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GUIDE

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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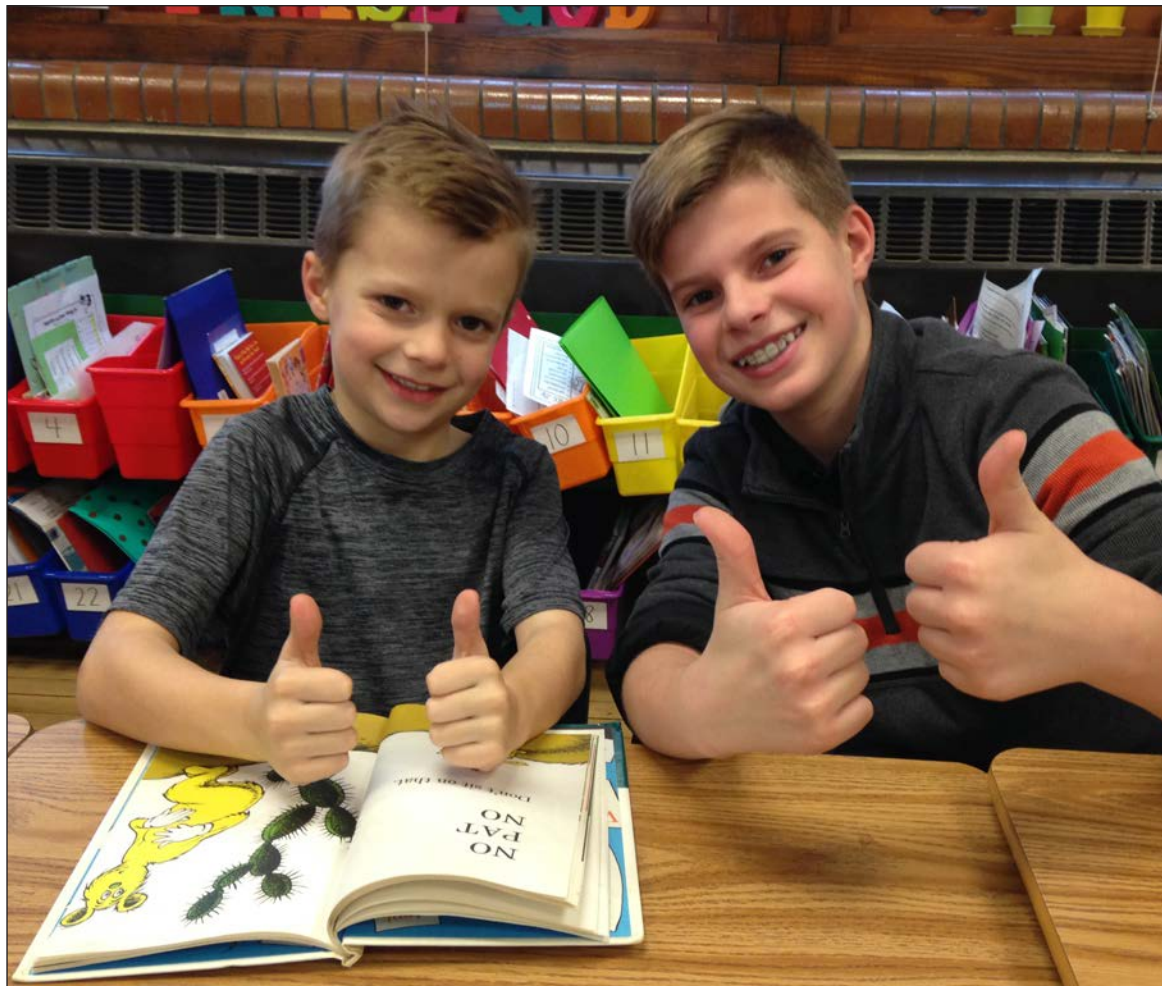
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Diocesan Catholic schoolteachers honored for excellence



Provided by Kim Bentley

Schools throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend observed Catholic Schools Week Jan. 30-Feb. 3 — including Most Precious Blood, Fort Wayne, students Grayson Peters, left and his brother, Gunner. Local activities included dances, Mass, rosaries, volleyball games and teacher and staff recognitions.

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO AND
JENNIFER MILLER

Outstanding Catholic schoolteachers on both sides of the diocese were honored at recent luncheons for their dedication to excellence in Catholic education. During the luncheons, Light of Learning Awards were given to select educators who express the core values of Catholic education and incorporate these values into their curriculum and classroom.

Fort Wayne

Gerald Fitzpatrick, senior vice president of Quality Dining Inc.'s Burger King division, delivered the opening remarks at the Fort Wayne Light of Learning luncheon. "These success stories belong to you — the teachers and principals," he told guests at the annual event, held at the Hotel Fort Wayne.

He went on to explain the impact and importance of fundraisers in making Catholic education possible. For example, Quality Dining's annual You Can Lend a Hand program alone has resulted in \$10.2 million dollars being raised for diocesan Catholic schools over the last three and a

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Bishops launch letter campaign urging Trump to protect religious freedom

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Saying "religious freedom in America has suffered years of unprecedented erosion," the U.S. Catholic bishops have posted an online letter for Catholics to send to President Donald Trump urging him to sign an executive order promoting religious freedom.

The letter, found at www.votervoice.net/USCCB/Campaigns, says the president can "restore the federal government's respect for the religious freedom of individuals and organizations" with an executive order that establishes a "government-wide initia-

tive to respect religious freedom." Individuals can sign the letter and hit a link to submit it to Trump.

A leaked draft version of a potential religious freedom order was circulating in the media and among federal staff and advocacy groups at the end of January. When White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer was asked about the draft Jan. 30, he said he would not get "ahead of the executive orders that we may or may not issue." He noted that there have been a lot of executive actions and "a lot of things that the president has talked about and will continue to fulfill, but we have nothing on that front now."

A White House official told ABC News that the leaked draft on religious freedom is one of hundreds of circulating orders that were either written by the transition team or the White House.

Although Spicer did not elaborate on the leaked document, he told reporters that freedom of religion in the U.S. should mean "people should be able to practice their religion, express their religion, express areas of their faith without reprisal."

"And I think that pendulum sometimes swings the other way in the name of political correctness," he added.

The four-page draft has raised concerns among those who said it would legalize discrimination and was too far-reaching, but University of Notre Dame law professor Richard Garnett said in an email to Catholic News Service that the "critics are dramatically overstating" what the order can do.

The draft states that "Americans and their religious organizations will not be coerced by the federal government into participating in activities that violate their consciences." It also notes that people and organizations do not "forfeit their religious freedom when

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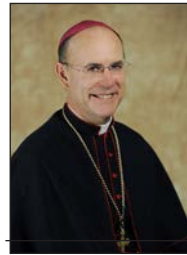
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Keep holy the Lord's day



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

How do we observe the Lord's Day? Do we keep Sunday holy? In reflecting on these questions, it is good to recall why we observe Sunday as the Day of the Lord to begin with.

Saint John Paul II wrote that "Sunday is a day which is at the very heart of the Christian life" (*Dies Domini* 7). Do we think of Sunday that way, or as just a day off from work or a day when we have to go to Mass? Sunday is, as John Paul wrote, "the festival of the new creation" (*DD* 8). It is the day of Christ's resurrection. It is a weekly celebration of Easter. Every week, on Sunday, we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death. We celebrate the dawn of the new creation.

Our whole Christian faith rests on this fundamental event, absolutely unique in human history: the Resurrection of Jesus. It is good for parents to remind their children every Sunday that today we are celebrating Jesus' Resurrection. We can say with the psalmist every Sunday: "This is the day which the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it (Psalm 118:24)." Sunday is the day of the Risen Lord. That's why Saint Basil the Great spoke of Sunday as "holy Sunday."

It is also significant that Pentecost took place on Sunday. Pentecost, the day of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, promised by Jesus, fell on a Sunday. This was the day of the first proclamation of the Gospel and the first baptisms were celebrated on the day of Pentecost. Therefore, Sunday is the Church's preferred day for the celebration of the sacrament of Baptism.

So I invite you to ask yourselves: how do you and your family observe Sunday? Do you live it consciously as the day of the Risen Christ and the day of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit? At it is a day not only to remember the past events of Easter and Pentecost, but to celebrate the living presence of the Risen Lord and of the Holy Spirit in our lives today.

Of course, the heart of the observance, the celebration, of Sunday, should be Sunday Mass. We gather to do what Jesus commanded us to do in remembrance of Him. We gather to profess faith in His resurrection. It is important that parents teach their children why we go to Mass on Sunday. It is important to share with them the importance of gathering to listen to the Word of God, to be nourished by the Table of His Word. And then to share with them the vital necessity of being nourished by the greatest gift: His Body broken and given up for us and His Blood poured out for us. This is what gives us the strength we need to live our faith the rest of the week.

At Mass, we unite our lives, our prayers and works, our sufferings and joys, with Jesus. At the end of Mass, we are sent to glorify the Lord by our lives, to announce the Gospel of the Lord in the world. On Sunday, we receive the grace of the Eucharist to help us to live our faith throughout the week, to bear witness to Christ in the community, in our family, and at work. We return to our everyday lives with a renewed commitment to serve God and our neighbor. We are sent forth to evangelize.

Besides Sunday Mass, Saint John Paul II



CNS photo/Nancy Wiehac

A family attends Mass at El Cristo Rey Chapel in Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona Aug. 21. In addition to attending Mass, keeping the Lord's day holy also means using the day to relax, reach out to others and enrich our families.

wrote about Sunday as "a day of joy, rest, and solidarity." It's good for us to think about this: is Sunday a day of joy, rest and solidarity in my life and in the life of my family?

Why is Sunday supposed to be celebrated as a day of joy? The answer is obvious: it is the day of the Resurrection. On Easter Sunday, the disciples rejoiced to see the risen Lord. Pope Francis wrote a whole apostolic exhortation at the beginning of his pontificate entitled: "The Joy of the Gospel." Christian joy should characterize our life every day. Sunday is the day of joy in a very special way, not a day of mere superficial pleasures, but something more enduring and consoling. It is day given to us by God for our human and spiritual growth. We can think about how practically we can make Sunday a day of joy — for example, family activities that foster unity and love within the family, perhaps a walk in the woods, a visit to a lake, or a special meal together.

Connected to Sunday being a day of joy is its being a day of rest. Rest is something sacred, as we know from the book of Genesis and God's establishment of the Sabbath. Human dignity requires rest and relaxation. It is good to enjoy the beauties of nature —

they give rest and peace to the soul. Taking time to relax with family and friends brings depth to our relationships. Sunday shouldn't be a day of emptiness and boredom, but a day to enjoy one another. It also can be day of spiritual enrichment — e.g. a family rosary together, a pilgrimage to a shrine, attendance at a concert, etc.

Besides being a day of joy and rest, Sunday is a day of solidarity. Where do we find joy? In giving of ourselves in love! It doesn't violate the precept of rest to do an act of charity or mercy on Sunday. Remember how Jesus was criticized for healing people on the Sabbath. Sunday does not absolve us of the duties of charity. In fact, what a great day to share with the poor, to visit someone in the hospital or nursing home, to visit grandparents or elderly relatives! Sunday is a day of solidarity, a day to reach out to those who are in need.

I invite everyone to reflect on how they spend Sunday. It is not a day of escape — it is to be a day of worship, joy, rest and solidarity. And let us remember in our prayers those who have to work on Sunday in service professions and jobs that require it, such as health care workers, police, emergency responders and firefighters.

Judge Neil Gorsuch nominated to fill Supreme Court vacancy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Donald Trump nominated Judge Neil Gorsuch to fill the seat on the U.S. Supreme Court that has been empty since the death of Justice Antonin Scalia last February.

Gorsuch is a man the country needs, Trump said in announcing his nominee the evening of Jan. 31. He added that his pick for the high court already has had bipartisan support. "Judge Gorsuch has outstanding legal skills, a brilliant mind, tremendous discipline," he said.

When Trump announced his choice at the White House, in the audience was Maureen McCarthy Scalia, the widow of the late justice. One of the couple's children also was present: Father Paul Scalia, a priest of the Diocese of Arlington, Va.

In his remarks, Gorsuch said he was thankful for friends, family and faith giving him balance. He also said he was honored and humbled to be chosen as a nominee to the nation's highest court. He described Scalia as "lion of the law" and said he misses him.

He said he respects the fact that Congress, not the courts, writes new laws. "It is the role of judges to apply, not alter, the work of the people's representatives. A judge who likes every outcome he reaches is very likely a bad judge, stretching for results he prefers rather than those the law demands."

Several news outlets reported that hundreds of demonstrators held a rally outside the Supreme Court building to protest Trump's choice of Gorsuch. Pro-life organizations, however, were quick to praise the president's selection of someone who they said will "carry on the legacy" of Scalia.

Gorsuch, judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit, is 49, making him the youngest Supreme Court nominee in 25 years. He was born in Denver. He currently lives outside of Boulder, Colo., with his wife and two daughters. He lived in the Washington area as a teenager when his mother, Anne Gorsuch Burford, was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to head the Environmental Protection Agency. Gorsuch attended the Jesuit-run Georgetown Preparatory School where he won a national debate championship.

Gorsuch has the typical qualifications of a high court justice. He graduated from Columbia, Harvard and Oxford, clerked for two Supreme Court justices and also worked for the Department of Justice.

He also is an adjunct law professor at the University of Colorado and he wrote a 2009 book arguing against the legalization of assisted suicide and euthanasia.

Gorsuch hasn't written a



CNS photo/Michael Reynolds, EPA

Judge Neil Gorsuch speaks after U.S. President Donald Trump nominated him to be a U.S. Supreme Court justice Jan. 31 at the White House in Washington. If confirmed, Gorsuch will fill the seat that has been empty since the death of Justice Antonin Scalia last February.

ruling specifically on abortion, but he has strong views on religious liberty. He sided with the Little Sisters of the Poor in their challenge of the contraceptive mandate of the Affordable Care Act. And in *Hobby Lobby Stores v. Sebelius*, in June 2013, the 10th Circuit ordered the federal government to stop enforcement of the federal mandate against Hobby Lobby, the Oklahoma-based Christian chain of retail arts and crafts stores. In his concurrence, Gorsuch said the contraception mandate substantially burdened the company's religious exercise — a decision the Supreme Court later upheld.

Gorsuch is an Episcopalian. Scalia, who had been one of six Catholic members of the court, was often described as its most conservative voice and known for his strict interpretation of the Constitution's intent.

"All too often, our efforts to protect unborn children and other vulnerable humans have been overridden by judges who believe they have a right to impose their own policy preferences," Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life, said in a statement.

"We are heartened that Judge Gorsuch appears to share Justice Scalia's view that federal judges are constrained to enforce the text and original intent of constitutional provisions, and on all other matters should defer to democratically elected lawmakers," Tobias added.

Priests for Life, the American Life League, the Susan B. Anthony List and other groups echoed those sentiments.

Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the Susan B. Anthony List, called Gorsuch "an exceptional choice." "In the coming days, we will mobilize the pro-life grass-roots nationwide and in key Senate battleground states

to urge the Senate to swiftly confirm" she said in a statement. "Should pro-abortion Democratic Senators choose to filibuster this immensely qualified nominee, they do so at their own political peril."

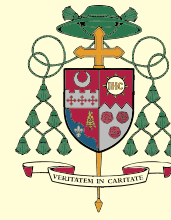
Knights of Columbus CEO Carl Anderson said in a statement that the Knights applauded the president's Supreme Court nominee stating: "From his writings and his record, it is clear that he will interpret the Constitution as it was written, including our First Amendment right to religious freedom, and the right to life of every person."

A blog for the Supreme Court, scotusblog.com, listed reactions it received about the nominee and by midday Feb. 1, it had five more statements opposed to the nominee than those favoring him.

Those opposed to the nominee included the Center for Reproductive Rights, the People for the American Way, National Women's Law Center, a few Democratic senators and one Democratic representative. His supporters included a few Republican senators, the National Rifle Association and the American Center for Law and Justice.

The American Bar Association said it was neutral on the nominee but stressed that as much information as possible about him should be made available to the public and to the U.S. Senate as it considers his confirmation.

The Knights' Anderson noted that Gorsuch was confirmed without opposition to the 10th Circuit in 2006 and that the same year he received a "unanimously well qualified" rating from the ABA. "It is hard to imagine a better, and more qualified, candidate," Anderson said, adding that the Senate should swiftly confirm him.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, February 12: 9:15 a.m. — Mass, Saint Peter Parish, Fort Wayne
 Monday, February 13: 11 a.m. — Meeting with Catholic Community Foundation Subcommittee, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
 Thursday, February 16: 5 p.m. — Annual Scholarship Dinner, Ave Maria University, Ave Maria, Florida
 Friday, February 17: Annual Board Meeting, Ave Maria University, Ave Maria, Florida
 Saturday, February 18: 4:30 p.m. — Mass, "Rekindle the Fire" Conference, Century Center, South Bend
 Sunday, February 19: 9:45 a.m. — Mass, Saint Paul's Senior Living Community, South Bend
 Sunday, February 19: 5 p.m. — Mass and Dinner with "Communion and Liberation" Members, Notre Dame Our Mother Chapel, Coleman-Morse Building

Call to prayer for life, marriage and religious liberty Holy Hours

- St. Joseph Church, 1300 N. Main St., Bluffton: Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty takes place at 5 p.m. and ends with Mass at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday monthly.
- St. Charles Borromeo Church, 4916 Trier Rd, Fort Wayne: A Holy Hour all Fridays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the chapel.
- Queen of Peace Church, Mishawaka: Adoration and Exposition every Saturday prior to Mass at 5:30 p.m.
- St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Decatur: Eucharistic exposition on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 4:30-6 p.m. and on Thursday from 9-10 a.m. and 4:30-8 p.m.
- Our Lady of Good Hope Church, 7215 Saint Joe Rd., Fort Wayne: A holy hour for religious liberty beginning with a rosary at 9:30 a.m. every Tuesday.

TRUMP

Continued from Page 1

providing social services, education or health care." It cites the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which states that government "shall not substantially burden a person's exercise of religion" unless that burden "is the least restrictive means to further a compelling governmental interest."

The U.S. bishops, who have made religious liberty a priority, have not released a statement on potential executive action on religious freedom by Trump but in the online letter available for Catholics to sign stressed such an order should include some of the following measures:

— Relief from the Affordable Care Act's contraceptive mandate. Currently, the mandate — issued by the federal Department of Health and Human Services as part of the implementation of the health care law — requires most religious employers to provide coverage of artificial birth control for their employees

even if the employer is morally opposed to such coverage. There is a very narrow exemption for churches.

— Preservation of tax-exempt status for nonprofit groups that hold beliefs based on marriage and human sexuality.

— The ability of religious organizations that partner with the federal government to act according to their beliefs regarding marriage, human sexuality and the protection of human life at all stages.

— The ability of religiously affiliated child welfare providers to provide adoption, foster or family support services for children that coincide with their religious beliefs.

— Conscience protections about abortion in the individual health insurance market.

The bishops' letter said any executive order on religious freedom should make it clear that this freedom should not just be about a person's ability to freely worship but should include "the ability to act on one's beliefs."

"It should also protect individuals and families who run closely held businesses in accordance with their faith to the greatest extent possible," the letter said.

Notre Dame choirs to perform at Fort Wayne cathedral

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

Worshippers at the 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, Mass at Fort Wayne's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception will be treated to a particularly special farewell to "alleluia" before Lent begins the following Wednesday.

At the invitation of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, 40 students who comprise the Notre Dame Celebration Choir and the Notre Dame Handbell Choir at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart will travel to Fort Wayne to lead the music during the vigil Mass.

Karen Kirner of Campus Ministry at Notre Dame formed both ensembles in 1997 and directed them until the fall of 2016, when Patrick Kronner came from Indiana University, Bloomington, to direct the Celebration Choir. At that time Kirner became director of the folk choir; she still directs the Handbell Choir as well and will be the organist for the Mass.

The Celebration Choir has toured with the Handbell Choir, which sings in the wider community, including at Westville Prison, with youth and at unity prayer services. They also lead the music at a Mass held in DeBartolo Performing Arts Center half an hour after the end of each home football game. In the Handbell Choir, 15 students play two handbells each, ranging over



Provided by Karen Schneider Kirner

The Notre Dame Handbell Choir and the Notre Dame Celebration Choir will travel to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception to lend their talents to a Mass celebrated at 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

a total of five octaves. These enthusiastic musicians usually participate during all four years as undergrads.

Notre Dame Campus Ministry is blessed with other choirs, including the Notre Dame Liturgical Choir, the Women's Liturgical Choir and the Schola, who perform polyphonic "high church" music. All the choirs combine for special occasions like Junior Parents Weekend and Advent Lessons and Carols.

Although the choirs sing high-quality works in various musical styles, Kirner emphasized that they will not present a performance when they visit the cathedral, but will lead the congregation in worship. Selections will include John Rutter's "The Lord Bless You and Keep You," Steve Warner's "Lead, Kindly Light," Karen Kirner's medley of familiar communion hymns and "Our Darkness Is Never Darkness" from the Taizé community.

Bishop Rhoades will celebrate the vigil Mass, and Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Parish is graciously providing a meal for the students afterward.

All visitors are encouraged to travel to downtown Fort Wayne to observe "Alleluia Sunday" with these acclaimed musical groups. Parking is free and available in several parking lots adjacent to the cathedral, as well as on the street, at no charge. The cathedral is located at 1122 S. Clinton Street, Fort Wayne.

Global refugee crisis is complex, says head of Caritas Internationalis

BY DOREEN ABI RAAD

BEIRUT (CNS) — Many Western nations forget that their countries were built on migrants, said the president of Caritas Internationalis.

The global crisis of refugees is "a complex problem," Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of Manila, Philippines, said during a visit to Lebanon, "but we can't close our eyes to some of the good things they are giving to the countries that receive them, if they are given a chance."

The cardinal met with a group of more than 100 Caritas Lebanon staff and volunteers before attending a Jan. 30 meeting of the Catholic Biblical Federation, of which he is also president.

The Caritas president told the Lebanon team that he, too, "has migrant DNA" because his Chinese grandfather, at a young age, was sent to work in the Philippines due to the struggles the cardinal's widowed great-grandmother faced in taking care of her children.

Cardinal Tagle then shared some of his Caritas experiences

with the group and listened to their stories and concerns.

Caritas Lebanon has more than 15 centers and shelters for migrants and refugees, 10 medical and social centers and operates 13 mobile clinics. The country with a population of approximately 4 million is hosting almost one-third that number of refugees. While the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees says there are 1.2 million Syrian refugees alone registered with the agency in Lebanon, Caritas Lebanon estimates there actually more than 1.5 million, because all are not registered.

Cardinal Tagle reminded the Caritas Lebanon group that the international organization is the social service arm of the church.

"It embodies love. For us, love is a person: especially those who have been forgotten by the world; those who have been victimized by injustice, poverty, conflicts," he said.

Shortly after he was elected president of the global organization in May 2015, the cardinal recounted, he traveled to Greece to visit a refugee camp.

"Some of my friends said,



CNS photo/Jean Khoury, Caritas Lebanon

Philippine Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of Manila, president of Caritas Internationalis, speaks alongside Maronite Father Paul Karam, president of Caritas Lebanon, during a Jan. 30 visit to Beirut. The global crisis of refugees is "a complex problem," Cardinal Tagle said, "but we can't close our eyes to some of the good things they are giving to the countries that receive them, if they are given a chance."

"There are many tourist opportunities in Greece. Who goes to a refugee camp? Are you crazy?"

"I responded, 'Yes! Crazy in love,'" the cardinal said.

"We are all crazy here," he said to applause from the

Caritas Lebanon staff and volunteers.

He reminded the staffers that they were doing hard, sometimes dangerous work, and he shared examples of how people have expressed thanks for Caritas' help.

In one example, he recalled his visit to Lebanon in February 2016 when he visited Syrian refugees in Zahle, near the border of Syria. Cardinal Tagle said he was approached by an elderly man who seemed to be the "patriarch" of the settlement.

"I thought he was singing and dancing," the cardinal said, but someone translated what the man was saying: "I would like to thank Caritas. You are the only ones thinking of us."

He announced that Caritas Internationalis' next campaign focuses on migration and migrants and told those gathered: "We will count on Caritas Lebanon for a lot of insight to enrich the international campaign."

A Caritas Lebanon social worker shared that when she was assigned in 2007 to assist with the Iraqi refugee crisis in Syria, she was astounded when a taxi driver during her stay would not accept payment for the ride.

"I will not forget the face of Caritas," he told her, explaining that in 2004 while working as a laborer in Lebanon, he was assisted by Caritas.

Church opposes pending payday lending legislation

INDIANAPOLIS — A measure to expand payday lending, a plan the Indiana Catholic Conference opposes due to its exploitative nature of low income persons, is expected to be heard before a Senate panel by mid-February.

The proposal, Senate Bill 245, called the Long Term Small Loans bill, would expand short-term, high-cost loans, also commonly referred to as "payday" loans, in three ways. It increases the dollar amount of the loan; the payback duration; and the interest rate charged.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director for the Indiana Catholic Conference, said the bill attempts to expand the market for those who use short-term loans. However, the practice and nature of these high-cost loans tend to trap a person in a cycle of borrowing and debt accumulation. Payday loan borrowers are charged exorbitant interest rates and fees. The church opposes this type of loan expansion.

Advocates of payday loan expansion say more products on the market give borrowers more options. Advocates also claim a payday loan expansion could potentially help low-income persons with poor credit establish a credit history.

Tebbe said the majority of persons using payday loans do so to cover everyday expenses, such as, rent and household repairs. He explained that although employed, borrowers' pay is not enough to make ends meet. The cycle repeats. They borrow and remain in debt for months because their paycheck is not enough for living expenses plus high interest rates and fees generated by the payday loans.

Senate Bill 245 increases the dollar amount of payday loans to a \$605 dollar minimum and \$2,500 dollar maximum. The payback period for the loan may not be more than 24 months, and caps monthly finance charges to an amount not to exceed 20 percent of the principal. Interest earned on a daily basis must use the simple interest method.

Current law in Indiana allows

for a \$50 dollar minimum to a \$500 dollar maximum payday loan, but the loan may not exceed 20 percent of borrower's monthly gross income. The annual percentage rate on a 14-day loan is 390 percent of the amount borrowed.

"The Catholic Church teaches that it is the state's purpose and duty to protect and facilitate the common good," said Tebbe. "The weakest members of society should be helped to defend themselves against usury. Laws and policies must protect them from additional burdens."

Quoting from the United States bishops 2009 pastoral called a Catholic Framework for Economic Life, Tebbe said, "All economic life should be shaped by moral principles. Economic choices and institutions must be judged by how they protect or undermine human life and dignities of the human person, support the family, and serve the common good." The Catechism of the Catholic Church points out that exploiting people living in poverty is unjust.

"Even if it does not contradict the provisions of civil law, any form of unjustly taking and keeping the property of others is against the seventh commandment: thus, deliberate retention of goods lent or of objects lost; business fraud; paying unjust wages; forcing up prices by taking advantage of the ignorance or hardship of another." (CCC no. 2409)

Tebbe said, "Taking advantage of someone and exploiting them is wrong. Although it may be legal, it does not remove ones' obligation to do what is just. Extending the payday lend-

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



BRIGID CURTIS AYER

ing practice does not benefit the person, and it is contrary to providing for the common good, to help persons and our society flourish," he said.

During the 2016 session of the Indiana General Assembly, several groups opposed a similar payday loan expansion measure including Kathleen Taylor, policy director for the Indiana Association for Community and Economic Development. Taylor urged lawmakers to support "responsible alternatives". Taylor said that the Community Loan Center program currently operating in Lafayette and Fort Wayne is one alternative that provides loans to an economically vulnerable group, yet does so in a fair and equitable manner.

According to a 2015 study by the Washington based, Pew Research Center, a non-profit, nonpartisan think tank, on Payday and Small-Dollar, High-Cost Installment Loans, 75 percent of adult Americans want payday loans to be more regulated, and 72 percent of payday loan users also want more regulation of the industry. Fourteen states and the District of Columbia have banned categorically high-cost installment loans.

Senate Bill 245 has been assigned to the Senate

Committee on Insurance and Financial Institutions and awaits a hearing. Tebbe said he expects the hearing to take place in the next two weeks, and he plans to testify in opposition of SB 245 during the Senate hearing. Tebbe said he hopes the panel defeats the bill, and suggests lawmakers consider lending alternative options such as those offered currently by the Community Loan Centers program to provide more equitable loan options for low-income borrowers.

The ICC offers several resources to stay up to date with legislative action reports, review position papers or join the Indiana Catholic Action Network. As a part of its 50-year anniversary, the ICC produced videos to explain the role and importance of its involvement in public policy making. Visit www.indianacc.org.

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USCCB official urges Tillerson to work for two-state solution in Mideast

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. government should continue to promote a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and avoid actions that would undermine results, said the head of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace. Drawing on his observations from a January trip to the Holy Land, Bishop Oscar Cantu of Las Cruces, New Mexico, committee chairman, wrote Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and urged him to continue to work for a peace agreement "that respects the human dignity of both Israelis and Palestinians and advances justice and peace for all." Bishop Cantu told Tillerson that Israeli settlements were an obstacle to peace. "Settlement expansion on occupied Palestinian lands undermines a two-state solution, destroying the homes and the livelihoods of Palestinians as well as the long-term security and future of Israelis," he said. The bishop spoke of his Jan. 14-19 visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories with bishops from Canada and Europe. In a statement at the end of the visit, the bishops said Christians have a responsibility to oppose the construction of Israeli settlements in Palestinian territories, because "this de facto annexation of land not only undermines the rights of Palestinians ... but, as the U.N. recently recognized, also imperils the chance of peace."

Summer gathering of Catholic leaders meant to revitalize church in U.S.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When a diverse group of more than 3,000 Catholic leaders convene in Orlando, Florida, they will be coming up with ways to best reflect the church's missionary call in today's world. The invitation-only convocation will gather bishops, heads of national Catholic organizations and lay movements, leaders of religious orders and diocesan ministries and outreach programs. It also will feature a number of nationally known Catholic speakers. But the participants will be the experts, is how Jonathan Reyes, one of the organizers, sees it. In a mid-January presentation to U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' employees about the convocation, Reyes, executive director of the U.S. bishops Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, said the event was about: "How do we carry on our mission in this trying time?" He also said the event — "Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America" July 1-4 in Orlando — will be a sign of unity for the church because it will bring diverse groups together to discuss and share not only their

West Bank funeral



CNS photo/Abed Al Hashlamoun, EPA

The brother and relatives of 16-year-old Palestinian Mohammad Rajabi weep during his Jan. 7 funeral in Hebron, West Bank. Rajabi was killed by Israeli forces. A prominent U.S. bishop urged the U.S. government to promote a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

challenges but more importantly, their ideas, resources and tools for moving forward. Dioceses will be sending delegations chosen by their bishops, and other attendees will be key leaders of Catholic organizations, apostolates, missions, congregations, institutions and agencies identified by the USCCB. A video explaining the event is posted on the USCCB website — www.usccb.org/convocation.

Growth of U.S. Hispanic population a blessing for church, says speaker

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Hispanics in the Catholic Church are not a problem to be solved, but a blessing and an opportunity, said Hosffman Ospino in a Jan. 31 talk at The Catholic University of America in Washington. The growing number of U.S. Hispanic parishioners puts a new face on the church, forces it to renew itself, pushes it to redefine its commitment and presents dioceses with a challenge, he said. Ospino is a professor of theology and religious education at Boston College and director of graduate programs in Hispanic ministry there. He is well-known as a leading voice in Hispanic ministry and

theology. More than 20 million immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean are transforming the U.S. Catholic experience, according to Ospino. He calls this phenomenon a "tsunami." Hispanics are the fastest-growing community in the U.S. They make up the largest minority group in the country and, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, they will surpass the 132 million mark by 2050. By then, Hispanics will represent 30 percent of the nation's total population, according to data from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Faith leaders urge communities to show care for their neighbor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A coalition of interfaith leaders from the InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington gathered at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington on Jan. 31 to announce a vision statement for religious communities in the local area. The statement, released a day before the start of the United Nations' annual World Harmony Faith Week, "arises from (the communities') trust in God and belief that good government is

exercised 'under God.'" It also called upon their belief in "our responsibility to serve humanity," which calls them into community. The news conference opened with prayers given by Episcopal Bishop Mariann Budde of Washington and Imam Talib Shareef from the Masjid Muhammad, the Nation's Mosque, who also is the conference's president. Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington and other faith leaders also were present. Bishop Budde opened by saying, "We gather in the spirit of great friendship, in a moment of special need for some of our members, especially in the Muslim communities, with whom we stand with great compassion."

'Amoris Laetitia' not up for personal interpretation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican's doctrinal chief said some bishops are interpreting Pope Francis' document on marriage and family in a way that is not in accordance with Catholic doctrine. "I don't like it. It is not correct that many bishops are interpreting 'Amoris Laetitia' according to their own way of understanding the teaching of the pope. This is not in line with

Catholic doctrine," said Cardinal Gerhard Muller, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. In an interview published Feb. 1 with Italian magazine *Il Timone*, Cardinal Muller said the interpretation of "Amoris Laetitia" falls solely to the pope or the Vatican's doctrinal congregation. "To all these (bishops) who are talking too much, I urge them to study first the doctrine (of the councils) on the papacy and the episcopate," the cardinal said. "The bishop, as teacher of the Word, must himself be the first to be well formed so as not to fall into the risk of the blind leading the blind." In their directives on how to apply the pope's teachings in their dioceses, some bishops have indicated a possibility that after a serious process of accompaniment and discernment, some divorced and civilly remarried couples may be able to receive sacramental absolution and the Eucharist; other bishops have said the pastoral accompaniment and discernment should help those couples recognize they are still part of the church and encourage them to live without sexual relations if they want to receive the sacraments.

'Stand for What You Believe In' is theme for national day of prayer

NEW YORK (CNS) — For the 29th year in a row, people of all faiths are urged to observe a national day of prayer for the African-American family Feb. 5 as part of Black History Month, observed every February. The tradition of declaring the first Sunday of February as the prayer day was begun in 1989 by Franciscan Father James E. Goode, one of the nation's leading African-American Catholic evangelists. Visitors to the website of Solid Ground, www.solidgroundministry.com, will find a link to a brochure, a prayer and further information to share with others. Father Goode is pastoral director of Solid Ground, a Franciscan ministry with African-American families. The priest also is the founder and president of the National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life. "Stand for What You Believe In" is the theme of this year's prayer. The prayer brochure suggests families worship together "at the eucharistic table," pray as a family, celebrate a meal together and "tell your family story." It also suggests families set aside time to discuss together "what you are willing to stand for," such as respect for life; justice and peace; "the end of racism and hate"; the end of abortion "and all acts of violence"; respect for the elderly, women and children; and for the protection of the environment and all creation. "Or pledge to stand with the poor and oppressed, the forgotten, unwanted and unwelcome," it says.

Father McAlear Ministry of Hope and Healing

FORT WAYNE — Father Mark Gurtner and Our Lady of Good Hope Parish will welcome Father Richard McAlear, OMI, for an evening of teaching and a Mass and healing service on Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 20-21.

Father McAlear's ministry has been offering hope, healing, love and peace to tens of thousands of people all around the world since 1976. His gifts of teaching and healing are powerful indicators of the healing love of Jesus Christ being poured out on today's world.

On Monday, beginning at 6:30 p.m., he will speak about forgiveness and mercy, with a question and answer session taking place afterward. Tuesday evening will begin with Mass at 6 p.m. and a healing service to follow. During the service the Holy Eucharist will be brought onto the altar for exposition so attendees may pray and adore the Lord; Father McAlear will then give the anointing and bless any individual who wishes to come forward for prayer. Come early to get a seat.

More information about Father McAlear's ministry may be found on his website, frmac.org. His visit is co-sponsored by Our Lady of Good Hope Church and St. Francis Prayer Center, Flint, Mich.

Spiritual renewal after abortion loss

Spiritual renewal after the loss of a child from abortion is important for both the mother and the father. If you have received the sacrament of reconciliation but still can't forgive yourself, if

AROUND THE DIOCESE

A Catholic Schools Week gift



Provided by Kim Bentley

Speaker Patricia Spoltman and Marlene Offerle from Christ Child Society were presented with a check for money raised by the students of Most Precious Blood School, Fort Wayne, during Catholic Schools Week.

you suffer from carrying a secret that keeps you in isolation and are fearful of conversations, or if you're tired of carrying the burden of guilt and shame, there is great hope and promise for you. You are not alone; others can help.

Two healing ministries are receiving new participants this spring. For more information place a confidential call or email to A Haven for Healing, South Bend, 574-514-7471, ahavenforhealing@gmail.com; or Divine Mercy Ministry, Fort Wayne, 260-445-8119, mary@divinemercy.com.

USF lecture examines Catholic heritage of North Dakota town

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis Department of Philosophy and Theology is offering a free lecture about the religious and cultural history of Strasburg, North Dakota on Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. "Polkas and Masses: Catholicism and the German-Russian Immigrant Experience in Strasburg, North Dakota" will be presented by Dr. Lance Richey, dean of the USF School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, in the Brookside Ballroom on the USF campus, 2701 Spring Street.

Perhaps best known as the hometown of television legend Lawrence Welk, Strasburg pos-

sesses a rich religious and ethnic history. Richey will explore the dynamic interchange of the German-Russian heritage of the people and their strong Catholic faith. Their history of "polkas and masses" is both unique and emblematic of the American immigrant experience.

This lecture is free and open to the public. For more information about this and other lectures in this series, go to philosophy.sf.edu/lecture-series.

Saint Mary's to host Summer Theological Institute

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary's College Division for Mission has announced that it will host the second annual Embody Summer Institute for high school girls from July 9-14 on campus. This is an opportunity for young women to explore themes of beauty, justice and faith and to reflect on how their inner beauty both comes from God and leads to a better understanding of others.

During the week, students will have the opportunity to preview college life by living in residence halls, eating in the Noble Family Dining Hall and learning from Saint Mary's students who are enthusiastic about their faith and excited to share their experiences. Outstanding faculty from Saint Mary's and beyond will lead participants in theological instruction and reflection. Students will engage in art projects, various forms of prayer and community service in order to put their faith into action.

Deadline to apply is April 15. To apply or find out more, go to www.saintmarys.edu/news/division-mission-host-second-annual-summer-theological-institute.

PHJC leadership visits

The Leadership Team of the international congregation of Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ recently visited northern Indiana from Dernbach, Germany. Their purpose was to come to know each sister better as well as experience the ministries in which PHJC sisters are engaged.

Elected by their sisters in nine countries, the general leadership team includes Sister Gonzalo Vakasseril, General Superior, India; Sister Annemarie Kampwerth, U.S.; Sister Shirley Bell, U.S.; and Sister Barbara Spiegelhoff, Germany. The team began their 10-week visit in the United States at the end of November in Chicago, going to the order's Motherhouse in Donaldson and then traveled to the various convents and ministry areas in four states.

Last week, the four sisters visited two of their ministries in Fort Wayne: The St. Joseph Community Health Foundation and HealthVisions Fort Wayne. They also paid a visit to the graves of 82 Poor Handmaid Sisters buried at Catholic

Cemetery on Lake Ave. They also toured The Carriage House, a grantee of the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation, whose work embodies many of their values.

Sister Shirley Bell, councilor, said one highlight of the visit was for the team to see how the sisters and their co-workers partner together in ministry convinced of the vision of their foundress, Blessed Catherine Kasper. "Our core values of openness to the Spirit, dignity of the person, simplicity and community are easily seen in the sisters' and co-workers' enthusiasm and dedication."

While the general leadership was here in the U.S., the American Poor Handmaids held their chapter meeting to discuss and make decisions for the future. A few of the areas of focus were spiritual life and community living, vocation and lay volunteer involvement, long-term sustainability of the environment and their ministries, and ongoing social justice and advocacy for the poor and vulnerable. The



Provided by Ellie Bogue

Pictured, from left, are Sister Anne Marie Kampwerth, general vicarress; Sister Margaret Ann Hens, HealthVisions Midwest; Laura Dwire, program coordinator, St. Joseph Community Health Foundation; Renetta Williams, HealthVisions, Fort Wayne; Sister Barbara Spiegelhoff, general councilor; Sister Gonzalo Vakasseril, general superior; Meg Distler, executive director of the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation; Sister Shirley Bell, PHJC general councilor; and Marla Rust, grants coordinator, St. Joseph Community Health Foundation.

general leadership thought those concerns were important for the future of the PHJC community not only in the U.S. but throughout the nine countries — Germany, Netherlands, England, the U.S., India, Mexico, Brazil, Kenya and Nigeria — where they serve as an international congregation.

The Poor Handmaids of

Jesus Christ first came from Germany to the U.S. in 1868, to the Hessen Castle area of Fort Wayne, at the request of Bishop Luers. Through the years they have served the poor locally in many ways, including by operating the St. Vincent Villa Orphanage, caring for the sick at St. Joseph Medical Center and

teaching in Catholic Schools.

In 1998, St. Joseph Medical Center was sold. The sisters continue to provide aid to the poor and underserved in the greater Fort Wayne area through the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation and HealthVisions Fort Wayne.

'Let your brotherly love continue'

Bishop makes pastoral visit to St. Matthew Cathedral School

BY DAN PRZYBYLA

Capping the end of Catholic Schools Week, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades began a pastoral visit to St. Matthew Cathedral School, South Bend, by celebrating Mass for the nearly 500 students, along with faculty and staff members. Donned in red vestments commemorating the feast day of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, Bishop Rhoades immediately connected with the children by asking them questions during his homily.

Bishop Rhoades' homily focused on a sentence from the first reading: "Let your brotherly love continue." — (Hebrews 13:1). The bishop shared that he attended two years of seminary in a city whose name means "brotherly love" in Greek. In response to the bishop's question about what city has this name, one student correctly answered, "Philadelphia."

Bishop Rhoades went on to explain how every Catholic school is to be a community of brotherly love, a "philadelphia." He spoke of the love of teachers and students, helping and supporting one another. He encouraged the children to show a special love for classmates who may be struggling, hurting or in need of friends.

The bishop pointed to Jesus as our perfect model of such brotherly love in laying down His life for us. "The Holy Eucharist is the the sacrament of this love because it is Christ's body given for us and His blood poured out for us. The Eucharist strengthens us to love one another as Jesus has loved us."

Following Mass, Bishop Rhoades spent the rest of the day engaging students in conversation by visiting every classroom and answering just about every question imaginable. Thanks to their bevy of questions, students learned that the bishop is a fan of Italian food, the Philadelphia Eagles, and history; and that he carries a prayer card given to him by St. Teresa of Kolkata.

All that he shared was more than enough to gain the admiration of sixth-grader Nicholas Becker. "I was really excited to see him. He's a really good person," Nicholas said.

Joseph Malenda, a fifth-grader, said his class asked the bishop about his childhood. "I wish we had had more time with him. We had so many more questions to ask him," he said.

Joseph's twin brother, Luke, had the honor of serving as lector at Mass and was excited about the bishop's visit as well. "I think it's great that the bishop came to visit our school out of all of the Catholic schools in the diocese," he said.

After enjoying lunch with the St. Matthew Cathedral student council, the bishop accepted a request sent to him in a letter from students to play in the annual volleyball game between teachers and eighth-graders. Despite some stellar play by Bishop Rhoades on the student team, the teachers were victorious; but the students were impressed by the bishop's skills.

"He was pretty good, I was surprised. He had a good serve," said eighth-grader Cassidy Richardson.

Keegan Quinn, a sixth-grader at St. Matthew Cathedral, could hardly believe his eyes. "It was so cool that he played volleyball at our school," said Keegan, beaming.

Father Terry Fisher, pastor of St. Matthew Cathedral, was grateful for the bishop's visit and the positive impression he left on the kids.

"The students had so much fun with him. It was a wonderful week and a great way to close Catholic Schools Week," said Father Fisher.

Julie Malenda, English Language Learner teacher at the school, said the bishop's visit to means more than students might think.

"Our role models can be the saints and our priest and religious sisters. What better people can there be for us to learn from?" she asked. "I appreciate that our children get to experience the value of vocations first hand and get to see the religious and the ordained, like Bishop Rhoades, as people they can relate to."



While visiting St. Matthew Cathedral School Feb. 3, the Feast of St. Blaise, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades engages the students during his homily.

Photos by Kevin Haggengjos



Pre-schooler Austin Chwalek receives a Blessing of the Throat during Mass.



St. Matthew Cathedral students dressed in different brightly colored T-shirts for the occasion.



The leadership of St. Matthew Cathedral School enjoys a moment with Bishop Rhoades during his visit. From left are Principal Sister Gianna Marie Webber, Father Terry Fisher, Bishop Rhoades and Father David Violi.

More photos are available at www.todayscatholicnews.org



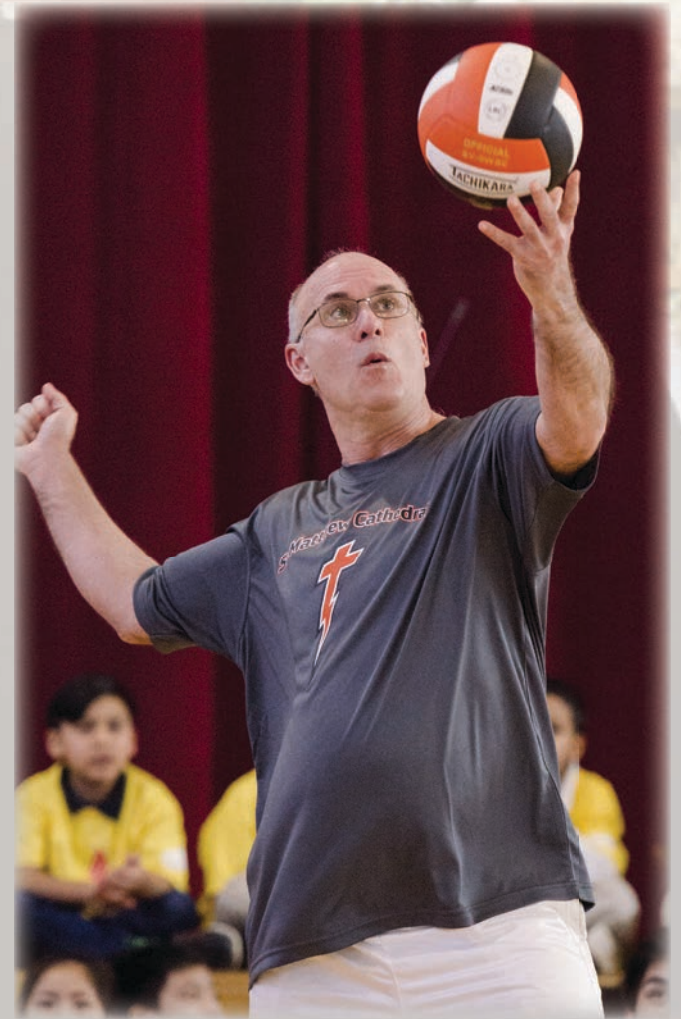
Fourth-grader Abraham Lusanga raises his hand to ask Bishop a question.



Nick Becker, a seventh-grade student at St. Matthew Cathedral, shakes Bishop's hand during his tour of the school's classrooms.



Fifth-grade students Thalia Pedraza, Lily Stevens and Patrick Daher bring up the gifts during the all-school Mass on Feb. 3.



Bishop Rhoades prepares a serve during a student-vs.-faculty volleyball game.



Sixth- and seventh-grade students gather for a picture with Bishop Rhoades following the game.



Fans from the second grade root for the faculty and Bishop to win.



Catholic Schools Week

Communities of faith, knowledge and service



Provided by Janice Comito

A volleyball game between eighth-grade students and school faculty is an annual Catholic Schools Week event at St. John the Baptist Catholic School in New Haven. This year the eighth grade team, pictured, won for the first time in nine years.



Provided by Emily Diehm

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, Fort Wayne, closed out its celebration of Catholic Schools Week with a sock hop. All students participated, dancing the afternoon away with their spirit pals. Spirit pals is a program that places older students with the younger grades, making St. Elizabeth truly a family atmosphere.



Provided by Bishop Luers High School

Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne recited an all-school living rosary on Feb. 2. Because Bishop Luers is a CRS Global High School, the rosary focused on the poor and incorporated the work of Catholic Relief Services into the Catholic Schools Week agenda. Students from the pro-life group led the prayers of the rosary, which focused on the luminous mysteries. Votive candles were lit as each prayer was recited and the entire prayer was streamed live on Facebook.



Provided by St. Jude

Seventh- and eighth-grade students at St. Jude School, Fort Wayne, stand in the front of the school, under the school's "Celebrating Catholic Schools Week" banner. The theme that day was "Dress like a Superhero."



Provided by Jonelle Lesniak
Holy Family School, South Bend, celebrated Catholic Schools Week with special days of every class having a special color to wear and a "twin" day.



Provided by Jonelle Lesniak
Holy Family School enjoys a Catholic Schools Week tradition of the eighth grade-vs.-teachers volleyball game.



Provided by Kim Bentley
Pre-K and eighth grade Reading Buddies form friendships during Catholic Schools Week at Most Precious Blood School, Fort Wayne.



Provided by Kim Bentley
The fifth grade at Most Precious Blood School, Fort Wayne, enjoyed Global Play Day and Favorite Team Shirt Day during the week.



Provided by Pam White
The St. Anthony de Padua, South Bend, Pro-life Club helped the community during Catholic Schools Week by collecting items for an annual food drive called the "Souper Bowl." The food went to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank. Last year, the students collected almost 1,800 food items. The class that donates the most items wins a pizza party.



Provided by Jill Hamblin
Father Tim from Immaculate Conception in Auburn surprised the students at St. Joseph Catholic School in Garrett as a special guest at lunchtime.

More photos available at www.todayscatholicnews.org

#CSW17

The gift of a good night's sleep

What is it with kids and teenagers? It's nothing for them to sleep 12 hours or more if given the opportunity. I can still remember that in college it was not uncommon for me to sleep until noon on weekends. What happens as we age that shortens our sleep cycle and for many of us causes insomnia? Life! We begin to worry about our job, our friends, our parents, our spouse, our children, our bills and our soul.

There are a number of different patterns of insomnia. If it takes you over 20 minutes to first fall asleep you are experiencing one type. Then there is the kind that I have struggled with for years now: waking up in the middle of the night and having trouble falling back to sleep (I have seen the clock hit 3 a.m. too many times over the past decade). Then there is waking up an hour or two before your friendly alarm startles you. This last type is frequently correlated with depression.

As a physician discussing insomnia, I must go through the obligatory checklist of things that contribute to insomnia. Avoid caffeine for at least six hours prior to going to bed (no big revelation here); also, drinking alcohol late in the evening or even right before you retire may help you fall asleep but frequently contributes to insomnia in the middle of the night. And exercising before you go to bed can cause significant difficulty falling asleep by stimulating your adrenal gland. But everyone is different, and in my case, exercising late in the evening is just

about my only option. It actually helps me get a good night's sleep and does not cause insomnia for me.

The sleep experts use a term called sleep hygiene. I've always thought it was a strange medical term. For most of human existence, sleep hygiene is something that happened to people naturally. The sun sets, it gets dark and you have little choice but to slow down, rest and prepare for sleep. Now we have electric lights, television, video games, computers and smartphones. Part of sleep hygiene means avoiding mental stimulation and stressors for at least one hour before you plan to sleep. Watching a news show that is debating politics right before you go to bed would be considered bad sleep hygiene, and it may actually be detrimental to your mental health as well! Checking your email right before you settle into bed is more likely to stir the brain up, not settle the brain down. Then there are those who don't shut their phones off and continue to receive texts through the night. Seriously?

There are also specific sleep disorders that may contribute to insomnia or a poor night's sleep, like sleep apnea and restless leg syndrome. These are best diagnosed in a formal sleep lab study and are beyond the scope of this article.

Now for the Dr. Kaminskas' plan of treatment, which will not be found in any scientific journal. There is no better plan, as part of good sleep hygiene, than to spend a few minutes with your Creator before you go to

THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

DR. DAVID KAMINSKAS

sleep. Possibilities include reading a chapter in a book written by one of your favorite Christian authors, saying some prayers for your loved ones or reading some passages from the Bible. Very importantly, handing off your worries to God before you retire for the night is the best way to settle an overactive mind that I know.

This past summer, I occasionally did something that turned out to be extremely effective at enhancing my chances of a good night's sleep. Just as the sun was going down, I grabbed my rosary and headed out for a walk. The very first time I did this I kept my rosary in my pocket as I passed some of the neighbors walking their dogs or taking an evening stroll with their loved one. The next time I was inspired to carry the rosary where all could see. I can remember thinking that if I am to emulate the Apostles, I need to be open and proud to be a card-carrying Catholic. Then one night as I walked, I had this vision of thousands of Catholics in our diocese, from Fort Wayne to South Bend, taking evening walks to pray the rosary for all to see. Now, that would be very effective evangelization — followed by a good night's sleep.

Embrace our reality

In mid-January, my husband and I attended the New York Encounter sponsored by the lay Catholic movement Communion and Liberation. The theme was "Reality has never betrayed me," among the last words of the movement's founder, Father Luigi Giussani, at whose funeral in 2005 then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger delivered the homily.

I am intrigued by this title, which has provoked reading and thinking. Reality, in this post-election period with Trump as president of the wealthiest and most militarized nation in the world, poses more concerns and fears than assurances.

It is easy to become dispirited by the weight of the policies, appointments, attitudes and behavior. Some may want to withdraw to wait out the next four years. I hope we do the opposite.

Do note that in the midst of humanitarian crises in the world over the past three decades, the global community has logged substantial achievements.

Billions of people have risen from extreme poverty, gained access to lifesaving water, received nutrition, medications and treatments that reduced mortality rates, enrolled their children — including girls — in schools, or grown in their capacities for sustainable livelihoods and participation in local governance. All these took place within circumstances that were far from ideal: dictatorships, bombings, conflicts, corruption, deadly epidemics, arms escalation, global economic crisis and



OUR GLOBAL FAMILY

CAROLYN WOO

global warming. But progress was made anyway.

There were enough people and governments who cared: They did not throw up their hands but raised their game, called for rigorous evaluations, challenged the tried and true approaches to achieve greater scale with lasting impact.

Acknowledging the complexities and intransigent nature of the problems, they formed coalitions of multi-sector, multi-tier and multi-faith partnerships from the grass roots.

Clearly progress was made despite the contextual difficulties. I would like to believe that perhaps progress was made because of these difficulties.

I know from having worked in the darkness of cruelty and selfishness that the light of God shines even brighter. It is compelling and beckoning. From its flame, we light our tapers. It is almost like we cannot help but assert our human goodness, our courage to stand up for what is right and decent, and our love for the other.

The reality of the sum of our work does not necessarily manifest itself in screaming headlines

WOO, page 13

God gives us the power of choice



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 5:17-37

The Book of Sirach, the source of this weekend's first reading, is part of a collection of biblical writings that in their very origin teach an important lesson.

As various political, economic and individual fortunes changed, collapsed and reversed among God's people in the decades after the Babylonian captivity, and as new alien empires seized the Holy Land, Jews emigrated from the homeland of their ancestors to other places.

Understandably, many went to places where opportunities

were more plentiful.

While certainly some of these emigrants not only survived, but possibly did well in their new surroundings, one thing was lacking. They were not living in a society in which all acknowledged the God of Israel. In fact, their adopted culture well could be hostile to the ancient Hebrew tradition.

So, to record their ancient religious beliefs, and very importantly to pass these beliefs along to oncoming generations, Jewish scholars composed books such as Sirach.

The essential point in Sirach was that human reason and honoring God are not ideas at odds with each other. Obeying God, logic can prove, is the way to order, peace, justice and reward in human life.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians is the source of the second reading. Paul, who would have been no stranger to this notion of a compatibility between divine revelation and human wisdom, as he was so well trained in Judaism but also exposed to Greek philosophy,

added a new dimension to the story. Revelation is of a reality that human knowledge often cannot comprehend.

He refers to "hidden wisdom" and "mystery". We as humans simply cannot understand all. In great love, God, therefore, has revealed to us what otherwise we would never know.

The Gospel reading is from St. Matthew. The Lord expounds on the meaning of several of these rules for life given by God to Moses on Sinai.

This process reveals two important factors. The first is that God's law is permanent and unchanging. This is logical. It touches very basic instincts and conditions among humans, all attached deeply and intrinsically to human nature itself, and as such it is not open to qualifications or to changes that humans might wish to make.

Secondly, here the Lord speaks with authority. He defines and explains the law of Moses. Jews did not regard the law of Moses as merely a set of principles personally composed by Moses. Rather, Moses was

the medium through which God revealed the divine law to humanity. God is the author of the divine law. He is the author of the Commandments. He is the lawgiver.

By defining and making more precise this law, the Lord acts as God. It is an important revelation of the identity of Jesus.

Reflection

This weekend looks to the past weeks and feasts as background, and it looks ahead. In both cases it confronts us with the realities of our nature. It places us in relationship with God. It shows us that God loves us with a divine love.

At Christmas, the Epiphany and at the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, the church celebrated the events of salvation achieved for us by Christ, but it also told us about the Lord. It identified the Lord.

In these readings, the church tells us that to wander away from God's law and follow our instincts or our limited reasoning

is folly. Humans, impaired by original sin, always have trouble understanding this lesson.

Before too long, the church will lead us into Lent. It will be a time in which we strengthen ourselves to know our limitations and conform ourselves to what we are — human beings. But we are humans destined for eternal life with God, in Jesus.

READINGS

Sunday: Sir 15:15-20 Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34 1 Cor 2:6-10 Mt 5:17-37
Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25 Ps 50:1, 8, 16bc-17, 20-21 Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10 Ps 129:1a, 2, 3ac-4 Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday: Gn 8:6-13, 20-22 Ps 166:12-15, 18-19 Mk 8:22-26
Thursday: Gn 9:1-13 Ps 102:16-18, 19-23, 29 Mk 8:27-33
Friday: Gn 11:1-9 Ps 33:10-15 Mk 8:34-9:1
Saturday: Heb 11:1-7 Ps 145:2-5, 10-11 Mk 9:2-13

Vallely's fake history

Daniel Patrick Moynihan famously said that, while everyone had a right to his opinion, no one had a right to his own facts. Something similar might be said about today's debates within the church: Everyone has a right to their opinion about the state of Catholicism in 2017, but no one has a right to invent their own church history.

I thought of Moynihan's rule when reading British writer Paul Vallely's Dec. 17 op-ed article in the *Guardian*. There, the author of an important biography of Pope Francis argued that the Pope is "steadily filling the College of Cardinals with moderate pastors rather than doctrinal ideologues." This is, of course, a standard journalistic trope. It's also fake history.

This fact can easily be established by consulting the *Annuario Pontificio*, the official Vatican yearbook. There, in the pages devoted to the College of Cardinals, we find these names, in order of their cardinalatial seniority: Roger Etchegaray, Godfried Danneels, Thomas Stafford Williams, Paul Poupard, Achille Silvestrini, Angelo Sodano, Roger Mahony, Jaime Ortega, William Keeler, Darío Castrillón Hoyos, Dionigi Tettamanzi, Christoph Schönborn, Giovanni Battista Re, Walter Kasper, Theodore McCarrick, Óscar Rodríguez Maradiaga, Cláudio Hummes, Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Karl Lehmann, Renato Martino, Tarcisio Bertone, Peter Turkson, Franc Rodé, Leonardo Sandri, Giovanni Lajolo, Seán Brady, Oswald Gracias, Odilo Scherer, Francesco Monterisi, Kurt Koch, Gianfranco Ravasi, Reinhard Marx, Francesco Coccopalmerio, João Braz de Aviz, Domenico Calcagno, Rainer Maria Woelki, Béchara Boutros Raï and Luis Antonio Tagle.

Now I don't wish to be harsh, but anyone who imagines that any of those men is a "doctrinal ideologue" has forfeited his claim to be a credible Vaticanista. And

every single one of them was named a cardinal by John Paul II or Benedict XVI. Every. Single. One.

Moreover, Cardinals Danneels, Kasper, Lehmann and Murphy-O'Connor were among the chief promoters of Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio in the conclave of 2013. After that conclave elected Bergoglio as Pope Francis, the new pontiff immediately named Cardinals Rodríguez Maradiaga, Gracias and Marx to his Council of Cardinals, a papal kitchen cabinet for curial reform. Cardinals Braz de Aviz, Calcagno, Coccopalmerio, Hummes, Koch and Schönborn have played significant roles in the pontificate to date, and Cardinal Tagle is on every Great Mentioner's list of papabile for the future.

And to repeat, appassionato e fortissimo: Each of these men was created cardinal by John Paul II or Benedict XVI.

Dividing history into two sharply contrasting periods occasionally makes sense. The United States before and after the Civil War comes to mind: prior to that great cataclysm, people said, "the United States are...."; afterwards, the usage became "the United States is." Japan before and after World War II is another instance where straightforward bifurcation doesn't involve simplistic periodizing. But such examples are rare. Poland today is living through a period of domestic political contention that seems remarkably similar to that country's debates about its identity in the 1920s and 1930s. France is to some extent still fighting internal battles that began in 1789. History is far more organic and developmental, and much less linear, than the artificial division of the human story into binary, opposed periods suggests.

That's particularly true of the church. We've become far too accustomed to thinking of the Second Vatican Council as a kind of ecclesiastical Grand Canyon separating two utterly different periods of church his-

quote "the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice," God abides in that moral universe and participates in our salvation history.

Pope Francis' recent catechesis on Christian hope reminds us that our hope is in Christ, not in power, position, possessions. So let us move on with hope, a sense of purpose, our "to-do" list and fairness in our judgments. We can appropriate the example of Pope Francis to not look away but to engage, listen and dialogue; to speak truth to power; to condemn the acts but not demonize the actor.

As a next step you can sign up for Catholics Confront Global Poverty, which is co-directed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

tory. Yet the second-most cited source in the footnotes of the documents of Vatican II, after the Bible, is the magisterium of Pope Pius XII, whose reforming encyclicals in the mid-1940s accelerated the dynamics that shaped the council between 1962 and 1965. Indeed, Vatican II is inconceivable without Popes Leo XIII (1878-1903), Pius X (1903-1914), Benedict XV (1914-1922), Pius XI (1922-1939) and Pius XII (1939-1958).

Furthermore, the suggestion that the pontificates of John Paul II and Benedict XVI were intellectually sterile is simply ridiculous. These were the years of the Theology of the Body, the great encyclicals *Redemptor Hominis*, *Dives in Misericordia*, *Veritatis Splendor*, *Redemptoris Missio*, and *Centesimus Annus* and the remarkable "September Addresses" of Benedict XVI in Regensburg, New York, London and Berlin. Between 1978 and 2013, a rich body of papal teaching — intellectually bold and evangelically fertile — was given to the church.

It does Pope Francis no good service to demean his two predecessors as rigid ideologues. It's also fake history.

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

Services, by visiting confront-globalpoverty.org. You can also enter the number 202-224-3121 in your contact list for access to your congressional representatives.

Carolyn Woo is the former president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services and former dean of the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for February 12, 2017

Matthew 5:17-37

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: a lesson about being responsible as a disciple. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

UNTIL	EARTH	LETTER
BREAKS	SCRIBES	NOT ENTER
ANGRY	BROTHER	YOU FOOL
ALTAR	RECONCILED	LAST PENNY
ADULTERY	MARRIES	DO NOT SWEAR
THRONE	CITY	GREAT KING
HEAD	WHITE	EVIL ONE

BEHAVE WELL

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

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WOO

Continued from Page 12

of solutions that are complete, perfect and nonreversible.

In this reality we meet God in our fellow workers, in the people we serve, in our successes and disappointments, in suffering and in rejoicing as we remind ourselves that we are the instruments of God who never abandons the oppressed and who is righting the wrong through a mystery we do not totally comprehend.

Father Giussani was not betrayed by reality because he was deeply aware that God was in that reality. For Martin Luther King Jr., who made famous the

Saint of the Week

Valentine



Third Century
 Feast: February 14

How Feb. 14 came to be celebrated as the feast for romantics is somewhat a mystery. What little is known of the feast's namesake can be attributed to the lives of two martyrs: one a priest, the other a bishop. Their lives have no connection to the contemporary holiday. The priest Valentine reportedly was beheaded in 269 by Emperor Claudius II. The bishop, known for healing, was martyred earlier. It's probable that a medieval custom of sending messages of love on this day somehow merged later with the feast.

Rekindle the Fire is 'Takin' it to the Streets'

BY DAN PRZYBYLA

When Dean Wendel leaves North Manchester during the early morning hours for South Bend on Feb. 18, he'll be doing so with 50 friends, in a chartered bus. Notre Dame football game, you say? Not quite.

As much as he likes football, Wendel and the dedicated group from St. Robert Bellarmine have a more important destination and mission in mind — attending the annual Rekindle the Fire Diocesan Men's Conference at the Century Center. The husband, father and farmer is once again excited so many men from his parish will join hundreds of others from across the diocese for Indiana's largest Catholic men's conference.

All men are called


It used to be the case that Wendel was just along for the ride, but after converting to Catholicism in 2000 and attending the past six Rekindle conferences, he has changed his life permanently — and for the better.

"Rekindle the Fire is an avenue to grow closer as a parish and for us to grow in our faith," he said.

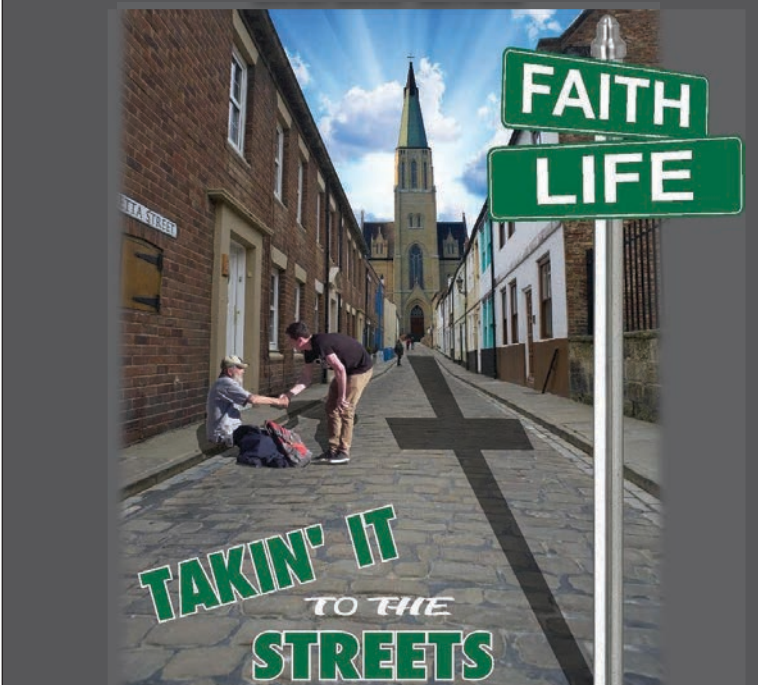
Wendel has become more active in his parish and stepped up to the plate spiritually in ways that were previously uncomfortable to him, including leading family prayer at meals.

"It's about being the men God is calling us to be," he said.

Gary Shingledecker of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Mishawaka feels much the same way. He has made attending the conference a yearly tradition. For him and for so many others, the event has had the power to break down walls, awaken the spirit



7TH ANNUAL DIOCESAN MEN'S CONFERENCE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 2017
CENTURY CENTER - SOUTH BEND



FEATURED SPEAKERS:
Patrick Madrid • Doug Barry • Chris Padgett

and spark change. The conference, he believes, has a purpose — more like a duty — specifically targeted at him: to stand up for his faith at all times.

"I'm the person who needs to do this. It's not someone else's job. The conferences have helped me get off the fence — to

do more and learn more," said Shingledecker.

By that he means becoming active in the Knights of Columbus and serving as a eucharistic minister for the homebound. He credits Rekindle the Fire for empowering him to more willingly share about his



Catholic speakers, interactive sessions, confession, eucharistic Adoration, fellowship, Catholic vendors, lunch and Mass with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will all be offered at the conference. Register at Rekindlethefire.net

Catholic faith in everyday conversations. "It's my responsibility as a Catholic man to represent the faith, to defend our faith."

The conference proves to be a catalyst for spiritual change, enabling men to more fully embrace their Catholic faith in word and action. What makes it possible is a Holy Spirit-filled day that features nationally recognized Catholic speakers, reconciliation, eucharistic Adoration, Catholic vendors and Mass with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

This year's theme, "Takin' it to the Streets," is a universal call to Catholic men to "go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." Just like the previous six diocesan conferences, this year will again highlight some of the country's best Catholic speakers: Patrick Madrid, Doug Barry and Chris Padgett.

Rise up

Patrick Madrid, popular author, apologist and radio host, describes his talk as a "practical reflection" that will include Scripture passages, colorful stories and real-life scenarios with which men of all ages and

backgrounds, single and married, will connect. A husband and father of 11 children and 21 grandchildren, Madrid has a wealth of insights that he hopes will enlighten men on their path to a stronger, more mature relationship with Christ.

"I plan to reinforce the message that Catholic men are not alone on their journey," he said.

Back by popular demand is Doug Barry, founder of the Catholic ministry RADIX and host of EWTN's Life on the Rock, who just like a few years ago at the conference in Fort Wayne, plans to inspire men to be leaders and not followers.

"My hope is that men come away with a stronger, deeper conviction to actively respond to their duty on every level, every way and in every circumstance that God has placed them in," said Barry.

The time is now, he said, for men to rise up individually and collectively, against a tide of destructive forces.

"Our society is crumbling, our culture is upside down and swimming in chaos. The responsibility that Catholic men have to form themselves in heroic prayer and action during these turbulent times carries with it a necessity like no other time in history. An event like this conference has the potential to reveal and ignite the God-given fire already ingrained in every man."

No matter the wounds of their past or where men are on their journey, Chris Padgett believes the conference offers hope and renewal for everyone who attends.

"We serve a God of new beginnings! I believe that understanding where we have been enables us to set a course for the future and where we want to be," said Padgett, a musician and author.

In the end, the husband and father of nine children wants men to walk away from the conference "knowing that trusting God enables us to take down the giants in our lives and become the men we are called by God to be. I want men to leave with hope that if they want to change and be a better husband and father, that change is not only probable, but it is absolutely possible."



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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. View more Catholic events and submit yours at www.diocesefwsb.org/bulletin. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at 260-399-1449 to purchase space.

Lectures planned for Saint Mary's College NOTRE DAME — "Who are my people?: Christianity, violence and identity politics in sub-Saharan Africa," will be presented by Emmanuel Katongole, Ph.D., Thursday, March 30, at 7 p.m. in Vander Vennet Theatre, student center at Saint Mary's College. Rev. Bryan N. Massingale, STD, will present his lecture "To redeem the soul of America: Toward a moral vision for a new civil rights movement," Wednesday March 22, at 7 p.m. in Madeleva Hall, Carroll Auditorium at Saint Mary's College. "I believe you: Silence, sexual justice and Christian faith," will be presented by Elisabeth T. Vasko, Ph.D., on Thursday Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. in Vander Vennet Theatre, student center at Saint Mary's College.

Live joyfully!
The Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods invite single, Catholic women ages 18-42 to a free retreat weekend March 31-April 2, at St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind. Deepen your prayer life. Focus on living joyfully in the day-to-day. Explore where God is calling you. Visit ComeandSee.SistersofProvidence.org to learn more or to register. Or contact Sister Editha Ben at 812-230-4771 (call or text) or eben@spsmw.org if you have any questions.

Grab your partner and promenade
NEW HAVEN — St. Louis Besancon will have a square

dance Saturday, Feb. 11 in the parish hall. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and dancing is from 8-11 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person and include one drink and snacks. Music is provided by Bill Werling and Breakaway. All proceeds benefit the St. Louis Home and School Association.

Notre Dame author to speak
WABASH — Dr. Tim O'Malley, director of liturgy at the University of Notre Dame, will speak on his book, "Bored Again Catholic: How the Mass Can Save Your Life," at St. Bernard Church Sunday, March 5, at 2 p.m. St. Bernard Church is located on the northeast corner of Cass and Sinclair Streets. For more information call St. Bernard Rectory at 260-563-4750.

Healing Masses to begin
HUNTINGTON — A Mass for the Sick, in the name of venerable Father Solanus Casey, who prayed at at the St. Felix Friary, 1280 Mitzfield St., will be held at St. Felix at 1 p.m. Feb. 18, March 18, May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 21 and Nov. 18. All are invited to attend. This Mass is handicapped accessible.

St. Margaret's House Winter Walk
SOUTH BEND — Winter Walk will be Sunday, Feb. 19. Proceeds from Winter Walk will enable St. Margaret's House to continue to be a haven of hospitality and provide life changing sup-

port, programs and services for women and children in need in our community. Registration is free (donations accepted) and begins at 1:30 p.m. at the County City Building, 125 S. Lafayette Blvd., at 2:30 p.m. and ends at St. Margaret's House, 117 N. Lafayette Blvd. Visit www.stmargaretshouse.org for details.

Mardi Gras party
FORT WAYNE — Our Lady of Good Hope Frassati group is having a "Fat Tuesday" party with a Mardi Gras theme for Catholic young adults ages 18-39 in the Our Lady of Good Hope gym on Saturday, Feb. 25, at 6 p.m. Bring a favorite snack to share. Babysitting is available for \$15 per family. For more information visit the Facebook page: Fort Wayne Frassati young adults.

Annual card party planned
SOUTH BEND — The Rosary Society of St. Hedwig and St. Patrick is holding a card party on March 12, at Hedwig Memorial Center, corner of Scott and Western Ave. Admission tickets are \$5. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and lunch served at 1 p.m.

REST IN PEACE

Fort Wayne Eileen Stanton, 90, St. Charles Borromeo	Edward Lee Roberts, 57, St. Vincent de Paul	South Bend Claudette Douhitt, 68, St. Matthew Cathedral
Karen C. Wright, 74, Our Lady/Good Hope	Karen C. Wright, 74, Our Lady of Good Hope	Bernard Nowicki, 92, St. Hedwig
Edward Lee Roberts, 57, St. Vincent de Paul	Charles E. Wyss, 78, St. Joseph Hessen Cassel	William Brechenser, 91, St. Anthony of Padua
Ruth Ann McCormick, St. Joseph	New Haven Sandra May Voirol, 75, St. Louis Besancon	Dolores M. Bilinski, 88, Holy Family
William E. Cline, 02, St. Charles Borromeo	Jill M. Rebber, 55, St. John the Baptist	Wabash Carole Krieg, 76, St. Bernard
Frieda L. Moeller, 99, Most Precious Blood	Pierceton Robert D. Kissell, 81, St. Francis Xavier	Submit obituaries to mweber@diocesefwsb.org

Presale tickets only by calling 574-273-1484 by March 5. Please bring your own cards or dice.

Blood drive
FORT WAYNE — Our Lady of Good Hope is having a blood drive on Saturday, Feb. 11 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the gym, located at 7215 Saint Joe Rd.

Holy Family Catholic Conference
KOKOMO — The 2017 conference will be held in Kokomo on Saturday, Feb. 25, at Kokomo High School, 2502 South Berkley. He Saved Me Because He Delighted in Me is the theme for the event, hosted jointly by St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Indianapolis and St. Patrick Catholic Church in Kokomo. Special activities are planned for children of all ages, with

programs specifically directed toward teenagers, along with the divine mercy chaplet, adoration, reconciliation and Lord's Day Mass celebrated by Bishop Emeritus William Higi. For more information visit www.holyfamilyconference.org. Admission is \$20 or \$60 per family and includes lunch. Prices will increase after Feb. 13.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
SOUTH BEND — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Feb. 17, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$9, children 5-12 \$4.

Knights host drive-through fish fry
FORT WAYNE — The St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Knights of Columbus will have a drive-through-only fish fry, Friday Feb.

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LUNCHEON

Continued from Page 1

half decades. That money goes directly back to the schools in the form of resources like computers, smart boards and other capital investments.

The 2017 campaign marks the 35th anniversary of You Can Lend A Hand as part of Catholic Schools Week, and this year's campaign video officially kicked off at the luncheons. Thirty-eight Catholic schools from the Fort Wayne-South Bend area, as well as 10 in the Southwest Michigan and Grand Rapids areas, participate.

There is still room for growth in diocesan schools' enrollment, Fitzgerald noted. Forty-four percent of students in the diocese rely on the Indiana Choice Scholarship — also known as "vouchers," he said — but many more families could take advantage of them. Following his remarks, an informational video was shown about the impact that Catholic education has had on local youth.

After the video, Superintendent of Catholic Schools Marsha Jordan presented the Msgr. J. William Lester Award to Michael and Marcia Flood. The Floods have been longtime financial supporters of Bishop Dwenger High School, along with taking an active role in their parish, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

"They are dedicated to Catholic education, both inspiring and encouraging others to give of time, talent and treasure," Jordan said.

Following the Floods' receipt of the award, 21 teachers from the Fort Wayne area were honored for demonstrating the excellence of Catholic education. Lois Widner, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, Fort Wayne, was recognized for her dedication as an administrator.

The teachers who received awards were chosen by their respective schools for various reasons, but share a common love of spreading the Good News through religious education.

"The ultimate goal of Catholic education is to bring the light of Christ to students," Jordan said. "Teachers share their faith in a personal and intimate manner. To me, teaching is an act of love."

Following her remarks, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades underlined the value of a Catholic education and those who make it a reality.

"As the theme of Catholic Schools Week 2017 proclaims, they are communities of faith, knowledge, and service," he said. "Faith is always number one; a living faith, passed on in words, catechesis and witness of teachers, principals and staff. Faith celebrated in liturgies and expressed in prayer. Faith studied and learned, faith in the per-

son of Jesus Christ, true God and true man, whom students learn to follow as "the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

South Bend

Appropriately planned for Candlemas Day, when Jesus, the Light of the World, is presented, the Catholic Schools Office celebrated the South Bend Light of Learning Awards Luncheon Feb. 2.

Bishop Rhoades described well this sharing of the Light of the World by the award winners. He explained how their students "are taught to open themselves to the grace of the Holy Spirit so as to love God with all their hearts, minds and souls and to love others as Christ has loved us—selflessly and sacrificially. This is why we can call Catholic schools 'schools of service' since students are taught to put into practice the truths they learn—to serve others, especially the poor and the needy," he said. He highlighted that, "I am very happy that our four high schools are now CRS Global Schools, participating in the works of CRS in poor areas around the world."

The South Bend-area Light of Learning winners for the 2016-17 school year were then honored. The South Bend Area Light of Learning Administrator Award recipient was Stephen Hoffman, from Christ the King, South Bend.

The last award given was the Msgr. J. William Lester Award, which recognizes an individual or couple who have demonstrated their unflinching support and dedication to Catholic education in the diocese. This year's South Bend-area winner was Arthur J. Decio, longtime local philanthropist and retired chairman of Skyline Corporation of Elkhart.

"Msgr. Lester was a longtime priest, former superintendent and a great champion of Catholic education in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. He wisely recognized the need for two Catholic High Schools on both sides of the diocese, saying that each would strengthen the other", Superintendent Marsha Jordan explained. "Art Decio has a captivating way of focusing on the person he is with and sharing his wisdom, experience and his very self to make a difference. He has touched so many lives and communities by his dedication to noble philanthropic endeavors and his shining example of devotion to God and family."

Daniel Fitzpatrick, president of Quality Dining expressed his gratitude for the participation of the Catholic schools in the You Can Lend a Hand program, and his hope that the growth of the Catholic schools continues through it.

Of the more than \$10.2 million dollars raised for Catholic schools in the diocese Master of Ceremonies Chuck Freeby quipped, "that's a lot of Whoppers!"



All photos by Joseph Raymond

The 2017 Fort Wayne-area Light of Learning Award winners are pictured from left to right. In the front row are: Marilyn Feh, Amy Bowman, Brigid Frey, Angela Zumbaugh, Marlene Huffman and Joan Bultemeier. In the middle row are: Lois Widner, Administrative Award recipient; Lori Tebben, Joanne Kolkman; Susan McTague; Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades; Becky Blevins; Kathleen Foster; Nora Jackson; and Darcy Quinn. In the back row are: Marsha Jordan, superintendent of Catholic schools; Jared Hoy; Sharon Roe; Denise Zahm; Brett Rupright; Dawn Wyss; Lisa Zimmerman; Melissa Chapin; and Carl Loesch, director of Catholic education.



The 2017 South Bend-area Light of Learning Award winners are pictured from left to right. In the front row are: Brittany Gelchion, Kristin Miller, Barbara Bremigan, Leslie Johnson, Karen Szumski, April Weisser, Theresa Vasquez, Betsy Williams and Roberta Brant. In the middle row are: Maria Whitaker, Janet Wroblewski, Karen Wuszke, Joann Johnson, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Ashley Parmelee, Maureen Terry, Jeanette McKew and Carol Wroblewski. In the back row are: Marsha Jordan, superintendent of Catholic schools; Kristen Curry; Jocilyn Acosta; Stephen Hoffman, Administrative Award recipient; and Carl Loesch, director of Catholic education.



Marsha Jordan, left, superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, talks with Michael and Marcia Flood of Fort Wayne after the couple received one of two Msgr. J. William Lester Awards for their support of Catholic education.



Local philanthropist Arthur J. Decio, left, poses with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades following the South Bend-area Light of Learning luncheon, at which Decio was given the Msgr. J. William Lester Award.