was ordained to the priesthood in 1991. Father will tell the story of the dramatic change in his life and priestly ministry that resulted from his experience in Medjugorje.



Tatiana Cameron (Tajci) is a singer/songwriter and inspirational performing artist. She was born to a poor family in communist Croatia, and at age nineteen she became a pop superstar in central Europe and once performed before a live audience of one billion people. She now uses her musical talents to serve God and the Church and has toured the U.S. in more than one thousand concerts. Tatiana will intersperse her conversion story with her singing at the conference.

Fr. Tom Shoemaker was a practicing dentist for two years after his graduation from Indiana School of Dentistry. He then felt the call to the priesthood and entered the seminary at Brighton, Massachusetts. He was ordained in 1990 and has served at several parishes in the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese. Presently, he is the pastor at St. Therese Little Flower Parish in South Bend. Father will speak about the Battle of Lepanto and the power of the holy rosary.



Bobby Williams is the founder and director of the Women's Care Center Foundation. From its modest beginning in St. Joseph County, the Women's Care Center is now the largest Catholic-based pregnancy resource center in the United States with twenty-four locations in eight different states. Bobby will speak about how his pilgrimage to Medjugorje inspired him to sell his successful business and work full time to protect unborn babies.

The beautiful National Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be on display at the conference. The statue was blessed by Pope Paul VI in 1967 and has been shown in hundreds of parishes throughout the United States under the sponsorship of the Blue Army. **Bill Sockey** will accompany the statue and speak about its history and the importance of the Fatima message in our time.



Conference Schedule

Friday, May 20

5:00 pm...Doors open
7:00 pm...Conference begins
Guest speaker
Rosary procession to the Lourdes Grotto

Saturday, May 21

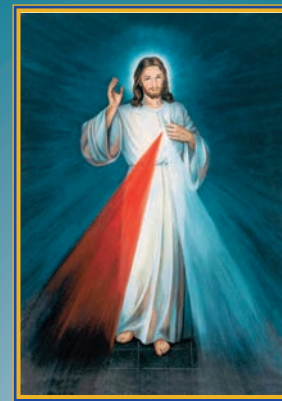
7:15 am...Doors open
8:00 am...Morning session
Holy Mass
Procession and consecration
Guest speakers (all sessions)
1:30 pm...Afternoon session
7:00 pm...Evening session
Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction

Sunday, May 22

7:15 am...Doors open
8:30 am...Morning session
Guest speakers
11:30 pm...Holy Mass
12:30 pm...Conference ends

Sponsored by: Queen of Peace Ministries, Box 761, Notre Dame, IN 46556

www.QueenofPeaceMinistries.com e-mail: maryconference@att.net Phone: (574) 288-8777



*Blessed Mother's Day
to Our Lady...
and to All Mothers*



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
500 East Seventh Street - Auburn 46706
REVEREND DERRICK SNEYD, Pastor

Without Mary's "Yes" we would not have the opportunity to be the first parish to say yes to Divine Mercy so others could share in this glorious evangelization. Thanks to our parishioners who have helped Divine Mercy celebration grow over the years.

Jesus is our Divine Mercy Savior!

Iraq's Assyrian Christians form militias amid sectarian tensions

ALQOSH, Iraq (CNS) — A well-worn AK-47 in his hands, John Behnam ran up a hill overlooking the Ninevah Plain, which stretches in the distance toward the town he fled two years ago. As an instructor yelled at him to keep low, Behnam and other fighters practiced capturing an enemy position. Artillery echoed across the terrain, green with spring, as Kurdish Peshmerga forces traded artillery fire with the Islamic State group that holds Behnam's hometown of Qaraqosh. "Our ancestors lived there for thousands of years, so we have to go and retake our homes and lands and churches. We don't want to live like exiles in someone else's land. We want to go home," said Behnam, a private in the Nineveh Plain Protection Units, or NPU, an Assyrian Christian militia formed by former residents of Qaraqosh and nearby villages. The NPU, which numbers about 300 soldiers, was formed after the Islamic State rolled across the Ninevah Plain in 2014. Most of its members are inexperienced volunteers like Behnam, whose family lives in a sprawling displaced persons' camp in Ankawa, near the Kurdish capital of Irbil. The men's uniforms are a mix of hand-me-downs from other forces, and there are not enough

guns to go around. Behnam said he has fired a total of nine bullets during several weeks of training. "But five of them hit the target," he proudly told Catholic News Service.

Ethics must guide medical research, protect human dignity, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Moral and ethical concerns must guide medical research so it will always be at the service of protecting human life and dignity, Pope Francis said. In that way, education and research can strive "to serve higher values, such as solidarity, generosity, magnanimity, sharing of knowledge, respect for human life, and fraternal and selfless love," he said April 29, during an audience with people taking part in a conference on adult stem cell research. "Research, whether in academia or industry," he said, "requires unwavering attention to moral issues if it is to be an instrument which safeguards human life and the dignity of the person." U.S. Vice President Joe Biden was in

attendance and had addressed the conference with a 29-minute speech on the need to invest in prevention, access and affordability in the fight against cancer. The conference looked at current and experimental techniques in using adult stem cells to fight disease, specifically rare illnesses afflicting children. The April 28-30 conference was sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Culture; its foundation, STOO, which is an acronym for Science, Theology and the Ontological Quest; and the Stem for Life Foundation, a nonprofit offshoot of the for-profit Caladrius cell-therapy company.

Bishop Neil Tiedemann named auxiliary bishop of Brooklyn, N.Y.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Francis has named Bishop Neil E. Tiedemann as auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York. The appointment was announced April 29 in Washington by Msgr. Walter Erbi, charge d'affaires of the nunciature in the United States. Bishop Tiedemann, 68, has been bishop of Mandeville, Jamaica, since 2008. He is a member of the Passionists and was ordained

in 1975. He has served at parishes in New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts as well as in Honduras and Jamaica.

Syrian archbishop would rather see Canada help Syrians stay home

MONTREAL (CNS) — Seated in a quiet room, the Melkite Catholic archbishop of Aleppo, Syria, spoke slowly, in an almost muffled voice. His eyes sometimes ran astray, lingering on the buildings across the street in downtown Montreal. He detailed how Fouad Banna's family was torn apart when their house was destroyed by an attack a few months ago. "He was only 13," said Archbishop Jean-Clement Jeanbart. "It was awful: a bomb that the rebels deliberately launched on a Christian neighborhood, on a popular borough. It has blown everything apart, destroyed countless houses. Such was the case of Fouad's home, who died at this very moment," he said. Fouad's mother and father were badly injured. Struggling for their lives in an intensive care

unit, they were not able to attend the funeral of their son, a ceremony led by Archbishop Jeanbart. Fouad's sister, Rosy, 17, was the only member of the family left unscathed by the attack. "When I visited her, to see what I could do for her, she nestled against me and said: 'Lord, pray so that my parents stay alive.' I then asked her: 'But what can I do for you?' She answered: 'Pray.'" He paused for a few seconds. The silence was at odds with the scenes he painfully described.

Interfaith prayer service calls for change on anniversary of Baltimore riots

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Religious leaders gathered in prayer to mark the one-year anniversary of the riots that spread through Baltimore after the death of a man injured while in police custody. The leaders said they have heard the cries of the people of the city during the interfaith service April 25 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. "We come here because we have not only heard the cries of our people, we are responding to their needs," the Rev. Alvin C. Hathaway Sr., senior pastor of Union Baptist Church, said during the service. Rev. Hathaway said it is important that the city have a moral center.

The Communications team is hiring

When you join the Office of Communications team, you will find an atmosphere of engagement and motivation. Through this collaborative spirit of team work, we help advance the mission of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and the Catholic Church throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Our jobs are more than just reporting on Catholic news, designing a poster or posting a picture on social media. Our job is to tell the Catholic story — your story. It is through this story telling that we desire to inspire and encourage the Catholic faithful to live their lives to the fullest, as God intended them.

Join our team

To apply, please send cover letter and resume to Secretariat Director of Communications, Stephanie Patka, spatka@diocesefwsb.org.

Full job descriptions are available at www.diocesefwsb.org/team.

Available positions are:

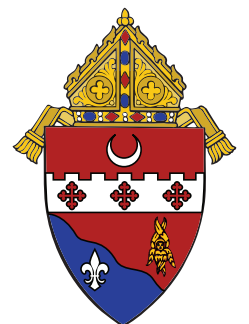
- Publications Manager
- Communications/Brand Specialist
- Social Media Specialist

Are you ready?

We are looking for people with passion and an innovative spirit. The landscape of communication changes rapidly, and we embrace this change with a high energy environment and respond with continual problem-solving and a creative approach.

By utilizing all the media platforms and resources at our disposal, we seek to reach the largest audience possible, to be good stewards of the messages entrusted to our care and to be faithful servants in diocesan evangelization efforts. This means that we need experts in specialized fields of communication that not only are high performers in their individual craft, but are tenacious in building up other team members in the production of our work.

As deeply as we desire to help people in the diocese encounter Jesus through the work of our department, we want each person on our team to grow professionally, personally and spiritually. Working for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is an opportunity to make a difference that matters.





Living the Year of Mercy

Visit the Imprisoned

I am so thankful to those that have helped me

*A personal reflection
by Callie Brooks*

After spending two months at the Allen County Jail, I arrived at the Allen County Work Release Center in November of 2015. I had been sentenced to 4 years for a fraud charge and would only have to serve half of that if I completed the work release program. I arrived at the center with the clothes on my back.

I do not have any family in Fort Wayne. The only help that I thought I had available was from my son's father. However, he does not have a license and had not been responding when I called him. I was allowed to have a drop off of clothes and hygiene products within 24 hours and then I would get a 3 hour pass on the fourth day to go home and get other items that I needed to live at the center. My drop off never showed up and he never followed through with arranging transportation for me to job search. I felt completely helpless, discouraged and panicked at the thought of returning to the jail. I had 30 days to find a job and no transportation or clothes. Most of the other girls at the Center were already working so they couldn't help with rides.

One of the female inmates at the center suggested that I call the Jail Ministry team for possible assistance. Rides were coordinated through my Residential Advisor. The volunteers picked me up and took me to get a Social Security card which I needed in order to start a job. They even obtained a clothing voucher from their parish to take me to the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store and purchase some clothes and personal items in order to job search. Without this help, I would be sitting in the Allen County Jail right now. I was

very nervous in trusting strangers for help, but I had no other choice. The volunteers were all very nice. They offered prayers and the encouragement that I needed in order to start each day. I cry when I think about how wonderful these people treated me and how much they truly wanted to help me to succeed.

I obtained employment through Leaders Staffing on December 14. This was my last day with an extension that I had to find a job. I started working at Creative Liquid Coating, which is a factory in Kendallville. I started out riding to and from work with another female inmate but was again panicked when she went back to jail and I had no transportation again. Luckily, my co-workers were willing to help me. However, if they got sick or did not go to work for any reason, then I could not make it to work, would be at risk of 'pointing out' and getting terminated which put me at risk of being returned to jail.

This has been the first job that I have maintained in my life. I have always relied on men to support me. I am so proud of myself and enjoying being truly independent for the first time ever.

On March 14 of this year, I received a good report from my supervisor and I was hired directly into the job instead of working through the temp agency. This was a slight pay raise and opened up the opportunity for insurance and advancements. My work performance has allowed me the confidence to apply for an even better paying job.

Now that I am working, I have been able to start visitations with my kids every week. These visits have been extended from 2 hours to 4 hours. I look forward to these visits every week and I can see how proud my children are of me. We are each getting a chance

to grow in a safe environment. I have confidence that I will be able to support myself and my children on my own when I get released. Because I am progressing well, I do not have to worry about permanently losing my children. They are being well cared for while I get my life in order.

I am scheduled to be released in November of 2017. This seems like a long time but it will give me the opportunity to continue to grow and practice healthy behaviors that I will be able to continue and teach my children. I have already noticed that my views of life are changing. I desire to be near positive people that truly care about me instead of what they can get from me. Every day I watch as the other women come in and out of the program. I am shocked at how sickly they look and I am saddened that they continue to try to 'beat the system.' Recognizing this makes me realize just how far I have come. I no longer try to 'beat the system' but I am following the rules and look towards the future instead of living day to day.

I am very excited about where I am right now in my life. I have a positive spirit and I am so thankful to those that have helped me. I would not be able to say this if it weren't for the positive volunteers that took the time to listen and pray with me. Their encouragement has been the foundation for me to move forward. I can see the good in people and I am enjoying that I can now help others. I know that it only takes a positive attitude and encouragement to help someone. Getting to 'pay it forward' has been a great gift to me.

Thank you for taking the chance to help. My future has a much more positive outlook than it ever has.

Getting out the Good News



Photo provided by St. Vincent de Paul School

The 6th Grade Class of St. Vincent de Paul School, Fort Wayne, removed staples from the daily reflection booklets that are made available through the Chaplaincy Book Cart program. The daily inspirational reading is a favorite for men and women in the jail. After one of the Allen County volunteers delivered the booklets to the block, the inmates coordinated sending a personalized thank you card to the class.

Working on the jail ministry team has been one of the best decisions I have ever made. I was nervous what to expect on the first day, but what I witnessed were people who were so grateful for our being there. I have found that we are bonded with the people we visit through our common love of Jesus and the joy that comes from knowing Him through His Word and His personal encounters. Jail ministry is one of the many ways to serve the Lord and His people. It is also a great way to witness first hand the work of the Holy Spirit.

*Personal reflection from Wesley Lantz
Sacred Heart Jail Ministry for Kosciusko County*

Year of Mercy day 152

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— Cardinal Christoph Schonborn

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Mornings of Reflection offered

FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND — The diocesan Office of Worship will host "Mornings of Reflection" for liturgical ministers on Saturday, June 11, at the following times and locations:

Fort Wayne area: Saturday, June 11, 9:30 a.m. to noon, at St. John the Baptist Church, 4500 Fairfield Ave.

South Bend area: Saturday, June 11, 9:30 a.m. to noon at St. Jude Church, 19704 Johnson Rd.

Led by diocesan seminarians, these events can serve as an annual retreat for diocesan extraordinary ministers and lectors, although anyone may attend. They are free of charge, but pre-registration through the diocese is necessary. The registration form can be downloaded at www.diocesefwsb.org/Trainings-And-Retreats

Registration information can also be submitted via email to kfitzpatrick@diocesefwsb.org

The registration deadline is June 8.

USF rewarding high school talent with scholarships

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis will award scholarships to incoming students and high school seniors on Talent Scholarship Day, Friday, May 13 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Mimi and Ian Rolland Center for Art and Visual Communication off Leesburg Road, at the Fort Wayne Ballet downtown, and the music technology facilities in the USF North Campus at 2702 Spring St. High school juniors are also invited to receive reviews and advice in preparation for their senior year.

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, animation, communication, pre-art therapy, theatre, jazz, ensemble, marching band, color guard and the University Singers.

Awarded scholarships are renewable for eight semesters, if requirements are 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.

STEM Students are also being offered thousands in scholarship funds. The National Science Foundation is offering the Roger Bacon Scholarship to students majoring in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Catholic school teachers attend national conference



Provided by Lois Widner

Area teachers and principals recently had the opportunity to collaborate with other Catholic educators across the United States at the NCEA conference in San Diego, California. Teachers and principal Lois Widner from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School and Theresa Carroll, principal at St. Bernard School in Wabash were able to attend. Lois Widner and Theresa Carroll also made a presentation at the conference.

Each scholarship is worth up to \$6,500 the first year and are renewable for higher amounts each year, totaling up to \$29,000 through graduation. Institutional and noninstitutional financial aid, including federal and state grants and outside scholarships will be taken into account in determining the size of the scholarship. In addition to these funds, Roger Bacon Scholars will have the opportunity to participate in special learning experiences including trips and independent research projects.

Applications will be reviewed as they are received, and scholarship applicants must meet a list of requirements, including academic achievements and written and verbal evaluations.

Steps of Immigration and Citizenship presentation and workshop offered

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Catholic Charities staff and a variety of expert speakers will review various aspects of the immigration and citizenship process during a presentation and workshop specifically geared toward individuals and agencies who work with immigrant and refugee populations. This training, open to the general public as well, will be held Thursday, June 2, in the Garden level of the

Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, 915 S. Clinton St.

Cost is \$35 per person and pre-registration is required. Register online at [eventbrite: http://tinyurl.com/jj35ep8](http://eventbrite.com/jj35ep8).

University of Saint Francis names commencement speaker

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis will host the 2016 Commencement at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 7, at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum.

This year's graduating class is made up of 619 students including graduate and undergraduate degrees. Interim Director of Public Affairs for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and USF alum, Don Clemmer will be the keynote speaker at the ceremony.

In addition, community activist Mimi Rolland and former USF instructor George Eickhoff will receive honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees.

Notre Dame professor to speak at Holy Cross College commencement

NOTRE DAME — Rev. Canon Hugh Page, vice president and associate provost for undergraduate affairs at the University of Notre Dame, will be the keynote speaker for

the 49th commencement exercises at Holy Cross College on May 14. The commencement ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. in the Pfeil Athletic Center on the Holy Cross College campus.

"We're excited to have Dr. Page speak for commencement, because he is committed to the mission of the Holy Cross Congregation in creating transformative educational experiences for students," says Brother John Paige, CSC, president of Holy Cross College.

Mercy in OUR city

FORT WAYNE — St. Jude Parish will offer a panel discussion on the Corporal Works of Mercy and how local organizations incorporate those works.

Each of the panelists will give a brief presentation about their work, followed by a question and answer period. The panel discussion will be held in the St. Jude Parish hall from 7-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 12.

In collaboration with the Social Action and Adult Education committees, four panelists, involved in local organizations, will tell of their work and offer ways to help. The panelists are: Rev. Elisha Harris, Jail Chaplaincy and founder of Jubilee House; Gloria Whitcraft, Catholic Charities; Carla Kilgore, Just Neighbors; and Jeff Perlich, Director Business Development for Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home.

Serra Club changes its name and awards exemplary students



Provided by the Father Solanus Casey Vocation Society

The Father Solanus Casey Vocation Society (formerly known as the Fort Wayne Serra Club) presented Christian Leadership awards at the monthly luncheon meeting April 15 at St. Joseph Hospital. Four students from Bishop Luers and Bishop Dwenger High Schools were nominated by the respective faculties and campus ministry staffs for their exemplary roles. Pictured, from left, are James Slocum and Katie Prendergast from Bishop Luers and Jessica Bundy and Matthew Litchfield from Bishop Dwenger.

The Catholic Charities ECHO Program helped Bridget Andersen reach her potential

BY JESSICA SOTO

When Bridget discovered she was pregnant, she confided in the school nurse, who put her in touch with the case manager from ECHO – Education Creates Hope and Opportunity – a program begun by Catholic Charities to help keep teen moms in school.

It was clear with Bridget early on. She was going to raise her baby and complete her high-school education. So she met with the principal, her parents and others who would play a role in discussing her future. With their assistance, Bridget made a plan to finish high school and eventually go on to college.

Meanwhile, Bridget found that being pregnant as a freshman was a great social challenge. Her friends were well meaning, but failed to understand the difficulty of her circumstances.

"I remember my friends thought being pregnant was really cool, but it wasn't," says Bridget. "I was feeling the weight of being a mom at 15 and it was really scary."

But Bridget received the help

she needed from her parents, the administrators at school, her boyfriend Damon, and her ECHO case manager. With their support, she found the confidence and resolve to see it through.

"Bridget was an ideal client," says Liz Flaherty, one of her former ECHO caseworkers. "She was always focused on her goals, always fighting for her family and her future."

Her son, Damon Jr., was born the following August and, soon after, Bridget began her sophomore year. However, the following March, her son became seriously ill and required constant attention so Bridget dropped out of school to care him.

She never wavered from her goal of getting her HSE (formerly GED). ECHO stepped in and found a program with flexible hours so she could continue her studies. Bridget persevered through her son's illness and remarkably ended up graduating at 18 with her peers.

She didn't stop there. Today Bridget is working to complete her associate's degree in nursing at Ivy Tech and plans eventually to attend IPFW to get her bachelor's degree.



Photo provided by Catholic Charities

Bridget had extraordinary support, including her boyfriend Damon, who came nearly every day to visit their son. Bridget and Damon eventually became a family and had another son Elijah. Pictured from left, Bridget, Damon Jr., Elijah, Damon Sr.

"I'm not sure where I'll end up in my career, but I really feel a need to be there for other moms who are struggling so maybe working in the NICU or at a doctor's office is in my future."

Damon Jr.'s father, Damon Sr., visited Bridget and son nearly every day. Over time, they formed the bonds of family and eventually had another child, Elijah, who is now four years old. Bridget and Damon Sr., who are engaged to be married next year, are both continuing their education to build a more secure future for their family.

To learn more about ECHO, please visit: <http://www.ccfwsb.org/our-services/pregnancy-services>

Jessica Soto is Community Services Supervisor at Catholic Charities.

Women say 'yes' to grace at retreat

BY DENISE FEDOROW

Over 60 women across the diocese learned how to say yes to grace from the author of the book, "The Grace of Yes", Lisa Hendy, who led the women's day-long retreat held at St. Vincent de Paul in Elkhart on April 23.

The retreat was hosted by the Be It Done Catholic Women's Ministry and is the second annual retreat. Lori Massa is the director and shared in the retreat booklet how, after last year's retreat led by Pat Gohn, she asked to make this an annual event. Gohn recommended Lisa Hendy and the two met at last year's Redeemer Radio Share-A-Thon.

Hendy is the founder and editor of CatholicMom.com and aside from "The Grace of Yes" she wrote "The Handbook for Catholic Moms" and "A Book of Saints for Catholic Moms", among other published works in print and online.

Hendy broke the retreat into four sessions covering eight virtues and graces listed in her



Denise Fedorow

book. Session one covered topics like making time for daily prayer and being generous to everyone we meet. Session two was about creativity and integrity and the women were encouraged to "stop houndwinding — waiting for things to be perfect — and get busy!" Session three explored

humility and integrity and session four addressed saying no in order to say yes to something else.

Hendy was an entertaining and engaging speaker as she shared many personal stories and interacted with the audience throughout the day.

The majority of attendees were from Elkhart County but several attended from Granger, South Bend, Bremen, Fort Wayne, Warsaw and lower Michigan. Breakfast snacks and a soup and salad luncheon were provided.

There was time for discussion at the end of each session and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the middle of the day.

Lighthouse Media was present. Donated flowers and door prizes were given away at the end of the day. Worship music was performed by Song of Songs, led by Vanessa Proulx and Natalie Weyer, Dani Corrao and Sarah Hill.



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Hannah's House and Bridge of Hope offer possibilities for future

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

MISHAWAKA — Being a mother is hard enough. But imagine being alone and pregnant or a single mom holding multiple jobs, living with friends and family and constantly moving from place to place. These situations can feel like a nightmare that will never end.

"You can't reach your goals because life is always busy, there is always something else. It's very, very stressful when you are in survival mode," says Raina, 41, a single mom of a four year old son who says she sometimes held two to three jobs simultaneously when raising her older children. Raina recently was accepted into the Bridge of Hope mentoring program at Hannah's House. She can't say enough about this wonderful opportunity to set goals, learn more about self-sufficiency, develop a budget and return to school to make a better future for herself and her young son.

Single mom to be, Shayla, is expecting her first child any day. She is grateful for Hannah's House which has provided her with a home that is "quiet, with meals three, sometimes four times a day," as well as structure — a peaceful setting and wonderful moral support," she says smiling while stirring up lunch in a crockpot.

Different, yet similar possibilities for hope — both offered through Hannah's House.

Located in Mishawaka, Hannah's House is a Catholic-Christian agency offering a continuum of services for pregnant and parenting single women facing homelessness. Its maternity home offers stability, including shelter and programming for up to seven pregnant women at a time. While living in this highly structured environment, women set goals related to their physical, emotional and spiritual health and pursue education/employment. With staff support, they prepare for the demands of single-parenting or make the courageous choice to place their baby for adoption. Moms-to-be have regular chores, help plan and cook meals and are required to attend church. Mornings begin with a devotional time and evening meals include grace led by the resident who prepared the meal. Women may come to Hannah's House at any point in their pregnancy and stay for the first few months after giving birth. Those with jobs and child care in place may transition afterwards to the unstaffed Killilea Home just across the street to put into practice their new self-sufficiency skills.

Ongoing family activities are offered for former residents, their children and involved dads. Twice weekly, former residents can participate in the "Learn and Earn" program where they earn



Photos by Michelle Donaghey

Raina, who recently was accepted into the Bridge of Hope program, works with Family Resource Coordinator, Kristi Kubicki, MSW, for Bridge of Hope at Hannah's House to set up a workable budget while her young son, TyeRon, plays near her. The two women will meet regularly as part of the program. This meeting was held in the living room area at Hannah's House in Mishawaka on Fourth Street.



Andrea Popielski, executive director of Hannah's House, holds one of the baby bottles that they use for fundraising while standing in the baby apparel shop area located in the lower level of Hannah's House.

points based on their accomplishments, including employment, education and in-house parenting education. Women can then use these points to shop in the Hannah's House "store" which include such items as baby clothing and equipment,

household items, paper goods, books and toys.

The Bridge of Hope mentoring program isn't a location or building, but rather a long-term, three-way partnership between a single mother, a church mentoring team and a social worker.

a budget, find affordable housing and pursue education and employment goals. Participants also receive rental assistance on a decreasing basis, for a portion of their 18-24 months in the program.

At the heart of this program is the opportunity to form life-changing friendships with a team of eight to 12 specially trained mentors from a local church. These caring friends are simply "there" for the woman — whether she needs a shoulder to cry on or someone to celebrate with. Moms and their mentors meet regularly, both individually and at Bridge of Hope group events.

Raina is looking forward especially to attending college — something she regrets missing when working constantly while raising her other two grown children. She will begin attending Ivy Tech in August and plans to later apply to Indiana University-South Bend. She wants to study Interior Design and Mass Communications. Having been told she has a gift with the written and spoken word, she is anxious to develop these skills.

Women applying to the program make a substantial commitment of time and energy — agreeing to allow the program's social worker and mentors into their lives and to live holistically, without alcohol or drugs. Family Resource Coordinator Kristi Kubicki, MSW, works individually with each woman to develop

For more information, call 574-254-7271 or visit www.MaternityHomeWithAHeart.org.



Hannah's House is located at 518 West South Street, close to public transportation and in a neighborhood near downtown Mishawaka.

Support comes in various ways ...

Women of Hope luncheon and silent auction

Wednesday, May 11, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Windsor Park Conference Center. WNDU's Tricia Sloma will be honored; guest speaker is Lou Nanni, V.P. of University Relations, University of Notre Dame. Tickets are \$45.

100 Women of Hope

Bridge of Hope at Hannah's House is seeking 100 special women to celebrate. Your nomination and \$100 gift recognizes a relative, friend or co-worker who has brought hope to your life or the lives of others. Nominees will be recognized at the Women of Hope luncheon and Hannah's House newsletter and receive a special card.

Harvest House movement in need of laborers

BY VINCE LABARBERA

"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few."
— Lk 10:2

This Scriptural passage from the Gospel of St. Luke certainly applies to the St. Michael/St. Anthony Harvest House movement. The two parishes — St. Michael the Archangel in Waterloo and St. Anthony of Padua in Angola, have joined together for the purpose of mutual understanding, self-help and community service in a movement called Harvest House.

Founded in 1972 by Holy Cross Father Louis J. Putz, in South Bend, Harvest House was set up in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend as a six-point program to help adults age 55 and over assert themselves as an important part of our society, said Jim Garman, co-president of the combined group. The six-part program includes social awareness, service to others, new religious experiences, continuing education, celebration and recreation, and community involvement.

Officially, Harvest House is dedicated to the purpose that older adults acknowledge their value and their dignity, and that they come together in organization to remain active and alert members of society.

Other office holders of the

movement, begun in 1980, include Jeff Heil, co-president; Sharon Garman, secretary; Maggie Miller, treasurer; and Father David Carkenord, pastor of St. Michael's Parish, spiritual director.

Other parishes with combined Harvest House movements include Immaculate Conception, Auburn and St. Joseph, Garrett; and St. Rose of Lima, Monroeville and St. Louis, Besancon.

As part of their "social awareness" program, Harvest House groups meet on the fourth Thursday of the month, usually at 11 a.m. The rosary is recited at 11:10 a.m. followed by Mass at 11:30 a.m. A carry-in pot luck follows with entrees prepared by one or two volunteer members or a luncheon is held at a local restaurant.

"After lunch we often have a speaker to fulfill the "continuing education" portion of our group, but if no one of interest is available, we play Bingo," Jim Garman said. On the day that *Today's Catholic* visited the monthly meeting in Waterloo, the speaker was Marsha Wright, Garman's classmate, who presented a program about Margaret Ringenberg, born in Fort Wayne, who began her aviation career in 1943 during World War II when she became a ferry pilot with the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). She logged more than 40,000 hours of flying time dur-



Vince LaBarbera

Jim and Sharon Garman (standing), co-president and secretary, respectively, of St. Michael and St. Anthony of Padua Harvest House movement, pose for a photo with past president Mary Ann Heitz. Jim was a maintenance worker at Immaculate Conception Parish, Auburn, and Sharon served as the director of religious education at St. Michael, Waterloo.



Interested in starting a Harvest House movement in your parish?

Call Jim Garman at 260-927-4356 or Jeff Heil at 734-365-4704.

ing her career.

To provide "service to others," members volunteer at local nursing homes, call on shut-ins and on those who are ill, and transport the elderly to Mass, meetings and other functions, Garman continued.

Once a year all the groups attend Older Americans Day held at various parishes. This year, it will be held on June 9 at St. Michael's, Waterloo, and will follow the same monthly meeting format. As part of a "new religious experience," members are encouraged to volunteer as lecturers, Eucharistic ministers, ushers and greeters at Mass.

"Each meeting includes a 'celebration and recreation' portion," said Jim, "with a social hour of games or videos of vacation trips and presentations on various subjects. We acknowledge birthdays, anniversaries and send cards to the sick and shut-ins."

With regard to "community involvement," the groups write letters to area representatives on subjects such as right-to-life and senior citizen concerns, Garman explained. Members work on election boards and drive people to the polls. "We also support many local charities in Steuben and Dekalb counties, such as the St. Martin ministries in Garrett and shelter ministries in Angola," he continued. "We also donate to the parish for the scholarship fund and the youth group," he said.

Garman proudly recalled how their organization helped an area police officer who was injured, providing for many of his needs during six months of recovery.

"I think we've done many charitable things for being such a small group of only about 20 people," added Mary Ann Heitz, past president.

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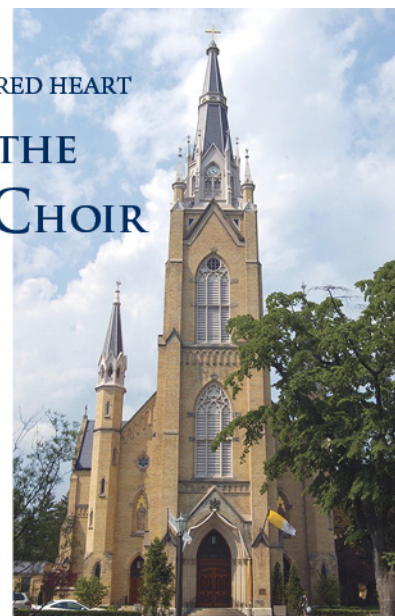
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MAY 9, 4:00 P.M.	Carmela Vircillo Franklin <i>Professor, Columbia University</i>
MAY 10, 9:00 A.M.	Rev. Msgr. Cesare Pasini <i>Prefect, Vatican Library</i>
MAY 10, 9:00 A.M.	Ambrogio Piazzoni <i>Vice Prefect, Vatican Library</i>
MAY 10, 7:30 P.M.	James Hankins <i>Professor, Harvard University</i>

A concert of sacred music, featuring materials displayed in the Vatican Library, will be held May 10 at 4:00 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

An exhibition of twelve highlights from the Vatican Library's holdings will be held at the Snite Museum of Art May 8-22.

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For additional information, please contact **Chuck Lamphier** at Lamphier.1@nd.edu or 574-631-1728.



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Weeds, wheat, and the perilous limitations of the human condition

“Hate the sin; love the sinner.” The Gospel about the wheat and weeds sown together reminds us about an inherent — and healthy — tension in Catholicism. The Catholic tradition gently and gingerly juggles in a careful balance two facts. First, there exists an objective moral order which is independent of any individual and the world he or she may construct or concoct for him or herself; thus there is objective truth and objective good and evil which do not depend simply upon the intentionality of any individual or group. Second, none of us are in the position to discern the status of another before God. The parable of the weeds sown among the wheat has been taken up — most famously by St. Augustine — to explain the complex ambiguity of the human condition and of our incapacity to make judgments with any degree of certainty about others’ moral or religious status. In fact, Augustine would contend, the distinction between “wheat” and “weed” is not simply found between individuals or among groups, but rather cuts down the very center (he would prefer the word heart) of each one of us.

In this gentle balancing act, maintaining objective moral standards and at the same time remaining circumspect about the position of others before God, we are apt to err in one of two ways. First, in an effort to avoid passing judgment (and the Gospel texts which warn against

this danger are many), we can easily water-down or relativize that objective moral order. We can emphasize (to the near exclusion of everything else) the good intentions of the agent; or, perhaps worse, we can allow a seemingly good end to justify a less than morally acceptable means: we can say, “well, the world’s a messy place, and the small evil entailed is proportionately small,” or “chalk that up as collateral damage; the good we’ve done more than makes up for the harm done.” Alternately, in an effort to maintain the objectivity of the moral order, we slide quickly into judgments about others, easily categorizing and labeling them, subtly securing our own sense of superiority. The danger of such judgments is obvious. As Augustine would remind us, in this life we cannot be certain even of our own salvation: we can work for it, pray for it, and hope for it, but on this side of the veil, we can never be certain of it. And if we cannot be certain of our own salvation, we are in no position whatsoever to make judgments about others. Further, naming things is a divine prerogative, shared with Adam by God prior to the Fall. In a fallen world, our capacity to name things, infected by our pride, is reduced to labeling others and becomes a tool to control, master, and confine others into a neat little world we more often than not construct for ourselves, at the center of which (if we are honest and look carefully)



THE HUMAN CONDITION

MSGR. MICHAEL HEINTZ

is our own self-glorification.

What, then, are we left to do? First, simply continue, undaunted, the balancing act: fully aware of the dangers inherent in abandoning the moral order *and* in judging others, we should be clear about moral good and evil and at the same time be clear about our own inability to see or read the hearts of others. Second, pray. When we see words, deeds, or omissions which are objectively sinful or clearly unjust (and the world is rife with examples), we should pray for the conversion of their perpetrators, all the while — and at the same time — praying for our own.

Msgr. Michael Heintz is rector at the Cathedral of St. Matthew in South Bend.

‘A word to fiancés’: The Francis effect on wedding planning

It had been a long Thursday, and Brooke Paris couldn’t wait to take off her heels, peel off her contacts and wipe off her make-up. She changed into her pajamas, climbed into bed and opened her MacBook to the pope’s new apostolic exhortation.

“Amoris Laetitia” was released two weeks after Brooke’s high-school sweetheart, Timothy Foley, had dropped on bended knee in Mary’s Garden, the grounds behind the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in DC. As he proposed, the sunset lit the flowering crabapple trees with a soft glow, and a fountain trickled behind them. It was the most easy, joyful yes of her life — and it was rooted in a relationship that felt ordained by God.

But since that idyllic moment last month, the soon-to-be college graduate had managed to squeeze in just enough wedding-related activity to make her dizzy. She’d bought The Southern Weddings Planner, ordered sample wedding invitations and conducted a midnight Google into pricing of a couple reception venues. She had doubled over from the sticker shock.

So she took a deep breath and began scrolling through Pope Francis’ 264-page document. Within five minutes Brooke found herself in chapter six, in a section titled “Preparing engaged couples for marriage,” arrested by these words: “Here let me



TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

say a word to fiancés. Have the courage to be different. Don’t let yourselves get swallowed up by a society of consumption and empty appearances. What is important is the love you share, strengthened and sanctified by grace. You are capable of opting for a more modest and simple celebration in which love takes precedence over everything else.”

“I knew immediately that that was what I was supposed to find at that time,” said Brooke, 21, a Virginia native preparing to complete her bachelor’s in theology and religious studies from the Catholic University of America. “It was a great reminder that it doesn’t matter if my venue is as lavish as my Pinterest boards. There are ways I can save money and still make my reception a celebration of the love Timmy and I share.”

The timing of Pope Francis’ just-launched reflection to inspire their brand-new engagement was not lost on Brooke. “I think God gives you tools to live out your

CAPECCHI, page 13

Jesus ascended ... and remains



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord Luke 24:46-53

The Acts of the Apostles supplies the first reading, the story of the Ascension of the Lord from earth into heaven.

This passage is the beginning of Acts. As is the case with the Gospel of Luke, Acts seems to have been a work composed for one person. The name of this person is Theophilus. Was this a proper name, or a title, since in Greek, it means “friend of God.”

In any case, these first eleven verses of Acts have an especially powerful message for us at the close of Easter time. Resplendent in the message is

the ascension of Jesus into heaven, or the lifting of Jesus from earthly space and the return to heaven. Ascension, rather than being assumed, reveals, as the Resurrection revealed, that Jesus is God, came from God, is eternally with God, and possesses the almighty power of God.

Other points are important. The reading gives the credentials of the Apostles. Jesus chose them to witness the Ascension. They were not bystanders. It was no coincidence. The Ascension was another moment in which Jesus taught the Apostles as no one else was taught.

They were special students, but they were privileged because the Lord gave them a unique mission. They would be the instrument to carry the Redemption to places faraway and to generations yet to be born.

The Apostles were humans. They were confused. Peter showed that they could be weak. So did Judas, who abandoned Jesus. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would give them insight and wisdom.

To underscore the divinity of Jesus, and the divine mission of Jesus, angels appeared after the Ascension telling the Apostles to go on with their mission to preach the Gospel and to bring into the world the mercy, love, and presence of God in Jesus.

The Epistle to the Ephesians, the source of the second reading, is a beautiful prayer, asking God to give the followers of Jesus wisdom and insight. God’s wisdom and strength, the reading states, will be “distributed among the members of the Church”. It counsels believers to put everything under the feet of Jesus, the “head of the Church.”

St. Matthew’s Gospel, the last reading, offers an Ascension Narrative. Jesus leads the Apostles to a place near Bethany. (The Mount of Olives, traditionally said to have been the site of the Ascension, is near Bethany.) Jesus tells the Apostles that the Scriptures have been fulfilled.

God’s communication with people and nearness to people all through the centuries, and God’s mercy, are real.

In Acts, Matthew also estab-

lishes the Apostles as the chief witnesses, and primary students, of the Lord. Through them, the Spirit will continue to come.

Thus, the Apostles watch the Ascension of Jesus and then return to the city. They know their task, but they still are unsure, so they pray in the temple constantly and proclaim the praises of God.

Reflection

The readings powerfully testify that Jesus is God. Although crucified and dead, Jesus rose again to life and then ascended into heaven. He went to heaven, breaking the bonds of earth, with the power of God. He was not taken into heaven.

The readings are strongly ecclesial. They stress the identity of the Apostles, both in the first and in the third readings. The Apostles learned from Jesus. Albeit humans, as Pentecost would teach us, the Spirit would come to guide them. Important for us today, they formed the Church, of which true believers are part. Through them, in

Christ, God lives in the Church and touches us through the Church.

The Easter story is approaching its conclusion. The final message is that Jesus lives still in the Church. He has not gone from us. He is here.

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 1:1-11 Ps 47:2-3, 6-9

Eph 1:17-23 Lk 24:46-53

Monday: Acts 19:1-8 Ps 68:2-3b, 4-5acd, 6-7b Jn 16:29-33

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

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

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

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

Saturday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26 Ps 113:1-8 Jn 15:9-17

Reflections of a mom

When students and professionals, men or women, have sought my advice on careers, one key point I mention is to not give up family for work. As Mother's Day arrives, let me share my experience.

Our sons are now grown. Ryan is a young clinical professor of medicine specializing in geriatrics, and Justin seeks his way to make God real and lives holy in a secular culture through the path of graduate theological studies. These choices emanate from a strong faith, the desire to touch, heal and minister, and discipline that hones natural gifts into skills.

I pray daily for their holiness and health. I know this sounds lofty and unreal, but these have guided my petitions since 1996.

That was when, facing different career options, I enrolled in a three-week executive program -- ostensibly to develop leadership skills, but primarily for time away to deliberate. Still undecided at the end of the program, I was close to panic. But a question, completely unrelated to the task at hand, lodged itself in my head.

The question: What would I want for our two boys? The answer: That they know their gifts as blessings from God, work hard to cultivate these gifts and never use their gifts to put people down but to lift people up.

I felt great peace even though I did not get a direction arrow for the fork on that career path.

These three points guided many choices. As one example, we did not want the most exclusive high schools for our sons as much as a strong faith culture, respect for authority, exposure to people from different economic strata and ability to celebrate others. A proportionate sense of achievement and humility were just as important as solid academics.

When they showed no interest in gifted programs at prestigious universities during summer vacations and instead proposed unstructured time to play sports and read, we listened. I abandoned my busy grid of daily academic and sports programs that made the summers "productive" and the sons "competitive."

For a Chinese mother, to pass up on "gifted" affiliations and opportunities required a re-programming that opened up appreciation for alien concepts such as relaxation, downtime and vacations. As a result, the boys started each academic year with energy and commitment. Not once did we have to check on due dates for assignments.

I worked a lot of hours and have no regrets. I draw tremendous energy from the aesthetics and ethics of doing a good job and have flourished in the opportunities offered to me.

What I have learned is that I could have managed my stress better, set boundaries and switched off work issues when I was with the family, given warning when I was preoccupied and about to blow, and apologized



OUR GLOBAL FAMILY

CAROLYN WOO

when I took it out on them. People often focus on managing time, but we should pivot our attention more toward managing stress.

Today, we so enjoy our time together with the "boys" and the range of conversation over books, politics, religion, faith, society, comics, sports, etc., and their examples of faith-filled lives. I recognize that my sons and husband are God's special gifts to me and his manifestations of love, compassion, fidelity and agency.

Whenever I am formally introduced at conferences and speeches, I am proudest of that last line: mother of Ryan and Justin. It is by this that I measure everything else.

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

CAPECCHI

Continued from Page 12

vocation."

Brooke is drawing a double value from "Amoris Laetitia" — for her own 2017 nuptials and for the clients she hopes to one day serve in her dream job as a Catholic wedding planner. She envisions a service that combines planning of the liturgy, planning the reception and preparing for marriage. And she has a clear-cut approach in mind: She'll begin by helping couples plan a liturgy that reflects their unique relationship and God's vision for marriage; then she'll help plan a reception that echoes that liturgy. It's an approach that reminds couples the liturgy is the pinnacle of their wedding day, not a pit stop to the party.

Brooke nearly bursts with giddiness to consider the rich possibilities of a distinctly Catholic reception. It may mean framing verses from the readings at your wedding Mass and using them as table centerpieces. It could mean asking reception goers to sign a Bible versus a guestbook or inviting them to write prayer intentions and place them in a jar. It might mean saluting the

longest-married couples in the room. It could mean having the groom and bride wash each other's feet as a symbolic act of service rather than challenging him to remove her garter. It definitely informs the way you handle mealtime, toasts, dancing and alcohol.

Brooke has the courage to be different, and this wedding season she's encouraging other engaged Catholics to do the same, to heed the Holy Father and let love take precedence over everything else.

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

Saint of the week: Antoninus of Florence



Antony Pierozzi, son of a Florentine notary, joined the Dominicans at 16 and studied with Fra Angelico. A scholar, he served as superior and prior of numerous Dominican houses around Italy and led the order's Roman province. In 1436, he founded San Marco Convent in Florence, where Fra Angelico and his disciples famously painted frescoes in each cell and a staircase "Annunciation." As archbishop of Florence from 1446 until his death, Antoninus was known as a reformer, canon law expert, and savior of the poor during a series of natural disasters in the 1450s. Cosimo de' Medici said the Republic of Florence had been preserved by his example and prayers.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for May 5 or 8, 2016

Luke 24:46-53

Following is a word search based on the first reading for the feast of the Ascension of the Lord. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

FIRST BOOK	TAUGHT	TAKEN UP
CHOSEN	ALIVE	FORTY DAYS
KINGDOM	JERUSALEM	WAIT
FATHER	BAPTIZED	WATER
ISRAEL	POWER	UPON YOU
JUDEA	SAMARIA	EARTH
LIFTED UP	WHITE	HEAVEN

TAKEN UP

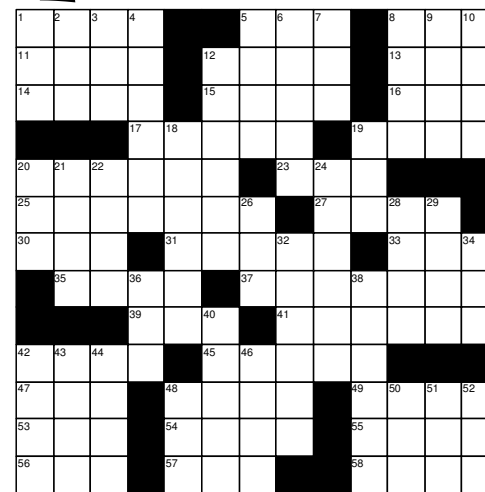
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P J O P O W E R M E F E
    
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The CrossWord

May 5 or 8 and 15, 2016



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Based on these Scripture readings: Acts 1:1-11; Heb 9: 24-28; 10: 19-23; Lk 24:46-53 and Acts 2:1-11; Romans 8:8-17; John 14: 15-16, 23-26

ACROSS

- 1 Latch
- 5 # of angels at Ascension
- 8 Hubbub
- 11 Partial
- 12 Biblical Persia
- 13 Priest made a offering
- 14 Mountaintops
- 15 Jesus made them speak
- 16 Business title ending
- 17 Triangular tent
- 19 Laborer is worth his
- 20 S. African nation
- 23 Seed bread

DOWN

- 25 Rogue
- 27 What children learn
- 30 Compass point
- 31 Primp
- 33 Wing
- 35 "To the of the earth"
- 37 Ascended (2 wds)
- 39 Ump
- 41 "As the Father (2 wds)"
- 42 Tariff
- 45 Eight
- 47 First woman
- 48 Shaft
- 49 Otherwise
- 53 Next Pope Paul #

- 54 Priest made sacrifice once a
- 55 Irish name meaning "little king"
- 56 Sick
- 57 Clairvoyance
- 58 Jesus did with the 72

DOWN

- 1 Central Standard Time
- 2 Popular papal name
- 3 Small devil
- 4 One-handed gun
- 5 Not a copy, as in sanctuary
- 6 Sprinkled in baptism
- 7 We believe in God
- 8 "Pontus and"
- 9 -dong
- 10 "Now for all"
- 12 Weaken
- 18 Pass
- 19 Spider abode
- 20 Hail (Latin), Mary
- 21 Novena #
- 22 Valley
- 24 Mr. Doodle
- 26 Fisherman's tool
- 28 Tilt
- 29 Ghetto
- 32 Paschal feast
- 34 Primate
- 36 Arid
- 38 High priest did in sanctuary
- 40 " have dens"
- 42 Moses' family tribe
- 43 Sins are
- 44 "Through the"
- 46 Thunder
- 48 Popeye's yes
- 50 Caustic substance
- 51 Francisco
- 52 "The of the ages"

Answer Key can be found on page 15

Sports

LADY COUGARS SWEEP ON NEWLY NAMED WESTENDORF FIELD — The Westendorf Field sign was unveiled after the University of Saint Francis Game 1 win over Goshen College on Senior Day. The dedication ceremony was between games naming the University of Saint Francis softball field 'Westendorf Field.' USF had to rally from behind to secure game 1, and closed the day with a 14-0, 4 1/2 inning win in game 2. The Lady Cougars conclude the Crossroads League regular season at Bethel College.

ICCL baseball season in full swing

BY MATT SOBIERALSKI

SOUTH BEND/MISHAWAKA — The smell of fresh grass clippings and warm spring breeze means that it is once again baseball season. This season in the ICCL looks like it could be one of its best with six teams vying for a championship crown. In the first couple of weeks of the season, teams came out of the on-deck circle ready to hit, pitch, and run their way to the top with strong outings by the St. Jude/St. Matthew Falcons, Mishawaka Catholic Saints, and the Christ the King Kings. The good start to the season will only heat up with the summer weather.

Opening night for the ICCL season highlighted some impressive performances on the diamond, and more notably the pitching mound. In a game played at Kennedy Park in South Bend, the Holy Cross Crusaders saw some impressive hitting and pitching on their way to defeat the Trojans of Holy Family. The hitting charge was led by Frankie Pennino and Chase Trzaskowski. Meanwhile an impressive show-

ing on the mound by Dylan Maternowski saw him no-hit the Trojan batting order.

In other games in the first week of play, the Saint Jude/St. Matthew team jumped off to a good start by winning close games. In a game played at Sheridan Park in South Bend, the Falcons relied on Luke Krizman's two hits and Ben Burnham's three runs to upend Mishawaka Catholic in a 6-5 thriller. Burnham carried his success from the first week over to a game against the Corpus Christi Cougars, this time his success came on the mound. Burnham threw a complete game shutout to slide past the Cougars 2-0.

The Falcon's Luke Krizman would keep his hot bat at work as the Falcon's took flight against the Holy Family Trojans. He led the Falcons with four hits and two runs in a 9-5 victory, while later in the week Ben Burnham pitched a complete game in a 8-2 victory over the Christ the King Kings.

The Holy Cross Crusaders picked up a key victory over the Kings as well to keep pace with

the Falcons and Mishawaka Catholic Saints atop the division. The Crusaders stood behind Matt Eck who tossed a complete game three hitter, while Jack Van Meter's three hits and RBI gave them the push they needed to take down the Kings 3-2.

A key victory for the Corpus Christi Cougars over the Saint Jude/Saint Matthew Falcons gave the Falcons their first loss of the season and opened the door for other teams to jump up in the standings. The Saints of Mishawaka Catholic have tied the Falcons at the top of the league while the red and blue clad Cougars win over Saint Jude/Saint Matthew got them closer to the top as they sit only a game behind the leaders. Meanwhile, Holy Cross and Christ the King are a few games back but will have opportunities in the coming week to make a run for the top spot.

The action will continue this week with games played at Sheridan, Kennedy, and Boland Parks in South Bend.

USF senior is Crossroads League Baseball Pitcher of the Week

INDIANAPOLIS — University of Saint Francis senior Nathan Coakley has been named Crossroads League Pitcher of the Week for his record-setting performance in a 2-0 USF win over 37th-ranked Taylor University on Tues., April 26.

Coakley struck out 12 Taylor University batters and in the process set the Cougars single-season record for strikeouts with 98. It was the third time this season the 6-foot-4 right-hander fanned batters in double-digits. Coakley leads the league in strikeouts per game at 10.4, is 5-8 with a 4.87 ERA in 85 innings pitched. In Crossroads League-only games, Coakley leads with 53 strikeouts, 10.4 per game, has six complete games in seven starts, and has a 3.52 ERA.

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Bishop Watterson High School in Columbus, Ohio

seeks a leader to serve as principal. Areas of responsibility include: Leading the educational, spiritual, and co-curricular programs of the school. This person will execute the educational programs, policies, culture, mission and goals of the school.

Qualifications: • Candidate must be an active practicing Catholic committed to the educational mission of the Church. • Candidate should hold an Ohio administrative license or be able to attain certification within a reasonable period of time as determined by Diocesan Superintendent. • Graduate degree(s) from an accredited college or university. • Outstanding oral, written and interpersonal communication skills.

To see a complete job description, go to bit.ly/BWHSPrincipal

Interested candidates should complete the on-line administrator application and contact the HR Assistant for School Personnel, Jeanne Gissel at ajgissel@cducation.org

In addition to filling out the application, candidates must send the following by **Friday, May 27, 2016**: cover letter of interest, resume, educational philosophy, transcripts, a letter from your pastor that you are an active participating Catholic, and five letters of recommendation. **Please send to:**

Dominic Prunte, Diocesan HR Director, dprunte@columbuscatholic.org



TOGETHER for the Long Run project at Saint Joseph High School

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND — In collaboration with Champions Together, Saint Joseph High School will be hosting TOGETHER for the Long Run, a unified track meet on Friday, May 6, at 6 p.m., at Leighton Stadium. Organized by student Cat Edmonds, this event will encompass high school volunteers from Saint Joseph High School, St. Joseph County Special Olympics, LOGAN, and Hannah & Friends.

Champions Together is a collaborative partnership between the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) and Special Olympics Indiana that promotes servant leadership among student athletes while changing their lives as well as the lives of those with intellectual disabilities.

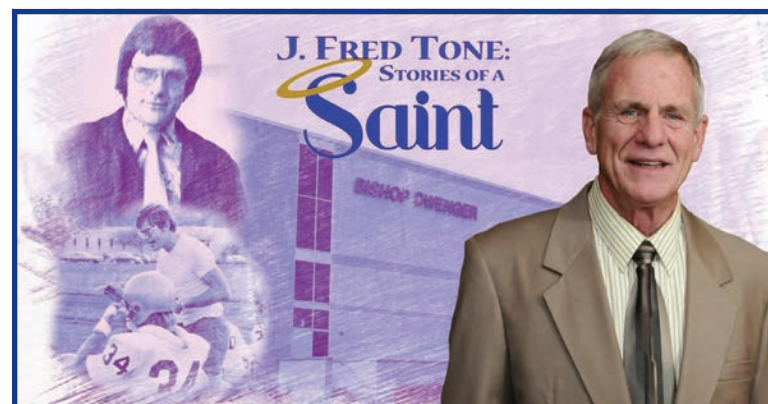
According to Edmonds, TOGETHER for the Long Run is a track meet with multiple participants from local organizations teaming

up with volunteers from all over the community. Every participant will be partnered with one volunteer and they will run and compete in events together for the entire night. At the end of the night, there will be a Unified Glow Walk — the highlight of the night. Everyone will be invited to the track and will walk around the track TOGETHER as one with glowsticks. Throughout the night, the barrier that once stood between a disabled individual and an able individual will be knocked down.

"The reason I started this project is my cousin was in the Haiti Earthquake and lost both of her legs.

"She has inspired me to create an event to give everyone the chance at showing their skills and abilities. This is important to me because this issue has affected me personally, and I believe everyone should have the opportunity to show their skills."

Admission to the event is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. Tickets will be available at the gate.



**Video Premiere
Friday, May 6th @ 7:00 pm
Bishop Dwenger Gymnasium**

All are Welcome to Attend!
Free Admission

For more information visit bishopdwenger.com/dvdset

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.

Open house planned

Garrett — St. Joseph School will host a preschool (ages 3 and 4) open house Sunday, May 15, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. St. Joseph Preschool offers experienced and educated teachers, a faithful and family environment, hands on choice learning and spiritual guidance. Call the school for further information or set up a private tour with Jill at 260-357-5137 Ext. 23.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, May 6, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8.50, children 5-12 \$3.50. Shrimp available for \$9, chicken strips for \$8.50, and cheese pizza for \$1 per slice for children under 12. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Centre Township 4-H Club.

Pilgrimage to National Shrine of St. Therese of Lisieux offered

Pierceton — The St. Francis Xavier Bible study group plans to travel to the National Shrine of St. Therese of Lisieux in Darien, Illinois, on Saturday, May 14. The group will car pool from St. Francis church at 8 a.m. and eat breakfast at Chisto's in Plymouth. The group will attend Mass, watch a video of St. Therese's life, have lunch and then a final blessing. The 40 acre grounds have a lake, the Stations Way, a gift shop and bookstore. Cost is \$25. For information contact Bob Bohn at rfohn@hotmail.com or 260-982-6003.

Catholic Business Networking group to meet

Fort Wayne — The Catholic Business Network Meeting will be Friday, May 6. The guest speaker will be Dr. Douglas M.

Meador, PHD, associate professor of economics at the University of Saint Francis who will speak on "A Different Perspective upon Modern Business: How the lens of Catholic Social Teaching can change the way the world is seen." First Friday Mass in St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel at 7 a.m. is followed by networking, fellowship and breakfast.

Level 1 formation for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd planned

South Bend — Christ the King Parish will offer a beginning Level I Formation Course in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd this July. Participants will explore and learn to facilitate the spiritual development of young children, earning catechist certification in the CGS method. General information can be found at www.cgsusa.org, and course information is available by contacting Joanie Rymsza at [## REST IN PEACE](mailto:jfrym-</p>
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Fort Wayne

Robert E. Franke, 89, Most Precious Blood

Bernard F. Lothamer, 81, Queen of Angels

Mary J. McArdle, 86, Saint Anne Home

Marc A. Barrientos, 40, St. Jude

James J. Goheen, 88, St. Jude

James. A. Gill, 95, Sacred Heart

Albert C Bauman, 92, St. Henry

Granger

Amy Ann Verbanick, 34, St. Pius X

Mishawaka

Melvina M.Young, 98, St. Monica

Richard L. Wadzinski, 74, Queen of Peace

Aloysius Skwiercz, 84, Queen of Peace

Ronald Stuart, 80, St. Bavo

New Haven

Edward N. DeLucenay, 83, St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame

Rev. Edwin J.Kadzielawski, 94, C.S.C., Basilica of the Sacred Heart

South Bend

Mary Ann Shaeper, 59, Corpus Christi

Charles E. Carlin, 93, Christ the King

Syracuse

Harold Stoffel, 91, St. Martin de Porres

Submit obituaries to mweber@diocesefwsb.org

sza@christthekingonline.org or 574-485-7462.

Family dance supports World Youth Day trip

South Bend — St. Therese, Little Flower will host a family dance Sunday, June 5, from 1:45-4:15 p.m. Tickets are discounted through pre-registration to \$5 per person and \$25 per family. Go to dance689.wordpress.com for details. Funds raised help youth and young adults attend World Youth Day 2016. Contact Lillian Hubbard at 26hubbard@gmail.com or 574-256-8753 for information.

The CrossWord
May 5 or 8 and 15, 2016

C	L	I	P	T	W	O	A	D	O
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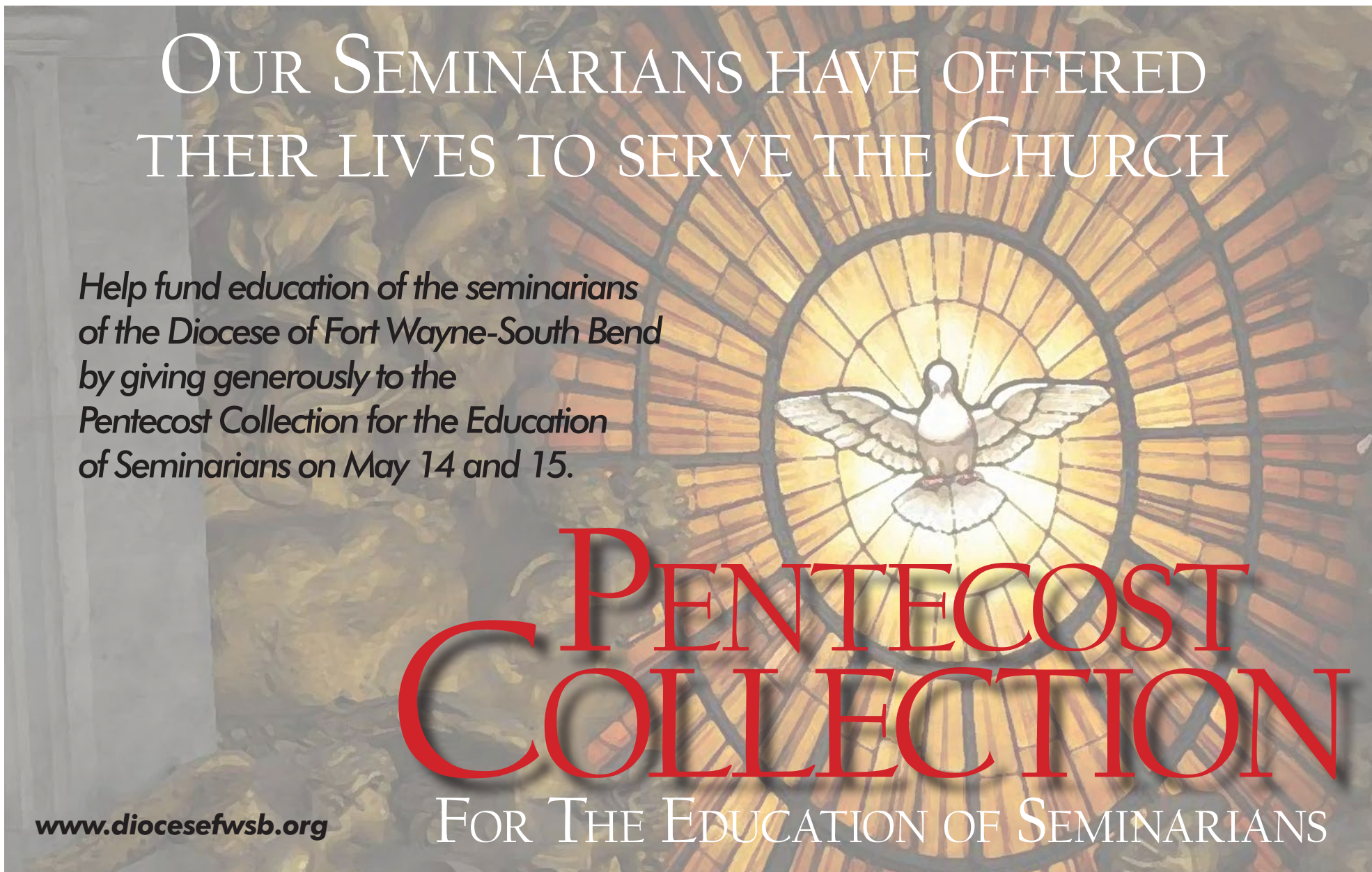
OUR SEMINARIANS HAVE OFFERED THEIR LIVES TO SERVE THE CHURCH

Help fund education of the seminarians of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend by giving generously to the Pentecost Collection for the Education of Seminarians on May 14 and 15.

PENTECOST COLLECTION

FOR THE EDUCATION OF SEMINARIANS

www.diocesefwsb.org



A PROGRAM REPORT FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES

ECHO helps teen moms avoid poverty.

According to the national average, only about **40%** of teen parents graduate from high school.

Compare that with the 90+% graduation rate for ECHO (*Education Creates Hope & Opportunity*) participants. This basic level of achievement has a profound effect on earning potential and keeps many above the poverty level.

According to 2015 Bureau of Labor statistics, the average unemployment rate for the non-high-school graduate is 8.0%, compared with 5.4% for a high-school graduate. Similarly, the average weekly income for someone without a high-school diploma is \$493, \$678 for the high-school graduate and \$1,137 a week for the person with a bachelor's degree.

Our goal with ECHO is to provide support to young parents so they can stay in school and create a better future for themselves and their children. We work in cooperation with organizations such as area school systems and the Women's Care Center to provide ongoing support to teen mothers who have chosen to keep their baby.

Participants receive school and home-based-management services, which include monitoring school attendance and grades. ECHO case managers help the students set goals, and provide them with the support and resources necessary to achieve them. They also work closely with parents, administrators, teachers, and guidance counselors to keep these teens in school so they can graduate.

Many teen moms feel their dreams of college and a career vanish when they become pregnant. ECHO can help them keep those dreams alive. To learn more, please visit our website: <http://www.ccfwsb.org/our-services/pregnancy-services/>

HELP US KEEP TEEN MOMS IN SCHOOL

- \$125 provides a month of one-on-one educational and emotional support for a young parent.
- \$75 provides one young mother with transportation to prenatal medical appointments for the duration of her pregnancy.
- \$25 provides one month of curriculum to educate young parents on child development, safety, relationship building, and more.
- \$10 buys diapers for a week.

Please use the enclosed remittance envelope or donate at: ccfwsb.org



ECHO'S BIG IMPACT

90+%

ECHO Graduation Rate

40%

National Average

ECHO Students

1998

863

ECHO students since 1998

2016

6 KEY

KEY REFERRAL SOURCES

6 Key Referral Sources: Women's Care Center, Fort Wayne Community Schools, East Allen County Schools, Whitley County Schools, South Bend Community Schools, Elkhart Community Schools

100%

PRENATAL CARE

100% of mothers receive care so their babies are healthier and have higher birth weights

STUDENTS

In 2015, ECHO worked with **124** students and served **139** children in Allen, St. Joseph and Whitley counties

2015

ECHO FIGHTS POVERTY

8%

NON GRADUATES

8% is the unemployment rate for non-high-school graduates

5.4%

GRADUATES

5.4% is the unemployment rate for high-school graduates

AVERAGE Weekly Income

1,137

\$

BACHELOR DEGREE

678

\$

HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE

493

\$

NO SCHOOL DEGREE



DIPLOMA

33% of children born to teen moms do not get their high-school diploma



POVERTY

66% of families started by teens are below poverty level



WELFARE

25% of families started by teens will depend on welfare



Catholic Charities
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend