

# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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## Jubilant crowd gathers in Washington for annual March for Life



Andrew Ouellette

Youth from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend stand in support of life at the national march in Washington, D.C., Friday, Jan. 27.

### With CRS in the Holy Land

Bishop Rhoades' trip, continued

Pages 2, 8-9

### Executive Order on refugees

Bishop Rhoades issues statement

Page 3

### Southern border

Church leaders react to calls for a wall

Page 4

### Food benefits for drug offenders

Legislation to lift ban supported by ICC

Page 15

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Several contingents from the Diocese of South Bend-Fort Wayne and tens of thousands of other pro-lifers filled the grounds near the Washington Monument and marched up Constitution Avenue to the U.S. Supreme Court Jan. 27 as both a protest of legalized abortion and a celebration of successful pro-life efforts across the country.

In years past, the March for Life — which takes place on or near Jan. 22 to mark the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 decisions in *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* that legalized abortion virtually on demand — has been almost a battle cry for the uphill and constant fight faced by those in the pro-life movement hoping for more abortion restrictions and ultimately an end to abortion.

This year's March for Life, under mostly sunny skies and 40-degree temperatures, was decidedly more upbeat, in part because one of the first speakers was Vice President Mike Pence: the first time a vice president attended the rally.

Pence, who has marched at the event before as a participant and addressed it as a congressman, repeatedly told the crowd — huddled together in winter coats and hats in front of the stage — that “life is winning” and assured them the Trump administration was behind them.

Kellyanne Conway, special adviser to Trump, and the first on the speakers' list to address the group — holding aloft placards but none of the usual giant banners, which were banned for security reasons — similarly got plenty of cheers when she said: “This is a new day, a new dawn for life.”

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades joined the adults, young people and several parish priests and religious from the diocese in Washington, where he celebrated the Jan. 26 opening Mass for the National Prayer Vigil for Life with Cardinal Timothy Dolan at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. On Friday the group joined their Catholic brothers and sisters for the walk down the National Mall to the Supreme Court.

Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life, noted that the group has been marching in all types of bad weather over the years. She also pointed out that amid recent discussion about crowd size at events in Washington, it was hard to measure the number of people that day or for the total who have come out for the annual march over the past four decades. “The only number we care about is

the 58 million” lost to abortion since it was legalized, she said.

As in years past, the crowd was primarily young, with a lot of high school and college-age groups. It was something the speakers took note of, saying this generation would not only keep the pro-life movement going but bring about changes.

Andrew Ouellette, director of youth ministry for the diocese, and Carl Loesch, director of the Secretariat for Catholic Education, accompanied the Fort Wayne-South Bend contingent to the nation's capital.

“I am always honored to lead the youth of our diocese to Washington, D.C., for the annual March for Life,” said Ouellette. “This past weekend is a reminder to me as to why I went into diocesan ministry in the first place and why this march is so important. On our return home,

MARCH, page 20



## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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# On a mission with Catholic Relief Services

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

*The following is a continuation of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades' visit to the Holy Land with Catholic Relief Services Jan. 15-22.*

**B**ack in Jerusalem on Friday, we began the day with a visit with Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto, the apostolic nuncio to Israel and apostolic delegate in Jerusalem and Palestine. The nunciature is located on the Mount of Olives. We met in the room where Blessed Pope Paul VI and Orthodox Patriarch Athenagoras met and embraced in 1964, the first such visit since the Catholic-Orthodox split 900 years ago. Archbishop Lazzarotto enthusiastically shared with us about that historic event.

Archbishop Lazzarotto spoke to us about the issues that the Church and the Holy See face in the Holy Land today, including negotiations with Israel and with the Palestinian Authority about the Church's status and taxation issues. He also spoke about the Israeli-Palestinian situation and the Holy See's promotion of dialogue and peace. The archbishop expressed gratitude to CRS for its work in Gaza and also was very interested in CRS' work to establish a pediatric palliative care program at Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem. CRS is bringing medical professionals together to support the dignity and wellbeing of terminally ill children and their families. This will be the first pediatric palliative care center in the West Bank, if all goes well.

**Bethlehem**

After our meeting with the Nuncio, we proceeded to Bethlehem through the "Wall" (Separation Barrier). We celebrated Mass in the Saint Jerome Chapel near the Grotto of the Nativity in the crypt of the Church of the Nativity. The chapel is located in the cell or cave where Saint Jerome lived for thirty years and translated the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into Latin (the Vulgate). After Mass, we had an excellent tour of the Church of the Nativity given by a Coptic Orthodox scholar who had also given us a very fine tour of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

We had lunch and a meeting with the De La Salle Brothers and students at Bethlehem University. This Catholic University has a majority Muslim student body. It is considered by many to be the best university in the West Bank. I was quite impressed by the students and their commitment to justice and peace in their homeland.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Pilgrims pray at the Western Wall on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. It is the retaining wall closest to the former Temple and the holiest place of Jewish prayer. It is also called the "Wailing Wall," which refers to the practice of Jews to weep at the site over the destruction of the Temple. Bishop Rhoades, following pious custom, placed prayers in the crevices of the wall, including over 1,000 petitions on small slips of paper given to him by the students of Bishop Dwenger High School. The bishop prayed at the wall for lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians, especially in Jerusalem, whose name means "City of Peace."



# Trump's action banning refugees brings outcry from U.S. church leaders

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Donald Trump's executive memorandum intended to restrict the entry of terrorists coming to the United States brought an outcry from Catholic leaders across the U.S.

Church leaders used phrases such as "devastating," "chaotic" and "cruel" to describe the Jan. 27 action that left already-approved refugees and immigrants stranded at U.S. airports and led the Department of Homeland Security to rule that green card holders — lawful permanent U.S. residents — be allowed into the country.

"This weekend proved to be a dark moment in U.S. history," Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich said in a Jan. 29 statement. "The executive order to turn away refugees and to close our nation to those, particularly Muslims, fleeing violence, oppression and persecution is contrary to both Catholic and American values. Have we not repeated the disastrous decisions of those in the past who turned away other people fleeing violence, leaving certain ethnicities and religions marginalized and excluded? We Catholics know that history well, for, like others, we have been on the other side of such decisions.

"Their design and implementation have been rushed, chaotic, cruel and oblivious to the realities that will produce enduring security for the United States," he said. "They have left people holding valid visas and other proper documents detained in our airports, sent back to the places some were fleeing or not allowed to board planes headed here. Only at the 11th hour did a federal judge intervene to suspend this unjust action."

"The Protection of the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States," which suspends the entire U.S. refugee resettlement program for 120 days, bans entry from all citizens of seven majority-Muslim countries — Syria, Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Yemen and Somalia — for 90 days. It also establishes a religious criteria for refugees, proposing to give priority to religious minorities over others who may have equally compelling refugee claims.

"We are told this is not the 'Muslim ban' that had been proposed during the presidential campaign, but these actions focus on Muslim-majority countries," said Cardinal Cupich. "Ironically, this ban does not include the home country of 15 of the 19 Sept. 11 hijackers. Yet, people from Iraq, even those who assisted our military in a destructive war, are excluded."

The cardinal quoted Pope Francis' remarks to Congress in 2015: "If we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportuni-



CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

**The Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor is seen in August 2016. President Donald Trump's executive memorandum, intended to restrict the entry of terrorists coming to the United States, brought an outcry from Catholic leaders across the U.S. this week.**

ties, let us provide opportunities."

He said Pope Francis "followed with a warning that should haunt us as we come to terms with the events of the weekend: 'The yardstick we use for others will be the yardstick which time will use for us.'"

Bishop Robert W. McElroy of San Diego said the executive action was "the introduction into law of campaign sloganeering rooted in xenophobia and religious prejudice. Its devastating consequences are already apparent for those suffering most in our world, for our standing among nations, and for the imperative of rebuilding unity within our country rather than tearing us further apart."

"This week the Statue of Liberty lowered its torch in a presidential action which repudiates our national heritage and ignores the reality that Our Lord and the Holy Family were themselves Middle Eastern refugees fleeing government oppression. We cannot and will not stand silent," he said in a statement Jan. 29.

Shortly after Trump signed the document at the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes, Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration, said the bishops "strongly disagree" with the action to halt refugee resettlement.

The USCCB runs the largest refugee resettlement program in the United States, and Bishop Vasquez said the church would continue to engage the administration, as it had with administrations for 40 years.

"We will work vigorously to ensure that refugees are humanely welcomed in collaboration with Catholic Charities without sacrificing our security or our core values as Americans, and to ensure that families may be reunified with their loved ones," he said.

He also reiterated the bishops' commitment to protect the most vulnerable, regardless of religion.

All "are children of God and are entitled to be treated with human dignity. We believe that by helping to resettle the most vulnerable, we are living out our Christian faith as Jesus has challenged us to do."

Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington called attention to the USCCB statement and the executive action and noted that "the legal situation is still fluid and news reports are sometimes confusing."

"The political debate, which is complex and emotionally highly charged, will continue, but we must do our best to remain focused on the pastoral and very real work we undertake every day for the vulnerable and most in need ... for the strangers at our doors," he said.

Around the country, people gathered at airports to express solidarity with immigrants and green card holders denied admission, including an Iraqi who had helped the 101st Airborne during the Iraqi war. More than 550 people gathered at Lafayette Park across from the White House Jan. 29 to celebrate Mass in solidarity with refugees.

In a letter to the president and members of Congress, more than 2,000 religious leaders representing the Interfaith Immigration Coalition objected to the action.

Sean Callahan, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, said: "Welcoming those in need is part of America's DNA."

"Denying entry to people desperate enough to leave their homes, cross oceans in tiny boats, and abandon all their worldly possessions just to find safety will not make our nation safer. The United States is already using a thorough vetting process for refugees — especially for those from Syria and surrounding countries. CRS welcomes measures that will make our country safer, but they shouldn't jeopardize the safety of those fleeing violence; should not add appreciable delay nor entail unjust discrimination," he said.



## Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, February 5: 9 a.m. — Mass, Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Pierceton  
 Monday, February 6: 10 a.m. — Meeting of Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne  
 Tuesday, February 7: Noon — Mass, Walb Student Union, IPFW, Fort Wayne  
 Tuesday, February 7: 7 p.m. — "Spark Your Faith", Saint Louis Besancon Parish, New Haven  
 Wednesday, February 8: 7 p.m. — Mass with Blessing of Chapel, Our Lady of the Road, South Bend  
 Thursday, February 9: 9 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, Marian High School, Mishawaka  
 Friday, February 10: 11 a.m. — Mass with Blessing of Chapel and Altar, Saint Lawrence Brindisi Friary, Fort Wayne  
 Saturday, February 11: 7 a.m. — Spanish Mass for Deacon Candidates, Lindenwood



## Priest appointment

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following appointment.

**Reverend Charles Ebelebe** to Parochial Vicar of Saint John the Baptist Parish, New Haven, effective Feb. 1, 2017.



## Statement of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Executive Order on Refugees

The Church stands firm in its commitment to the defense of the life and dignity of the human person and to the promotion of the common good. Just last week, I joined over 1,000 young people from our diocese at the March for Life in Washington, D.C., where we publicly witnessed to the dignity of the unborn child. It was a joy to bear witness to the Gospel of Life.

Our commitment to the Gospel of Life also includes the defense of the lives of so many innocent people who are victims of violence, war, religious persecution, and terrorism. The number of refugees in the world today, persons who have had to flee their homes because their lives are in danger, is staggering. The Church has been a leading agent in caring for and helping refugees, including resettling so many men, women, and children in our country. I am proud of the excellent work of our own diocesan Catholic Charities in this area of service to these "least of our brothers and sisters."

I am saddened by the Executive Order of our president that suspends the entry of refugees into our country for 120 days, which indefinitely stops the admission of Syrian refugees, and which bars people from seven predominantly Muslim countries for 90 days. Many refugees are fleeing from ISIS and other extremists. They are victims and are looking for safety. Many are children. I cannot imagine what it must be like for a father or mother to be in such desperate straits, only desiring the safety and wellbeing of their family.

Clearly our government has a responsibility to protect the safety and security of the United States. Certainly we must be vigilant lest terrorists infiltrate the refugee population. But, as many attest, including our Church agencies involved in refugee settlement, "the U.S. is already using a thorough vetting process for refugees, especially for those from Syria and surrounding countries" (Sean Callahan, CRS President). Fear should not lead us to forsake the innocent, of whatever nation or religion, whose lives are in danger.

We must remember the criteria by which Jesus said we will be judged, including whether or not we welcomed the stranger among us. "I was a stranger, and you welcomed me," Jesus said, in the parable of the last judgment, to those granted entry into His Kingdom. "I was a stranger and you gave me no welcome," Jesus said to those who were sent to eternal punishment.

Finally, it is important to keep in mind our responsibility to work for and promote the common good. The common good is not only the good of our nation, but also the good of the human family, the universal common good. Our brothers and sisters in the human family who are refugees are crying out for our compassion and love. Let us pray fervently for refugees, for their safety, and for a renewed openness in our country to welcoming these brothers and sisters in need.



# U.S., Mexican church leaders criticize Trump's actions on border

BY BARB FRAZE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Church leaders in the United States and Mexico acknowledged the need for governments to keep their country secure but said two recent U.S. presidential actions could endanger the lives of immigrants and split border communities.

President Donald Trump called for construction of an "impassable physical barrier" along the United States' southern border because "continued illegal immigration presents a clear and present danger to the interests of the United States."

He called for increased enforcement and the withdrawal of federal funds from cities and states that do not comply.

The presidential actions, signed Jan. 25 at the Department of Homeland Security, brought an immediate stream of reactions from church officials, as a group and as individuals. Many cited Pope Francis' call to build bridges and break down walls.

Representatives of the bishops in the United States and Mexico, who have been working on this issue for 20 years, said the answer was comprehensive immigration reform, not a wall.

Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration, said Trump's actions would "tear families apart and spark fear and panic in communities."

Building a wall would "make migrants, especially vulnerable women and children, more susceptible to traffickers and smugglers. Additionally, the construction of such a wall destabilizes the many vibrant and beautifully interconnected communities that live peacefully along the border," said Bishop Vasquez.

"Instead of building walls, at this time, my brother bishops and I will continue to follow the



CNS photo/David Maung, EPA

**An undocumented migrant from Mexico tends his bedding in 2014 at Mission Dolores Church in Los Angeles. Church leaders in the United States and Mexico acknowledged the need for governments to keep their country secure but said two recent U.S. presidential actions could endanger the lives of immigrants and split border communities.**

example of Pope Francis. We will 'look to build bridges between people, bridges that allow us to break down the walls of exclusion and exploitation.'"

Bishops from Mexico quoted Bishop Vasquez's remarks and spoke of the border communities served by two different dioceses. As examples, they cited Matamoros, Mexico, and Brownsville, Texas, as well as Laredo, Texas, and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico—communities separated only by the Rio Grande.

"We express our pain and rejection to the construction of this wall, and we respectfully invite you to reflect more deeply on the ways in which security, development, activation of employment and other necessary and fair measures can be

pursued without causing further damage than those already suffered by the poorest and most vulnerable persons," said the Mexican bishops.

They said they would continue to help Central Americans traveling through their country en route to the United States and urged the Mexican government, when dealing with the U.S., to "safeguard dignity and respect for people, regardless of their nationality or creed."

"We respect the right of the United States government to care for its borders and its citizens, but we do not believe that a rigorous and intensive application of the law is the way to achieve those objectives; on the contrary, these actions generate alarm and fear among immigrants, disintegrating many families without further consideration," they said.

Nearly every church leader who issued a statement explicitly recognized the president's right and duty to protect U.S. security.

In a separate statement Jan. 26, Bishop Vasquez said he shared the concern that all feel when someone "is victimized by crime, especially when the perpetrator of that crime is someone who is in the United States without authorization."

However, he said, Trump's executive action authorizing increased enforcement "would force all jurisdictions to accept a one-size-fits-all regime that might not be best for their particular jurisdictions."

He said the bishops, who work with law enforcement and immigrant communities, know how important it is to have cooperation between the two, and he said he feared Trump's action could hurt that relationship.

"I have enormous respect for and value our federal law

enforcement agents who risk their lives every day to enforce our immigration laws. I also recognize that there may well be situations where local government feel they need to foster a relationship with their communities by working with the victims of or witnesses to crime without instilling a fear that by coming forward, they or their family members will be handed over to immigration authorities," he said.

The executive memorandums did not address the issue of DACA, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, nor did they discuss emigration from the Middle East, which government officials indicated would be addressed at a later time.

In 2006, President George W. Bush signed the Secure Fence Act, which authorized several hundred miles of fencing along the 2,000-mile U.S. frontier with Mexico. The Associated Press reported that legislation led to the construction of about 700 miles of various kinds of fencing designed to block both vehicles and pedestrians, primarily in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. It said the final sections were completed after President Barack Obama took office in 2009.

AP reported that a 1970 treaty with Mexico requires that structures along the border cannot disrupt the flow of rivers that

define the U.S.-Mexican border along Texas and 24 miles in Arizona.

The bishops of Arizona, which includes 389 miles of border with Mexico, reiterated their call for comprehensive immigration reform. They said their "hearts and prayers go out to refugee families who have faced terrible violence and lost their own homes and now need a new place to live."

"Focusing on building a new border wall has the potential to take us away from these important considerations that impact vulnerable families and will ultimately be useless. Pope Francis has called for bridges, not walls, between people," the four bishops said in a statement.

In a blog, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston reiterated the migration commission concerns about the border wall and an increase in deportations and detentions. He reiterated the archdiocese's commitment to a policy that "protects human rights, dignity and the homeland at the same time."

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, N.J., said Trump's executive actions were "the opposite of what it means to be an American."

"Closing borders and building walls are not rational acts," said the cardinal, whose grandparents were immigrants. "Mass detentions and wholesale deportation

benefit no one; such inhuman policies destroy families and communities.

"In fact, threatening the so-called 'sanctuary cities' with the withdrawal of federal funding for vital services such as health care, education and transportation will not reduce immigration. It only will harm all good people

in those communities," he said. Sean Callahan, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, which works in Central America, said the United States needs "to address the reasons people are leaving their homes — violence and lack of opportunity. And we need to protect their right to apply for asylum."

"While working in the most violent neighborhoods of Honduras, for example, we have seen how children are orphaned by violence," he said. "People have a right not to migrate and remain in their home countries — that is our goal — but when their very lives are threatened, they don't have that option. And as a nation, we have always afforded people their day in court to apply for protection."

*"Mass detentions and wholesale deportation benefit no one; such inhuman policies destroy families and communities."*

CARDINAL JOSEPH W. TOBIN

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FORT WAYNE  
5:00 PM



# Iraqi patriarch: Fast track for Christian refugees will fuel tensions

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Giving priority to Christian refugees for settlement programs would be “a trap” that discriminates and fuels religious tensions in the Middle East, said Iraq’s Chaldean Catholic patriarch.

“Every reception policy that discriminates (between) the persecuted and suffering on religious grounds ultimately harms the Christians of the East” and would be “a trap for Christians in the Middle East,” said Patriarch Louis Sako of Baghdad.

The patriarch, speaking to Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, commented on an executive action by U.S. President Donald Trump that temporarily stops from U.S. entry refugees from all over the world and migrants from seven countries in an attempt to review the screening process. The document asks that once the ban is lifted, refugee claims based on religious persecution be prioritized.

Patriarch Sako said any preferential treatment based on religion provides the kind of arguments used by those who propagate “propaganda and prejudice that attack native Christian communities of the Middle East as ‘foreign bodies’” or as groups that are “supported and defended by Western powers.”

“These discriminating choices,” he said, “create and feed tensions with our Muslim fellow citizens. Those who seek help do not need to be divided according to religious labels. And we do not want privileges. This is what the Gospel teaches, and what was pointed out by Pope Francis, who welcomed refugees in Rome who fled from the Middle East, both Christians and Muslims without distinction.”

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of Manila, Philippines, president of Caritas Internationalis, said any policy that gave priorities to Christians “might revive some of these animosities and might



An elderly woman from Mosul, Iraq, sits at a refugee camp in Khazer, Iraq, Jan. 29. Giving priority to Christian refugees for settlement programs would be “a trap” that discriminates and fuels religious tensions in the Middle East, said Patriarch Louis Sako of Baghdad.

CNS photo/Ahmed Jadallah, Reuters

even pit Christians against Muslims, and that (also) might generate contrary action from the Muslims against Christians.”

“This is a time when we don’t want to add to the prejudice, the biases and even discriminatory attitudes evolving in the world,” he told Catholic News Service in Beirut Jan. 30 at the Caritas Lebanon headquarters.

Emphasizing that he had not read the text of the executive

action, but only news reports, the Philippine cardinal said announcing a ban being applied to specific countries was akin to “labeling them — and the migrants coming from those countries — as possible threats to a country. I think it is quite a generalization that needs to be justified.”

Cardinal Tagle, who has visited refugee settlements as part of his role as Caritas president,

said he asks people who express reservations about receiving refugees and migrants, “Have you ever talked to a real refugee? Have you heard stories of real persons?”

“Very often, the refugee issue is reduced to statistics and an abstraction,” he said, and when people actually talk with refugees, “you realize that there is a human story, a global story (there) and if you just open your

ears, your eyes, your heart then you could say, ‘This could be my mother. This could be my father. This could be my brother, my child.’

“These are human lives,” he said. “So, for people making decisions on the global level, please know that whatever you decide touches persons for better or for worse. And if our decisions are not based on the respect for human dignity and for what is good, then we will just be prolonging this problem — creating conflicts that drive people away.”

Canadian Jesuit Father Michael Czerny, undersecretary for migrants and refugees at the Vatican’s new Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, told CNS in Rome that Christians are asked to reflect on the Good Samaritan and not to “react and act as if the plight of migrants and refugees is none of our business.”

People should focus on those seeking security and “take the trouble to find out the facts” — like how “migrants, far from being a drain, make a net contribution to the domestic economy — rather (than) swallow allegations which just trigger fear.”

Richer countries should not only welcome those who are fleeing, they “can do much more to help improve security and living, working, education and health opportunities in the refugee- and migrant-producing countries,” he said in a written statement.

More effort should be put into peacemaking and more resources dedicated to “helpful foreign aid.”

“The role of government is to enact its people’s values, keeping different factors in balance. National security is important, but always in balance with human security, which includes values like openness, solidarity, hope for the future,” the Jesuit priest said.

“The bottom line,” he said “is the centrality and dignity of the human person, where you cannot favor ‘us’ and ‘them,’ citizens over others.”

## In Jordan, Syrian refugees accepted by U.S. frustrated with Trump action

BY DALE GAVLAK

AMMAN, Jordan (CNS) — Promised resettlement in the United States after escaping death and destruction in their homeland, many Syrian refugees are frustrated and angry over President Donald Trump’s executive action banning their entry to the U.S. until further notice.

“We’re frustrated. We were told that we were accepted for resettlement in the U.S., and now everything is at a standstill,” a Syrian refugee woman told Catholic News Service, wiping away tears as she surveyed her crumbling home in the Jordanian capital.

“Neither the U.S. Embassy nor the International Organization for Migration have responded to our repeated telephone calls about our status or what to expect in the future,” said the mother of four young children, whose family fled to Jordan in 2013 after their home was bombed. Rahma provided only her first name for fear of reprisal.

“If there is no longer any chance of being resettled in the U.S., then we would like to know whether we can apply somewhere else which will welcome us,” she said.

The burden of not being able to work in Jordan over these past years has left Rahma’s fam-

ily desperate, unable to provide even the basic necessities of food and heating for the winter.

Refugee Abdel Hakim, a pharmacist from the southern Syrian town of Daraa, cannot contain his anger at seeing his dreams of starting a new life in the United States dashed. He and his family were far along in the approval process and expected to travel shortly from Jordan to the U.S. He called the measure “discriminatory and racist.”

“In the beginning, we didn’t want to leave Syria. But as it’s been plunged deeper in war, we now find even the door to America has been slammed shut in our faces,” he told CNS.

For the past 15 years, as

waves of refugees fleeing the 2003 Gulf war, the Syrian civil war and those persecuted by Islamic State militants have flooded Jordan in search of a safe haven, Catholic and other churches have provided food, clothing, heating and other items, regardless of the refugees’ religious background. International faith-based aid groups, such as Catholic Relief Service and Caritas, have been at the forefront of efforts helping refugees, mainly from Syria and Iraq, but also those who fled the Arab Spring uprisings of 2011.

Resource-poor Jordan has struggled to provide water and electricity, education and health services to hundreds of thou-

sands of refugees as the grinding conflicts in their homelands show little sign of ending. Many Syrian refugees accepted for U.S. resettlement have arrived from Jordan.

More than 27,000 Syrian refugees from 11 Middle Eastern host countries were under consideration for resettlement to the U.S. and in various stages of the approval process at the time of Trump’s action, according to the International Organization for Migration, a U.N.-related agency that interviews and prepares refugees for resettlement.



# NEWS BRIEFS

## Cardinal Dolan: If sanctuary of the womb is violated, no one is safe

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York warned that if the sanctuary of the womb is violated, then other sanctuaries are at risk. “Can any of us be safe, can any of us claim a sanctuary anywhere when the first and most significant sanctuary of them all, the mother’s womb protecting a tiny life, can be raided and ravaged?” he asked in his homily during the Jan. 26 opening Mass for the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The Vigil Mass, always precedes the annual March for Life, which takes place on the National Mall. Cardinal Dolan, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, called the womb “a sanctuary which beckons us, where we are safe and secure in our mother’s tender yet strong embrace, where the Creator himself assures us of protection and life itself, a sanctuary God has designed for us to protect our lives now and in eternity.” The vigil closing Mass early Jan. 27 was celebrated by New Orleans Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond, whose homily sounded a similar theme to Cardinal Dolan’s in terms how acceptance of abortion is “used to justify” other disrespect for life at various stages, citing assisted suicide, euthanasia, the death penalty and the rejection of immigrants.

## Newark auxiliary punched in mouth; alleged attacker arrested

IRVINGTON, N.J. (CNS) — Auxiliary Bishop Manuel A. Cruz of Newark told a congregation he was fine Jan. 29, the day after he had been punched in the mouth by an assailant. “He did meet and address the congregation this morning to tell everybody that he was fine and that, certainly, people should not be making this a matter that they can be worked up on,” said James Goodness, Newark archdiocesan spokesman, told the NJ.com website. “This was an isolated incident.” The Cuban-born Bishop Cruz, a Newark auxiliary since 2008, was at a Jan. 28 event for baseball Hall of Famer Robert Clemente when he was attacked. He was celebrating a special Mass for the late player at the Basilica Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Newark. Charles Miller was arrested by the Essex County Sheriff’s Office and charged with aggravated assault. The Essex County prosecutor’s office is handling the investigation. No motive was given for the attack. Bishop Cruz was taken to a hospital afterward with injuries that were not serious. He was released later that day to the cathedral residence.

## Yemen Trump ban



CNS photo/Yahya Arhab, EPA

A Yemeni and three children are seen in Sanaa, Yemen Jan. 26. Giving priority to Christian refugees for settlement programs would be “a trap” that discriminates and fuels religious tensions in the Middle East, said Chaldean Catholic Patriarch Louis Sako of Baghdad. See story on page 5.

## Religious, political leaders condemn shooting at Quebec mosque

QUEBEC CITY — Faith and political leaders condemned a shooting at Quebec’s main mosque that left at least six people dead. Vigils were scheduled Jan. 30 in Quebec City and Montreal, the evening after two men entered the Quebec Islamic Cultural Center and opened fire, killing at least six men who were praying and injuring 19 more. Police later said they had arrested one suspect in the attack, the motive for which remained unclear. Pope Francis met with Quebec Archbishop Cardinal Gerald Lacroix in Rome Jan. 30 and assured him of his prayers for the victims of the attack on the mosque. A Vatican statement said the pope highlighted the importance of Christians and Muslims remaining united in prayer in these moments. Afterward, the cardinal immediately departed for Canada. Archbishop Christian Lepine of Montreal said: “Nothing can justify such murderous acts aimed at innocent people. We are called to say again that, whatever our beliefs are, as human beings we are all brothers and sisters, all equal in dignity.”

## Respond to violence with Christ’s love, strength, pope tells churches

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis prayed for an end to the daily violence and brutality waged by fundamentalist extremists in the Middle East. “Your sufferings are our sufferings. I join you in praying for an end to the conflict and for God’s closeness to those who have endured so much, especially children, the sick and the elderly,” the pope told representatives of the Oriental Orthodox churches Jan. 27. The representatives were in Rome for a meeting of the Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Oriental Orthodox Churches, which include churches with large communities in Syria, Iraq and throughout the Middle East. The Oriental Orthodox churches that officially participate in the dialogue include the Coptic, Syriac, Armenian, Ethiopian, Eritrean and Malankara Orthodox Syrian churches. The pope said he recognized that “many of you belong to churches that witness daily the spread of violence and acts of brutality perpetrated by fundamentalist extremism.”

## Surrounded by ‘family,’ Cardinal Joseph Tobin takes possession of titular church

ROME (CNS) — Flanked by the parishioners and well-wishers he called his “new family,” Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, celebrated Mass at his titular church in Rome. The cardinal formally took possession of the Church of St. Mary of the Graces Jan. 29. The church is located just a short distance from St. Peter’s Basilica. Arriving dressed in his cardinal-red cassock, Cardinal Tobin was greeted by Father Antonio Raimondo Fois, pastor of St. Mary of the Graces, and presented with a cross which he solemnly kissed before he entered and blessed the people in the packed church. In his homily, Cardinal Tobin reflected on the Sunday’s reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians (1:26-31), in which St. Paul said that God “chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise.” Telling parishioners that he may be a “foolish missionary cardinal” in the world’s eye, Cardinal Tobin said that such a distinction unites Christians since throughout history God “has chosen those who are shameful and despised by the world. In a world that prides

itself in having, in dominating others, in being fearful of others and in making selfish choices,” Cardinal Tobin said Christians should instead heed St. Paul’s call to “boast in the Lord.”

## Never underestimate the courage and wisdom of women, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The humble counsel of courageous women should never be disregarded but rather embraced as advice full of God’s divine wisdom, Pope Francis said. Women like the biblical heroine Judith are an example of trusting God amid sufferings and difficulties when it is easy to give up hope and fall into despair, the pope said Jan. 25 during his weekly general audience. “This is my opinion, but women are more courageous than men,” the pope said to applause. As the pope arrived for the audience, the sounds of classical music echoed throughout the Paul VI audience hall as a youth orchestra from Bolivia played for the pope. The Anglican choir of London’s Westminster Abbey and former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger also were present and greeted the pope at the end of the audience. Schwarzenegger was in Rome to promote a group he founded in 2010 to help local governments develop environmentally friendly economic development projects.

## Detroit archbishop says new auxiliary bishops part of ‘unbroken chain’

DETROIT (CNS) — Driving along Chicago Boulevard toward the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament the morning of Jan. 25, one could tell it was going to be a blessed day for the Archdiocese of Detroit. Seminarians from Sacred Heart Major Seminary, just a mile from the cathedral, were en route; some were joking and laughing as they walked, others were praying a rosary. Approaching the cathedral’s steps, about 30 members of the Neocatechumenal Way were singing and dancing to herald the joyous occasion. Inside an invite-only congregation of friends, family and well-wishers packed the cathedral to the brim as a line of priests as far as the eye could see stretched out the doors of the vestibule and wrapped around the cathedral. The ordination Mass was about to begin for Bishops-designate Gerard W. Battersby and Robert J. Fisher. As the choir began singing the exultant hymn “O, God Beyond All Praising,” the procession began and at the end of it, the men who would become auxiliary bishops for the Archdiocese of Detroit. “The Gospel needs to be preached until the end of time because of the gift of life that Jesus Christ has conferred. And so by an unbroken chain we come to this day,” Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron, principal celebrant and consecrator for the liturgy, said during his homily.



## Center for Liturgy plans summer symposia

SOUTH BEND — The McGrath Institute for Church Life's Center for Liturgy will host three symposia this summer on the basic principles of liturgical and sacramental formation in a secular age.

The week of June 19-23 it will host the first of its Liturgy and Life symposia on "Encountering Jesus Christ in the Bible and Liturgy." Evangelization begins with an encounter with the person of Jesus Christ. But it is within the liturgical life of the church where one meets the person of Jesus. During this week participants will consider core theological and spiritual practices for fostering this encounter with Christ through the Bible and the Liturgy.

June 26-30 will be the first of its Catechesis of the Good Shepherd symposia, on "The Senses of the Scriptures." Catechesis and theological education in the United States needs its own renewal: The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd provides core pedagogical principles through which this renewal may unfold.

The week of July 17-21, together with Notre Dame Vision, it will host the third annual Conference for Liturgical Music Ministers on "The Word, Music and the Saint John's Bible." Liturgical and devotional music must always be grounded in the Scriptures. This week participants will contemplate various forms of music for worship including chant, Masses, praise and worship, hymnody and Taize.

The launch of the three sym-

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## 100 Day celebration



Provided by Janice Comito

Kindergarten and second grade students at St. John the Baptist Catholic School in New Haven celebrated 100 days of school on Jan. 19. Kindergarten students dressed like they were 100 years old and second graders made 100 posters with their own unique ideas. All the students had a day of fun activities related to 100.

posia coincides with a rebranding effort of the institute. The Center for Liturgy has been an integral part of the McGrath Institute for Church Life since the 1970s. Through a recent endowment of our Institute, it is poised not simply to hold conferences on campus but is now able to do the kind of research, education and outreach in liturgical and sacramental formation that will nourish and renew the life of the church.

For more information on the symposia visit [liturgy.nd.edu](http://liturgy.nd.edu).

## Essay contest for Black History Month

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Black Catholic Advisory Board will offer a high school essay contest on the theme, "The Most Notable African-American of the 21st Century."

Essay requirements are: Times New Roman, 12 point spacing, double length and 300-350 words (including cover sheet). Cover sheet should include full name, mailing address, telephone number, school and grade.

The essay should include a bibliography page that does not count toward the word count total. To submit an essay as an email attachment place "Black History Month Essay Contest" in the email subject line, with first and last name to [wendy.summers@comcast.net](mailto:wendy.summers@comcast.net) no later than Tuesday, March 7.

Monetary prizes will be awarded of \$100 for first, \$50 for second and \$25 for third place.

## Catholic identity nourished at Catholic schools

BY JEANNIE EWING

When people think of Catholic schools, one of the qualities they often attribute to them is an education that surpasses what is offered in local public schools. Yet, that, while certainly a goal, it is not the extent of what it means to send a child to a Catholic school.

At the core of Catholic education is something that reaches farther than the academic rigor of reading, writing and arithmetic. It encompasses life-long learning: teaching children about morality, living a virtuous life and striving to love and serve Jesus in all that they do. Among the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are two that incorporate truly remarkable programs that instill those values and virtues so often lacking in a public education.

St. Anthony de Padua School, South Bend, has been running an after school Eucharistic Adoration Club for its elementary students. First-grade teacher Betsy Williams explained how it all began.

"I took my first graders to the church once a week to pray the rosary for Bishop Rhoades and



Provided by St. Adalbert School

**Members of the Eucharistic Adoration Club at St. Adalbert School, South Bend, listen to Deacon Brian Miller as Adoration begins.**

our pastor, Father Dave Ruppert. Afterward, I got so many hugs and thanks from the kids for taking them to pray in church. They felt a peace that comes from quietly sitting with Jesus and looked forward to the rosary all week. I told them they were resting in His presence."

Shortly thereafter, an idea struck Williams. She saw how her students responded to being in the quiet church and she imagined what a gift it would be to start a Eucharistic Adoration Club. Once the idea was

approved by both the pastor and principal, four children began regularly attending after school. "We meet on the first and third Thursday of every month," Williams said. "The students come to my classroom for a snack and we talk about the saints, Adoration and practice songs to sing during Adoration. Then we process to the church at 3:30 and pray for 45 minutes."

In only one year the club has grown from four students to 30 who attend nearly every meeting. These include children

from every grade, and they even have a preschooler who attends. William's aspiration is to eventually offer an evening Holy Hour for parents and their children.

Third-grader Sophia said, "I like [Adoration] because it is fun and we pray for those we love." Brynn, a first-grade student, added, "I go because I want to spend time with Jesus. I am glad I joined. I like saying the rosary."

Another enriching way that St. Adalbert has chosen to develop its Catholic identity is through a student housing program, which is unique to its roots in the Holy Cross Congregation. Principal Andrew Courier explained, "Although St. Adalbert was founded as a diocesan parish, our parish is now staffed by Holy Cross priests. The Congregation of Holy Cross offers us rich opportunities to reach the children on a faith level, especially in the area of vocations."

One such way is through the housing system, which dates back to church tradition in England, France and Ireland. "When religious orders, especially the Benedictine monks, operated schools, students were assigned boarding houses and thus competed on many levels according to their residential assignments," Courier elaborat-

ed. St. Adalbert has four houses on its premises, each named after a Holy Cross saint or spiritual leader.

Each fourth-grade student is assigned to one of the four houses during a selection ceremony that includes songs, dances and other traditions. The new entrants at the Corby House ring a bell once owned by Father William Corby himself. Each house meets on a monthly basis with school staff, and the adults help the student] set goals and learn new virtues.

Catholic identity is so important in the schools of the diocese, concurred Williams and Andrew. "Nothing in life is more important than forming a relationship with Jesus," said Williams. "If they learn this, it's what will sustain them throughout their lives. It creates a life of meaning, and they will have the peace that only Jesus can give." Courier added, "An encroaching secularism in today's society makes it critical for Catholic school leaders and teachers to ensure that the Faith is passed on to the children. We open the doors in the morning ... by beginning with a Gospel reading. Catholic schools need to be the place where children encounter Christ through the sacraments."



# CRS

Continued from Page 2

They shared with us that their biggest struggle as students is the difficulty in transportation because of the Separation Wall and checkpoints, making them sometimes late for class or missing class. Still, they value the education they are receiving. Bethlehem University receives significant financial support from the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, as the Knights and Ladies in our diocese well know. It is a beacon of hope in the place where Jesus was born.

In Bethlehem, we also visited one of several olive wood workshops renovated with CRS funding. Olivewood works provide a livelihood for many Bethlehem Christians. There are poor working conditions in many workshops, including lack of ventilation leading to lung and other health problems. CRS is helping to improve these conditions by funding renovations. We then visited the Fair Trade – Holy Land Handicraft Cooperative Society Shop, a CRS partner. We spent some time shopping there in support of the olivewood and other handicraft workers.

## Gethsemane and Western Wall

On Saturday, our final full day in the Holy Land, we celebrated morning Mass in the Church of the Agony (also called the "Church of All Nations") in the Garden of Gethsemane. In front of the altar, a large rock formation in the ground is said to mark the place where Jesus prayed in agony before his arrest on Holy Thursday night. We also saw the ancient olive trees in the Garden that have roots going back to the time of Jesus.

Near Gethsemane, also on the Mount of Olives, we visited the Orthodox Church which contains what the Orthodox believe

to be the Tomb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, where her body was laid before the Assumption. An Armenian liturgy was taking place while we visited there.

The rest of the day in Jerusalem was free. I spent the day visiting the four quarters of the Old City: Christian, Armenian, Jewish, and Muslim. I prayed at the Western Wall and spent a good amount of time placing the over 1,000 little slips of paper with prayer petitions from the Bishop Dwenger students in the crevices of the wall. Actually, I enjoyed this activity as devout Jews watched me doing this, perhaps wondering about so many prayer intentions!

I stopped at many other sites and shops in the Old City and especially enjoyed some prayer time at St. Anne's Church and the ruins of the Pool of Bethesda where Jesus healed the paralytic.

## Conclusion

The week in the Holy Land was certainly a blessing, visiting holy sites, seeing the good works of CRS, and seeing the life and struggles of the Palestinian people in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza. I invite you to pray for these brothers and sisters and for peace and reconciliation among peoples in the Holy Land. I thank you for your ongoing support of Catholic Relief Services and its operations in the Holy Land and so many other parts of the world.

I end this column with the following words from Pope Francis' homily during Mass at Manger Square in Bethlehem on May 20, 2014: "Building peace is difficult, but living without peace is a constant torment. The men and women of these lands, and of the entire world, all of them, ask us to bring before God their fervent hopes for peace."

Throughout the trip, I thought of the words of Blessed Pope Paul VI: "There is no peace without justice"; and the equally important words of Pope Saint John Paul II: "There is no justice without forgiveness."



Bishop Rhoades and three Bethlehem University students stand below the seal of this prestigious Catholic university of the De La Salle Brothers in Bethlehem on the West Bank.



The star in the floor of the Grotto below the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem is said to mark the spot of the birth of Jesus.



The Western Wall is all that remains of the Temple in Jerusalem. Here pilgrims pray and place prayers in the crevices of the wall.

For the complete story visit [www.todayscatholicnews.org](http://www.todayscatholicnews.org)



@BishopKevinCRhoades



The CRS visitors met with Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto, the apostolic delegate in Jerusalem and Palestine, and the apostolic nuncio to Israel at the Vatican nunciature on the Mount of Olives.





Twelve olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane have roots that biologists say go back to the time of Jesus.



The ruins of the pool of Bethesda are located next to St. Anne's Church in Jerusalem. It was at this pool that Jesus healed the paralytic as recounted in the Gospel of John, chapter 5.



Below the altar in the Church of the Agony at Gethsemane is a rock where, according to tradition, Jesus prayed in agony before his betrayal by Judas and his subsequent arrest by the Temple guards and soldiers on Holy Thursday night.



The Damascus Gate opens into the Muslim Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem.



# In MY diocese

## St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr

### St. Stanislaus experiences renewed life as personal parish

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

The parish of St. Stanislaus has a rich Polish heritage dating back to the 19th century. The church was founded as a mission of the nearby St. Hedwig faith community because priests during that time noticed the increasing Polish population moving into the Golden Hills area of South Bend. The first Mass at St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr Church was celebrated on March 25, 1900.

Over the years the church has undergone physical changes, such as an enlargement of the church building, a new apse and sacristy, and a modernization that included an elevator and bathrooms. At one time the site was home to a school, convent and beautifully landscaped grounds.

As the end of the century drew near the parish underwent



MSGR. JOHN FRITZ

drastic adjustments that included the closing of the school, neighborhood changes and the sisters moving out of the convent.

"By the turn of the 21st century, things had very much slowed down and the parish was beginning to need help. Thus, in 2001, the pastor was shared with Holy Cross parish; the Mass schedule was minimized and there was no resident pastor. The decline continued and the parish was on the brink of closure," noted pastor Msgr. John Fritz. "Bishop Rhoades found a solution to the dilemma: move the Traditional Latin Mass to St. Stanislaus. It was a solution that actually addressed two issues: the desire to retain St. Stanislaus Parish and to give the burgeoning Latin Mass community a real home. The Latin Mass community had been using various parishes over the years and were currently the beneficiaries of the generosity of St. Patrick parish. It was growing increasingly clear that simply having Mass early on Sundays was not sufficient. A more permanent solution needed to be found, a solution which



Provided by St. Stanislaus

St. Stanislaus offers many opportunities throughout the year for visitors to delight in the sights and sounds of the Traditional Latin Mass.

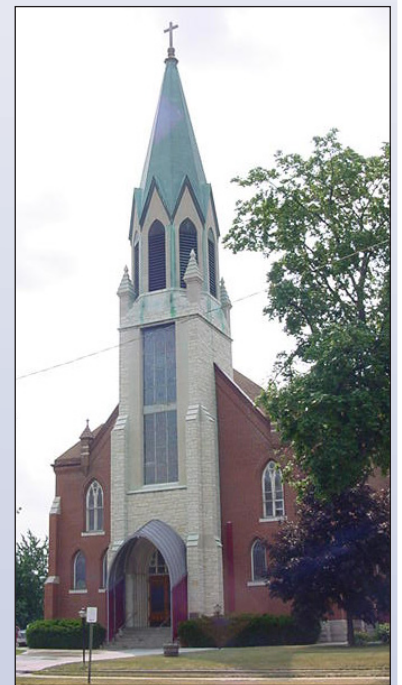
provided real parochial life."

According to Msgr. Fritz, on Sept. 8, 2015, St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr was changed from a territorial parish, meaning that it had boundaries within which parishioners lived, to a personal parish, meaning that its membership is determined by registry. Now the parish has a bright future. Attendance has

increased, the pastor is once again residing in the parish, devotions are returning and children are everywhere — in short, great things are happening.

Many things set St. Stanislaus apart and make it unique to the area.

"St. Stanislaus is an apostolate of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter and is the only parish in the Michiana area which offers the Traditional Latin Mass (aka Extra-ordinary Form, *usus antiquior*, etc.). There is Sung Mass every Sunday and holy day; the choir is excellent and performs the Gregorian plain



Today's Catholic archive photo

chant as well as polyphony very well. All the sacraments are administered in their Traditional form. There are ample confession times, devotions to the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts, eucharistic procession for Corpus Christi, and May crowning and procession," said Msgr. Fritz.

St. Stanislaus is once again young parish, with many children. There is a homeschool co-op once a week that includes 45 students. There is also a children's choir, Little Flower Girls Club and a Ladies Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Anne.

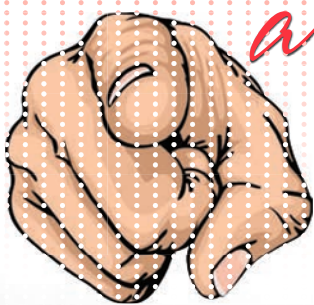
"Sacramentals are frequently offered. Besides the occasional blessing of a rosary or statue, we frequently offer other lesser known sacramentals, such as the Blessing of Wine on the Feast of St. John, the Blessing of Water for the Sick in honor of St. Raymond Nonnatus, the Blessing of Candles, Chalk, Food, etc. In June, there is a bonfire for the Feast of St. John the Baptist; not only is it a chance to dispose of worn out blessed items, but it is a great social get-together. We also have first class relics that we offer for veneration: St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Maria Goretti, St. Dominic Savio," noted Msgr. Fritz.

Several ministries are offered within the parish community.

"The children's choir is to not only teach children to sing at an early age, but also to cultivate their music appreciation and

STANISLAUS, page 12

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#### Latin Mass Times:

Sunday: 7:30, 10 a.m.  
Weekday: 7 a.m. Monday,  
Wednesday, Thursday  
Saturday: 8:15 a.m.

#### Reconciliation:

Sunday 9-9:45 a.m.;  
Monday 5:15-6 p.m.;  
Saturday 9-10 a.m.; 3:45-4:30 p.m.  
and by appointment



# In MY diocese

## St. Casimir

### School alumni, Hispanic faithful cultivate successful ministries

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

St. Casimir Parish is a ministry of the Congregation of Holy Cross and was, like St. Stanislaus, originally an offshoot of St. Hedwig Catholic Church, which was at one time known as the head church for all the Polish area churches: of St. Casimir, St. Stanislaus and St. Adalbert. The church currently shares pastor Father Paul Michael Ybarra, CSC, with St. Adalbert in South Bend.



FATHER PAUL MICHAEL YBARRA

According to Father Ybarra, Masses were originally held in the school building, which was built in 1899. If visitors climb upstairs to the gym they will find that its roof is cruciform, and there remains a lofted area above what is now a kitchen, that was once the choir loft.

The current church, built in the 1920s, is where all liturgies are held. A vigil Mass takes place on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month, and Sunday English Mass is at 9:30 a.m., Sunday Spanish Mass at 11:15 a.m. The Mass with the fastest-growing attendance is the Spanish Mass.



Paul Fujawa, provided by St. Casimir

The interior of St. Casimir Church, South Bend, reflects the roots of the parish's original faith community. Today its small but active membership is a mix of Anglos, alumni of the former St. Casimir School and a large number of Hispanics who have moved into the formerly Polish neighborhood surrounding the church.

The fairly small parish has over 200 registered families and some very large ministry groups. "The Married Men's Club, formed back in 1938 to support

the foundation of a kindergarten for St. Casimir's Catholic School, currently numbers about a 100 members. A very active group, they continue to support

the parish in a myriad of ways, from running parish festivals to providing for needy families. Although many members of the group are not parishioners of the parish, most share ties to the parish as former school alumni, an increasing rarity given that the school was closed in 1975," noted Father Ybarra.

Another active group is the St. Casimir Seniors Club that meets monthly. Often, over 100 seniors gather for community and fellowship in the old school building. They share a meal, engage in various activities

and seek to support the parish through fundraising efforts.

"Our English RCIA community for St. Casimir and St. Adalbert meets at St. Casimir. Currently, we have 11 catechumens and candidates seeking full communion with the church," stated Father Ybarra.

The Spanish-language ministries are very large as well.

"Our charismatic prayer group, Group de Oración, meets weekly with a monthly healing Mass. It is very well attended ...

CASIMIR, page 12



### St. Casimir

1308 W. Dunham St.  
South Bend, IN 46619  
574-288-5708  
www.stadalbertparish.org

#### Mass Times:

Saturday: 5 p.m. (English) 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month  
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. (English); 11:15 a.m. (Spanish)  
Reconciliation: 8:30 a.m. Saturday at St. Adalbert

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## South Bend marches for life



Richard and Kathleen Urda of St. Matthew Parish, South Bend, participated in the St. Joseph County March for Life, which ended in front of the federal courthouse downtown.



Photos by Jennifer Miller

Through snow, cold and wind, the Knights of Columbus No. 553 led the St. Joseph County Right to Life March for Life on Friday, Jan. 27. Marchers remembered the more than 60 million American lives lost after the legalization of abortion in 1973 and prayed for Roe vs. Wade to be overturned.

## STANISLAUS

Continued from Page 10

taste by introducing them to music that is beautiful and sacred. They are learning the Solfege method and plain chant. Frankly, I'm a bit jealous of them — I wish I'd had an opportunity such as this," commented Msgr. Fritz.

The Ladies' Sodality is a group that assists the women of the parish in the living out of their Catholic faith with a purpose to be better followers of Christ and imitators of the Blessed Virgin. They meet monthly for prayer and a talk from the director of the sodality, and fellowship.

Msgr. Fritz said the altar boys are another strong group that does an excellent job. They understand that what they do is very important, and they are all honored by the role they have in the sacrifice of the Mass.

"We are also trying to coalesce a men's group and get a youth group off the ground," he said. "All of the things that our parish offers have as an important and integral purpose: formation in the faith and assistance in the life of virtue, to offer help through companionship, instruction and the grace of God through sacraments and sacramentals."

The mission of the parish is for the salvation of souls. This is done through an integrally traditional parochial life centered around the sacrifice of the Mass.

"The beauty and timelessness of our faith," is what Msgr. Fritz hope all visitors experience. "I always encourage people to come and truly give the ancient rites a real try; once or twice is not sufficient. It takes time and openness. This is why we have our "Lenten Latin Mass

Challenge;" come every Sunday during Lent to really give the Tradition a chance to speak to you. Don't worry about the language or any of the differences; in fact, for newcomers, I tell them to not try and follow along — rather, sit and let your senses take in everything: the music, the incense, the choreography of the ceremony, everything. The similarities should make themselves known, as the skeletal framework is similar to the English Mass: Kyrie, Gloria, prayer, reading, Gospel, offertory, Sanctus, elevations, Agnus Dei, etc. As more familiarity is acquired, it is easier to engage and enter into the great mysteries and begin to plumb the depths of the Tradition. These are the rites that formed saints. These are the rites for which this church was built by our ancestors. These are the rites which are every Catholic's patrimony and right."

In the future the church plans to continue to be faithful to its mission, doing whatever it can to save souls. Msgr. Fritz and the community plan to offer the sacraments, sacramentals, opportunities to learn about the truths of the faith and to provide a place in which people can come together and benefit from one another — not only in social camaraderie but in deeper, true friendship: intellectually, morally, spiritually.

"As we finish our choir loft renovation, we will turn our attention to the sanctuary. We've lined up acquiring an altar from a church that has been closed, but we will need to raise money to have it dismantled, repaired, shipped and installed. So, we are having a fundraising 'Trivia Night' on Feb. 11 at MR Falcons," said Msgr. Fritz. "After this project, we hope to continue renovating and maintaining the parish church for the next 100+ years."



Provided by St. Casimir

Deacon Ryan Pietrocarlo, CSC, and Yadira Gonzalez, a St. Mary's College student and member of the Grupo de Oración at St. Casimir, South Bend, are dressed as St. Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary for Las Posadas in December. Las Posadas commemorates the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, their search for lodging and the birth of Christ. The Grupo de Oración also produces a yearly pastorela, a stage production covering the events of Christ's birth from the point of view of the shepherds. Both are important traditions in Mexican culture.

## CASIMIR

Continued from Page 11

They sing songs and praise God in a charismatic fashion. They are also very active in their support of the parish through food sales and other fundraising efforts," he said.

A Christ Renews His Parish program is also run out of St. Casimir.

"A wholly Spanish ministry as of the past six years, retreats regularly have 30-40 attendees who are formed over the course of the retreat weekend, four of which occur every year: two for men and two for women," stated

Father Ybarra. "Once someone lives the retreat they continue ongoing formation with weekly meetings; our group attendance for those hovers at 60 to 80 people every Friday. Topics are primarily focused on spirituality and our Catholic faith. People in formation will then serve as retreat leaders for upcoming retreats. Many of those who lived the retreat are also ministers and leaders in parish ministries across both St. Adalbert and St. Casimir."

In 2005, evangelization and outreach were determined to be the parish's key missions.

"I believe we are doing well in terms of evangelization to our senior citizens and Latinos living in the surrounding neighborhood. We must do better with our youth, the African-American

community and our former parishioners and alumni who have moved away from the west side of South Bend," said Father Ybarra.

When they do come, he hopes visitors find a warm, loving and merciful environment devoted to the Gospel.

"The church interior is gorgeous. We are so fortunate, we need only maintain our facilities and grow our community. I would love to reopen the school in some capacity, in accord with St. Adalbert Catholic School. Currently our children at St. Adalbert's benefit from the use of St. Casimir's gym for sports and (our) stage for school plays. I believe it's a building with a great deal of potential."



## Religious education classes speak to beauty of all life



Provided by Mary Stutzman

Religious education classes at St. Mary of the Annunciation in Bristol held their sixth annual March for Life on Sunday, Jan. 22. Teachers spoke with the students about the beauty of all life and the importance of being pro-life in today's culture. They made signs in support of all life, in defense of the unborn and in protest of the evil of abortion. Amidst cheers and applause from onlookers, their march took them through the halls of the education center, past the adult education classes and ended in Annunciation Hall. With signs held high, they marched silently to remember the 58 million babies whose voices have been silenced by abortion since Roe v. Wade in 1973.

## High schoolers march for life



Provided by Lisa Kochanowski

Despite cold temperatures, Saint Joseph High School students participated in the annual March for Life South Bend on Friday, Jan. 27, to show their pro-life conviction.

## ISSMA medalists honored



Provided by Rose Worman

Teacher Carol Sarasien poses with St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel students Ingrid Spenn, Isabel Davis and Jaidan Jordan with their gold medals from the ISSMA vocal contest, which took place at Carroll High School on Saturday, Jan. 28.

# St. Thomas the Apostle parishioner awarded Eagle Scout rank

BY DEB WAGNER

On Jan. 10, Sam Coates, 18, of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Boy Scout Troop 750, was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. He constructed and installed houses for the barred owls, wrens and wood ducks of Elkhart's Wellfield Botanical Gardens. The Elkhart Central High School senior estimates the project took about a year to complete.

Coates met with several organizations in the area before deciding to work with Wellfield Botanical Gardens. "Wellfield was chosen for my project because they had a clear idea of what they wanted," Coates said.

Even though the goal was clear, Coates encountered two main challenges along the way. One was that he said he found himself exercising leadership skills with younger Scouts regarding the necessary task and teamwork to complete the job.

Fundraising was his second challenge. Using his contacts through the parish, Wellfield Botanical Gardens and his troop, the estimated \$400 in materials needed for the project were donated. Coates said he telephoned, emailed and visited with a lot of people before achieving his fundraising goal. The weather also proved to be a challenge at times, such as when they had to dig underwater in the rain in order to bury 5-gallon buckets of cement. The buckets held the poles upon which the wood duck houses were mounted.

Upon the announcement of Pioneer Trails' newest Eagle Scout, Coates acknowledged the help of his Scout leaders and fellow Scouts in arriving at this remarkable achievement.

From his Eagle Scout project, Coates said he acquired a few skills that will be beneficial to him in the future. He said he learned that in order to get a large group of people to complete



Provided by Sam Coates

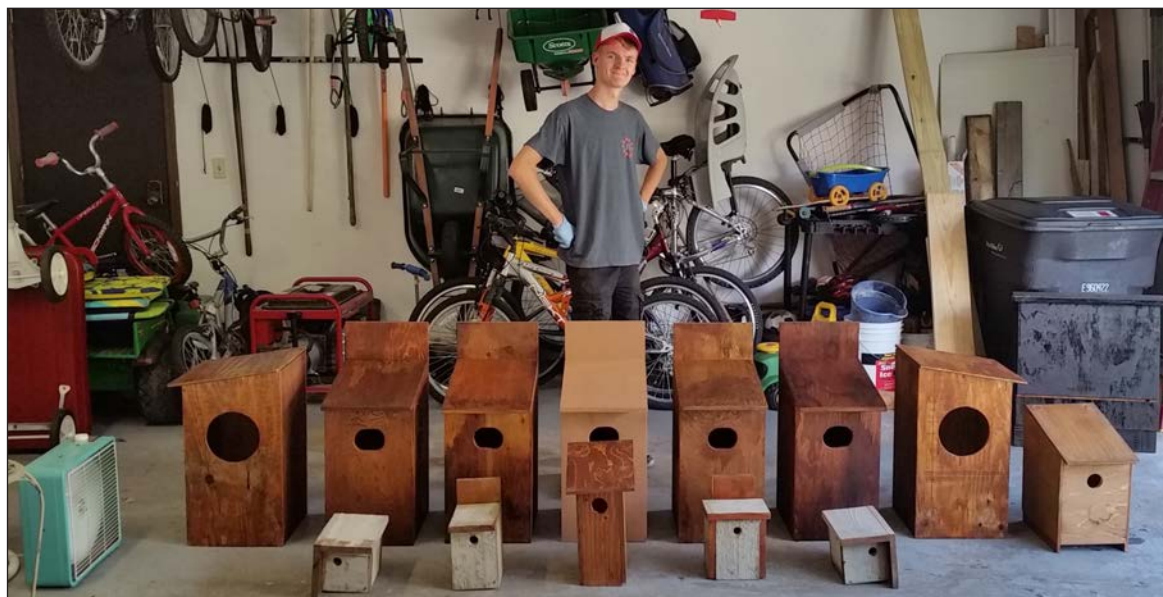
**St. Thomas the Apostle parishioner Sam Coates was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout in January after completing a project to build and install barred owl, wren and wood duck houses at Elkhart's Wellfield Botanical Gardens. Here he installs a wood duck house in Christiana Creek.**

a project, you have to keep them on task. In the future, he plans on studying computer science and is grateful he has these task-completion and leadership experiences, as they'll help him successfully manage a computer science project.

Coates has applied to eight schools of higher education and has already been accepted to Purdue University for next school year, but is waiting to hear back from a few more places such as Stanford, Yale and MIT before making his selection. Ultimately, he aspires to work for Google. He says another option he would

entertain is going on to graduate school so he could work as a college professor.

When asked what the rank of Eagle Scout meant to him, Coates said, "It is the crowning achievement of my Scouting career." He has been in Scouting since he was old enough to join. His mother, Kate, reflected, "In the beginning, you are not sure if this is going to be a lasting endeavor. In the last year, however, Sam took ownership of the project and incorporated everything Scouting taught him. I watched him become a man in the last year."



**Sam Coates stands in his garage with his completed barred owl, wren and wood duck houses destined for the botanical gardens.**



# Bishop launches 2017 Lampen Lecture Series

BY RON BUSCH

Some say that the younger generation just doesn't measure up to past generations. As if to prove that point, Americans are often reminded of the "greatest generation" and the sacrifices they made for this country.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades spoke of the current generation of youth and young people in the church at the Lampen Lecture Series of Ancilla College on Jan. 25. After a reality check of the current state of affairs, the bishop went on to talk of the "intentional disciples" found among young people and how they have found contentment and a sense of purpose in their daily walk within the church and their personal lives. His lecture was titled, "The Role of Young Adults in Church and Society."

Bishop Rhoades began his presentation by reviewing his just-completed trip to the Middle East and the Holy Land. He spoke of conversations with young people at Bethlehem University, which is approximately 30 percent Catholic and 70 percent Muslim. He mentioned the faith and hope that the students had, even though their situation did not foster a pronounced optimism among the youth.

He began the lecture by noting that, "Before looking at the role of young adults in church and society, it is necessary to consider the sociological realities of young adult life." The bishop reported he had "learned a lot from (his) own personal experiences and encounters with young adults, and also from reading various books and studies, especially those of Dr. Christian Smith at the University of Notre Dame." Smith refers to young adults as 'Emerging

Adults,' rather than "teens and young adults."

Bishop commented that "we must be realistic in our discussion of young adults in the church and society". He proceeded to speak about Smith and what his colleagues call "the dark side of emerging adulthood." This includes five areas that youth encounter as they grow into adulthood, which are outlined in the book, "Lost in Transition."

- **Morally Adrift** — The majority of young adults express a highly individualistic approach to morality. This has created a sense of confusion regarding morality.

- **Captive to Consumerism** — A majority said that their wellbeing can be measured by what they own.

- **Intoxication's Fake Feeling of Happiness** — Significant minorities of emerging adults regularly or recurrently seek to intoxicate themselves through substance abuse.

- **The Shadow Side of Sexual Liberation** — Young adults live in a highly sexualized culture. They are two or three generations on from the sexual revolution of the 1960s and 70s.

- **Civic and Political Disengagement** — Most youth and young adults are focused on their personal lives and few are involved in volunteer activities or charitable giving.

Recognizing that one might adopt a grim outlook after considering these realities, Bishop Rhoades spoke also about positive signs discovered in the sociological research. The bishop related that in his own experiences with young adult Catholics who are practicing the faith, he has seen a rejection of things like intoxication and sexual license as well as their active engagement in charitable activities. He



Photos by Ron Busch

**Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades presents the Lampen Lecture Series' first topic, "The Role of Young Adults in Church and Society," Thursday, Jan. 26.**

stated that "many Catholic young adults are intentionally trying to follow Jesus Christ and to live by His teachings and example. Some have experienced hurt from buying into various aspects of moral relativism and consumerism and have discovered that true happiness and meaning in life requires a different path, the path of the Gospel."

Bishop Rhoades went on to describe the young adult referred to as the "intentional disciple." This young adult exhibits a ... "living faith. In an act of the will and the intellect, these young adults have chosen to follow Jesus Christ. And they do so intentionally," he said. The intentional disciple embraces the truth of Jesus Christ. He went on to counter the five areas with faith-filled descriptions of these young people.

"Their engagement in the life of the church is there, but they need to find opportunities in the church to be involved," he said, concluding with a challenge to find ways for "getting our young adults more engaged across the board in our diocese and parishes." — one of the bishop's own, ongoing priorities. "We need their strength, intelligence, courage and enthusiasm. Their presence and witness rejuvenates and gives new energy to the church and her mission in the world."

The bishop remained to field questions from a large and appreciative audience of adults and young Ancilla College students following the lecture.

The next lecture in the series, a topic related to mysticism, takes place Feb. 22 will be presented by Richard Daves, PhD, in the Hardesty Room at 2:10 p.m. For more information call (574) 936-8898 ext. 361. Ancilla is a small, private, liberal arts college located in Donaldson.



**The audience at Ancilla College was challenged to find new ways to get young adults engaged in parish and diocesan life.**



**Bishop Rhoades referred to young adults as "intentional disciples: during his presentation.**



# Legislation to lift food benefits ban for reformed drug offenders clears Senate panel

INDIANAPOLIS — Legislation to lift a ban on food assistance for reformed drug offenders passed a Senate panel Jan. 23 by an 8-1 vote and is headed to the Senate floor. The Indiana Catholic Conference supports the legislation.

Senate Bill 9, authored by Sen. James Merritt, R-Indianapolis, allows Indiana to opt out of a federal law that bans convicted drug felons from receiving the Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program benefits.



**SEN. JAMES MERRITT**

"We support efforts to enhance access to SNAP benefits for those returning from incarceration back into society, because it helps former offenders move forward with their lives," said Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference. "Senate Bill 9 would help offenders get the food they need to become self-sufficient."

Merritt said, "You can murder someone, do your time, be released from the department of corrections and receive SNAP benefits. But if you are convicted of a drug felony, do your time, and are released from the department of corrections, you cannot receive SNAP benefits." Merritt said there is a lot of evidence showing those individuals who lack proper nutrition are more likely to return to crime or drug use.

Merritt said if it's the state's goal is to eradicate the heroine epidemic in five years, a comprehensive solution to the problem must be the way forward. Lifting the ban on people who exit the department of corrections after serving their time for a drug felony is one part of this comprehensive plan.

"Let's think about someone who leaves the department of corrections, who has been there a long time," said Merritt. "I hope that when they leave they would not go hungry. You have no job. You have a felony on your record. Maybe you live out in rural Indiana. We don't want this individual to re-offend," said Merritt. "We want to support this individual on what we hope would be a very temporary basis."

Merritt said his hope is to allow former offenders to "pull themselves up by their bootstraps", but also to give them a start to getting their life on the right track.

Emily Bryant, executive director of Feeding Indiana's Hungry,

## INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



BRIGID CURTIS AYER

an association of Indiana food banks, who testified in support of the bill, said Indiana is one of seven states that have a permanent ban on SNAP benefits for drug felons. Bryant said anyone convicted of a drug felony from 1996 to the present has a lifetime ban on SNAP benefits. In Indiana, the SNAP monthly benefit for an individual is \$118 per month and any able-bodied person ages 18-49 must work as criteria to receive SNAP.

SNAP is a program of the federal government designed to alleviate hunger and address poverty. Formerly known as the food stamp program, SNAP helps low-income people and families buy food. SNAP benefits are provided in the form of an electronic benefit card that acts like a debit card and can be used in grocery store lines for the purchase of food. SNAP is regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered in Indiana by the Family and Social Services Administration.

Merritt has authored another bill, Senate Bill 154, to assist low income persons access SNAP benefits. Senate Bill 154 would remove asset limits on SNAP benefits. In Indiana the asset limit for SNAP recipients is \$2,250 per household, or \$3,250 for a household if there is a person with a disability or 60 years or older. The asset limit includes children's assets; real estate, other than a person's home; cash and bank accounts. Besides the asset limits, persons must pass a gross income test of not more than 130 percent of poverty to qualify for SNAP benefits.

Thirty-five states and Washington DC have eliminated their asset resource limit for SNAP benefits. "Asset limits create a disincentive for savings," said Merritt. "Savings are a prerequisite for self-sufficiency. Eliminating the asset test leads to an increase in low income persons having a bank account."

Merritt said having asset limits burden charities, nonprofits, township trustee offices to fill the void. It leaves the individual having to spend time going to several locations to gather food rather than working. Merritt said Senate Bill 154 is a good start

to the state's comprehensive program to change the Indiana code to kill heroin in five years. "SNAP is a hand-up, and temporary in nature," said Merritt.

Some of the other organizations that support eliminating

the SNAP asset limit include the Indiana Coalition for Human Services; the Children's Coalition of Indiana; the Marion County Commission on Youth; the Indy Hunger Network; Indiana Citizens Action Coalition; and the

Marion County Reentry Coalition. Tebbe expects a committee vote on Senate Bill 154 before the end of February, and if approved the bill moves to the Senate floor for further consideration.

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## What makes a pilgrim, and a pilgrimage?

Understanding pilgrimage is, I believe, extremely important for one living out his or her faith. We do ourselves a great disservice by thinking that a pilgrim is some sort of holy adventurer the likes of which we can never become. A pilgrim, by definition, is “one who journeys to a sacred place.” The very fact of the matter is that we are all pilgrims journeying to a sacred place, our heavenly home. It’s important to recognize this truth so that we can analyze what makes a pilgrim, and do our best to emulate one — thus making our journey home a little less difficult.

Two summers ago, I and two other young people from the diocese, Matt Anderson and Bella Widner, set out to go on a pilgrimage of our own, the Camino de Santiago. The Camino is an extremely old pilgrimage in which one walks from France to the west coast of Spain, ending before the tomb of St. James in Santiago. On the Camino, it became clear to me that there are three things a pilgrim must do in order to finish his or her journey, and I believe they apply to our earthly pilgrimage as well.

The first thing a pilgrim must do is to keep the end goal in mind. As a very task-oriented person, I did a lot of thinking about “the end” on the road to Santiago. These thoughts certainly made the blisters a little less painful; and not only that, but they made me want to press on despite the pain. I couldn’t wait to hear those triumphant trumpets blast as I entered Santiago. (In reality what I heard were car

horns and a street performer playing “Scotland the Brave” on bagpipes.) Similarly, thinking about our end goal of heaven not only makes our earthly sufferings more tolerable but also helps us to act in such a way as to someday attain our goal. While no one enjoys thinking about their own mortality, it’s critical to remember that this earth is not what we were made for. Just as thinking about the finish line makes a race bearable, pondering the reality of our heavenly home doesn’t eliminate the “blisters” of our lives entirely, but makes them more tolerable, as we know there’s something greater for us at the end. Put simply, you were not made for blisters, you were made for heaven.

Secondly, a pilgrim must unite their sufferings to God. My dad used to say to me, “hope for the best, plan for the worst.” Never has this been truer than during my misadventures in Spain, which began with getting lost in the Madrid airport. Next came the blazing heat, then the attempted pickpocket, then the tendonitis, then the blisters; and how could I forget the lost passport debacle. Pilgrimage is supposed to hurt, and it’s certainly not supposed to be a walk in the park. Maybe that’s the point, because in suffering one can unite himself to Christ’s cross in a very special way. It’s easy to pray when everything is going well on our journey, but enduring suffering with joy and patience is an incredibly powerful and meaningful prayer. This doesn’t mean that our earthly pilgrimage can’t be enjoyable, because just as we unite



### THE STRANGE AND JOYFUL LIFE

SAM LYON

ourselves to Christ’s sufferings in the low times, we can give God praise for the good times.

Last, a pilgrim has to rely on others. On a pilgrimage, you make friends that encourage you and help you along the way. Had it not been for my resilient and encouraging travel companions, Spain would have been an anxiety-inducing nightmare ending in, most likely, surrender. Luckily I had them, and lucky for all of us the Catholic Church is a vibrant community full of potential encouragers. We not only have our fellow Catholics to push us on to heaven, but we also have the communion of saints. These saints are those who have finished the race before us, and they intercede for us and inspire us by their heroic lives.

Pilgrimage, whether you want it to or not, matters a great deal. The pilgrim mentality entails keeping the end in mind at all times, uniting sufferings to God and relying on others. Even if you don’t think these things are necessary for salvation, they certainly can’t hurt.

**Fort Wayne native Sam Lyon** is currently discerning the priesthood at Simon Brute College seminary and Marian University in Indianapolis.

## Angels among us: how helping leads to healing

Spend a day in a surgery waiting room and you’ll witness a hundred quiet acts of mercy.

Strangers gather for a host of reasons, with a common cause: to sit beneath the slowest clock and wait it out. They make calls, utter prayers and flip through magazines, and in their anxiety they extend morsels of compassion: smiles and small talk, directions to the cafeteria and tips on its offerings. One person is shown the way by someone slightly less new — flashes of humanity while loved ones down the hall are put under.

The mercy at one Minneapolis hospital, where I spent a recent Thursday as my husband’s elbow was reassembled, began with a text: “Surgery started. Everything going well.” Five words to make you feel oriented and relieved, the optional last three abounding in kindness.

A 60-something couple across from me hunkered down for their daughter’s four-hour surgery, a double mastectomy. A toddler behind them sprawled across her grandpa, staring at the fish tank. A camouflage-clad college student wanted to know where his dad would be recovering overnight. A collared 40-something paced and repeatedly checked on his wife’s status.

We were told we would be notified as soon as any information became available, but people could not wait. The women behind the front desk responded with grace, promis-



### TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

ing to look into each query and let them know as soon as they learned more. Surgeons periodically popped in, shaking hands and sitting down to explain an outcome in the most simple and encouraging language they could.

As we settle into a new year already shadowed by political tensions, I’m focusing on the acts of kindness playing out in my midst. A neighbor shoveling for us late at night. Casseroles and cards. A well-oiled prayer chain.

I’m reveling in gratitude and trying to seize entry points for compassion. A trip to the grocery store brings opportunities at every aisle: carts stuck together in the entrance, crowded corners, broken bags in parking lots. It feels so good to help in the smallest of ways or pay a sincere compliment to a weary cashier.

I learned about mercy from an 85-year-old priest — a retired English professor who quotes Samuel Taylor Coleridge and hears confessions twice a week. He donates every month to a free-of-cost hospice founded

CAPECCHI, page 13

## The glory of the Lord shines through us, his servants



### THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

#### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 5:13-16

The Book of Isaiah’s third section is the source of this first weekend’s reading. Scholars believe that this section was written perhaps in Jerusalem, for the Hebrew remnant that had returned from Babylon.

This would put this section of Isaiah at a date after the epic Babylonian captivity. As political fortunes turned, the Persian ruler, Cyrus, had overtaken Babylon and his decree allowed the Jewish exiles to return to their homeland after an absence of four generations. Indeed,

probably few had ever seen their homeland. Nevertheless, release from Babylon brought utter exhilaration to the exiles. They were free to go home!

This seemingly wondrous opportunity was bittersweet. When the exiles reached their ancestral homeland they found deprivation and want, conditions worse than anything that they had experienced in Babylon. Imagine the disappointment and anger. But the prophet reaffirmed God’s goodness, calling upon the people themselves to provide for those in need. Then they would experience the fullness of vindication, the fullness of God’s promise to give them life and peace.

St. Paul’s First Epistle to the Corinthians provides the second reading. This epistle was addressed to Christians living in Corinth, then one of the major cities of the Roman Empire. Rich and sophisticated, Corinth was a virtual center of the culture at the time. It also was a cesspool of vice.

Paul’s message ran directly opposite all that mattered in

Corinth. Skeptics scorned him, asking if the Christian Gospel made any sense. The Lord was an obstacle for many. After all, and importantly for so many, the founder of Christianity, Jesus of Nazareth, had been legally executed as a common criminal and as a traitor to the empire.

The Apostle’s proclamation of Jesus in itself put mere human knowledge in its place.

In response, Paul insisted that he relied upon a source greater and more dependable than human wisdom, namely the Holy Spirit.

St. Matthew’s Gospel furnishes the last reading, a collection of two brief statements by Jesus given in highly descriptive and clear imagery.

In the first statement, Jesus tells the disciples that they are the “salt of the earth.” In the second, the Lord admonishes followers to be the “light of the world.” These images, salt and light, hardly are unknown today, but an ancient aspect of each of them is unknown in this culture.

At the time of Jesus, salt was precious. Roman soldiers were

paid in salt. (“He is not worth his salt.”) “Salary” derives from this practice. Salt also was unrefined. Dust or sand usually mixed with salt. The less the dust and sand, the better the salt.

Today people are accustomed to seeing bright lights at night, but darkness was a serious obstacle at the time of Jesus. Light, then, was precious in its own sense.

Jesus urges disciples to uplift the earthly society by being salt and light.

### Reflection

Gently but deliberately, the church is guiding us onward from its introduction of Jesus of Nazareth as son of the human Mary and Son of God, as well as the Redeemer of the sinful human race, as given at Christmas, Epiphany and the Feast of the Lord’s Baptism. It challenges us to respond to Jesus.

These readings are clear. Discipleship is no mere lip service. It is the actual and intentional resembling of Christ in our daily lives.

Matthew makes this clear, however: Believers have a strength upon which to draw as they illuminate the world. It is within the grace of their faith. As disciples, they are precious. Being a disciple is demanding, but it is not impossible.

Of course, to be pure, worthy and therefore as strong as salt and free of impurities, disciples must rid themselves of sin and fortify their Christian resolve. This is the task of Lent, soon to begin.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Is 58:7-10 Ps 112:4-9

1 Cor 2:1-5 Mt 5:13-16

**Monday:** Gn 1:1-19 Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35 Mk 6:53-56

**Tuesday:** Gn 1:20—2:4a Ps 8:4-9 Mk 7:1-13

**Wednesday:** Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17 Ps 104:1-2, 27-30 Mk 7:14-23

**Thursday:** Gn 2:18-25 Ps 128:1-5 Mk 7:24-30

**Friday:** Gn 3:1-8 Ps 32:1-2, 5-7 Mk 7:31-37

**Saturday:** Gn 3:9-24 Ps 90:2-6, 12-13 Mk 8:1-10



# 'The Crown' and the fundamental values of a society

(Spoiler alert)

The Netflix original series "The Crown," which has to do with the last months of the reign of King George VI and the first years of the reign of his daughter, Queen Elizabeth II, is just the kind of program that Americans in particular seem naturally to love. It features beautiful photography of palaces, processions and formal receptions; and it provides a behind-the-scenes look at the "ne plus ultra" of the British aristocracy. Consider it "Downton Abbey" on steroids.

Some of the more affecting scenes in the entire series center around the transition from father to daughter, a time of trauma for the nation and deep personal pain for the family of the relatively young king. After Elizabeth, just returned from an African sojourn, had viewed the body of her beloved father, she meets her grandmother, Queen Mary, in one of the corridors of Buckingham Palace. The old lady, swathed in black Victorian garb, spies her granddaughter and then with tremendous dignity and through considerable discomfort, contorts herself into a formal curtsy. Taking in this unaccustomed display, Elizabeth registers her astonishment and feels, perhaps for the first time, that she is now the monarch.

Queen Mary had composed an extraordinary letter to her granddaughter, just after the death of the king. In it, she specified that, as queen, Elizabeth would not be beholden to Parliament, for it had not chosen her, nor to the people, for they had not voted for her, but rather to God, in whose name she would be coronated. This is how the letter concludes:

"I have seen three great monarchies brought down from their failure to separate their personal indulgences from duty... While you mourn your father, you must also mourn someone else: Elizabeth Mountbatten, for she has now been replaced by another person, Elizabeth Regina. The two Elizabeths will frequently be in conflict with one another. The fact is, the crown must win — must always win."

As if to prove Queen Mary's

point with as much visual panache as possible, the filmmakers emphasize the sacred, ordination-like dimension of Elizabeth's coronation. Not only does she receive a crown, but she is also anointed by the archbishop of Canterbury, "as priests, prophets, and Kings were anointed." That's according to a tradition that, the archbishop explicitly tells her, goes back to King Solomon's consecration by "Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet." And all of it is done under the aegis and in the name of "the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

As the series unfolds, we see Queen Mary's prediction of conflict coming to pass. On a number of occasions, Queen Elizabeth is torn between her obligation to the church and her affection for her sister Margaret, who has fallen in love with a divorced man whom she wishes to marry. All of her personal instincts and feelings lead her to grant permission to her beloved sister, but her duty to God compels her to refuse. Even in the face of popular opinion, which runs strongly in Margaret's direction, and despite the bitter tears of her sister, the queen follows the precepts of the Lord. Elizabeth Regina triumphs over Elizabeth Mountbatten.

Now I bring all of this up, not to address so much the issue of divorce and remarriage within the Christian dispensation, but rather something deeper and more abiding: namely, the presence within any healthy society of values that are grounded in God. We are quite naturally at home with practical decisions that result from majority vote or with allegiances consequent upon strong personal feelings. But finally, both practical strategies and personal feelings must rest upon objective goods that are not, themselves, up for debate, values that flow from God. In Great Britain, the monarch — anointed and not appointed — is the personification of this dimension of the society's moral life. In the American context, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, which enshrine



BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

## WORD ON FIRE

and defend fundamental human rights, play a similar role.

If you doubt me on this score, I might recommend a close reading of the prologue to the Declaration, which states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights." Thomas Jefferson is not speaking here of values consequent upon the people's will, but rather of the proper ethical matrix for any and all legislative deliberation. When this feature of public life is forgotten, everything becomes a matter of majority vote or private whim — and the society necessarily drifts.

There is another scene in "The Crown" that brings this point home. When they were children, King George brought Elizabeth and Margaret together and invited them to pledge that they would always remain faithful to one another and that nothing would ever supersede their mutual loyalty. When the moment of truth came many years later, and Elizabeth was forced to choose God's way over her sister's desire, Margaret bitterly reminded her of this oath. Though he was a good man and though the two sisters dearly loved one another, King George should never have compelled his daughters to make that pledge. For nothing can be permitted to violate the God-given moral values upon which a society is rightly constructed. God bless the makers of "The Crown" for helping us to see this in a most dramatic way.

**Bishop Robert Barron** is an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries.

older, my feet get farther and farther away from me," he said. "That's the trouble."

What a beautiful way to serve the church's servants, and it's the kind of assistance most would never think to provide. "Old folks appreciate the power of touch," he said.

One of this month's Scripture readings brings it all home with words from Isaiah: "Thus says the Lord: Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless... and do not turn your back on your own. Then your light shall break forth

like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed."

Acts of mercy aren't just to be performed when you're in perfect condition and your to-do list is complete. They're done when you are wounded — that's how you arrive at healing.

"Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer, you shall cry for help, and He will say: Here I am!"

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

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for February 5, 2017

Matthew 5:13-16

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: an encouragement to live our vocations. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

YOU ARE NO LONGER THROWN OUT WORLD UNDER TO ALL BEFORE	SALT GOOD TRAMPLED A CITY BUSHEL BASKET HOUSE OTHERS	TASTE ANYTHING LIGHT BE HIDDEN IT GIVES SHINE FATHER
--	--	--

### DON T HIDE

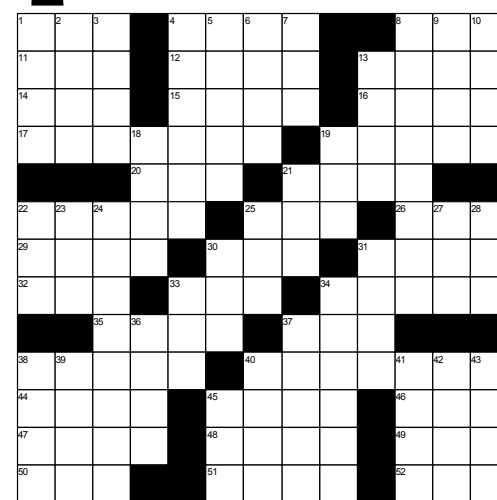
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B E F O R E T S A T F S
R E G N O L O N E D A E
N A H J O T H G I L T V
A N O I H R L W T R H I
D Y U E D E T U K O E G
E T S R N D O O G W R T
L H E A R N E T A W K I
P I O U W U H N H L K C
M N J O A L L E I E L H
A G R Y T I C A D H R O
R H F C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

February 5 and 12, 2017



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Based on these readings: Is 58: 7-10; 1Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16 and Sir 15: 15-20; 1Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5: 17-37

### ACROSS

- 1 Young woman
- 4 This destroys earthly treasure
- 8 Witch
- 11 Long, long
- 12 Sports channel
- 13 Go at it alone
- 14 Type of coat
- 15 Spiffy
- 16 Bullets
- 17 Turn down the lights (2 wds)
- 19 Share your with the hungry
- 20 Shriek
- 21 Prison

### DOWN

- 22 Leads to pews
- 25 Computer memory unit
- 26 Extremely high frequency (abbr.)
- 29 Oolongs
- 30 Jesus cursed this tree
- 31 Russian ruler
- 32 Snake like fish
- 33 Domesticated wolf
- 34 Type of 33A
- 35 " and water"
- 37 Underwater ship
- 38 "Paid the last"
- 40 Causes memory loss
- 44 Berserk
- 45 Horseflv
- 46 Hub bub
- 47 Set on a hill
- 48 Magi followed
- 49 Papal name
- 50 Bard's before
- 51 British conservative
- 52 Strike lightly
- 1 Fish lifting hook
- 2 Water (Spanish)
- 3 Jesus Christ
- 4 French impressionist
- 5 Empty out (2 wds)
- 6 Quarrel
- 7 Dynamite
- 8 Work of Mercy: Shelter
- 9 mater
- 10 The Shepherd
- 13 Indian dress
- 18 God's are upon us
- 19 Baseball equipment
- 21 Irish dance
- 22 Southwestern Indian
- 23 Bishop's area
- 24 Half of musical whole note (2 wds.)
- 25 Large
- 27 "Hugs And Kisses"
- 28 Cook with oil
- 30 Opponent
- 31 Hose
- 33 Make un-wet
- 34 Work of mercy: Feed
- 36 Murky
- 37 Spread out paint
- 38 Walking step
- 39 Muslim ruler
- 40 Singing voice
- 41 " of the earth"
- 42 Thought
- 43 Chicken house
- 45 Time zone

Answer Key can be found on page 19

## CAPECCHI

Continued from Page 12

by the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne and explained to me his reasoning: "Spiritual and corporal works of mercy happen there. We can't personally do much of that work, and so we have proxies."

The same organization sends two nurses every month to his retirement home for priests, to trim their toenails. "As I get



# Planting seeds of growth

BY JAMES MOUNT

Aug. 15, 2014, was just another evening for Paul Gerardot, property manager of St. Henry Parish Community Center in Fort Wayne. That evening, however, would end in a catastrophe. Riding his motorcycle, a car pulled out in front of him. Gerardot swerved to avoid the hit, lost control of the bike and dropped it, falling off and hitting his head. He never hit the car, but wasn't wearing a helmet.

Rushed to the hospital, he had no heart rate and no blood pressure. Doctors fought for his life and with his vital signs restored, Gerardot drifted in and out of consciousness for 65 days. Suffering a traumatic brain injury, he was lucky to be alive — but today you wouldn't think anything had ever happened to him.

Coming back wasn't easy. It required months of rehab and retraining his brain. During the process he came to know Kristin Smith, the leader of Parkview Hospital's brain injury support group and a specialist in brain injuries. Their acquaintance would bring Smith and Parkview to a place special that was very special to Gerardot: the church's community gardens.

People who suffer TBIs have unique challenges in their rehabilitation efforts. Smith's efforts center on not only helping these people regain full function of



Provided by St. Henry Parish

**Paul Gerardot helps a volunteer prepare a tiller at the community garden sponsored by the parish.**

their motor and cognitive abilities but also helping friends and family form a support group for

TBI patients.

According to her, the TBI support group has a three-fold focus.

First, it offers group sessions to discuss problems, questions or concerns and helps group members through varied expertise and personal experience. Second, it offers educational groups — bringing speakers into the group to further educate about brain trauma. The third focus is social, bringing patients, family, friends and community members together in a relaxed and fun environment. The third focus brought Smith and Parkview to St. Henry.

Smith was impressed with a visit to a community garden picnic sponsored by St. Henry over the summer. "We loved our visit to St. Henry," she said. "The people were generous hosts in sharing their support and resources to provide a welcoming environment with food and friendship."

Smith became aware of St. Henry Parish, and its annually planted community gardens, through Gerardot's treatment and rehabilitation. She also appreciated his attitude during the process, which helped other group members with their own recovery. "Paul always brings a message of hope and the importance of functional activity, as well as ongoing purpose for our survivors and their families. He's always able to drive home the point that no matter their impairments their lives still have purpose and meaning. He also expresses how helping others can help them."

She came away impressed by the efforts put forth by the parish

and the hospitality presented to the TBI group. "I was so appreciative to Paul and his board and contacts for all the hard work they did in getting food arranged and prepared — all the people who supported, set up, cleaned up and provide entertainment." TBI group members came away aware of a special place they can utilize in their rehabilitative efforts.

"I feel that many of our group members were made aware of another place they could go to be functional, to obtain some activity and work toward their return to independent living following their brain injuries."

Smith sees a value in the existence of a place like the community gardens, and shared her hope for future collaborative efforts with St. Henry to provide TBI patients a haven to regain their life functions. "I would love to see some of our group members regularly participate in gardening at St. Henry and sharing their experiences and possibly fresh food with the group. The success of group members in these types of activities and programs helps them recover and regain a sense of purpose back to their life. This, in turn, brings examples of success and hope back to our group to share with others who are struggling." Smith also sees a growing and able pool of volunteers for St. Henry to come from this collaboration.

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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 260-399-1449 to purchase space.

### Help for hurting marriages

Retrouvaille is a worldwide program that teaches couples how rediscover each other and work through difficult times in their marriages. To learn more about the program or to register for the Feb. 24-26 weekend in Indianapolis, visit the website at [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com) or [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org). Email [Retrouvaille@gmail.com](mailto:Retrouvaille@gmail.com) or call 317-489-6811 for confidential registration information.

### Concert to benefit seminarians

FORT WAYNE — The Franciscan Friars Minor will host a benefit concert at the University of Saint Francis North Campus Auditorium on Friday, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m. Original Music composed by "Brothers" in various contemporary styles and traditional Gregorian Chant, will be presented. Admission is free-will offering and proceeds will benefit the seminarians of the Franciscan Friars Minor.

### Saint Meinrad Day of Service planned

FORT WAYNE — The Saint Meinrad Alumni Association will have a Day of Service on Saturday, March 11, in 11 cities. In Fort Wayne the event will be held at Our Lady of Good Hope Catholic Church, 7217 St. Joe Road, and will begin with registration at 8 a.m. Work will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 2 p.m. There is no cost to participate and each volunteer will receive a free T-shirt and lunch. You need not be an alumnus of Saint Meinrad to participate. Volunteers are asked to register by March 1 to ensure an accurate count for lunch and T-shirts. For more details or to register, visit <http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu/dayofservice>.

### Fish fry

FREMONT — St. Paul Chapel, 8780 E. 700N, will host a Lenten fish fry from 5-7 p.m. in the parish hall on Fridays, Feb. 24, March 10 and 24. Meals are \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 4-12 and children 3 and under are free. For information contact Katie at 260-665-2259.

### Vocation society plans meeting

FORT WAYNE — The Father Solanus Casey Vocation Society will meet Friday, Feb. 3, at St. Joseph Hospital, beginning with Mass in the chapel at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch and guest speaker, Andrew Ouellette, direc-

tor of youth ministry for the diocese.

### Knights plan fish fry

SOUTH BEND — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 4, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$9, children 5-12 \$4. Shrimp or chicken strips available for \$9.50 and cheese pizza for \$1 per slice.

### Hospice volunteer training dates announced

Center for Hospice Care needs volunteers in St. Joseph, La Porte, Elkhart, LaGrange, Starke, Marshall, Kosciusko and Fulton Counties. The next Volunteer Training is dates are: Feb. 14, 16, 21, from 9 a.m. to noon; and Feb. 23, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Mishawaka Campus, 501 Comfort Place. Registration required by contacting Kristiana Donahue at 574-286-1198 or [donahuek@cfhcare.org](mailto:donahuek@cfhcare.org).

### Soup and bread served on Ash Wednesday

FORT WAYNE — Begin Lent simply and bring a friend for lunch of soup and bread on Ash Wednesday, March 1, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Mary's, 1101 S. Lafayette St. The free will donation will help support St. Mary's Soup Kitchen, which serves 1,000 free bowls of soup to hungry people every day. A Lenten Prayer Service with distribution of ashes will begin at 11 a.m.

### Spaghetti dinner raises funds for school

FORT WAYNE — St. Therese Parish will have a spaghetti dinner Saturday, Feb. 25, in the St. Therese gym following the 5 p.m. Mass. Proceeds will help with updates and repairs at St. Therese School. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children ages

5-12, and children 4 and under are free.

### CCHS alumni association plans March open house

FORT WAYNE — The Central Catholic High School Alumni Association will have an open house Sunday, March 12, from 1-3 p.m. at its office, located at 4816 E. State Blvd.

### Benefit supper for Hannah's House

MISHAWAKA — The Knights of Columbus, Council No. 1878 will host a benefit spaghetti supper for Hannah's House Maternity Home with a Heart on Friday, Feb. 24, from 5-7 p.m. at 114 W. Fourth St. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 5-12 and children under 5 eat free. This dinner helps care for pregnant mothers and newborn babies.

### Interpreter to be at Mass

FORT WAYNE — An interpreter for the deaf and hard of hearing will be present for the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Feb. 12, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, 1122 S. Clinton St. Cathedral par-

## REST IN PEACE

### Decatur

Danny E. Strickler, 67, St. Mary of the Assumption

### Fort Wayne

Diane Y. Langin, 74, St. Jude

Thomas A. Ackerman, 81, Our Lady of Good Hope

Inez Jane Brownfield, 70, St. Jude

Benjamin Vasquez, 30, St. Joseph

Thomas R. O'Grady, 85, St. Vincent de Paul

### Huntington

Mary Margaret Casper, 98, St. Mary

### Mishawaka

Betty M. Trimboli, 94, Queen of Peace

### New Haven

Edward Pelak, 73, St. John the Baptist

Donald R. Voglewede, 87, St. John the Baptist

### South Bend

Mark T. Mayfield, 17, Holy Family

Richard E. Tepe, 87, St. John the Baptist

Anna Mroz, 89, St. Adalbert

Frances Elaine Stewart, 91, St. Augustine

Heather M. Smith, 47, St. Matthew Cathedral

Myra Rigley, 85, St. Therese, Little Flower

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

ish and the Diocesan Office of Evangelization provide an interpreter every second Sunday of the month. For more about this ministry, contact Allison Sturm at 260-399-1452 or [asturm@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:asturm@diocesefwsb.org).

### Catholic Business Network meetings

FORT WAYNE — The next Catholic Business Network meeting will be Friday, Feb. 3, with Mass in the Guerin Chapel at 7 a.m. followed by fellowship in the Cathedral Center at 7:30 a.m. Guest speaker will be Dr. Lance Richey, dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences at University of Saint Francis speaking on the topic: "Of Profits and Prophets: Some Catholic Principles for Business Leaders." Refreshments provided by Joe Brown with Rekindle the Fire.

### Diocesan liturgical training scheduled

The Office of Worship has organized diocesan liturgical trainings on upcoming Saturdays in early 2017 for parish lectors and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. There is no charge to attend a training, but advance registration is required by mail or email. The remaining lector training will be on March 4 at St. Jude Church in South Bend. The extraordinary minister training will be on Feb. 4 at St. Joseph Church in Mishawaka. The times and durations of the trainings vary. Visit [www.diocesefwsb.org/Trainings-And-Retreats](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/Trainings-And-Retreats) for more information.

Visit [www.diocesefwsb.org](http://www.diocesefwsb.org) for the full calendar.

## little flower holy hour

February 7  
7:00 p.m.

St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel

with Fr. David Voors

Please, come and pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

[discernpriesthood.com](http://discernpriesthood.com)

DIocese OF FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

## The CrossWord

Feb. 5 and 12, 2017

G	A	L	R	U	S	T	H	A	G		
A	G	O	E	S	P	N	S	O	L	O	
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CNS photo/Bob Roller

**New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, delivers the homily during the opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Jan. 26. The all-night vigil is held before the annual March for Life, which this year marked the 44th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion across the nation.**



Photos by John Sikorski

**Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades gives a homily at a diocesan Mass for pilgrims at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C., on Saturday morning.**



Carl Loesch

**Multiple bus loads of representatives from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend prepare for the March for Life.**

## MARCH

Continued from Page 1

I always notice how many of the teens come back with a desire and a zeal to spread the good news of life and to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ through the sacraments."

Loesch noted that the young people especially enjoyed hearing Vice President Pence and some of the other speakers at the rally before the march. "They were very moved by Representative Mia Love's personal witness of her parents choosing life for her despite their difficult situation," he said. Msgr. Michael Heintz and diocesan seminarians at Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., hosted the Fort Wayne-South Bend group for Mass following the march, giving everyone an opportunity to meet with seminarians of the diocese on the way back home.

Father Royce Gregorson, parochial vicar at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne, accompanied local marchers for the first time in six years. Afterwards, he reflected that "The presence of so many young people is a cause for so much hope for our country and our world."

He also noted the peaceful tone of the event.

"The marchers" do not carry signs with derogatory language and they refrain from inflammatory statements about people with whom they disagree. ... The March for Life reminded me about how much brokenness there is in the world. Women gave testimonies about how their lives had been

affected by abortion. Women from minority communities and others from the inner city spoke about how abortion providers prey upon ethnic minorities and the economically disadvantaged. But even more than the brokenness, what stood out was hope."

"This is a message of love," said Bridget Donofrio, from Washington, holding aloft a poster-board sign with words written with a black marker: "Respect all women born and unborn."

Many of the march signs were pre-made placards with messages such as "I am pro abundant life" or "Defund Planned Parenthood" and "I am the pro-life generation."

The city of Washington, fresh from the inauguration crowd and the women's march held the next day, seemed prepared for this march.

On the Metro, when two older women asked a young woman for directions and pointed to the group with signs that they wanted to join, the woman looked up from her phone and asked if there was a protest today.

"It's the March for Life," one woman said. A few seconds later she added: "It's not a protest; it's more of a celebration."

During a homily delivered to about 3,000 of the faithful from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and others on Saturday morning at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Bishop Rhoades reflected on the letter to the Hebrews, which extols the faith Abraham had in God.

"The author recounts that by faith Abraham went out when God called him, not knowing where he was to go. And then by faith he sojourned in this

land of promise, living in tents as a nomad," Bishop said. "By faith Abraham received power to generate even though he was past the normal age and his wife Sarah was sterile. And by faith, when put to the test, he offered up Isaac.

"We've come as pilgrims of faith to this Basilica of Our Lady," he continued. "By faith, we participated in the March for Life yesterday. We come with faith in God as the Creator and Author of Life. By faith, we stand up for the dignity and sacredness of the lives of unborn children and all human life. When our faith is put to the test, especially in this anti-life and pro-death culture, we need that strong and obedient faith of Abraham, who trusts in God no matter what. When the storms come, our faith can be shaken like that of the disciples in the boat. When we cry out to Him like the disciples, Jesus calms the storm. The Lord brings peace and calm not only to the sea, but to our anxious or fearful hearts."

Bishop Rhoades then drew a parallel to the faith of those whom he met during a recent visit Catholic Relief Services programs in the Holy Land. He encouraged the March for Life pilgrims to buttress their faith in a manner similar to the Palestinians, who live with crippling scarcity and a lack of freedom of movement.

"We must never give up or lose hope. We must persevere, trusting that goodness will overcome evil and working so that life and justice will prevail. May Mary, our Immaculate Mother, and Saint Thomas Aquinas, the great Angelic Doctor of the Church, intercede for us and all who serve the Gospel of life!"



**High school youth and chaperones from the South Bend, Mishawaka and Elkhart area pose with Bishop Rhoades outside the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.**