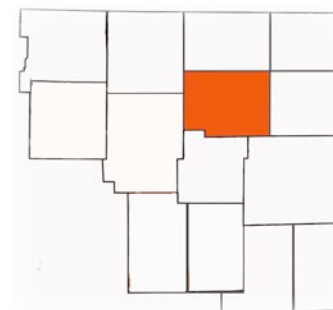


# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 90 No. 19

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TODAYSCATHOLICNEWS.org



## Young adults host road rally competition



Provided by Maria Emilian

The Fort Wayne Frassati road rally brought out a friendly competitive spirit between young adults from Our Lady of Good Hope Parish. Participants smile before they were given a list of the challenges to map out a strategy before the start of the race. After the allotted two minutes of planning, all the teams ran to their cars and raced to complete the challenges.

BY JACOB LASKOWSKI

FORT WAYNE — Young adults at Our Lady of Good Hope Parish in Fort Wayne have been building a new ministry to reach out to their peers in their neighborhood called Fort Wayne Frassati, based on the patronage of Blessed

Pier Giorgio Frassati. The Italian almost-saint was passionate about bringing his peers deeper into their faith and brought many souls to the Lord through social activities such as skiing. Through all that he did, whether social activities or service to the poor, Blessed Frassati led others to the Blessed Mother and to the Eucharist. He died at 24.

“This is our goal with Fort Wayne Frassati,” said Jacob Laskowski, a co-director of the group. “We host trivia nights, ski trips, Bible studies, and events like this road rally — solely as an effort to bring more souls deeper

FRASSATI, page 14

## “To Jesus, through Mary: National Marian Conference date set

BY JENNIFER MILLER

*“There are three steps to climb to go to God: the first, which is the nearest to us, and the most suited to our capacity, is Mary; the second is Jesus Christ; and the third is God the Father. To go to Jesus, we must go to Mary; she is our mediatrix of intercession.”*  
— St. Louis de Montefort

This reflection is the theme and focus of the 2016 National Marian Conference, May 20 and 21, at the Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center at the University of Notre Dame. The newly named conference is a revival of the National Medjugorje Conference, which has been held for the past 25 years. A local gem, this conference is a beautiful time of prayer and reflection during May, the month of Mary, Our Mother. The National Marian Conference and de Montefort both promote devotion

to Mary as a way to growing closer to Jesus. Sponsored by the non-profit Queen of Peace Ministries, the Marian Conference hosts an excellent line-up of a variety of well-known Catholic speakers. But what sets the conference apart is its prayerful design and schedule. Almost like a spiritual individual retreat combined with inspiring and academic talks and warm fellowship and community, the National Marian Conference offers a refreshingly beautiful way to learn or renew one’s relationship with Mary, Mother of God. The two day conference offers a medley of Catholic tradition including abundant opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation, a separate chapel of adoration open throughout the entirety of the conference, traditional and contemporary praise and worship, recitation of the rosary, and, of course, Mass. The setting is comfortable for

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www.myyearofmercy.org

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# A Hidden and Invisible God



## IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

**T**his coming Sunday we will celebrate the culmination of the Easter season: the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles at Pentecost. This powerful manifestation of God involved a mighty wind and tongues of fire. The apostles were transformed by this experience. They became heralds of "the mighty works of God" (Acts 2:11). On that day, the Church came into being and was revealed to the world.

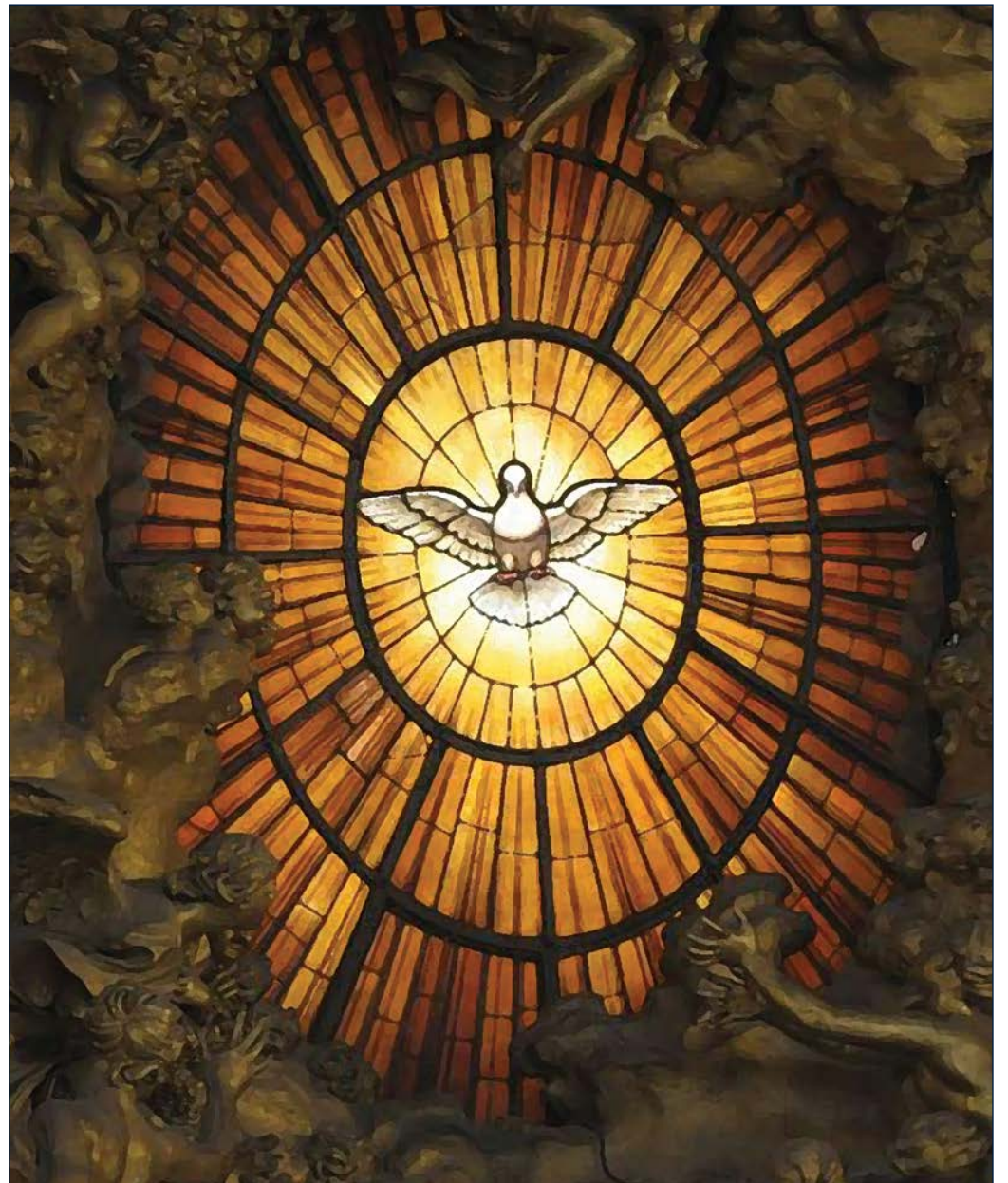
Celebrating the feast of Pentecost includes contemplating the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Most Blessed Trinity. Pope Saint John Paul II spoke of the Holy Spirit as the "hidden God." Though the Holy Spirit operates in the Church and in the world, He is not manifested visibly like God the Son. The Son assumed human nature and became like us. The Holy Spirit, however, did not become man. We can only observe Him by the effects of His presence and action in us and in the world. The Holy Spirit operates as the "hidden God," invisible in His Person.

The "hiddenness" of the Holy Spirit may make it more difficult for many of us to relate to this Divine Person. We can relate more easily perhaps to God the Son. By becoming man, the Son entered into the realm of the experientially visible. He was able to be seen and touched. Because the Son assumed our human nature, we can relate to Him as our brother. We can relate to Jesus more easily since He became man. It may also be easier to relate to the first Person of the Blessed Trinity since we have an experience of fatherhood. Though human fatherhood is an imperfect reflection of the fatherhood of God the Father, it does help us to relate to the first Person of the Blessed Trinity. And, even though the Father remains invisible and transcendent, He is manifested in the Son. As Jesus said: *He who sees me sees the Father* (John 14:9).

Even though the Holy Spirit may be more difficult to understand and relate to, it is important that we make the effort. He has been revealed to us by Jesus who often spoke about Him. Just as Jesus taught us to recognize and invoke God as Father, He also taught us the divine Personhood of the Holy Spirit. He spoke of the Holy Spirit in personal terms, as our advocate, defender, and consoler. He taught us that this Person, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father would send in His name, would teach us everything and remind us of all that He taught us (John 14:26). These activities, "teaching and reminding," show that the Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force, but a Divine Person.

We must avoid thinking of the Holy Spirit as a kind of impersonal cosmic power, something like "the force" in Star Wars. The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person. He is the Lord and Giver of Life, as we profess in the Creed. He is our Consoler and Advocate. Though invisible, He is real. He is at work in the Church and in the world and in our souls. He is, as we pray in the Sequence of Pentecost Sunday, "the soul's most welcome guest."

When we were baptized, we were put into a close personal relationship with the three Divine Persons. We were introduced into the intimacy of the Trinity. We are reminded of



L'Osservatore Romano

The Holy Spirit depicted in a window at the Vatican in Rome.

this every time we make the sign of the cross and renew our relationship with the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is a Person distinct from the Father and from the Son and, at the same time, intimately united with them. The Church speaks of the Holy Spirit "proceeding from the Father and the Son" and of being "adored and glorified" with the Father and the Son. This mystery of God's inner life as Trinity is beyond our full comprehension, but it is central to our faith. It is beautiful to contemplate this mystery.

On Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate a great manifestation of the Holy Spirit. Three basic elements mark this event: the sound of a mighty wind, tongues as of fire, and the charism of speaking in other languages. These rich symbols of the Holy Spirit's action help us to understand the Person of the Holy Spirit.

The wind manifests the divine power at work in the Holy Spirit, the supernatural dynamism through which God transforms us from within and sanctifies us. We can't see wind, but we can see its effects. The same with the Holy Spirit: we cannot see the Holy Spirit, but we can know Him by His effects in us. We call these effects "the fruits of the Holy Spirit." They are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, generosity, faithfulness, modesty, chastity, and self-control. According to Saint Paul, we know that we are "walking by the Spirit" when we are growing in these fruits.

The symbol of fire, which is the source of warmth and light, teaches us that the Holy

Spirit consoles and enlightens us. Fire represents God's presence (like at the burning bush) and love, that love which "has been poured out in our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 5:5). Fire is also powerful and it spreads. We see at Pentecost how the apostles were filled with God's power and strengthened in zeal for the cause of Christ. This is the action of the Holy Spirit who gave them ardent zeal to make great sacrifices and even endure persecution and martyrdom in their mission to spread the Kingdom of Christ.

Another remarkable sign at Pentecost was that the multitude of people of different languages who were present in Jerusalem heard the apostles speaking their own language. In the Old Testament story of the Tower of Babel, we learn that the one language spoken by everyone was divided into many languages, thus causing the confusion of languages and disunity. The opposite happens at Pentecost. This miracle reveals to us that the Holy Spirit is the source of the Church's unity. The Holy Spirit makes us one in Christ Jesus and integrates us within the unity that binds the Son to the Father. Through the Church, the Holy Spirit brings to spiritual unity peoples of different languages, races, nations, and cultures.

As we celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost, I invite you to be conscious of the presence of the "hidden God," the Holy Spirit in your lives and in the life of the Church. May the Holy Spirit sanctify us, fill us with zeal for the spread of the Gospel, and unify us in the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church!

# 'Choosing' gender ignores truth of human person

**Bathroom policies are a symptom of society rejecting Christian understanding of sex and natural law**

BY THERESA FARNAN AND MARY RICE HASSON

Target, one of the nation's largest retailers, ignited a firestorm recently when it announced that "transgender team members and guests" are welcome to use the fitting rooms and bathrooms of their chosen "gender identity" rather than their biological sex. "Inclusivity is a core belief at Target," the company said, and "everyone deserves to feel like they belong."

Ten years ago, it would have been unthinkable for one of the country's largest retailers to "celebrate" inclusivity by welcoming biological men into women's fitting rooms and bathrooms so they could "feel like they belong."

The public reaction to Target's policy was swift — and polarized. The Human Rights Campaign, an LGBT advocacy group, spoke out strongly in support of Target, calling the statement a welcome "response to the wave of anti-LGBT legislation sweeping our country." But many Americans were appalled that Target would let biological males into women's bathrooms and fitting rooms. Their fear: that the policy opens the door for any male (including a sexual predator) to claim a female identity and intrude upon women-only spaces. In just five days, more than 670,000 people signed the American Family Association's (AFA) #BoycottTarget pledge, promising to shop elsewhere until Target changes its "trans-inclusive" policy. (AFA suggests Target provide transgender people with single-occupancy, unisex bathrooms instead.)

But while bathroom politics grab headlines, they are indicators of a much deeper conflict. Target alluded to the larger context in its statement, referencing "proposed laws" (over conscience rights as well as bathroom access) that "reignited a national conversation around inclusivity."

In his apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* ("The Joy of Love"), Pope Francis — a champion of inclusivity — points to the source of the problem: gender ideology. He warns that gender ideology "denies the difference and reciprocity in nature of a man and a woman and envisages a society without sexual differences, thereby eliminating



the anthropological basis of the family... Consequently, human identity becomes the choice of the individual, one which can also change over time" (No. 56).

Pope Francis sees gender ideology as a grave threat — to the family, to the very idea of what it means to be human, and thus to the Church's mission of evangelization. His concerns echo those of Pope Benedict XVI, who said in a 2012 address to the Roman Curia:

"It is now becoming clear that the very notion of being — of what being human really means — is being called into question. ... When the freedom to be creative becomes the freedom to create oneself, then necessarily the Maker himself is denied and ultimately man, too, is stripped of his dignity as a creature of God, as the image of God at the core of his being."

## Understanding of gender

Put differently, gender ideology is a set of beliefs about the human person — beliefs irreconcilably opposed to the Christian understanding of the person. Let's highlight just a few key differences:

First, as Christians, we know the person is a unity of body and soul. In contrast, gender ideology ruptures that unity, fragmenting the person: it posits gender as socially constructed, with no inherent connection between the person's body (male or female), internal sense of self (gender identity) or outward expression

of masculinity or femininity.

Second, Genesis 1:27-28 teaches that, "male and female he created them. God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply." Sexual difference matters to us — it's part of the intrinsic goodness of God's creation, has meaning and value, and lies at the heart of marriage. Only love expressed through the sexual difference of husband and wife is intrinsically and inseparably ordered to creating new life. Gender ideology erases sexual difference (facilitating marriage redefinition); without sexual difference, human sexuality is disconnected from procreation, and sex becomes an individualized pursuit of passing pleasure.

Third, as beings created by God out of love, we recognize that our dignity is rooted in our "creation in the image and likeness of God" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 1700). But gender ideology suggests that people, in effect, create themselves; each person defines "who they are," choosing a gender identity that feels authentic (regardless of anatomy or conformity to the natural law).

## Examples in society

In many respects, gender ideology is a tsunami that's already hit the shore, and young people are churning, even drowning, in confusion. (Yes, Catholics, too.) Both young and old absorb daily lessons in gender ideology from



## Public Schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

- Sunday, May 15 — Commencement Exercises, Mount Saint Mary's University, Emmitsburg, Maryland
- Tuesday, May 17, 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Saints Peter and Paul Church, Huntington
- Wednesday, May 18, 8 a.m. — Morning Prayer with Investiture of Novices of Franciscan Friars Minor, Saint Andrew Church, Fort Wayne
- Wednesday, May 18, 12:30 p.m. — Meeting of Diocesan Finance Council, Holiday Inn Express, Warsaw
- Thursday, May 19, 12 p.m. — Meeting of Board of Directors of Saint Anne Communities, Saint Anne Home, Fort Wayne
- Thursday, May 19, 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Saint Bernard Church, Wabash
- Friday, May 20, 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Most Precious Blood Church, Fort Wayne
- Saturday, May 21, 11 a.m. — Mass with Ordination of Deacons, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne

entertainers, celebrities, sports stars, the media and from the context of daily life. Consider a few examples:

Schools reject the "gender binary" (male/female) and teach students to accept the spectrum of gender identities; "marriage equality" and gender ideology are integrated across the curriculum while the language of morality is censored; anti-bullying programs promote homosexuality and gender nonconformity as normal and healthy.

Therapists, physicians and educators normalize "choose-your-own" sexual identity and behavior through sex education and counseling. Religious and moral perspectives are silenced as judgmental or intolerant.

Banks, corporations and sports associations (e.g., Wells Fargo, Target and the NFL) use pressure tactics and advertising to normalize "diverse" (LGBT) family forms and influence government policy to conform to gender ideology.

Employer (and university) mandated diversity trainings "mainstream" the vocabulary of gender ideology, disparage "hetero-normativity" and normalize various "sexualities," orientations and identities.

Teen media: Seventeen magazine's website (average reader: 16-year-old girl) includes glowing profiles ("awesome," "brave," "adorable") of transgender celebrities, teens and children at least once a week, on top of the usual LGBT-themed articles.

Women's magazines: Glamour promotes sexual fluidity among young single women ("Are you straight, gay, or just ... you?"), fostering a "new way to have sex" and promoting "invent their own" sexual identity.

Not surprisingly, the aggressive "mainstreaming" of gender ideology is having its desired effect: according to a 2015 Fusion survey, the majority of millennials believe gender is "fluid."

## Confusion reigns

Families and pastors are experiencing relentless pressure in all this, particularly as proponents of gender ideology

demand not only the personal freedom to "decide" their own gender but also the right to insist that others affirm their decisions. Parents worry about the confusion being sown in young children's hearts and minds, creating uncertainty about their basic identities as boys or girls. As gender ideology permeates the culture, reshaping language, habits and expectations, pastors and youth ministers may begin to wonder if the language and meaning of Catholic anthropology is still intelligible to the average Catholic.

## It's a difficult time.

Certainly, the bathroom battles at Target can be solved with common sense — ensuring every store has private bathrooms (perhaps relabel the family bathroom as a bathroom for guests who prefer privacy).

But the deeper problem — the rapid advance of gender ideology — will require strategic thinking within the Church on multiple fronts (law, health care and counseling, education, catechesis and ministry).

We have truth to guide us and abundant grace to fortify us. But as we search for ways to counter the culture and to protect our rights in the public square, we have to hold even more surely to the virtue of hope, so essential for the mission of the family. Pope Francis in a 2013 homily reminds us that families, united in prayer and imbued with the joy of the Gospel, have a unique role in evangelizing society.

"Christian families are missionary families ... bringing to everything the salt and leaven of faith ... the family which experiences the joy of faith communicates it naturally. That family is the salt of the earth and the light of the world, it is the leaven of society as a whole."

Theresa Farnan, PhD, is an adjunct professor at Franciscan University in Ohio. Mary Rice Hasson is a fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

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## The Feast of Pentecost:

# A reflection on the person, gifts and charisms of the Holy Spirit

BY DR. MARCELLINO  
D'AMBROSIO

The Feast of Pentecost, originally the Jewish Feast of weeks commemorating the gift of the Law to Moses on Mt. Sinai 50 days after the Exodus, was the day when the Holy Spirit was poured out in the Upper Room upon the apostles and other disciples in the form of tongues of fire and a strong wind, fifty days after Easter Sunday, the day marking the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Pentecost is seen as the birthday of the Church.

As a teen, I thought the clergy were supposed to do everything. We laity were just called to pray, pay and obey. Oh yes, and keep the commandments, of course. The original 10 seemed overwhelming enough. Then I discovered the Sermon on the Mount and nearly passed out.

Perhaps this is why many inactive Catholics are so resentful of their upbringing in the Church. For them, religion means frustration, failure and guilt.

Somehow they, and I, missed the good news about Pentecost. OK, we Catholics celebrate the feast every year and mention it in Confirmation class, but lots of us evidently didn't "get it."

Because if we "got it," we'd be different. Bold instead of timid, energetic instead of anemic, fascinated instead of bored. Compare the apostles before and after Pentecost and you'll see the difference the Spirit makes.

The Gospel is good news not just because we're going to heaven, but because we've been empowered to become new people, here and now. Vatican II insisted that each of us is called to the heights of holiness (Lumen Gentium, chapter V). Not by will-power, mind you. But by Holy Spirit power. Holiness consists in faith, hope and especially divine love. These are "virtues," literally "powers," given by the Spirit. To top it off, the Spirit gives us seven further gifts which perfect faith, hope and love, making it possible for us to live a supernatural, charismatic life. Some think this is only for the chosen few, "the mys-



tics." Thomas Aquinas taught to the contrary that the gifts of Is 11:1-3 (wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, piety, fortitude and fear of the Lord) are standard equipment given in baptism, that all are called to be "mystics."

Vatican II also taught that every Christian has a vocation to serve. We need power for this too. And so the Spirit distributes other gifts, called "charisms." These, teaches St. Thomas, are not so much for our own sanctification as for service to others. There is no exhaustive list of charisms, though St. Paul mentions a few (1 Corinthians 12:7-10, Ro 12:6-8) ranging from tongues to Christian marriage (1 Cor 7: 7). Charisms are not doled out by the pastors; but are given directly by the Spirit through baptism and confirmation, even sometimes outside of the sacraments (Acts 10:44-48).

Do I sound Pentecostal? That's because I belong to the largest Pentecostal Church in the world. Correcting the mistaken notion that the charisms were just for the apostolic church, Vatican II had this to say: "Allotting His gifts 'to everyone according as He will' (1 Cor.

12:11), He [the Holy Spirit] distributes special graces among the faithful of every rank. ... These charismatic gifts, whether they be the most outstanding or the more simple and widely diffused, are to be received with thanksgiving and consolation, for they are exceedingly suitable and useful for the needs of the Church" (LG12).

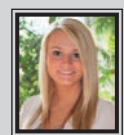
Powerful gifts, freely given to all. Sounds like a recipe for chaos. But the Lord also imparted to the apostles and their successors a unifying charism of headship. The role of the ordained is not to do everything themselves. Rather, they are to discern, shepherd and coordinate the charisms of the laity so that they mature and work together for the greater glory of God (LG 30).

So what if you, like me, did not quite "get it" when you were confirmed? I've got good news for you. You actually did get the Spirit and his gifts. Have you ever received a new credit card with a sticker saying "Must call to activate before using?" The Spirit and his gifts are the same way. You have to call in and activate them. Do it today and every day and especially every time you attend Mass. Because every sacramental celebration is a New Pentecost where the Spirit and His gifts are poured out anew (CCC 739, 1106).

That's why the Christian life is an adventure. There will always be new surprises of the Spirit!



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## Iowa priest donating a kidney to his long-time friend, a religious brother

BALLTOWN, Iowa (CNS) — Christian Brother Stephen William Markham and Father Scott Bullock already shared a strong spiritual bond as two men who have dedicated their lives to serving Christ as a consecrated religious and a priest. Very soon, they also will be connected by blood. Come June 16, or thereabout, Brother Markham is scheduled to receive a kidney from his friend through transplant surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Since March 2015, Brother Markham, 72, a native of Rickardsville, Iowa, near Dubuque, has been dependent on dialysis to survive. A flare-up of chronic glomerulonephritis, a kidney disease he has had since age 14, caused his organs to fail. The surgery is expected to end the treatments. Brother Markham remembers clearly the day he learned about his donor. "It was a very humbling but very good feeling. It didn't sink in until I got to dialysis that day," he recalled. "Father Scott and I had lunch the other day and I tried to say to him, there's just no way (I can) thank him enough. He said, 'You have thanked me.'"

## Swiss Guard recruits pledge to protect the pope with their lives

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With their left hands clutching a standard and their right hands raised with three fingers open symbolizing the Holy Trinity, 23 new Swiss Guard recruits pledged to "faithfully, loyally and honorably" serve and protect the pope and, if necessary, sacrifice their lives for him. The pageantry of the annual May 6 ceremony did not lessen the solemnity of the occasion that marks the date in 1527 when 147 Swiss Guards lost their lives defending Pope Clement VII in the Sack of Rome. The ceremony in the Vatican's San Damaso Courtyard is meant to remind new guards of the seriousness of their commitment. Father Thomas Widmer, chaplain of the Swiss Guard, read to the new recruits their oath to protect the pope and the College of Cardinals when the See of St. Peter is vacant. Following the proclamation, each of the new recruits swore to "diligently and faithfully" abide by the oath through the intercession of "God and ... his saints."

## In Iraq, displaced Christians prepare for future that remains unknown

IRBIL, Iraq (CNS) — As heavy fighting continues across the Ninevah Plain, some Christians displaced by the Islamic State group have given up the dream of returning home and joined the stream of refugees leaving the war-torn country. Others remain here in Iraqi Kurdistan, clinging to the hope that they can someday go back to their villages. "When we fled our convent in Qaraqosh in 2014, we thought we'd be gone just a few days, then we could go home. But now it's been almost two years, and the future is uncertain. Some of the displaced want to return home as soon as they can. Others have had enough, and they want to leave for good," said Sister Maria Hanna, superior of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena. The Dominican sisters opened a school for displaced children in Ankawa last August with 500 students. By April, Sister Hanna said, the enrollment had dropped to 445. The others have left the

country with their parents for Jordan, Lebanon or other countries. And the numbers continue to drop. "We're preparing the children for the future, but we don't know what that future will be," she said.

## Faith does not deaden pain but teaches that it is passing, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christian faith is not an "anesthetic" that prevents believers from feeling pain, but it is a source of joy and hope that assures them suffering will pass and new life will come, Pope Francis said at his morning Mass. The Gospel reading May 6 was Jesus' telling his disciples before the crucifixion that they would face a time of weeping and grieving, "but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you." In the passage from St. John's Gospel, Jesus compares their situation to that of a woman in labor, who experiences real pain, but who forgets that pain once her child is born. At the Mass in the Domus Sanctae Marthae, Pope Francis said the image Jesus used

"should help us a lot in (times of) difficulty, difficulties that often are terrible, horrible difficulties that even can make us doubt our faith. But with joy and hope we go on."

## Pope tells struggling Europe he has a dream for its future

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As Europe faces an unprecedented influx of immigrants and refugees while struggling to counter continued economic woes, Pope Francis urged the continent to step up to its responsibilities with renewed hope, not cower behind walls and treaties. The pope — a South American son of Italian immigrants — evoked U.S. civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., telling European heads-of-state and top-level representatives that he had a dream of a divisive Europe coming together to protect the rights of everyone, especially families and migrants. "I dream of a Europe where being a migrant is not a crime, but a summons to greater commitment" to help those in need and, he said, "I dream of a Europe where young people" can lead a simple life and see that marriage and children are a joy, not a burden because there are no stable, well-paying jobs. The pope's dream of a rejuvenated and united Europe came as he received the prestigious Charlemagne Prize May 6.

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# Living the Year of Mercy

## Bury the Dead

### Thank you for your service

Father David Meinzen and Father Jonathan Norton reflect on this work of mercy in relation to the upcoming Memorial Day national holiday.

Burying the dead, as a work of mercy, is a unique way to show God's love to others. When the deceased is a person who has served in the military or armed forces, there isn't anything different that the Catholic Church does for the funeral Mass or liturgy. However, in honor of the deceased veteran, the funeral Mass and burial will include several components from the military that include a flag being draped over the casket, a ceremonial folding of the flag in a triangle that is presented to the family and a firing of a volley of three shots.

It is always an honor to be able to preside over a Mass of a person who has given of themselves in service to our country. There was such an occasion recently that demonstrated a community outpouring in example of this particular work of mercy to bury the dead. A man named James Beavers had died on November 23, 2015 and his funeral arrangements were being taken care of through D.O. McComb & Sons. James was a veteran, had been homeless and had no family. So, when the funeral home let the community know about the funeral for a homeless veteran with no family, the response was overwhelming.

The outpouring of support was so significant that there were cameras set up for live feeds of the funeral service in other rooms to accommodate the large crowd of people. There were many who came in uniform, and many who traveled from far away including Oklahoma to honor a man they never knew. The respect of the attendees was not just for the man, but



for what he represented and to signify the importance of honoring someone's life who had given such great service.

Despite the somber occasion, funeral Masses are a beautiful time to preach. We all will suffer, we all have to die and for the people in attendance at the funeral, we are forced to ask the question: "What happens when we die?" This opportunity is a beautiful time to share the Gospel, and when people are wounded, that's when they are most open to hearing the answer.

The answer is hope, that is, Jesus Christ came and died for us. So, we don't have to worry about what happens when we die because we have that hope. Jesus is the remedy for death.

Many have seen the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the way that it is guarded by armed soldiers. It is like an ordered, sacred, secular liturgy to show respect for life and a memorial to show respect for the deceased.

Every time we celebrate Mass, it is a memorial of Jesus'

sacrifice. So, in a sense, our life as Catholics are a memorial because we live out Jesus' command to "do this in memory of me." That remembering is not just nostalgia. The Holy Spirit sanctifies that remembrance and we are joined to Jesus, whom we remember.

As Catholics, we remember the saints. So, honoring veterans, especially our brother and sister Catholics who have died for the defense of freedoms, is a way of letting the Mass flow into our daily lives and for us to actually live out the meaning of our communion in Christ.

Jesus said, "no man has greater love than this, than to lay down one's life for a friend." This Memorial Day, the nation and secular society will spend time remembering those who gave of their life for the country. As Catholics, we are called to live our lives as a memorial at all times. This holiday is a time for us to bear witness to the rest of the country to the meaning and the practice of our faith.

### Day is done, gone the sun



Vince LaBarbera

Dave Rice plays Taps at military funerals in the Decatur area as a member of American Legion Post 43. He says there is at least one funeral a week of a World War II or Vietnam veteran. Rice joined the post in 1985 after returning from active duty training with the U.S. Army Reserve and has been playing Taps for more than 30 years. He says it's an honor for him to pay his respects to a veteran with the unique sound of the 24 notes of Taps. "There is nothing like it," he added. Rice recently retired as realtor-builder of Rice Realtors and Lake Shore Builders, Decatur.

## Year of Mercy day 152

"God's mercy is not the consequence of our good actions ... the mercy of God is the cause of our conversion."

— Cardinal Christoph Schonborn

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## USF Jesters accepting registrations for 2016

FORT WAYNE — The Jesters of the University of Saint Francis are accepting registrations from people with developmental disabilities for its 2016 summer program. The program will include a series of intensives designed to give people with intellectual/developmental disabilities opportunities to explore the performing arts.

Each intensive will be held for two weeks according to the following schedule:

- Script writing/story telling – June 7 and 14, \$15
- Dance/choreography – June 21 and 28, \$15
- Theatre/drama – July 5 and July 12, \$15

Each session will meet from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the dance studio at the USF North Campus Building, 2702 Spring St.,

Participants can register for all 6 weeks or a single 2-week segment. Activities will focus on creating a template for next year's Jesters performance to be presented March 11 and 12, 2017. However, the summer program is offered to anyone with a disability regardless of his/her involvement with the traditional Jesters program that is held annually, September–March.

Registrations will be accepted through June 1. Capacity is limited to the first 20 participants who register for each session. To request registration forms, contact Molly McGowan in the School of Creative Arts at mmcgowan@sf.edu or 260-399-7700, ext. 8001.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton School attends book fair



Provided by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School

From April 29 to May 1, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School's Home and School Association (HASA) sponsored a spring book fair at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore at Jefferson Pointe. During those days, when shoppers mentioned that they were buying books in support of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School, a percentage of those sales returned to the school library to purchase future books.

## Destination Imagination team advances

NEW HAVEN — The Destination Imagination teams from St. John the Baptist School will advance to the Global Competition May 25-27 in Knoxville, Tenn. They placed first and second at the state level and will be competing against teams from 15 countries and 42 states.

Destination Imagination is a not-for-profit problem solving organization. Each year in October, the team chooses one of the seven challenges presented by Destination Imagination. Each team of up to seven students must then create a skit, props and backdrop along with the other elements pertaining to their particular challenge.

One of the middle school teams chose the community service project. They held a class and taught the participants to make fleece blankets and toys for the animals at the animal shelter. The second team chose a scientific challenge involving a character that camouflages itself along with other theatrical aspects. The students range from 5th through 8th grade.

On Saturday, May 21, the teams will host a Mexican fiesta dinner along with a silent auction to help fund their trip to Tennessee. Also at 7 p.m. they will be in costume and present their eight minute performances at the Community Center at St. John the Baptist, 943 Powers St.

## 'Renewing Our Lives in the Holy Spirit'

### A Mission talk by Bishop Sam Jacobs

BY JENNIFER MILLER

SOUTH BEND — "Knowing OF the Holy Spirit is different than knowing the Holy Spirit." Bishop Sam Jacobs explains. May 16 and 17, Bishop Jacobs will offer a mission at St. Jude Parish to help know "the fullness in the understanding of the Trinity; a renewed effort of the New Evangelization." Called "The Holy Spirit and the New Evangelization", his two-day talk will focus on being missionaries with the gift from Pentecost, the Holy Spirit, "in the days following Pentecost."

Bishop Sam Jacobs is currently the bishop emeritus of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana. He was born in Greenwood, Mississippi, but raised in Lake Charles, Louisiana. He studied at Immaculata Seminary and at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Jacobs served throughout Louisiana as pastor,

chaplain, and associate pastor of several parishes in the Diocese of Lafayette, Alexandria and the Diocese of Lake Charles. Bishop Jacobs has also served as chairman of the National Service Committee for the Charismatic Renewal. Within the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, he was chairman of the Committee for Evangelization and a member of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth and the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis. He currently offers numerous missions and talks throughout the country, following Pope John Paul II's calling for a new evangelization, "not new in content but in how. New in energy, zeal, using modern media, a renewed way of getting excited."

As Pope Francis has also asked for this renewal with a focus on "three words- don't forget them: evangelical spirit, ecclesial spirit and missionary spirit. Let us ask the Lord always to direct our minds and hearts to him, as living stones of the Church, so that all we do, our whole Christian life, may be a



BISHOP SAM JACOBS

luminous witness to his mercy and love." Bishop Jacobs understands this as an "encounter with Jesus Christ (evangelical), being rooted in the Church (ecclesial) and living the new evangelization (missionary)."

Bishop Jacobs believes this knowing, that is, actually having a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit, is key. "As Paul at Ephesus heard from the apostles,

we don't know of the Holy Spirit. The Father wants to give to all those who ask (this gift), as Jesus said in the Gospel. Through the water in baptism, prayer, the Holy Spirit touches them. We continue to know him through prayer in fresh new ways."

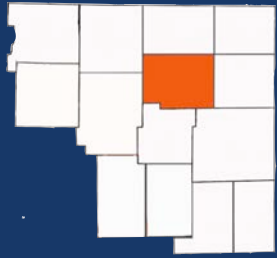
He suggests that families help their children to know the Holy Spirit by invoking the Holy Spirit through spontaneous prayer throughout their days. "They are the first teachers of children. If the children are hurt, they go to the doctor and also the parents lay hands on and pray. Kids remember and say, "Mama, pray over me." It can be as short as "Let us pray for wisdom and the Holy Spirit. Or "Let us pray that God will impact for one another, when speaking to their spouse." He suggests infusing our everyday language with an awareness and openness to the Holy Spirit, third person of the Trinity.

Dave and Jan Torma, parishioners of St. Jude, are especially looking forward to this mission. They found Bishop Jacobs "a gifted teacher and an insightful, inspirational communicator. He is very practical and has a

way of igniting a spark within us to live open and attentive to the Holy Spirit, to take what God is doing in our lives today and share it with others. He will call us out of our comfort zones and fears to be the Church God intends us to be in the power of the Holy Spirit. He speaks from his heart to yours. His joy is contagious."

All are welcome to the May 16 and 17 mission at St. Jude Parish. There will be an evening session on Monday and Tuesday nights beginning at 7 p.m. Monday, Bishop Sam and Father John Delaney, pastor of St. Jude, will concelebrate Mass at 5:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided for those who attend Mass prior to the evening session.

There will also be a morning session offered on Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Bishop Sam will be celebrating 8 a.m. Mass that day with St. Jude School students. Adults are also welcome. There will be a light breakfast for adults attending the morning session.



# In **MY** diocese

**Noble County**

## Immaculate Conception Church is spiritual center of Ege

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

EGE — The solid and imposing Immaculate Conception Catholic Church located at the heart of the tiny settlement of Ege in Noble County stands in silent testimony to the deeply rooted faith of its parishioners.

Established in 1853 on land purchased and cleared by French immigrant Gabriel Girardot, the parish has long been the physical and spiritual center of Ege. Girardot had pledged to God that he would build a church in the wilderness if his efforts to bring his family from France to America were successful. And so the original church, its altar, pews and furnishings were built by Girardot himself on the two-acre plot of land he donated.

The land originally known as Girard settlement became home to many Catholics of Polish heritage who settled there to work on the railroad. Then in 1878 when Father Francis Xavier Ege came to serve as church pastor, he was so beloved by his parishioners that Girard settlement was renamed Ege in his honor, and Immaculate Conception Church remains the center of activities there today.

The church has fallen victim to three fires over its history. The first, in 1886, totally destroyed the original church, but it was quickly rebuilt along with a school, convent and rectory. In 1923, a second fire claimed the church while Mass was being offered and parishioners were able to save the statues, the organ and some of the pews. It was again rebuilt, this time with an additional lower level parish hall. Most recently, in 1989, an electrical fire destroyed the main altar and sanctuary floor but spared the building's structure.

Later that same year the restored altar and church were dedicated and consecrated by the late Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

Parish administrator since 1995 is Father Danney Pinto, who is "on loan" from his home parish in Sri Lanka. He is busy pastoring at Ege and also at its sister parish, St. John Bosco in Churubusco, where he is in residence. He has called Immaculate Conception "a beautiful church" and one well-loved by its people.

Beth Konger is head of the music ministry and church organist of 34 years' standing. She notes that the parish



appears to be growing, and a visiting priest recently commented on the many young families filling its pews. She enjoys the close-knit community of a smaller church, she says.

A religious education program directed for more than 35 years by Judy Egolf currently serves 27 families, with 53 children enrolled in preschool through eighth grade classes. They meet after the 8:30 a.m. Mass each Sunday from early September through April. This year four students received the Sacrament of Confirmation and eight received their First Holy Communion in early May. Five of her 13 teachers are older students themselves. "I'm thrilled to have these high school students giving back to our parish by helping educate the children," she says.

The 2015-2016 religious education year's theme, inspired by Pope Francis, has been Caring for God's Creation, explains Egolf. And projects have included a Right to Life baby shower, a Thanksgiving food drive for the needy, Christmas stockings for veterans, a "Caring like Jesus" food pantry collection and Operation Rice Bowl, which netted \$285. "My goal for our program is to get the children involved in helping others," she points out.

Another important ministry at Immaculate Conception is headed up by John Konger and his son Ryan, who are co-sextons of the parish cemetery where the church was originally located. Its earliest founding member Gabriel Girardot and his wife Caroline Henriot have been interred there since the early 1900s, as well as scores of long-time parishioners. John keeps the cemetery's records and notes that about six burials

a year occur there now, and with the recent acquisition of more land, there's "plenty of space." The job of overall maintenance is made easier by the assistance of a good committee, he says. Like many others in the congregation, he is a life-long member of the parish and values the feeling of community in the small church. "It's my home parish," he notes fondly.

Another organization with deep roots in the parish is the men's Holy Name Society, according to Garry Polakovic. With a membership of about 50 under president Kenny Steith, the men take care of the four buildings and grounds and do anything that needs to be done, he says.

Holy Name members are currently overseeing installation of a new slate roof on the former rectory and discussing replacement of carpeting in the church. They are busy planning a whole hog raffle, as well, which may become an annual fundraiser for the parish. He adds, "Though the parish is small, "it doesn't seem small because everyone's involved."

Tina Macy, president of the ladies' Rosary Society would agree. Though there is a core group of active members in the organization, all the women in the church are expected to play a role. Immaculate Conception Church has "a busy Rosary Society ... in our parish, we're all a member," she says.

Each year on the first Sunday after Labor Day, the parish hosts a chicken dinner which typically draws more than 1,000 for a fun-filled day of food, with a country store and games for the entire family. The Society prepares and serves all the meals, which include fried chicken, potatoes with homemade noodles and gravy and home baked pies.

The fundraiser dates back to the early 1900s when it also included the raffle of an automobile. Plans are already underway for this year's event, she says. "What people like about our church," Macy adds, is that "everybody knows everybody."

Father Danney echoes that sentiment. Parishioners at Immaculate Conception are "a good group of people" who work well together to support the needs of the church and its pastor, he says. And its active ministries make it a vibrant and welcoming place of worship, drawing the faithful to Ege.

## St. Patrick's strength is community

BY DENISE FEDOROW

LIGONIER — St. Patrick Church's strength is in its community, according to its pastor, Father Wilson Corzo. Father Corzo has been pastor of the parish for eight years.

The parish started as a log built church in 1860 on land donated by the late John Richmond and with lumber donated by the prominent Kenney family. It began as a mission church with a priest coming by train from Kendallville each Sunday. In 1877, two rooms were added to the rear of the church in case bad weather caused the need for the priest to spend the night.

The first resident priest was Father George Lauer, who was appointed in 1897. He was succeeded in 1899 by Father John Francis Noll, who later became the Bishop of the Fort Wayne Diocese. At that time, the congregation consisted of 21 families or 80 people. In 1902 the church was improved and redecorated. In 1930 under Father Ehrman the church was freed from debt.

In 1934, the Strauss estate was purchased and the Oblate Fathers came to serve the Ligonier community at the invitation of Bishop Noll. The Oblate Fathers are a congregation of missionary priests. They renovated the former Carriage House of the Strauss estate for use as a church when the parish moved from the log church.

In 1945, the original log

church and property was sold. The present church building was started on Oct. 15, 1966. The cost was \$120,000 and the church was built with a seating capacity of 400. The new church was ready for Mass on Christmas Eve, 1967.

In 1969, the Oblate Fathers returned to Massachusetts. The parish was then placed under the care of a priest of the Diocese of Fort Wayne and the Rev. Msgr. Arthur McDonald.

In 1979, with the help of the Kenney Foundation grant, work was started to renovate the former church, located directly across the street from the current church into classrooms for the CCD program at St. Patrick's. That program has since been moved to another building. An apartment was also added at the end of the building for the priest to live in. Prior to the apartment being added the parish had become a mission parish again. That changed with the living quarter's addition and the former church is now a rectory and the church office.

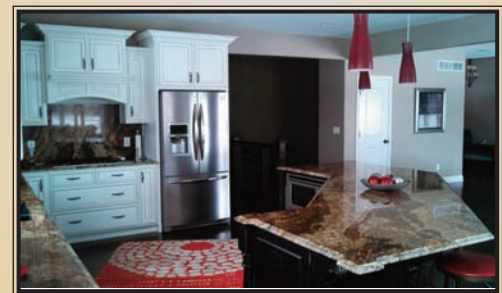
The parish celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2010.

In the mid 1990s, St. Patrick started celebrating Spanish Masses. Father Dale Bauman was the pastor at the time, according to Father Corzo, and had assistance from two Spanish speaking deacons from Fort Wayne. At the time there were approximately 20-30 Spanish speaking families at St. Patrick's as most attended Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Milford.

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This bell at St. Patrick's in Ligonier is reportedly from one of the earlier churches.



Vases of flowers surround the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe in St. Patrick's Church in Ligonier. The parish is 95% Spanish-speaking heritage parishioners.

Photos by Denise Fedorow

Now, St. Patrick's is 95 percent Spanish speaking and the demographics between the Spanish speaking and English speaking parishioners is different with two thirds of the Spanish speaking population being young people with young families. In the summer, the nearby lakes bring additional tourists to attend Mass.

Father Corzo said the sense of community among parishioners helps them to strengthen their faith.

St. Patrick's ministries include Eucharistic ministers, choir, youth group, CCD classes in English and Spanish, men's group, women's group, Rosary Sodality and RCIA. During the month of May, the English speaking community will be holding a video presentation of The Story of Mary.

There are about 380 registered families at St. Patrick, but Father Corzo is certain the number attending is well over 400. There are 250 students in the CCD classes, which include first-eighth grades. Father Corzo said St. Patrick has been somewhat of a transitory parish as college and employment opportunities call some young people away.

Deacon Stan LeMieux is

assigned to St. Patrick's and Father Corzo said he does "very good and important work." Deacon LeMieux is also in charge of the Hispanic Diaconate program and two parishioners are involved — Juan Campos and Ricardo Garcia.

St. Patrick is starting a children's Mass this month and Father Corzo said it will be once a month for now. The children will participate in all parts of the 2:30 p.m. Sunday Mass.

St. Patrick will hold its annual festival on Aug. 20th this year. Father Corzo said because it's still cold when their patron saint is celebrated in March they moved their festival to August. The festival features food, music, folkloric dance and many activities. Parish Secretary Linda Ramirez said the event is a fundraiser for the parish.

Father Corzo said although small in number, the English speaking parishioners support the parish very well. The Spanish speaking members do a lot of volunteer work like yard work, fixing pews, etc. He appreciates everything his parishioners do to help support the parish and its ministries.

## Blessed Sacrament Parish growing in Albion

BY DENISE FEDOROW

ALBION — Blessed Sacrament Parish has had a somewhat difficult history at times over the years — it's literally been knocked down — but has come back and is now planning a new building project.

The parish started in 1875 and was founded as Sacred Heart Church, located on East Hazel and First Streets in Albion. It was a little wooden clapboard church with approximately twelve families making up the parish. Originally a mission church from St. Mary's in Avilla, the mission was transferred several times over the years to Ege, Auburn and then after 1903 to Kendallville. The most Reverend John Noll was once a priest for Blessed Sacrament before becoming Bishop for the diocese and Father Francis Ege was known to sometimes walk 17 miles in subzero weather from Ege to Albion to celebrate Mass. The last Mass was celebrated in 1924. In 1929, the building was dismantled and the wood used to build summer homes.

Current pastor, Father J. Steele, CSC shared that in the 1930's; "during the height of the KKK and anti-Catholicism" a pastor of a Methodist Church in Lagrange wanted to help dispel the myths about Catholicism so he invited a priest to speak at an open house for several denominations. At the meeting, Father William Ehrman from Kendallville was asked by 28 Catholics from Albion and LaGrange in attendance about re-establishing their parish.

The Oblate Missionary priests then came from Boston to celebrate Mass in Albion and Ligonier from 1934-1969. Until a new church was built, Mass was celebrated in Albion in a room above the post office.

In 1941, a new stone church was built in the Albion courthouse square. By the 1980's 200 families were attending with more during the summer. According to Father Steele, by 1993, the county wanted that property for parking while the current property had been on the market for a long time, so a move was made. The current church property includes over six acres so there is plenty of space to build the new church.

Father Steele said there have been several times over the past



Denise Fedorow

The sanctuary of Blessed Sacrament Church in Albion. The church is located on State Road 9.

25 years that plans for a new church have been drawn up, but for one reason or another, plans never got off the ground. Now plans are to break ground in March of 2017 and Father Steele said they will build the church without any debt.

Father Steele divides his time between Blessed Sacrament and St. Joseph parish in LaGrange. He said when he came to the parish in 2012, there were 95 families. Now there are 125 registered households and according to Parish Secretary Pam Edwards, "We're still growing."

"We are thriving with activity; there's always something going on," Father Steele said.

### Ministries activities

Blessed Sacrament has a choir, RCIA, youth formation classes (CCD), Rosary Sodality, Youth Group and more. Rosary Sodality is very active and hosts a lot of dinners, including all the funeral dinners, receptions for First Communion and Confirmation. Recently a steak dinner co-hosted with the youth group was held and the youth group held a basket auction during the dinner. The Rosary Sodality uses funds raised to purchase new vestments, altar cloths, etc. for the church.

Edwards said the active youth group also recently sponsored tables representing each corporal work of mercy and items donated were brought to a local woman's shelter.

The parish also holds trivia night fundraisers for members of the parish who are in need. Edwards describes the parish as close knit and members enjoy getting together for fellowship.

"We are the eating-est parish you ever met!" she laughed.

Besides eating, many of the parishioners also like to sew and knit. A "Stitchin' Sisters" ministry was born and every new baby baptized in the parish receives a baby quilt and new parishioners receive knitted dish cloths in their welcome packet.

Father Steele agreed that the strong point of the parish is hospitality. "We do hospitality well here," he said.

Father Steele said the focus the last few years has been preparing for the building project but last year he was able to bring a retreat to Blessed Sacrament that he'd been wanting to be a part of for many years — the Alpha program. He was excited when he received the news from the diocese that the program was coming here because he'd heard such good things about it. Blessed Sacrament joined with other local parishes and they had over 100 people attend each Sunday. Father Steele said that even though the Alpha program initiated from the Protestant church, he thinks it is even more effective in a Catholic setting.

"Because Catholicism has so many levels, we rarely talk about the basics — Alpha teaches us how to do basic evangelization," he said. "People that are most likely to become Catholic are those who've been introduced to it in some way — like visitors at funerals (for example)."

Father Steele said he'd like to have more retreat programs like Alpha. "My own faith was formed by going on retreat while at college," he said.

Father Steele also felt that the adult religious education offered at Blessed Sacrament has been well attended. Aside from Alpha, they recently offered Symbolon and are beginning a Bible study based on Dr. John Bergsma's Bible Basics for Catholics — another program he "highly recommends."

This summer the parish is planning on building a Stations of the Cross walk through the woods on the property.

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## St. Mary of the Assumption Parish offers spiritual home

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

AVILLA — St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in the village of Avilla has long been the spiritual home of hundreds of Indiana Catholics in Noble County. It was established in 1853, thanks to the work of missionary priests Father Stephen Badin and Father Simon Lalumine, who ministered to the fledgling Catholic community in that area.

Founding priest Father Edward Faller led eight families in worship in a small frame building which he had constructed on land donated by John Geiser, and ten years later, opened the only Catholic elementary school in the county.

However, parish records credit Father Dominick Duehmig, a zealous pioneer missionary priest who became St. Mary's pastor in 1876, for erecting the church which stands today. It was originally constructed for \$8,600 and was nearly 5,000 sq. ft. in size.

Under his 37-year administration, the parish grew and thrived and became known as the Mother Church of the surrounding area. He was also instrumental in persuading the Sisters of St. Francis of the Sacred Heart to come to America and locate at Avilla where they taught in the elementary school and cared for the aged in what later became Sacred Heart Home.

St. Mary's School continues to this day as the only Catholic elementary school in Noble, LaGrange and Steuben counties and draws students from Blessed Sacrament parish in Albion, Immaculate Conception parishes in Kendallville, Ege and Auburn, St. Joseph parishes in LaGrange and Garrett, St. Anthony in Angola, St. John Bosco in Churubusco and St. Gaspar in Rome City.

One hundred sixty-three students are currently enrolled in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, and it is clear that their parents understand the importance of the school's Catholic identity and want that education in the faith for their children.

First year principal Jane Sandor outlines those faith-centered activities. Each day staff members gather for prayer and reflection, then join students for morning prayer in the school gym. This year's spiritual focus has been on the virtue of hope, she says, and the Act of Hope is recited daily. Physical well-being of the body as a temple of the Holy Spirit is nurtured, as well, with participation in a "mileage club" as part of students' physical education. A rigorous curriculum with a multidisciplinary approach used in many subject areas and at all grade levels brings students' mental acuity to its highest level.



Extra-curricular activities are also faith-based. Emphasis on the corporal works of mercy during Pope Francis' Jubilee Year of Mercy has led students to organize a Red Cross blood drive, visit Sacred Heart Home, hold food drives, collect baby items for the Women's Care Center and raise money for the Franciscan Sisters in South America.

Sandor notes that the distinction of being the only Catholic elementary school in three counties brings with it a three-fold responsibility: One, maintain the strong traditions evidenced by the longevity of the parish and school, two, maintain a fervent and rich faith life, and three, provide the leadership for growth.

Various parish ministries also help to strengthen St. Mary's, like the Altar and Rosary Society headed up by Henrietta Harris. With a membership of more than 50, the group sponsors a Christmas bazaar in conjunction with a local restaurant in December and holds a spring bake sale before Easter. This year the latter netted nearly \$500, which Harris says is "good for us." She is a long-time member of the parish, as were her parents and grandparents before her. "It's part of my heart," she says



**St. Mary School Principal, Jane Sandor and staff hosted a Pope Francis Night for St. Mary School families and community members. The evening began with prayer, songs and a "walking taco" potluck. Several different activities followed including a shadow puppet theater, an interactive story, a Pope Francis prayer activity, a wax museum of saints, a book walk and a book fair. Food and paper products for the local food bank were also collected.**

fondly.

Katie Herendeen, RCIA director, instructs those who wish to enter the Church. Some candidates are those planning to marry at St. Mary's but many are parents of students who attend the school. It's a ministry she finds very fulfilling. She enjoys the parish community and says, "I like the intimacy of a smaller church."

Barb Braley wears more than one hat at St. Mary's. She is the church organist at the 8 a.m. Sunday Mass, a job she took on as "a temporary thing" 20 years ago, she says, laughing. She is also CCD religious education director for kindergarteners through 12th graders. Along with six other teachers, she educates 36 students in the faith each week and prepares them for the sacraments. Recently 16 children received their First Holy Communion and several received the Sacrament of Confirmation, all in one week. She calls St. Mary's a busy parish and "a great place to come visit."

Father Daniel Chuckweleta, a native of Nigeria, has been assigned to St. Mary's as pastor the past four years. He loves its school and is said to share the faith beautifully through his excellent homilies at children's Masses. The most important quality of the parish is its sense of Christian community, he says.

Principal Sandor believes that tradition is important at St. Mary's. Though she is speaking of the school, her observations apply to the entire parish, as well. "It has withstood the test of time because of the strong faith traditions and the ever present multi-generational influences."

St. Mary of the Assumption is strongly rooted in that faith which has been preserved through the decades by many generations of northeast Indiana Catholics.



Father Bernard Ramanaden, OSB



Photos by Stephanie Patka

**Life-sized, this Pieta was a gift from several generous parishioners.**

## St. Gaspar, settled in midst of lake country

BY STEPHANIE A. PATKA

ROME CITY — North of Sylvan Lake on State Road 9, sits the small parish of St. Gaspar del Bufalo. Built in 1957, the quiet brick building might have a stoic appearance, but for the town of Rome City and the parishioners, St. Gaspar's is a vibrant testament to the strength and beauty of an active community.

The demographics of the parish are reflective of the local geography. Over half of the 236 families registered at the parish are retired and the parish sees an increase of at least 100 additional families in the summer months. Pastor Bernard Ramanaden, OSB, has been pastor for eight years and says that while the parish doesn't have a youth religious education program, the adult faith formation program is very strong.

There is a bible study class of over 35-40 people that meets after the morning Mass every Thursday throughout the year. The group, led by Father Ramanaden, focuses on Scripture and various religious books. This year, they have been using books on the Jubilee Year of Mercy from Our Sunday Visitor. Additionally, between the two Masses on Sunday morning, there is another group that meets for discussion of current topics of interest and how they impact the Catholic Church and faith community.

"St. Gaspar's parishioners are very religious and value learning and growing deeper in their faith," Father Ramanaden reflected. "Between Bible studies, discussion groups and meditative books during Advent, the people here are hungry to learn more about God and their faith."

For the last several years during Lent, the parish offers three days for the Stations of the Cross on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Between the three days, over 120 people show up. "There is no excuse not to come to stations because we offer so many times," Father Ramanaden said. "I encourage people to come twice."

In addition to opportunities to growing in faith, the parishioners of St. Gaspar offer numerous opportunities to grow in

community and friendship with each other. After Stations of the Cross on Wednesdays during Lent, there is Mass and a soup supper. Volunteers alternate each week and provide soup for the 60-70 parishioners who come and spend time with each other.

The generosity of the parishioners extends from internal events such as the soup supper to many events of the church that involve and impact the local community. Parish member Sue Miller often donates soups to the Lenten suppers as well as the annual Fancy Fair Craft Bazaar through her restaurant, Twin Six in Wolcottville.

The Fancy Fair Craft Bazaar is one of the largest signature events for the parish. The event features more than 40 different crafters who sell their wares. The parish members support the event by providing cookies for the enormous "Cookie Bar" and by providing soups, sandwiches and sloppy joes for the lunch.

The event is organized by chair, Luanne Shull, on behalf of the Rosary Sodality in order that the group can continue to financially underwrite more than 20 different ministries throughout their local community.

"This Fancy Fair helps make all this support possible, we are so lucky to have so much generosity here in our parish," Pratt said.

Organizing the Fancy Fair isn't the only project of the Rosary Sodality. The parish also helps buy presents and supplies for needy families during the Christmas holiday through the Angel Tree Project. Recently, the sodality has been collecting plastic shopping bags in order to use the cleaned plastic as a type of 'yarn' to crochet mats for the homeless. These mats are crocheted by members of the Sodality and donated to various homeless shelters even as far as Fort Wayne.

"We have a sense of community here; we are more than just people who fulfill obligations of going to church every week," Pratt said. "What is most remarkable is that we have people that have a commitment to fellowship and community; we are just knit together like that."

## Immaculate Conception Parish welcoming to all

BY DENISE FEDOROW

KENDALLVILLE — A first look at Immaculate Conception Church in Kendallville gives the impression of its long and storied history. The brick church at 319 East Diamond Street was built in 1922, but the parish was established in 1867. Initially a mission church of St. Mary in Avilla, it was reportedly the oldest church in the area.

Current pastor Father James Stoye said they didn't have money to build a church at first so the old Baptist Church was purchased. That building was also once used as a school and a hospital, including a Civil War hospital. That church was later torn down and the lumber sold and the current church was built in 1922.

Father Stoye said when Archbishop John Noll was pastor he made Immaculate Conception a mission church of St. Patrick in Ligonier.

The interior of the church is currently in great shape. Father Stoye said it's been renovated several times. Since he's been pastor, new vents were put in the top of the church and the belfry was renovated to stop snow and rain from blowing inside. Interior walls had to be replaced from years of water getting inside and were repainted. Father Stoye designed a new reredos (wall behind altar) from solid maple and it was installed just weeks before Easter. This also allowed the tabernacle to be raised higher, making it more visible from the pews.

The Stations of the Cross were also repainted. The basement was renovated and cement flooring had to be torn out, classrooms were renovated and the lighting in the church was tripled.

"We did it all without a special collection," Father Stoye said.

Father Stoye has been at Immaculate Conception Church about 6 and a half years. He said when he came the organist was nearing 85 years old so Father Stoye invested in a recordable organ.

"I'm hoping to leave a library of music," he said. "This organ allows us to have music during every Mass."

Currently there are 275 registered families at Immaculate Conception with about 75 Hispanic families. They added a Spanish Mass on Sundays at 4 p.m. with the assistance of two Spanish speaking priests.

Immaculate Conception has an RCIA program, children's church on Sunday mornings, Knights of Columbus, Rosary Sodality, a small choir and an active youth group. Father Stoye said new youth ministers Zac and Mackenzie Ritchie have really engaged the youth of the parish with fun and educational



Photos by Denise Fedorow

**Immaculate Conception Church in Kendallville is right on the corner at 319 E Diamond Street in Kendallville. The cornerstone displays the date this church was built in 1922.**



**At left, a view of Immaculate Conception Church from the altar, showing the choir loft and beautiful Rose stained glass window above.**

come up for a blessing.

He has seen an increase in weddings, baptisms and RCIA attendance in the parish, too.

"People are seeking," he said.

Father Stoye said he believes one of the strengths of his parish is its generosity — in the church and beyond. He mentioned a local charity that all the churches support to assist their food pantry and when they receive thank you letters the generosity of the parish is often proclaimed. Parishioners also generously support foreign missions.

He enjoys the friendships he's made in the parish and believes the parish is becoming closer and more unified.

activities — a recent Scripture scavenger hunt is an example.

There are currently 62 children in Religious Education in grades Kindergarten through eighth grade. Eucharistic Adoration is held the first Wednesday of the month.

Vacation Bible School started at Immaculate Conception the year after Father Stoye arrived and it is open to everyone — non-Catholic children as well. Father Stoye said they place a large sign out front — which garnered thanks from the mayor of Kendallville — and they do attract several non-Catholic children. Father Stoye said all the parents know that the children will be attending Mass at the end of the program and before they hold the final picnic. He said the year before last had 67 children participating — the largest number so far.

Vacation Bible School is just one way the pastor and parish has had the opportunity to evangelize. Father Stoye has been invited to other churches to explain some of our Catholic beliefs. He said that's historically been the case at Immaculate Conception as former Bishop John Noll used to host open houses "basically apologetics meetings" and a former pastor Father William Ehrman was also invited to dispel some Catholic "myths," which resulted in the re-establishment of the parish in nearby Albion. Within the parish there are regular non-Catholic Mass attendees who



### What is the Catholic Community Foundation?

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

Here are some important facts about the Catholic Community Foundation:

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

The endowments invested within the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana for parishes, schools and/or ministries in Noble County are as follows:

- **Sister Renninger Fund** — Income from this fund is to be used for tuition assistance at St. Mary School, Avilla.
- **St. Mary School, Avilla, General Endowment Fund** — Income from this endowment is used to support St. Mary of the Assumption School, Avilla.

#### Making a gift to the Catholic Community Foundation

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

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

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## Spring, joy, and the Holy Spirit

My heart sings that it is finally spring! As you know, winters in northern Indiana can be grey, cold and long, not to mention snowy and — let's be honest — somewhat depressing. That's why when May comes along it's a particularly hopeful and beautiful time.

I was on the campus of Saint Mary's College last week. It was a rainy, chilly day, but the grounds were lush green and bursting with beautiful blossoms. Most blossoms were from ordinary trees and bushes, and an occasional simple flower growing in the path. It reminded me of St. Therese's words:

*"...all the flowers He has created are lovely. The splendour of the rose and whiteness of the lily do not rob the little violet of its scent nor the daisy of its simple charm."*

I realized that if every tiny flower wanted to be a rose, spring would lose its loveliness and there would be no wild flowers to make the meadows gay.

*It is just the same in the world of souls — which is the garden of Jesus. He has created the great saints who are like the lilies and the roses, but He has also created much lesser saints and they must be content to be the daisies or the violets which rejoice His eyes whenever He glances down. Perfection consists in doing His will, in being that which He wants us to be."* from "The Story of a Soul" — New York: Double Day, 2001

What a beautiful thought! Wouldn't it be silly for a rose to 'try' to be a daisy or a sunflower to "try" to shrink and become a lily of the valley? All flowers are

beautiful and each has a special way of enhancing the landscape. The wildflowers at the edge of the road lift the spirits as much as a carefully cultivated rose bush.

Have you ever seen a little weed flower growing in between the cracks of the sidewalk or at the side of a walkway or even near a garbage can and thought, even for a moment, 'how lovely' or even 'how persistent?' These little bursts of fragrance and color can lift the spirits and are evidence of a loving Father. How bland our world would be without these sweet gifts!

We each have a special mission in the world, some lofty for the world to see, and others more small and hidden. All our work is important to do, no matter what God has given to us, and each of us can enhance the landscape in our own way, according to His will. We can have peace in knowing that our holiness consists in seeking God's will for our individual lives and then working to fulfill that. Small things done with great love will do the trick. What joy in knowing this!

When you throw a pebble in a pond it causes ripples. The pebbles are the acts in our lives. We can have ripples for good or ripples for evil. This is our choice.

The ripples come from small things, like paying for the coffee for the car behind you in the Starbucks line, or telling someone when she looks pretty, encouraging someone who feels down, or smiling at the grocery clerk or man behind you in the line. The ripples come from medium things, like writing a long note to a grieving family



TERESA A. THOMAS

### EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

who has just lost someone they love, or making dinner for a new mother. The ripples come from big things too, like becoming a foster parent, or volunteering long term at the pro-life center, or faithfully praying the Rosary every day of your life.

I was at a dinner last night hosted by the Sister who teaches the "Dignity and Vocation of Women" class for senior girls at the high school. The event was for Sister's students and their mothers or mother figures, and included not only great inspirational talks but some games as well. One of the games was passing around a ruler and having everyone measure each other's smiles. The widest smiles won a prize. It was silly, ridiculous, and incredibly laughter-filled and fun. Imagine that. Joy being valued. How awesome!

I want to be known for my joy. I want to be known for spreading hope. I want to be known for making good ripples from the actions I do, whether big or medium or small. A fruit of the Holy Spirit is joy. Let us grow in faith, yes, but let us grow in joy. Let us show the world little 'springtimes' in our actions and words, and offer, even in little corners seemingly unseen, hope.

## Physician assisted suicide is coming to a city near you

In the April edition of the Indiana State Medical Society monthly report I was disturbed to read an opinion piece by an IU oncologist entitled, "The Art of Dying Well." In this article he lays out an apparently sympathetic and emotional case in favor of physician-assisted suicide. He also asks physicians to support his resolution at the annual convention to allow this practice in Indiana. This resolution is the first step in legalizing this practice in our state. His assertion is that allowing a patient to choose the time and manner of their death is to allow them to die well. However, as a rational human being, I have several issues with this claim and, as a physician, I have even more.

Any reasonable person can recognize that physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia can never be tolerated under any circumstances because it is an objectively grave moral evil. Allowing this practice leads to a gross marginalization of human life at a societal level and at an individual level. Euthanasia artificially assigns a discrete and arbitrary value to one's life, thereby eliminating the essential truth that every human life is sacred. This ethic is effectively a negative utilitarian worldview in which it is determined that certain lives are no longer worth living. Sadly, for many in our society this seems to be a laudable option for the aged or infirm purely because they are

### THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

DR. ANDREW MULLALLY

approaching death and do not have much "utility" left. While most advocates of this practice commonly relate anecdotal stories of patients or family members who made a lucid request to end their life due to unbearable and untreatable pain, we should be familiar with the essential moral aspects of this decision and the natural course of where this worldview has led to in countries where it is legal.

Physician-assisted suicide advocates claim their advocacy is in support of an individual's right to choose how and when to die. This includes many situations outside that of "unbearable pain" as presented above. For example, what do you do with patients who are terminally ill? Does it make a difference if the patient's life expectancy is a week or ten years? What if they did not want to become incapacitated? What if they are afraid of loneliness and want to undergo double euthanasia with their spouse? What if they admit to

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## Christ's Church is formed



### THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### Feast of Pentecost John 14:15-16, 23b-26

This weekend the Church celebrates the feast of Pentecost. After Easter and Christmas, it is the most important feast of the liturgical year because of the momentous event that it commemorates, the miraculous coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles.

Pentecost occurred in Jerusalem, where the Apostles had gathered, some time after the Lord's Ascension.

The first reading for this weekend, from the Acts of the Apostles, recalls this event.

In the first part of the reading, the identity of the Holy Spirit is clearly given. The Spirit

is God and comes from God. To understand how clearly this identity is given it is necessary to be familiar somewhat with the symbols for God used in the Old Testament.

First, a "strong, driving wind" comes up. Ancient biblical writings associate great gusting winds with God. Secondly, fire appeared. Fire also often symbolized God in the Old Testament, as it symbolized God when Moses encountered God on Sinai.

Revealed is that the Spirit is God. The Lord's divine identity again is affirmed, since Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come. Jesus and the Spirit, with the Father, are one.

The reading proceeds. After being empowered by the Spirit, and "prompted" by the Spirit, the Apostles went into Jerusalem. As a result of Pentecost, the Apostles suddenly had the power to speak in foreign languages. Very important is the revelation that the Spirit "prompted" to speak.

In the city were many visitors who had come to celebrate

the Jewish feast of Pentecost. They came from all parts of the Roman Empire. Each could understand what the Apostles were saying. Each understood that God had accomplished marvels for all people, that God had provided salvation and eternal life through Christ.

For its second reading, the Church gives us a passage from Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians. St. Paul makes an important point. Truly to believe that Jesus is Lord requires enlightenment, and strength, from the Holy Spirit. A genuine confession that Jesus is Lord is more than an intellectual statement. To be authentic, it must be heartfelt in the most profound sense.

St. Paul then goes on to give the basis of the theology that would result, in these times, in Pope Pius XII's magnificent encyclical, "Mystici Corporis", and in the documents of the Second Vatican Council, especially its teachings on the Church.

In Christ, all the faithful are members of one body, bound to the Lord, but also bound to each

other. No one is excluded from this body by any accidental, such as gender or race.

The third reading is from St. John's Gospel. The Risen Lord appears to the Apostles. He tells them to be in peace. Then Jesus gives them the authority to forgive sins. This authorization, and power, confers divine power itself upon the Apostles.

### Reflection

Not too many days ago the Church celebrated the Lord's glorious Ascension into heaven, but Jesus did not exit the earth. His words and power remain. His life remains. His love remains.

He remains, the Church expressly and joyfully tells us on this great feast, in the Church itself. The Apostles formed the Church. Their successors still preach the Lord's words, bringing Jesus to us.

Thus, the Church carefully protects their teaching. It is not arrogant in this. Instead, it never wants to lose the teachings, or even part of, the teachings of Jesus.

We are the Church, gathered around the Apostles, as were the first Christians in Jerusalem mentioned in Acts. We are bonded together, with Christ. In Jesus is our peace, a peace drawn from the realization that in the Lord we shall live eternally.

If we are the Church, in one body, then we too must bring Jesus to others.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Acts 2:1-11 Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

**Monday:** Jas 3:13-18 Ps 19:8-10, 15 Mk 9:14-29

**Tuesday:** Jas 4:1-10 Ps 55:7-11a, 23 Mk 9:30-37

**Wednesday:** Jas 4:13-17 Ps 49:2-3, 6-11 Mk 9:38-40

**Thursday:** Jas 5:1-6 Ps 49:14-20 Mk 9:41-50

**Friday:** Jas 5:9-12 Ps 103:1-4, 8-9, 11-12 Mk 10:1-12

**Saturday:** Jas 5:13-20 Ps 141:1-3, 8 Mk 10:13-16

# The most important day of your life

**D**uring talks around the country in recent years, I've been asking Catholic audiences how many of those present know the date of their baptism. The high-end response is a little under 10%. The average is about 2-3%. This, brethren, is a problem.

You know your birthday. You know (or you'd better know, gentlemen) your wedding anniversary. You know your children's birthdays. So why don't you know the date when you became a friend and companion of the Lord Jesus Christ – the most important day of your life?

I started thinking about this some thirty years ago, when I began working with evangelical Protestants on religious freedom and pro-life issues. ("Religious freedom" in that innocent age meant prying "dissident" Christians and Jews out of the clutches of the KGB, not trying to keep the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from bullying the Little Sisters of the Poor.) And I discovered that these folks had an interesting way of introducing themselves at meetings.

Throw a dozen Americans, unknown to each other, together, and the normal way of letting people know who you are is by saying what you do: "I'm Jane Smith and I'm a pediatrician." Or "I'm John Jones and I work for Microsoft." That's not how my new acquaintances identified themselves, however. They'd say, "I'm Jane Smith and I was born again on" such-and-such a date, usually a few years back, when Jane would obviously have been an adult. "I'm John Jones and I was born again on...." And so forth and so on.

When the introductions came around to me, I would say, "I'm George Weigel and I was born

again on April 29, 1951 – at which point I was precisely twelve days old." It was a shock to some, but it did get a few interesting conversations about sacramental theology going.

Then, when I was working on the first volume of my John Paul II biography, *Witness to Hope*, I had to describe the Pope's visit to his home town, Wadowice, during his first papal pilgrimage to Poland in June 1979. He of course went to the church he had known as a boy; but what did he do when he got there? He went straight to the baptismal font, knelt, and kissed it. Why? Because St. John Paul knew that the most important day of his life was the day of his baptism: not the day he was ordained a priest, or consecrated a bishop, or elected pope. The day of his baptism was, literally, the font from which everything else in his life flowed.

And that's not just true of saints. It ought to be true of each of us. Because on the day we were baptized – as infants or teenagers or adults – we became friends of the Lord Jesus Christ and we received a missionary commission: we were commissioned to "Go...and make disciples of all nations... teaching them all that I have commanded you." That instruction in Matthew 28.19-20 was not just addressed to a ragtag band of eleven men from the cultural and political fringes of the Roman Empire. It was addressed to you, and to me, and to everyone else in the Church, on the day of our baptism.

So after my little quiz, I suggest to my audiences that they go home that night, dig out the file where they keep the "Catholic paper," look up the date of their baptism, memorize it – and then celebrate it every



GEORGE WEIGEL

## THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

year. Having done this for years, I now find out that there are special graces to be obtained from partying on the date of your baptism: a plenary indulgence may be obtained on the anniversary of baptism by renewing your baptismal promises "according to the approved formula." Which every Catholic ought to know from the Easter Vigil or Easter Sunday Mass, when we renew our baptismal promises as a community.

Owning your baptism is the precondition to being a member of that "Church permanently in mission" which Pope Francis calls us to be. So own it, celebrate it – and then put that renewal of grace to use in inviting others to become friends of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for May 15, 2016

Acts 2:1-11

Following is a word search based on the second reading for Pentecost Sunday, Mass of the Day. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

PENTECOST	TOGETHER	TONGUES
OF FIRE	HOLY SPIRIT	SPEAK
DEVOUT	EVERY NATION	HEAVEN
SOUND	CROWD	NATIVE
LANGUAGE	MEDES	MESOPOTAMIA
JUDEA	PONTUS	EGYPT
CYRENE	ROME	CRETANS

### LANGUAGE

M T I R I P S Y L O H E  
 O E G A U G N A L O E D  
 F N S N A T E R C V A E  
 F E S O U N D H E N V V  
 I R U J P T O R A C E O  
 R Y T K J O Y N E R N U  
 E C N P E N T E C O S T  
 V G O E A G F A O W S P  
 I E P T Y U L E M D P Y  
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### Saint of the week:

**Mary Mazzarello**

1837-1881 Feast Day May 14



An Italian peasant, Mary worked long hours in the fields and vineyards. She attended Mass frequently and joined a sodality whose members in 1860 were asked to nurse typhoid victims. Mary caught the fever and nearly died. Because of weakened health, she started a dressmaking business to employ local girls. This was the beginning of the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco, which now has 1,400 houses in 54 countries.

## DOCTOR

Continued from Page 12

depression that has caused suicidal thoughts? Initially it would appear that there is a great difference between the advocate's poster child for euthanasia and a depressed 13 year-old girl who broke up with her boyfriend. However, the suicidal act of an 80 year-old and a 13 year-old differs only in circumstance and not in essence. It is easy for a rational individual to stand against the 13 year-old's depression as an unacceptable reason for euthanasia; but why? We naturally reject the desire of a 13 year-old to end her life because we see it as a loss of a life worth living. Yet when the scenario involves the 80 year-old, we are quick to label it as the "patient's right to choose." The crux of the euthanasia argument can now be revealed as not an individual's

autonomous choice, but rather society's external de-valuation of lives as not worth living, and in particular, a marginalization of the aged and ill.

The act of killing a patient is the same whether they have a great "quality of life" or an allegedly poor one. When confronted with this fact, the advocates of euthanasia are forced to resort to the lowest common denominator and recognize that if euthanasia is to be allowed, it needs to be universally allowed. It is for this reason, pediatric euthanasia is allowed in the Netherlands for patients age 12 and older and in Belgium pediatric euthanasia is legal without any age limit. Even worse, half of Belgium's euthanasia nurses admitted to helping euthanize a patient with no "request or consent." How quickly we have digressed from a choice, to a right, to a duty to die, and now even without consent. To whom can one turn, when emotionally or physically ill, if not to their physician and medical team?

For the last 2500 years (up until recently), physicians have been trusted by their patients to, "First, do no harm." This adage is the cornerstone of medical ethics. In the Hippocratic Oath, graduating medical students traditionally promised to never "administer a poison to anybody when asked to do so, nor to suggest such a course." This is an essential oath, as a doctor must always be trusted to treat and to heal for a patient to feel comfortable surrendering their bodies and well-being to the care of their physician. To rescind this oath, as many medical schools have done, severs the trust of the physician-patient relationship and allows for practices such as physician-assisted suicide. This fundamentally changes the fiduciary role of a physician and endangers patients.

It is our affirmative duty as Americans, and my particular duty as a physician, to resist this practice at any cost. Many may still contend that this issue is not one of much importance,

and that it only affects a small percentage of people. However, in the countries where the practice of killing patients has been tolerated for decades, the percentage of euthanized patients has tripled since it was officially decriminalized in 2002 rising approximately 15 percent each year in the last decade. Without proper education, people are at risk to increase this statistic not knowing that there are other universally accepted and extremely effective alternatives, such as hospice and palliative care, that not only excel at greatly reducing pain, but also in comforting the patient and the family in their time of grief.

Physician-assisted suicide not only destroys the physician-patient relationship and further marginalizes the vulnerable of our society, but it robs patients and their families of the solace that comes with a natural death and imposes upon its victims the consequences of an irrevocable and gravely flawed decision. I have witnessed firsthand the

consolation and even joy that come from the actions in the final chapter of one's life. There is a significant maturing and coming to grips with one's mortality that is therapeutic for not only the patient, but also for the family, that comes from surrendering to God's will for the end of one's life. In a patient's final days, he would benefit much more from physician aid-in-living rather than physician aid-in-dying. The proponents of euthanasia will continue to try to camouflage their position as the "compassionate choice" or the more "sympathetic" view of the patient's strife. However, this will always be an ironic assertion considering that these words mean to "suffer together" and to "suffer with." The cure for suffering is not to eliminate the sufferer but rather to comfort him and stand with him in solidarity when he is ill. It is only by supporting patients up until the time of a natural death that we can allow them to truly die well.

# FRASSATI

Continued from Page 1

to Christ. We do that through providing opportunities for formation and prayer as a part of every event we host."

The road rally featured more than 20 challenges for the young adult teams of 4-5 people per car to complete within one hour. Faking a proposal at the mall food court was one of the many risky challenges that earned participants points, as well as taking a selfie with a priest, writing on sidewalks with chalk to encourage people to pray the rosary, and taking a photo with a random family at a local restaurant. At the end, the final challenge of the night was spending 30 minutes in silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

"A perfect end to the evening," adds Laskowski. "Everything in our lives should revolve around our personal intimacy with Christ — especially in the Eucharist."

Teams were composed of 30 area young adults, many of whom hadn't met each other before.

"We wanted to bridge the gap between acquaintances and new friendships," said Monica Bodien, the other co-director of Frassati. "We have such a great group of young adults here at Our Lady, and building up deeper relationships with each other is fundamental to helping us build a deeper relationship with God. We can't thrive in our faith on our own. We were made for community."

Fort Wayne Frassati hosts young adult trivia nights every second Saturday of the month August-May. Bible studies and other event information is available through the website: [www.FortWayneFrassati.org](http://www.FortWayneFrassati.org) or by emailing [frassati@olghfw.com](mailto:frassati@olghfw.com).



The Fort Wayne Frassati young adults spent 30 minutes in silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament at Our Lady of Good Hope.



At right, co-organizer Monica Bodien, left, welcomes participants to the Fort Wayne Frassati road rally. Photos by Maria Emilian

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

**WHAT'S HAPPENING** carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. View more Catholic events and submit yours at [www.diocesefwsb.org/bulletin](http://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.

**Class of '66 to be honored**

Fort Wayne — Golden Knights, graduates from the Bishop Luers High School class of 1966, will be honored at the graduation ceremony on Friday, May 27, at 4 p.m. Following the graduation ceremony, they will attend a reception in room 141. Meet in the front lobby at 3:30 p.m. RSVP to Melissa Hire at [mhire@bishoplusers.org](mailto:mhire@bishoplusers.org).

**Our Lady of Fatima to be honored**

Garrett — St. Joseph Church will have a candle light procession at the Grotto for the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima on Friday, May 13, at 7:30 p.m. The procession will begin at St. Joseph Church and proceed to the Grotto. For more information call 260-357-5137.

**Mini retreat offered**

Fort Wayne — St. Vincent de Paul Parish will offer a mini-

retreat with Catholic author and teacher Mary Sharon Moore. "Lord, teach us to pray" will be Friday, May 13, at 9 a.m. in the Life Center, 1502 E. Wallen Rd. For information contact Dorothy at 260-489-3537 ext. 207 or [dschuerman@sainttv.org](mailto:dschuerman@sainttv.org).

**Concert bell choir to perform**

Fort Wayne — The Westminster Concert Bell Choir of Rider University, Princeton New Jersey will present "Songs of America" Thursday, June 2, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 4916 Trier Rd. A free-will offering will be received. The concert is a part of the choir's nationwide tour. The Westminster Concert Bell Choir has made eleven professional recordings and performs on the largest set of handbells in the world as well as Choirchimes and other instruments.

**Marian High School shares information**

Elkhart — An information night will explore why a Marian education has a strong Catholic environment, college prep curriculum, dual credit courses, highly competitive athletic programs, extracurricular activities, bus transportation and more. Visit Wednesday, May 18 at 7 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul School (bilingual). Contact 574-258-7678 or visit online at [www.marianhs.org](http://www.marianhs.org).

**Rosary Society plans rummage sale**

Mishawaka — St. Joseph Rosary Society will have a rummage and bake sale Friday, June 10, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday, June 11, from 9 a.m. to noon at the corner of Third and Spring Streets. Contact Peg Morter at 574-255-7289 or email [morters75@att.net](mailto:morters75@att.net) for information.

**Theology on Capp**

Mishawaka — High School teens

## REST IN PEACE

**Auburn**

Gilbert J. Fox, 90, Immaculate Conception

**Fort Wayne**

Daniel P. Andersen, 88, St. Patrick

Cheryll Ann Lootens, 66, Our Lady of Good Hope

Julia H. Nankervis, 72, St. Vincent de Paul

Maureen Ann Madden, 79, St. Vincent de Paul  
Mary Lou Dillon, 80, St. Vincent de Paul

Randall R. Sorg, 57, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel

Richard P. Quillin, 82, St. Vincent de Paul

**Huntington**

Patricia A. Hohe, 85, Ss. Peter and Paul

**Mishawaka**

Maureen J. George, 86, St. Joseph

**South Bend**

Jimmie Lou Garcia, 81, St. Adalbert

Cecilial M Klosowski, 84, St. John the Baptist

**Yoder**

Robert D. Grace, 67, St. Aloysius

Submit obituaries to [mweber@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:mweber@diocesefwsb.org)

are invited to Theology on Capp Monday, May 16, from 7-8:45 p.m. at the Knights Hall, 114 W. First St. Father Chris Lapp will speak on true friendship. There will be grilling at this last event of the year. Guests are welcome to bring snacks.

**Cursillo Grand Ultreya**

Warsaw — Men and women who have made a Cursillo weekend are invited to an afternoon of reflection and renewal at a Grand Ultreya at Sacred Heart Parish, 135 North Harrison, on Saturday, May 21, from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Contact Rick Jennings at 260-494-5982 for information.

**Ancilla College plans golf classic**

Donaldson — The Ancilla College golf classic will be Monday, June

13, at Swan Lake Resort. Lunch, 18 holes of golf, and a prime rib dinner are included in player registrations. Individuals are \$150 and teams are \$600 with sponsorships available. The event raises funds for scholarship and aid to students attending the college. For more information go to [www.Ancilla.edu/golfclassic](http://www.Ancilla.edu/golfclassic) or contact Emily Hutsell at [Emily.hutsell@ancilla.edu](mailto:Emily.hutsell@ancilla.edu).

**Summer camps offered**

South Bend — Saint Joseph High School will offer sports camps, technology camp, art camp and ceramics camp for grade school students this summer. For a complete list of opportunities, cost and online registration visit [www.saintjoehigh.com/camps](http://www.saintjoehigh.com/camps).

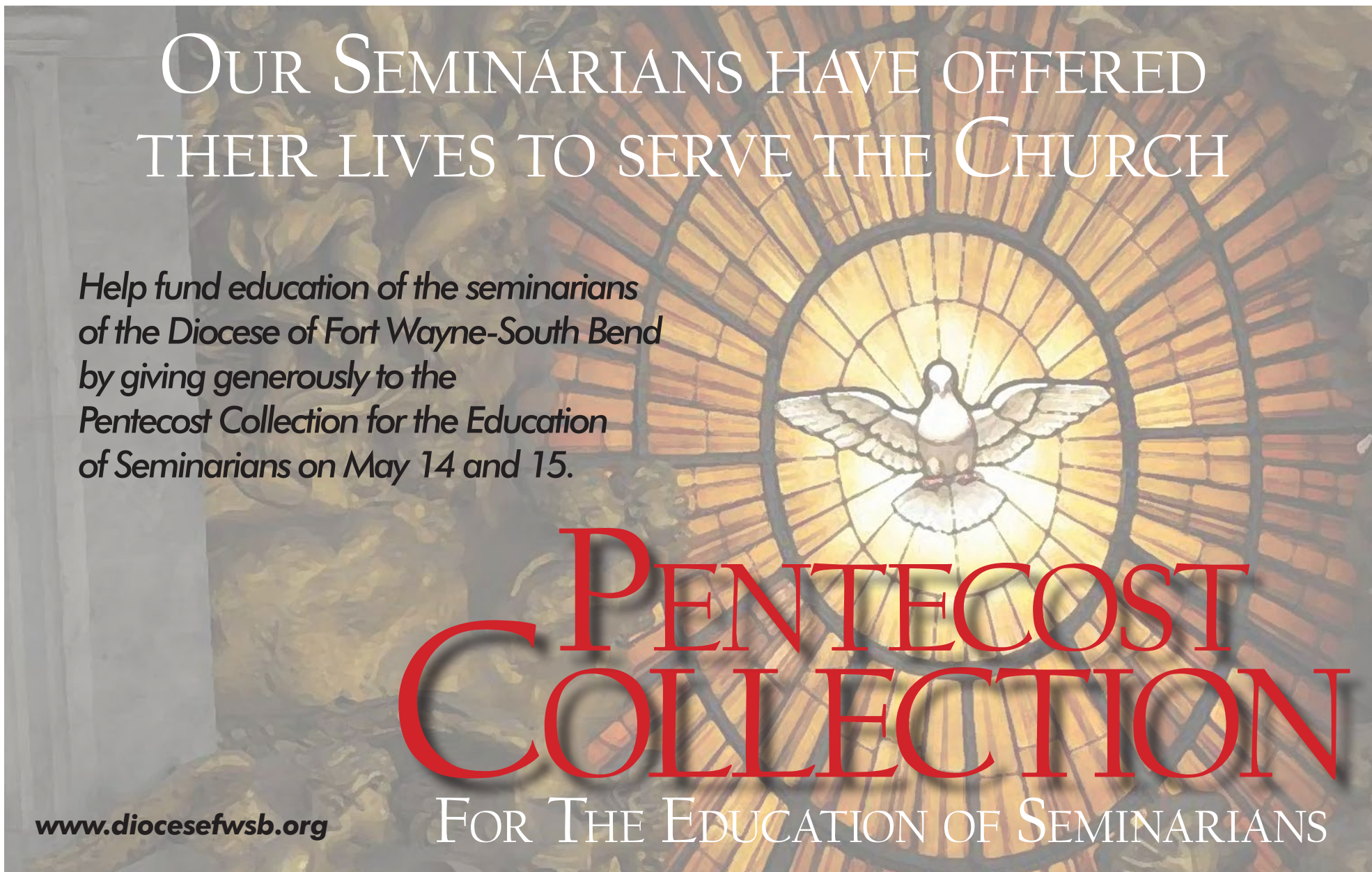
# OUR SEMINARIANS HAVE OFFERED THEIR LIVES TO SERVE THE CHURCH

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## International participation high at Italian March for Life



CNS/Paul Haring

Auxiliary Bishop Athanasius Schneider of Astana, Kazakhstan and U.S. Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, patron of the Knights and Dames of Malta, participate in the 6th annual March for Life in Rome May 8. The march ended outside St. Peter's Square at the Vatican where Pope Francis was leading the Regina Coeli.

ROME (CNS) — People from at least two dozen countries joined Italians May 8 for the sixth annual National March for Life in Rome.

Carrying multicolored balloons, crucifixes or children, the estimated 30,000 people walked through the historic center of the city and joined Pope Francis for the midday recitation of the "Regina Coeli" prayer in St. Peter's Square.

The pope greeted the marchers, who were led by U.S. Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, patron of the Knights and Dames of Malta; Archbishop Luigi Negri of Ferrara-Comacchio, Italy; and Auxiliary Bishop Athanasius Schneider of Astana, Kazakhstan.

Organizers said more than 100 pro-life and pro-family orga-

nizations participated, including dozens from 29 countries besides Italy. Although the march is not sponsored by the Catholic Church or a particular Catholic group, hundreds of priests and religious joined the marchers.

The marchers carried signs not only urging an end to legalized abortion, but also urging Italian lawmakers to reject proposed legislation allowing euthanasia and a bill — further along in the legislative process — that would recognize civil unions of unmarried heterosexual and homosexual couples.

Before greeting the group, Pope Francis spoke to them and to thousands of other visitors about the feast of the Ascension, which was celebrated May 5 at the Vatican and May 8 in Italy.

"After having seen their Lord

ascend to heaven, the disciples returned to the city (Jerusalem) as witnesses who with joy proclaimed to all the new life" that came with the death and resurrection of Jesus, the pope said.

"This is the witness — made not just with words but also through one's daily life — the witness that every Sunday should go out from our churches in order to enter each week into homes, offices, schools, places where people gather and have fun, hospitals, prisons, homes for the elderly, places crowded with immigrants and the peripheries of our cities," the pope said. "This is the witness we must give each week: Christ is with us. Jesus, who ascended to heaven, is with us. Christ is alive!"

light in the presentation of Holy Cross Father Willy Raymond, president of Holy Cross Family Ministries. Miller continued, "We hope to revive the rosary apostolate of Father Patrick Peyton and his famous motto, 'The family that prays together stays together.'" Father Raymond will also speak about Father Peyton's cause for canonization. The rosary will be prayed at the Grotto at the heart of Notre Dame's beautiful campus. The grotto is a replica of the original grotto at Lourdes, France.

Deacon Miller also emphasized that this year the conference will focus and also promote the importance of Catholic radio as a powerful means of evangelization. This follows in concert with the invitation given by St. John Paul II on the

New Evangelization. Two of the speakers, Al Kresta and Dr. Ray Gaurendi, are well known and popular Catholic radio personalities. Both speakers can be heard regularly on local Redeemer Radio stations. Making full use of modern technology in the promotion of Marian devotion and Christian evangelization, the conference itself will be simulcast on the Jumbotron within the arena. No one is turned away due to cost of participation of the conference.

For more information, visit [www.queenofpeaceministries.com](http://www.queenofpeaceministries.com) as well as their Facebook site, Queen of Peace Ministries for more details and times of the National Marian Conference.

## Tajci to perform with spiritual drawing by Mary Hilger

FORT WAYNE — Ten years ago, when local artist Mary Hilger started attending concerts featuring international Christian singer/song-writer, Tajci, she never thought that she would eventually be working with her to organize an inspirational evening of music and art. Hilger, who is a full-time teacher has been drawing her entire life. Periodically, Hilger recalls, she would feel inspired by the Holy Spirit to complete a particular piece of artwork as people would sit, watch and pray with her while she was drawing. "God inspired each of those pieces of art and each one has a story behind it," Hilger explains.

Through prayer and contemplation, Hilger explains that the artwork she produced has been the overflowing of her heart and has helped her draw closer to Jesus. In the spring of 2001, Hilger was seeking an answer to how she could serve God better with her gift of art. She realized that when she drew, she was inspired quickly and felt as though her creations were a prayer and that God had control of her hand. Hilger was drawing portraits of Christ-like people and even Christ, Himself.

So Hilger began drawing more frequently in public settings. "The Holy Spirit would guide my hand to create live spiritual drawings before groups as I listened to inspirational music." The inspirational music that Hilger used was, quite often, the music of Tajci. "I was so inspired by how she sang with so much heart and such a deep love for Jesus," Hilger recalls.

After attending one of Tajci's concerts, Hilger decided to share with Tajci how God was using her as an instrument in an art ministry with inspiration from the Holy Spirit flowing from the chalk in her hand to the canvas in a way that has touched the lives of so many people. Years later, Hilger connected with Tajci's husband and business manager Matthew Cameron and the fruit of that conversation is the upcoming concert at Queen



of Angels parish on May 22.

Tajci, whose full name is Tatiana Cameron, also has a life story of ministering to others through her art. For Tajci, her gift is song. Tajci (TY-chee) was born to a poor family in communist Croatia, and at the age nineteen she became a pop superstar in Central Europe. Now, she uses her musical talents to serve God and the Church and has toured the U.S. and the world in more than a thousand concerts. Tajci will intersperse her conversion story with her singing at the concert.

Hilger stated, "My hope is that this special event will transform hearts. Tajci's music contains a powerful message, 'awaken and live life with a purpose.' I am hoping that attendees, transformed by the music and the art that is guided by the Holy Spirit, will walk away with a renewed heart, willing to follow God's path to gain a sense of purpose in their life."

Tickets for this one-night only event are \$10 per person, \$25 per family and \$20 for a VIP Meet and Greet and preferential seating. Babysitting is available for children under 5 and all the ticket sales will benefit Queen of Angels Catholic Church.

More information is available by contacting Mary Hilger at [hilger8@aol.com](mailto:hilger8@aol.com) or by calling 260-438-8356.

## MARIAN

Continued from Page 1

families as well as for individuals of all ages.

"At this year's conference, we will emphasize the importance of the rosary and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. America is in a spiritual crisis and these are the remedies that Our Lady gave us at Fatima and now, with more urgency, at Medjugorje," explained Deacon Brian Miller of Queen of Peace Ministries.

Emphasis on the importance and power of the rosary in the history of the United States and throughout the world is a high-



Provided by Jennifer Miller

Prayer and reflection during the 2013 conference.