

### Change those clocks

Daylight savings time begins  
Sunday morning, March 12

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Pastor of Sts. Peter and  
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# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 91 No. 10

50¢

TODAYSCATHOLICNEWS.org

## It's been too long...

On March 14th, every parish in the Diocese  
will offer confessions between 6-8pm.

Will you join us?

[diocesefwsb.org/Light](http://diocesefwsb.org/Light)

The Light is  
**ON** for You.   
Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

## On March 14, The Light is ON for you

BY JEANNIE EWING

Going to confession intimidates most, if not all, of us at some point or another. There's something truly painful about confronting ourselves and our sins honestly, and the sacrament of reconciliation draws us out of our comfortable lives and into that place of self-knowledge. Despite our reticence and fears about confessing our sins to a priest (who acts in persona Christi in the confessional, or "in the place of Christ"), incredible emotional and spiritual healing can occur when we humbly approach the confessional.

Lent is the perfect liturgical season to return to God in this way. It's true that we can — and should — take our sins to the Lord through personal prayer and a daily examen, but the sacrament actually washes away our sins through absolution. It's as if God wipes our souls clean so that we can begin anew. Reconciliation also helps us see ourselves more honestly, and the more we frequent the sacrament, the more supernatural grace we receive to overcome those bad habits and vices that seem to repeat themselves as patterns of behavior in our lives.

It seems that what's required of us to approach God through

the priest in the confessional is humility. If we are humble, our fears and embarrassments regarding our sins don't matter anymore. We're not considering the possibility of judgment, rejection or ridicule; instead, we are seeking God's wellspring of mercy that opens the floodgates of healing for which we desperately long in our lives.

Think of the beautiful lyric in the hymn, "Hosea:" "Come back to me with all your heart. Don't let fear keep us apart." This is God speaking to you personally, beckoning you to draw near to Him. To be reconciled to God through this sacrament means that we become, once again, sinless — and thus more receptive to His grace moving in our lives. The act of reconciliation is an act of love, rather than of punishment and judgment.

If we approach reconciliation with the intention of closer union with the one who never stops pursuing us, the result will always be a greater love for God and reception of His immense love and mercy. Mercy, not judgment, will be the ultimate gift, and we will discover a deeper longing to repent, to change and reform our lives so that we will maintain that closeness with God.

There's a reason why the Eucharist and reconciliation are both referred to as sacraments of

healing. When received together, or close together, the healing God has in store for us multiplies exponentially. What a powerful way for us to enter into Lent: to desire a truly changed heart, one that is of flesh and not of stone. As our hearts change, our lives begin to transform, too. That is our ultimate purpose of making Lent meaningful and intentional: to become a new creation in Christ.

Spiritual metamorphosis — our Easter resurrection — can only occur when we are open and willing to modify our behaviors. That's what Lent affords us: the opportunity to repent. The sacrament of reconciliation is one of the places we can begin to do this. May we run into the arms of Jesus, who awaits us through the priest in the confessional. Let us approach Him as a child with a heart wide open, a heart that is ready and eager to receive all God has in store for us. Then we can celebrate Easter with the fullness of love and expectation of God's incredible and unfathomable mercy.

On Tuesday, March 14, from 6-8 p.m., every parish in the diocese (except St. Pius X, Granger, due to construction) will offer the sacrament of reconciliation as part of the diocesan-wide initiative, The Light is ON for You.

### Tips for inviting a friend

**Pray.** Pray for the individual. Pray that God's grace may work through your invitation. Pray with confidence that God is listening and will act in His time.

**Setting matters.** Extend the invitation when the individual is not stressed, not feeling rushed and is in a position to consider the invitation.

**Make it easy.** Could you provide a ride? And, even easier, invite your friend to any parish in the diocese on March 14 between 6-8 p.m. as part of The Light is ON for You.

**Just do it.** God's grace is far more powerful than our fears and hesitations.

**Explain the sacrament.** Lastly, if it has been a while since your friend has received God's forgiveness through the sacrament of reconciliation, he or she will likely have questions. Visit [www.diocesefwsb.org/Light](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/Light) for information regarding what the sacrament is and how to go to confession.

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# Father Ron Rieder, Sts. Peter and Paul, retires

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

**F**ather Ron Rieder of Sts. Peter and Paul Church has retired from parish life after 33 years at the Huntington church.

A Capuchin Franciscan, Father Rieder was the longtime pastor of the stewardship parish of about 1,000 families. In a Jan. 20, 2016 article in *Today's Catholic*, he said the parish is "well organized" and blessed with "good people." He said he has enjoyed his time at the parish and loves it with his "whole heart and soul."

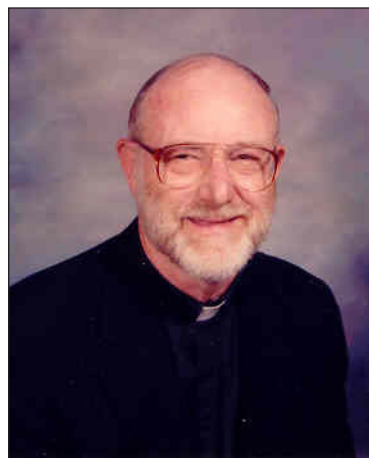
A fruit of the spirit he found at Sts. Peter and Paul was the renovation of the Capuchin monastery in Huntington, the St. Felix Catholic Center. The campus is now a retreat center and home to postulants and novices of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist.

Other developments at the parish in recent years include a morale boost: Father Rieder has been a close friend and advisor to Matthew Kelly, an internationally known author and motivational Catholic speaker. Father Rieder brought Kelly to the diocese on many occasions, and the parish Jail Ministry Team used a Kelly book, "Beautiful Mercy," in a series that studied the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

The Holy Spirit has been manifested itself in other ways, too. From the Christ Renews His Parish group at Sts. Peter and Paul, three active, small faith communities formed several years ago. All three are generous with their time and other resources both within the parish and out in the Huntington community, and are quick to help raise fund for a variety of projects.

Speaking of funds, Father Rieder said the parish was in dire financial straits when he first was assigned there. The old and outdated buildings required renovation. He said that the challenge was to raise money while keeping the parish school open and paying the regular bills. God intervened, and through a series of unrelated events Father Rieder was able to come up with enough money to make the necessary repairs. It was a matter of trusting in God and pushing forward, even when times were hard, he said.

Just as the church building is composed of a physical structure, people are really at the core of Sts. Peter and Paul parish life. Father Rieder said he has high hopes for the future, and that "lay leaders will continue their work so that the parish runs itself." There has been little turnover in parish administration over the years, something Father



FATHER RON RIEDER, OFM, CAP

Rieder doesn't take for granted.

As for the school, Father Rieder is just as bullish on its future. A new principal was recently hired, Jason Woolard, whom he feels will "turn things around and make the school thrive again."

Father Rieder has plans to retire at a home for religious in Appleton, Wis. He's hoping to do some parish work nearby, but has no plans to lose contact with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. He said he's been in five dioceses in his 54 years of priesthood, and this one has been the most outstanding, in terms of fraternity and camaraderie. "It has been a joy and privilege to serve on diocesan committees and boards," he said.

That feeling is mutual. Father Rieder touched the lives of many at the parish, especially those with whom he worked closely.

"Father Ron has been very interesting to work for, for the last 17 years," said Kelly Jennings, the parish office's long-time secretary. "He is a magnificent speaker. He has been very involved with the community. He has wit that makes us laugh. He will be greatly missed."

It's a sentiment echoed by Ralph Johnson, who has been a parishioner of Sts. Peter and Paul most of his life. Johnson served on several parish boards under Father Rieder, and the two became friends.

Johnson recalled hearing, more than a few times, stories told by Father Rieder of the miracles of healing attributed to another Huntington-based Capuchin, Father Solanus Casey. He also noted that Father Rieder pastored not just the faith community of Sts. Peter and Paul, but the community as well.

"He used to be the chaplain for the fire department and police, and a good friend of the mayor's. We have a festival every summer here, remembering our Indian heritage, and I think he was even selected to be chief of the festival one year," Johnson said. "He's going to be awfully hard to replace in people's hearts, I think."

# President honors spirit of Notre Dame student afflicted with rare disease

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Megan Crowley, a University of Notre Dame student born with a rare disease, was recognized by President Donald Trump during his address to a joint session of Congress.

The president Feb. 28 acknowledged Crowley, 20, who has Pompe disease, for her strength and character while living with the inherited disorder since being diagnosed at 15 months of age.

Trump pointed to Crowley, who was seated in a wheelchair in the House of Representatives gallery and received two standing ovations, on Rare Disease Day. Traditionally marked on the last day of February, the day first was designated in 2008 by the European Organization for Rare Diseases.

Megan Crowley was not expected to live past 5, Trump said, but her father, John Crowley, founded a pharmaceutical company to develop the enzyme replacement treatment she needs to cope with symptoms of the disease.

"Megan's story is about the unbounded power of a father's love for a daughter," Trump said.

Parents John and Aileen Crowley attended the address. Megan's younger brother, Patrick, 18, also has Pompe disease. Another brother, John, 22, attends Holy Cross College in South Bend. The college is a neighboring campus to Notre Dame.

Megan's father wrote about the family

experience in Congress and the White House on Facebook Feb. 28.

"I cannot tell you what it means as parents for me and Aileen to watch as the president of the United States and all of our nation's leaders give your daughter two standing ovations for her strength, courage and character. I felt that my heart was literally bursting with pride. Just the most amazing young lady. And now the world knows our Megan. ... I knew someday it would," his post said.

The president cited the family's situation as a reason to improve the "slow and burdensome approval process" at the Food and Drug Administration that he said has kept advances in treatments from reaching people in need.

"If we slash the restraints, not just at the FDA, but across our government, then we will be blessed with far more miracles like Megan," Trump said.

Pompe disease is a rare and inherited disorder, occurring in one of about every 40,000 births. Someone with the disease experiences progressive weakness in skeletal muscles and the heart and hampered breathing, and usually dies at a young age. The disease prevents the body from producing an enzyme that breaks down stored sugar, called glycogen, into glucose for use by the body. As a result, excessive amounts of glycogen accumulate in body tissues, leading to major damage.

John Crowley founded Novazyme Pharmaceuticals in 1999 to develop protein engineering technologies to treat diseases



CNS photo/Jonathan Ernst, Reuters

**Megan Crowley listens as U.S. President Donald Trump addresses a joint session of Congress Feb. 28 in Washington.**

such as Pompe. Genzyme Corp. acquired the company in 2001 and Novazyme eventually developed the enzyme replacement therapy the young Crowleys continue to use.

Today, John Crowley is CEO of Amicus Therapeutics, a Cranbury, N.J., biotechnology firm with more than 250 employees. The company specializes in therapies for rare and orphan diseases.

A 2010 drama, "Extraordinary Measures," centers on the efforts of the Crowleys to find a researcher who might develop a cure for their two children's rare genetic disorder.

Megan Crowley has a blog, High Heeled Wheels, where she writes about life and her experiences living with the disease. She also serves as president of Notre Dame's Make-A-Wish Foundation chapter.

## Spring and summer confirmation Mass schedule

The following is a schedule of the spring and summer Masses at which Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will confer the sacrament of confirmation.

LOCATION	ADDITIONAL PARISHES INCLUDED	TIME	DATE
St. Dominic Church, Bremen		March 26	10:30 a.m.
Holy Family Church, South Bend		March 31	7 p.m.
	St. Patrick Parish, Walkerton		
	St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish, New Carlisle		
St. Patrick Church, South Bend		April 1	10 a.m.
	Our Lady of Hungary Parish, South Bend		
St. Augustine Parish, South Bend			
	St. Hedwig Parish, South Bend		
	St. Patrick Parish, South Bend		
	St. Therese, Little Flower Parish, South Bend		
St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Elkhart		April 1	5:30 p.m.
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw		April 2	10:30 a.m.
Queen of Peace Church, Mishawaka		April 6	7 p.m.
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Elkhart (two Masses)		April 7	7 p.m. and
		April 8	10 a.m.
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne		April 17	7 p.m.
	Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, FW		
	Queen of Angels Parish, FW		
	St. Mary Parish, FW		
	St. Peter Parish, FW		
St. Patrick Church, Arcola		April 18	7 p.m.
St. Therese Church, Fort Wayne		April 19	7 p.m.
	St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne		
St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Decatur		April 21	7 p.m.
	St. Joseph Parish, Bluffton		
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Fort Wayne		April 22	10 a.m.
St. Pius X Church, Granger		April 23	2 p.m.
St. Joseph Church, Hessen Cassel		April 25	7 p.m.
	St. Aloysius Parish, Yoder		
St. Anthony of Padua Church, Angola		April 27	7 p.m.
St. Mary of the Lake Church, Culver		April 29	9 a.m.
	Culver Academy students		
Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame		April 30	11:45 a.m.
	University of Notre Dame		
	Holy Cross College students		
St. Michael the Archangel Church, Plymouth		April 30	5 p.m.
St. John the Baptist Church, New Haven		May 2	7 p.m.
	St. Louis Besancon Parish, New Haven		
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Warsaw		May 3	7 p.m.
	St. Francis Xavier Parish, Pierceton		
	St. Martin de Porres Parish, Syracuse		
St. Joseph Church, Fort Wayne		May 4	7 p.m.
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Fort Wayne		May 5	7 p.m.
St. Jude Church, Fort Wayne		May 7	3 p.m.
Immaculate Conception Church, Kendallville		May 9	7 p.m.
	Blessed Sacrament Parish, Albion		
	St. Gaspar del Bufalo Parish, Rome City		
	St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Avilla		
St. Patrick Church, Ligonier		May 14	3 p.m.
St. Joseph Church, Garrett		May 15	7 p.m.
	Immaculate Conception Parish, Auburn		
St. Bernard Church, Wabash		May 17	7 p.m.
	St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, North Manchester		
St. Mary Church, Huntington		May 18	7 p.m.
	St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish, Nix Settlement		
	St. Joseph Parish, Roanoke		
	St. Mary Parish, Huntington		
	Sts Peter and Paul Parish, Huntington		
St. Adalbert Church, South Bend		May 21	5 p.m.
	St. Casimir Parish, South Bend		
St. Paul of the Cross Church, Columbia City		May 23	7 p.m.
	Immaculate Conception Parish, Ege		
	St. John Bosco Parish, Churubusco		
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne		June 11	11:30 a.m.
	Adult Confirmations		
St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend		June 17	4:30 p.m.
	Adult Confirmations		
St. Henry Church, Fort Wayne		July 21	7 p.m.



## Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, March 12: 10:30 a.m. — TV Mass, South Bend  
 Sunday, March 12: 7 p.m. — Talk at Lenten Parish Retreat, Christ the King Church, South Bend  
 Tuesday, March 14: 10:30 a.m. — Meeting of the Priest Personnel Board, Sacred Heart Church, Warsaw  
 Tuesday, March 14: 6 p.m. — “The Light is on for You,” Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne  
 Wednesday, March 15: 12 p.m. — Annual Bishop’s Appeal Wrap-Up Meeting, Holiday Inn Express, Warsaw  
 Wednesday, March 15: 6:30 p.m. — Vespers and Dinner with Board Members of Our Sunday Visitor, St. Andrew Church, Fort Wayne  
 Thursday, March 16: 8:30 a.m. — Meeting of Board of Our Sunday Visitor, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne  
 Thursday, March 16: 4 p.m. — Meeting of Board of Catholic Charities, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne  
 Thursday, March 16: 7 p.m. — Holy Hour and Talk on Sanctifying the Home, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne  
 Saturday, March 18: 5 p.m. — Mass for Marian High School Auction Participants, Saint Francis Convent, Mishawaka  
 Saturday, March 18: 6 p.m. — Dinner and Auction, Marian High School, Mishawaka

# Trump signs new executive order on refugees, excludes Iraq from ban

*This article is a compilation of two articles written by Pattison and published by CNS on March 6.*

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Within hours of President Donald Trump’s new executive order March 6 banning refugees from six majority-Muslim nations, Catholic and other religious groups joined secular leaders in questioning the wisdom of such a move, with others vowing to oppose it outright.

Bill O’Keefe, vice president for advocacy and government relations at Catholic Relief Services, said in a statement, “As the world’s most blessed nation, we should be doing more to provide assistance overseas and resettle the most vulnerable, not less. It is wrong, during this time of great need, to cut humanitarian assistance and reduce resettlement.”

O’Keefe added, “Refugees are fleeing the same terrorism that we seek to protect ourselves from. By welcoming them, we show the world that we are an open, tolerant nation which seeks to protect the vulnerable. That has always been America’s greatest strength.”

“At the heart of the work of Catholic Charities is the Gospel mandate to welcome the stranger and care for the most vulnerable among us,” said Dominican Sister Donna Markham, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA, in a statement.

“Today’s executive order not only hinders that work, but also effectively abandons, for four months, the thousands of endangered refugees fleeing violence, starvation and persecution,” she added. “It is deeply disturbing to know that the thousands of women, children and other persecuted individuals around the world will face a closed door rather than a helping hand from

the United States.”

The revised order replaces Trump’s Jan. 27 order, which has been blocked in the courts. The new order imposes a 90-day ban on issuing visas to people from six predominantly Muslim nations; Iraq is no longer on the list. The countries are Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Sudan and Yemen.

It suspends the U.S. refugee program for all countries for 120 days. It also excludes lawful permanent residents — green card holders — from any travel ban. The new order will not take effect until March 16.

Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Migration, said Trump’s new order still puts vulnerable populations at risk.

“We remain deeply troubled by the human consequences” of the order, he said in a statement. “While we note the administration’s efforts to modify the executive order in light of various legal concerns, the revised order still leaves many innocent lives at risk.”

He said the Catholic bishops welcomed Iraq being removed from the list of countries, but remain disappointed the order still temporarily shuts down the refugee admissions program, reduces by more than 60 percent the number of refugees who can enter the country and still bars nationals from six countries.

The bishops “have long recognized the importance of ensuring public safety and would welcome reasonable and necessary steps to accomplish that goal,” Bishop Vasquez said. “However, based on the knowledge that refugees are already subjected to the most vigorous vetting process of anyone who enters the United States, there is no merit to pausing the refugee resettlement program while considering further improvement to that vetting

process.”

Kim Pozniak, CRS’ communications director, spent a week in mid-February in Amman, Jordan, where untold thousands of refugees are living — two and three families at a time — in small apartments in the city.

“I’ve met with people that are worse off than they were three years ago (when she last visited), simply because they’ve started losing hope,” Pozniak told CNS. “One woman, for example, said they’re so bad off they’re considering moving back to Syria.” Pozniak said the woman’s sister, who still lives in Syria, told her “Look, even if it’s so bad that you have to eat dirt, don’t come back here.”

“When I visited three years ago hope of (things being) better in Jordan, being resettled somewhere, or even going back to Syria,” Pozniak said. Now, none of those options seem to be on the table.

Even without a ban, the uncertainty can eat away at people, Pozniak said. “I talked with one 74-year-old woman who together with her son has been in the resettlement process in the United States. They had the interview with UN (High Commissioner for Refugees), the interview with the Embassy, had the iris scan taken, now they have no idea when they’ll be resettled. They’re never given an answer as to when, where, how, and that’s the really frustrating part — being in limbo and not knowing where you’re going to be next.”

Even though Jordan prohibits refugees from taking jobs, “desperate” people “find a way somehow” to provide for their family, Pozniak said. CRS is offering modest help to some refugees. “We support some cash-for-work projects through Caritas Jordan,

## Holy Cross School to offer dual-language immersion track

SOUTH BEND — In collaboration with the University of Notre Dame's Institute for Latino Studies and the Alliance for Catholic Education, Holy Cross School is launching a Spanish-English immersion program this fall at the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten levels.

The school will host a program open house for the public from 5 to 7 p.m. March 15. During this event, parents and children can explore the new program, enjoy homemade tamales and learn about registration.

Around the country, a growing number of schools are beginning programs of two-way immersion. In the two-way immersion model, children from two distinct languages come together to form a learning community in which each benefits from the others' linguistic and cultural assets. This approach also has shown significant academic benefits due to children using more of their brain, as well as increased interpersonal skills.

Two academic leaders from the University of Notre Dame are helping Holy Cross School in the launch of the immersion track. Dr. Katy Lichon, of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education and English as a New Language Program, specializes in language acquisition; and Dr. Luis Fraga of the Institute for Latino Studies at Notre Dame is an expert in the effect of two-way immersion on school communities.

According to Fraga, Holy Cross School is poised to become a regional pioneer in Catholic

education.

"What better way to build intercultural communities of respect and understanding consistent with the Gospel and the call of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops? Two-way immersion programs capture the growing diversity of our Catholic communities to build educational opportunities that strengthen our Catholic schools and serve the church for generations to come."

Each year, the immersion track will add one grade level as the cohorts move through primary school. Holy Cross will continue to offer its current traditional track, which also has recently received significant

recognition. At the preschool and pre-kindergarten level, Holy Cross is in the final stages of becoming the first area Catholic school eligible to receive Indiana Early Childhood Development funds. At the kindergarten level, teacher Ashley Parmelee was just recognized with a Light of Learning Award by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Moving forward, Principal Angela Budzinski sees the two tracks working well together. "Students in the traditional track will also receive additional Spanish language enrichment," she noted. "Students in the immersion track will benefit from the strength of Holy Cross's current curriculum."

At the March 15 open house, both tracks will be featured. Teachers from a Catholic school in Holland, Mich., with a two-way immersion track will be present.



## Bishops: Congress must consider budget's moral, human dimensions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairmen of six U.S. bishops' policy committees March 3 told members of the House and Senate that every decision they will make on the federal budget "should be assessed by whether it protects or threatens human life and dignity."

"A central moral measure of any budget proposal is how it affects 'the least of these' (Matthew 25). The needs of those who are hungry and homeless, vulnerable and at risk, without work or in poverty should come first," the six chairmen said.

They pointed out that the government and other institutions have "a shared responsibility to promote the common good of all, especially ordinary workers and families who struggle to live in dignity in difficult economic times."

The letter said the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops supports the goal of reducing future unsustainable deficits and believes the country has an obligation to address their impact on the health of the economy

but that a "just framework for the federal budget cannot rely on disproportionate cuts in essential services to poor and vulnerable persons."

They also warned that cuts to domestic and international poverty-reducing and refugee-assisting programs would "result in millions of people being put in harm's way, denying access to life-saving and life-affirming services."

The bishops said they have devoted their efforts to addressing the "morally problematic features of health care reform while insuring that people have access to health care coverage."

They noted that the Catholic Church — in its work across the country caring for the poor, homeless, the sick and refugees — often partners with the government. "Our combined resources allow us to reach further and help more," they said.

The bishops urged federal lawmakers to recognize that the "moral measure of the federal budget is not which party wins or which powerful interests pre-

vail, but rather how those who are jobless, hungry, homeless, exploited, poor, unborn or undocumented are treated."

"Their voices are too often missing in these debates, but they have the most compelling moral claim on our consciences and our common resources," they said.

The letter was signed by: New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities; Bishop Christopher J. Coyne of Burlington, Vt., chairman of the Committee on Communications; Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Fla., chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; Bishop Oscar Cantu of Las Cruces, N.M., chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace; Bishop George V. Murry of Youngstown, Ohio, chairman of the Committee on Catholic Education; and Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the Committee on Migration.

## BAN

Continued from Page 3

teaching refugees and Iraqis some new skills they can use and make a little bit of money," she added. "For example, we have people in workshops who create mosaics and create packaging, and create handicrafts."

Pozniak said refugees were incredulous when she told them

Americans are afraid of refugees, especially those from Syria.

"They had this look on their faces, uncomprehending. 'What are they afraid of? We're fleeing the violence. We want the same thing, peace.' If people could listen to their stories, I think the reactions would be a lot different."

A Rasmussen Reports telephone poll of 1,000 American adults released Feb. 24 said 54 percent of all voters believe increasing the number of refugees from Syria, Iraq and other countries included in the Jan.

27 executive order poses an increased national security risk to the United States. This is down from September, when 62 percent said President Barack Obama's proposal to increase the number of Middle Eastern and North African refugees allowed into the United States posed an increased national security risk. The poll was conducted Feb. 20-21.

A Pew Research Center poll released Feb. 27 found Catholics opposing the ban, 62 percent-36 percent. White Catholics were very narrowly in favor, 50 percent-49 percent, while Hispanic and other minority Catholics opposed the ban 81 percent-14 percent.

Members of black Protestant churches (81 percent) and religiously unaffiliated Americans (74 percent) also opposed the ban. Protestants overall supported the ban, 51 percent-46 percent, with 76 percent support from white evangelicals. The Pew survey interviewed 1,503 adults by phone Feb. 7-12.

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Rev. Bryan N. Massingale, STD  
Professor of Theological and Social Ethics  
Fordham University

TO REDEEM THE SOUL OF AMERICA:  
TOWARD A MORAL VISION FOR  
A NEW CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Wednesday, March 22, 7 p.m.  
Madeleva Hall, Carroll Auditorium

This lecture is free and open to the public. For more information about other CFS events, please visit [www.saintmarys.edu/Spirituality](http://www.saintmarys.edu/Spirituality) or call (574) 284-4636.



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# Ban on death penalty for the mentally ill fails to advance

INDIANAPOLIS — A bill to ban the death penalty in Indiana for those with serious mental illness stalled in the Senate Judiciary Committee and failed to advance before the third reading Senate deadline. The Indiana Catholic Conference supported the death penalty ban.

Senate Bill 155, authored by Sen. James Merritt, R-Indianapolis, would have removed capital punishment as a penalty for those suffering from one or more of six various types of serious mental illness.

Those diagnosed with schizophrenia; bipolar disorder; major depressive disorder; delusional disorder; posttraumatic stress disorder; or traumatic brain injuries would have qualified for the exemption. The bill defines 'serious mental illness', commonly referred to as SMI, using the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders criteria.

Merritt said, "Unlike an insanity defense, under an SMI, the defendant is still found guilty, versus not guilty by reason of insanity, and is still punished. An insanity defense means the defendant was totally unaware that their conduct was wrong. They are not guilty, and not responsible." Merritt explained under his bill a defendant would be found guilty, and held responsible, but the punishment of the death penalty would not be an option.

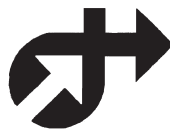
Tebbe said the church opposes the use of the death penalty in nearly all cases, noting that

its use is permitted when it is the only means to protect the common good. Tebbe added, Catholic teaching also asserts that an individual must have maturity and consciously choose an action for one to be morally responsible. Indiana no longer executes the mentally disabled or minors because they may not be fully responsible for their actions, he said.

"Those who are mentally ill have an impediment that limits their culpability regarding their actions also," said Tebbe. "As with the previous modifications in Indiana's application of the death penalty, this change to exempt those with serious mental illness from execution is prudent and just. While Senate Bill 155 does not eliminate the use of the death penalty, it does restrict its use and corrects an injustice in its application," said Tebbe.

During a Feb. 15 meeting of the Senate Judiciary Committee, lawmakers on the panel raised concerns about how the bill would be carried out in practice. Sen. Mike Young, R-Indianapolis, said he was not convinced of the process by which the court would determine if a person had mental illness and it was the cause of the crime. Sen. Joseph Zakas, R-Granger, agreed that there was no linkage in the bill of mental illness and the crime. Sen. Aaron Freeman, R-Indianapolis, said he didn't want to put anyone to death that has a serious mental illness, but he believed that the language in the bill was too broad and could be misused in

## INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



BRIGID CURTIS AYER

practice for some criminals to get a reduced sentence.

Members from the mental health community and a representative from the American Bar Association testified in support of the bill. The Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council and the Indiana Attorney General's office opposed the bill.

Steve Schutte, who works in the state public defenders' office, said he has spent 25 years representing men on death row. "I have experience with the kind of people with serious mental illness who would have benefited from this kind of legislation," Schutte clarified to Sen. Young that the bill does link the conduct of the defendant to the active serious mental illness at the time of the crime. Schutte said the bill covers a gap in Indiana law for those with serious mental illness who would not be protected from getting the death penalty based on other provisions in Indiana law.

Tebbe said the concerns raised by panel members, as well as, those by the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council and the Attorney General's office could not be rectified before the committee hearing deadline in

the Senate, and the measure died in committee. Tebbe said even though the topic theoretically could return before the end of the session if the bill's language was amended into another bill that is moving, he said chances of that happening this year are "slim."

Tebbe said a more likely scenario is the bill will be brought back during the 2018 legislative session after interested parties have ample time to study and address the concerns raised. Tebbe said, "I am hopeful going forward that a resolution can be found so that Indiana can pass a death penalty ban for those suffering from serious mental illness. The Indiana Catholic Conference will continue to work toward this goal."

Currently, at least six other states are actively seeking legislation to exempt those with serious mental illness, including Virginia, Idaho, Tennessee, West Virginia, Ohio and South Dakota. Connecticut exempted those with serious mental illness from the death penalty in 2006, but subsequently banned the death penalty completely. Mental Health America, a national support and advocacy group for mental health, in one analysis estimates that between five and 20 percent of people on death row have a serious mental illness.

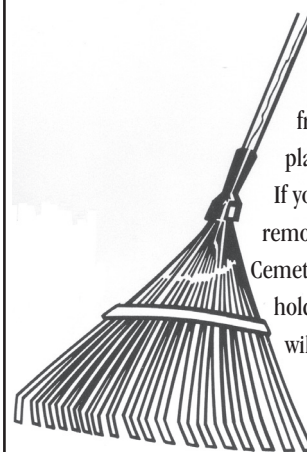
**For more information** on the status of bills the ICC is following, join the Indiana Catholic Action Network at [www.indianacc.org](http://www.indianacc.org).

### Notice of ANNUAL CLEANUP

at CATHOLIC CEMETERY

The Catholic Cemetery of Fort Wayne will conduct their ANNUAL CLEANUP of decorations from March 15 thru March 31. Please do NOT place any decorations during this entire time. If you wish to save your decoration, please have it removed BEFORE March 15, or call the Catholic Cemetery Office, 426-2044, by March 10, and we will hold it for you no more than 30 days, after which it will be discarded. Decorations may be placed **AFTER MARCH 31.**

*We thank you for your cooperation.*



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## Egyptian priest praises Muslim support of threatened Christians

OXFORD, England (CNS) — A spokesman for Egypt's Catholic Church praised local Muslims for helping embattled Christians after a series of Islamic State attacks in Sinai. Father Rafic Greiche, spokesman for the Coptic Catholic Church, said Christians must differentiate between ordinary Muslims and extremists. "Ordinary Muslims are kind and try to help however they can — they're often first on the scene, rescuing the injured and taking them to hospitals," he told Catholic News Service March 3, as Christians continued to flee Egypt's North Sinai region. Father Greiche said the attacks had affected only Coptic Orthodox Christians, but added that Catholic churches and schools in Ismailia had offered shelter to Orthodox families with help from Caritas. Father Greiche said Islamic State militants were now "strongly entrenched" in North Sinai, having been allowed by the Hamas and Muslim Brotherhood organizations to use tunnels from the Gaza Strip. He added that civilians were better off not staying in the surrounding military zone, which was now "under attack all the time," but said he believed the Egyptian authorities were committed to protecting Christians against the Islamist insurgency. "You can never do enough against jihadist and terrorist attacks, which come, like any criminal acts, at a time no one can foresee," the priest said. "But while no country can be fully secure, I think there's will on government side to act decisively against these constant attempts to destabilize Egypt." In Britain, Coptic Orthodox Bishop Angaelos said from December through February, 40 Coptic Christians had been murdered in Egypt. Bishop Angaelos noted that dozens of "Egyptian civilians, soldiers and police officers have lost their lives as a result of this wave of terrorist activity."

## Russian Catholics hope for a new springtime for small Byzantine church

MELBOURNE, Australia (CNS) — One of the smallest Eastern Catholic churches in the world, the Russian Catholic Church, faces some big issues, including its survival. That's the issue that will be front and center at a Congress of Russian Catholic delegates from around the world meeting in northern Italy in June. It has been organized by an Australian-based Russian Catholic priest, Father Lawrence Cross, a retired lecturer in theology at Australian Catholic University. The congress, the first in Russian Catholic history, will occur against the backdrop of last February's historic meeting in Havana between Pope Francis

## St. Patrick's Day parade



CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

Members of the Celtic Friars Pipe Band of St. Anthony's High School in South Huntington, N.Y., march in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Kings Park, N.Y., March 4. The feast of St. Patrick is March 17.

and Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow. It was the first time a pope had met with the head of the Russian Orthodox Church. Both churches drifted into schism in the two centuries after the so-called Great Schism of 1054. Father Cross explained that the tiny Russian Byzantine Catholic Church was formed by Russian Orthodox who saw the pope, the bishop of Rome, as an essential element for the fullness of orthodoxy. These Russian Catholics, Father Cross says, should be the poster-child for ecumenical relations, living proof that reconciliation is possible. Instead, he is worried they are in danger of being lost to history. About 30 clerical delegates from Russian Catholic communities across the world, as well as laity, will meet in Seriate, just outside Bergamo, Italy, to discuss their future and once again petition Rome for an exarch, or bishop, and the revival of the Russian Catholic Exarchate.

## Lent is time to relive exodus from slavery to freedom, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Like the people of Israel freed from the bondage of slavery, Christians are called to experience the path toward hope and new life during the Lenten season, Pope Francis said. Through his passion, death and resurrection, Jesus "has

opened up for us a way that leads to a full, eternal and blessed life," the pope said at his weekly general audience March 1, Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent for Latin-rite Catholics. "Lent lives within this dynamic: Christ precedes us with His exodus and we cross the desert, thanks to Him and behind Him," he said. On a warm and sunny morning, the pope held his audience in St. Peter's Square. Arriving in the popemobile, he immediately spotted a group of children and signaled several of them to come aboard for a ride. One by one, the three girls and one boy climbed into the popemobile and warmly embraced the pope. In his main audience talk, the pope said that while Lent is a time of "penance and even mortification," it is also "a time of hope" for Christians awaiting Christ's resurrection to "renew our baptismal identity."

## Situation for Iraqi refugees in Jordan 'critical and dangerous'

AL-UM-KUNDUN, Jordan (CNS) — Catholic leaders have expressed concern for tens of thousands of Iraqi Christian refugees sheltering in Jordan as access to international aid tightens with crises deepening in the Middle East and elsewhere. "The situation of Iraqi Christians refugees is critical and dangerous," Father Khalil Jaar told Catholic News Service on the side-

lines of a conference hosted by the Vatican Embassy in Amman and the Catholic charity, Caritas Jordan. Meeting at Our Lady of Peace Center on the hilly, tree-lined outskirts of the Jordanian capital, the leaders sought better cooperation and were exploring income-generation projects for the refugees badly in need of funds. "They have finished their money and they aren't allowed to work. How can they live in human dignity?" asked Father Jaar, who has devoted his ministry to aiding Iraqi and Syrian refugees flooding into Jordan from neighboring conflicts for more than a decade. Daniela Cichella of the Jordanian offices of the U.N. refugee agency, UNHCR, told the gathering that 700,000 refugees of 42 nationalities are registered with the agency in the country. The Jordanian government says it hosts 1.5 million refugees and its budget, water, electricity and other services are overburdened by the numbers.

## Papal academies: Bigger threat to planet is greed, not population growth

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Increasing threats against biodiversity, unsustainable use of the earth's resources and accelerated extinction rates are driven more by overconsumption and unjust wealth distribution than by the number of people on the planet,

a Vatican workshop concluded. While the world's population has tripled since 1950 with close to 7.4 billion people today, per capita income growth and world GDP has seen bigger gains with huge benefits to much of humanity, said a statement released March 2. However, "aside from threatening millions of species with extinction, this enormous increase in economic activity based on profit and on the use of fossil fuels is putting huge strains on the earth's capacity to function sustainably," it said. The "final declaration" came at the end of a workshop on "Biological extinction: How to save the natural world on which we depend," sponsored by the pontifical academies for sciences and social sciences and held Feb. 27-March 1. Solutions to the problem, according to the final statement, were more about correcting unjust systems and selfish behaviors than population control.

## Despite opposition, assisted suicide law takes effect in nation's capital

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The District of Columbia has joined six states in the country in allowing doctors to prescribe lethal medications to terminally ill patients who want to end their lives. Although the District of Columbia City Council voted 11-2 Nov. 15 to approve the "Death with Dignity Act" and Mayor Muriel Bowser signed it into law in December, it still faced possible defeat by federal lawmakers. The Home Rule Act of 1973 gives the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives a small window in which they have the right to overturn District laws. Pro-life advocates and proponents for the terminally ill, the elderly and the disabled — who vehemently reject assisted suicide, saying it would lead to abuse and harm the city's most vulnerable populations — had hoped Congress would act on the measure. On Feb. 13, the House Oversight Committee approved a resolution to cancel the law, but the resolution never made it to the floor for a full House vote. Feb. 17 was the deadline for Congress to cancel the District's law. Since the deadline passed with no action, the law went into effect Feb. 18. "A number of groups — medical associations, seniors organizations, disability rights groups, as well as the D.C. Catholic Conference — strongly advocated against D.C.'s prescribed death legislation," the D.C. Catholic Conference said in a statement after the law went into effect. "We will continue to advocate for a respect for life at every stage — from conception to natural death — and defend our communities' most vulnerable, who require improved access to long-term health care, not an inexpensive short cut to death."

## Seminarians receive ministry of acolyte

ROME — On Feb. 26, His Excellency the Most Reverend David Kagan, Bishop of Bismarck, N.D., conferred the Ministry of Acolyte, in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, Pontifical North American College, Vatican City State, to 63 students, including Spenser Michael St. Louis of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

During the Mass, celebrated on the Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Bishop Kagan reminded the second-year seminarians that their new responsibility of serving at the altar, their second-to-last step before being ordained priests, is one to be taken on with a spirit of humility. "Remember that your service is never to be about you ... for the people of God whom you will serve look to you to model fidelity, devotion and humble joy in your service to Almighty God, and what a privilege you have in this vocation."

The seminarians have two additional years of theological studies and spiritual formation before being ordained to the priesthood in their home dioceses.

As part of the rite, the bishop placed the paten, which contains the hosts for the celebration of Mass, in the hands of each candidate and said, "Take this vessel with bread for the celebration of the Eucharist. Make your life worthy of your service at the table of the Lord and of his Church."

The Pontifical North American College serves as the American seminary in Rome.

## St. Elizabeth plans men's workshop

FORT WAYNE — All men — fathers, grandfathers, young men and others — are invited to a men's workshop entitled: "Catholic Man: Who Are You and What Are You For?" on Thursday, March 16, from 7-9 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Hall. Information will also be provided about Fraternus, an intergenerational Catholic brotherhood with a mission of mentoring boys into virtuous Catholic men. The workshop will be led by Jimmy Mitchell, a dynamic speaker with a passion for the Catholic faith.

## 'Created in God's Image: A Pastoral Letter on the Sin of Racism and a Call to Conversion'

SOUTH BEND — In collaboration with the Catholic Social Teaching Ministry of St. Pius X Parish, Holy Cross Parish will host "Created in God's Image: A Pastoral Letter on the Sin of Racism and a Call to Conversion" by Bishop Dale J. Melczek, retired Bishop of the Diocese of Gary, at Holy Cross School on Saturday, March 18, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Read Across America with Bishop Rhoades



Mollie Shutt

Eighth-grade students at St. John the Baptist School, Fort Wayne, were visited by guest reader Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on March 1 as part of the Read Across America program. The bishop read excerpts from three books, including Matthew Kelly's "Rediscover Jesus" and "The Rhythm of Life."

The day will consist of shared reading of the document, prayerful reflection and discussion in small groups. Lunch will be provided. The day will conclude with 5 p.m. Mass. There is no cost to participate but advance registration is required to Peter Stone by email at peterstone89@yahoo.com or phone at 574-703-7382.

## Father Tolton pilgrimage to Illinois

SOUTH BEND — Servant of God Father Augustus Tolton, the first recognizably black U.S. priest, was ordained in April 1886. He faced bitter racism with a loving, merciful heart.

Friday, March 31 through Saturday, April 1, the Tolton Society of St. Augustine Parish in South Bend will sponsor a two-day pilgrimage to Father Tolton historic sites in Quincy, Ill.

Following orientation, the group will leave St. Augustine's no later than 9 a.m. Friday and arrive in Quincy by 2 p.m. (CST). It will return to South Bend by 10 p.m. Saturday. Along with a similar delegation from Chicago, pilgrims will learn and pray at the river crossing in Brush Creek, Mo., where Tolton's family narrowly escaped slavery; at sites where he was baptized, raised and educated; at the spot where he pastored after his historic ordination; and at his holy grave site.

Reservations must be made in advance for \$40, or \$45 after March 17. Subsidized by the Tolton Society, this price includes van transportation to Quincy, hotel stay, expert tour guides, materials and snacks. Meals are on your own.

For information or to reserve seats, contact Annie Tardy, Tolton Society chairman, at ARTardy@hotmail.com or 574-707-1232.

## Mass and Mingle to connect special needs and parishes

SOUTH BEND — Members of the Fort Wayne-area "Building Inclusive Parishes" grassroots movement are offering a Mass and Mingle hosted by St. Anthony de Padua Parish in South Bend on Thursday, March 23. Father Dave Ruppert will celebrate Mass at 5:30 p.m. with a light meal to follow. Members of Building Inclusive Parishes wish to connect with others who have a disability or have a loved one with special needs.

Topics to be discussed will include:

- What Building Inclusive Parishes has been doing and goals
- Positive examples of inclusion in parishes
- Concerns in parishes that need to be addressed
- Partnering with parish priests

and staff to better meet the needs of parishioners

For information contact Allison Sturm at 260-399-1452 or asturm@diocesefwsb.org.

## Lenten speaker series to begin

YODER — St. Aloysius Parish, 14623 Bluffton Rd., will offer a Lenten series each Wednesday during Lent. The rosary recited at 6 p.m. will be followed by Mass at 6:30 with a short talk after Mass.

On March 8, Laura Haiflich will speak on "Finding God's Love in Suffering and Dying;" March 15, Father James Bromwich will speak on "The Human Person: Physician Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia;" March 22, Br. Pio Maria and Br. Bonaventure Maria will speak on "Redemptive Suffering;" March 29 Dr. Thomas McGovern, will speak on "The Christian Meaning of Human Suffering;" and April 5, Colin Andrews will speak on "Advanced Directives: Catholic Teaching on End of Life and Critical Health Care Decisions."

## Correction

In the March 5 issue of *Today's Catholic*, the last name of Dr. Peter Casarella, professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame, was misspelled in the story "Candidates committed to Hispanic Diaconate Formation." We deeply regret the error.

## State runner-up Quiz Bowl team



Provided by Lisa Kochanowski

At the Freshman/Sophomore Quiz Bowl State Championship held at North White High School in Monon, Saturday, Feb. 18, the two-person team of students Tomás Aguilar-Fraga and Andrew Orians put up a record of six wins and one loss to finish as the state runner-up team. Additionally, Aguilar-Fraga was recognized as the top player in the entire tournament. Pictured from left to right are Aguilar-Fraga and Orians.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

# Missionaries Combat Malnutrition With Help From U.S. Catholics

In the war against hunger in Haiti, there are many battlefields — from the city slums to the remote rural villages — and in all of these trouble spots, it is the Catholic Church that distinguishes itself as the source of help and comfort.

For the Catholic priests and nuns who fight in these trenches, the primary enemy is malnutrition.

“Most Americans think of hunger as a temporary condition,” explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, a U.S.-based charity specializing in supplying the needs of overseas missionaries. “They hear that children are going hungry and they assume a boy or girl is missing a meal here or there and feeling hunger pangs as a result. That happens, of course, but conditions in countries like Haiti can be much more serious. There, children face chronic malnutrition — a lack of food that can have serious long-term effects, even to the point of causing physical and mental disabilities.”

Cross Catholic Outreach ships tens of thousands of meals to priests, nuns and Catholic ministries feeding the poor in more than 35 countries around the world. In Haiti, they supply food to Father Glenn Meaux, the founder of the Kobonal Haiti Mission.

“When Fr. Glenn first came to this remote rural area of Haiti, he discovered what many missionaries find in the developing world — families struggling

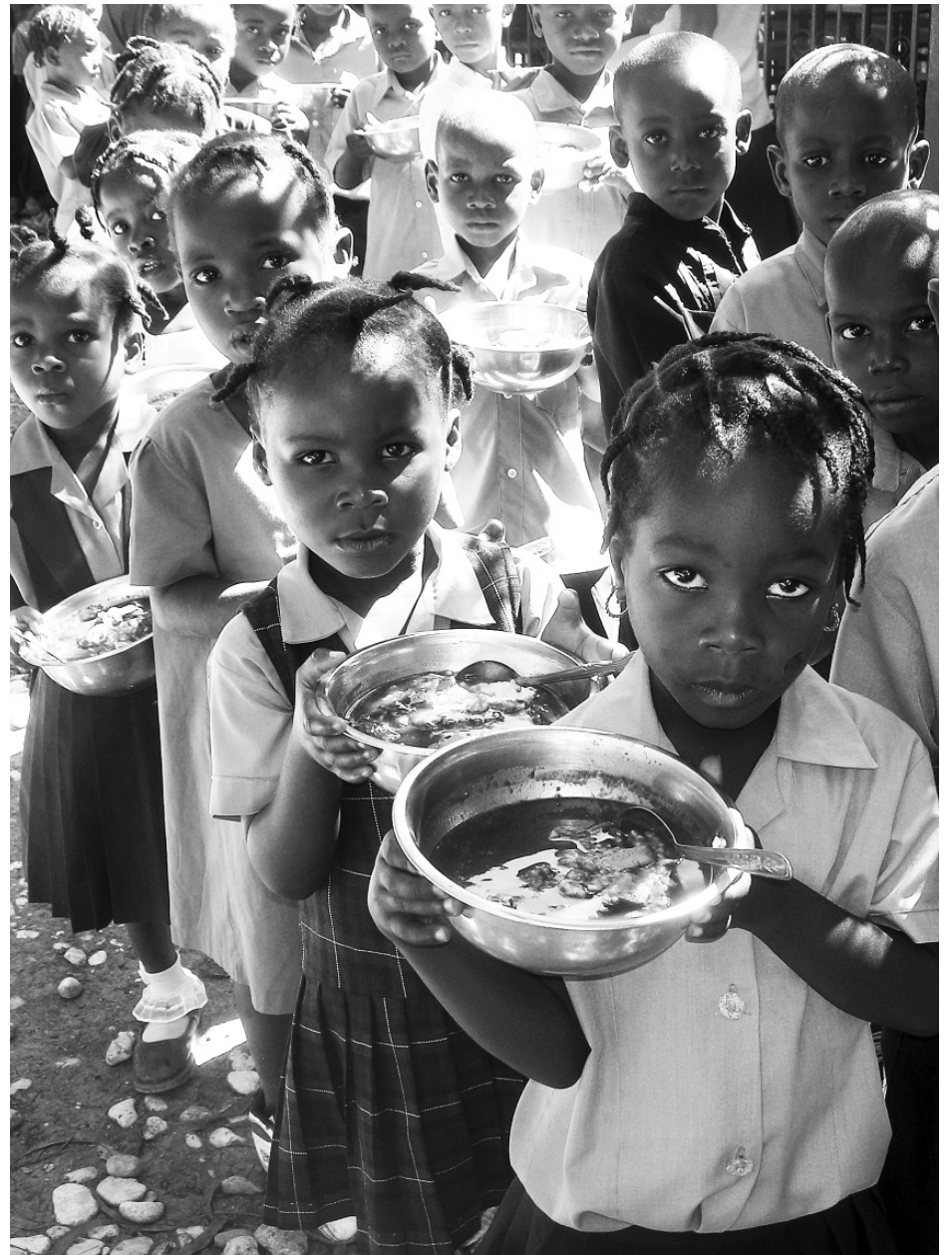
to feed their children even one meal a day,” Cavnar said. “He developed a plan to help them, but he lacked the financial resources to set up the feeding program he envisioned. He needed resources, and that’s exactly what Cross Catholic Outreach was designed to provide. Our ministry mobilizes American Catholics to get missionary priests the food and other resources they need to serve the poor. We took up his cause, shared his need with American parishes and helped him obtain the food he needed. Today, his school feeding program is among the most effective outreaches in Haiti, and the cases of malnutrition in his area are dropping significantly as a result.”

While that battle is being won, other programs are still in need, and Cross is working on ways to address their food needs as well.

“Our goal for 2016 is to rally American Catholics to supply 8 million meals to help the poor,” Cavnar said. “It’s an ambitious goal, but very achievable if everyone steps forward to do their part. Even a small donation to this cause can have a tremendous impact and we have the before-and-after pictures to prove it.” (see story on opposite page)

Cavnar is right — with a gift of just \$100, Cross can deliver over 400 hot, nutritious meals!

“An American family might spend that much on a meal or two out,” Cavnar



said. “If they can sacrifice that luxury to support this cause, they can make a world of difference for hundreds of poor children in desperate need.”

*Readers interested in supporting*

*Cross Catholic Outreach can use the brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01320, PO Box 97168, Washington DC 20090-7168.*

## Cross Catholic Outreach Website Highlights Ministry's Key Strengths

Visit the website of Cross Catholic Outreach ([www.CrossCatholic.org](http://www.CrossCatholic.org)) and you'll notice the charity's three indisputable strengths — its cost-effectiveness, its impressive Catholic leadership and its impact on the poor. The ministry is hitting high marks both overseas and here in the U.S.

“Donors often notice our outstanding ratio of effectiveness — the fact that nearly 95 percent of donations are used for program services and so little of our expenses are allocated to fundraising and administration,” explained Cross Catholic Outreach's president, Jim Cavnar. “The second thing they look for is integrity in our leadership, and they find that in the bishops and archbishops who serve on our board of directors. It shows we aren't just a charity fundraising from Catholics. We are a Catholic outreach. We promote Catholic teachings and values through our work.”

This fact has been noticed by

Catholic bishops and archbishops in the U.S., and they have endorsed the charity as a result.

“They're impressed by the fact that we've done outreaches in almost 40 countries and that we undertake a variety of projects; everything from feeding the hungry and housing the homeless to supplying safe water and supporting educational opportunities for the poorest of the poor,” Cavnar said.

As of this moment, Cross Catholic Outreach has the endorsement of some 90 U.S. dioceses, and the list continues to grow steadily.

“Through the years, we have provided food and safe water, constructed homes for the homeless and supported many schools and medical outreaches, doing virtually all of that work through the Catholic parishes and ministries already working in the trenches overseas,” explained Cavnar. “We have embraced Pope Francis' call to action!”



*Pope Francis meeting with Cross Catholic Outreach's president, Jim Cavnar.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF LOSSERVATORE ROMANO



PAID ADVERTISEMENT

# Amazing “Before & After” Photo Illustrates Impact of Catholic Outreaches Serving The Poor Overseas

Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, looked at the two photos (see bottom of page) on his desk and found it hard to believe they were taken of the same boy. One child is gaunt, glassy-eyed and limp in the arms of a caretaker. The other boy is healthy, alert and focused.

How could this possibly be the same child — Javier from Honduras?

“We see before-and-after photos like this often, but I never cease to be amazed by them. It makes you marvel at the human body’s ability to rebound from trauma. It makes you realize that even someone who appears to be at death’s door can be rescued and revitalized,” explained Jim Cavnar. “When Javier was brought into the Las Mercedes Nutrition Center that Cross Catholic Outreach supports, he was 10 months old and weighed less than 9 pounds. The doctors didn’t think he would survive through the week, but the staff at Las Mercedes did a marvelous job of nursing him back to health. The before-and-after pictures were taken only four months apart — you can see for yourself the profound difference their care made.”

As one of America’s leading Catholic relief agencies, Cross Catholic Outreach is literally in the business of creating success stories like this one in developing countries around the globe. Cross Catholic Outreach achieves this goal by enlisting support from U.S. Catholics who share Cavnar’s concern for the poor and his passion for rescuing children from needless suffering and death. It channels its support through Catholic partners already in place overseas — outreaches like the Las Mercedes Nutrition Center that cared for Javier.

“Las Mercedes is a wonderful organization with a committed staff, but their programs would be paralyzed without a regular stock of food, medicines



*These before-and-after photos demonstrate the profound impact of feeding programs sponsored by American Catholics. Alicia and Leidy were among those rescued — but other children still urgently need our help.*

and other supplies. They couldn’t properly feed or care for the children,” Cavnar explained. “Providing those resources is Cross Catholic Outreach’s role. Our support helps them obtain the food and other supplies they need to treat children like Javier. It’s all about teamwork. The churches overseas provide the daily services, and Cross Catholic Outreach and its donors help provide the material resources needed for their outreaches.”

Cavnar is clearly grateful to the American Catholics who have chosen to support Cross Catholic Outreach’s work. He emphasizes them often, pointing out that they are the real key to every success story.

“Dramatic turn arounds like Javier’s are only possible because people step forward and offer a helping hand,” Cavnar said. “The donor is the catalyst or trigger. Their financial support is critical in turning a tragic ‘before’ into a triumphant ‘after’ for a child like Javier. So I don’t take their role lightly. I give the credit where the credit is due — to those who contribute to make success stories like this possible. In the simplest terms, without the donor there wouldn’t be a before-and-after story at all. Javier wouldn’t have recovered. He wouldn’t have survived.”

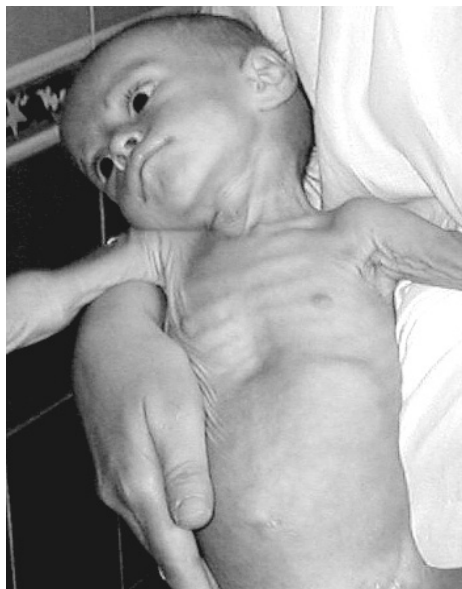
According to Cavnar, the scope of work being funded by American Catholics has been growing in recent years. As more and more people learn about Cross Catholic Outreach in their local parish or through stories in Catholic newspapers, they add their support, allowing Cross Catholic Outreach to further expand its outreach into new countries, touching more lives.

“With more support from American

Catholics, we can take this outreach to whole new levels,” Cavnar said. “When a parish working in the trenches overseas wants to launch a new feeding center, we can partner with them and supply the food. When a poor rural village is facing problems with an unsafe water source, we can dig the well or tap the spring to bring relief. Whether the need is for a clinic to treat the poor or for a school to serve an impoverished community, we can be there to help.

“Whatever their need, Cross Catholic Outreach has the potential to turn a tragic situation into something wonderful,” he added. “We offer American Catholics the same opportunity. It’s a chance to do something meaningful and profound in God’s name and for his glory.”

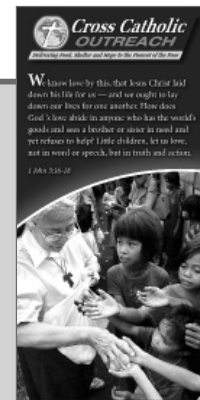
**Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach can use the brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01320, PO Box 97168, Washington DC 20090-7168.**



*Javier’s before-and-after photos provide a shocking reminder of how the poor live — and how important our help is in their lives.*

## How to Help:

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# LENT: THE PRIMARY PENITENTIAL

## Prayer:

### Parishes, online tools, quiet times can take Lenten prayer up a notch

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Prayer, one of the three pillars of Lenten discipline, along with fasting and almsgiving, seems to get the biggest boost during Lent.

Spiritual leaders note that Catholics are most likely praying already and that Lent is a time to make this act even more intentional — to pray more or in a more focused way.

No matter how Catholics choose to up their prayer during Lent's 40 days, they have opportunities to do so at their own parishes since many of them are offering Stations of the Cross, eucharistic adoration, added times for confession and maybe even retreats.

Those who can't make it to anything extra at church can tap into tools for prayer right on their computers or smartphones with everything from virtual Stations of the Cross to apps that track spiritual activities or offer help on preparing for confession, praying the rosary or reading the Bible. Plenty of online retreats also are available including ones specifically geared for Lent.

Father John Riccardo, pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Plymouth, Mich., said Lenten prayers can be divided into two different areas of focus. The first few weeks, he advises people to pray about

areas that need to change, but during the second half of Lent, he said, prayers should focus more on trying to understand Jesus' actions and how Christians are called to respond to them.

If the promptings for more prayer and the abundance of tools or events to guide people in prayer are overwhelming, Catholics also can turn to an approach advised by some spiritual leaders: finding quiet time.

Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, said that in today's busy and often noisy world it's hard to find quiet, but he urged Catholics in his archdiocese to try it.

"Lent is the season of silence. It is a time to enter into the desert, as Jesus did for 40 days," he said in his Lenten message posted Feb. 26 on the website of the *Chicago Catholic*, the archdiocesan newspaper.

"Admittedly, silence can make us feel uneasy," he wrote. "Perhaps it is because silence forces us to think, to feel, to be in touch with those deep areas of our lives where a sense of emptiness or meaninglessness may be lurking in our hearts."

The cardinal said the Gospels often portray Jesus going off alone in silence to pray, which not only says

something about him but indicates something his followers should consider.

Along this line, Cardinal Cupich said he has asked pastors in the Chicago Archdiocese during Lent to allow for extra time for silence during Mass, especially after Communion. "We need this silent time to allow God to speak to us. That means quieting ourselves even from saying prayers and just being aware of what Jesus tells us: we abide in God and God in us."

Jesuit Father Adolfo Nicolas, the former superior general of the Society of Jesus, gave similar advice in a video interview with *The Jesuit Post* in which he said, "We need to develop a taste for silence ... where we can hear the Spirit."

He said the act of being silent as a form of prayer is not accomplished in a short time and there is "no formula or magic word" to make it work. He also stressed that finding times for quiet reflection doesn't require a house with a garden and a chapel. Instead, he said, people should recognize that they carry the chapel within themselves all the time.

"In the midst of the noise," he said, "we can create a spirit of silence."

— Carol Zimmermann

## Fasting:

### Lent's spiritual practice creates space for prayer

WASHINGTON (CNS) — There is no getting around fasting during Lent.

Not only is it one of the three pillars of spiritual practice along with prayer and almsgiving, but it also bookends the period of preparation for Easter.

Fasting and abstinence is required of adult Catholics, ages 18-59, at the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday and at its end on Good Friday. This means eating only one full meal and two small meals that equal one meal as well as no snacks in between meals and no meat consumption.

Creighton University's Online Ministries program, "Praying Lent 2017," says the purpose of fasting is to "experience the effects of not eating. It also serves to be a penance or a sacrifice for the purpose of strengthening us."

"When we get hungry, we have a heightened sense of awareness," it adds, noting that the practice helps people to clarify their thoughts. "It is purifying and prepares us to pray more deeply," the resource from Jesuit-run Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., points out.

In addition to the two days of fasting, Catholics 14 and older are obligated to abstain from eating meat during Fridays in Lent.

The Friday practice is a sacrifice meant "to help Catholics make much bigger sacrifices," the Creighton resource says, pointing out that not eating meat doesn't give someone permission to eat a fancy fish meal. And for vegetarians, it could mean abstaining from a favorite meal.

Fasting, which has deep roots in many religious traditions, is meant to draw participants into deeper prayer and also link them with those in need.

For Christians, the tradition has roots in both the Old and New Testaments. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells his disciples how they should look when they are fasting — not gloomy, not neglecting their appearance and with their faces washed so they do not appear to be fasting.

"Jesus says when we fast, not if," said Father John Riccardo, pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Plymouth, Mich.

He said the key to fasting is to attach an intention to the practice "rather than seeing it as a flexing of our self-discipline muscles." It makes the practice "not about me but someone else," he told Catholic News Service March 1.

"Fasting is heavy artillery," he added because the person doing it is denying themselves something and trusting that God will use it.

Although fasting is technically not eating food, giving something

up can also be a form of fasting.

Msgr. Charles Murphy, author of the 2010 book: "The Spirituality of Fasting: Rediscovering a Christian Practice" said there are two forms of fasting — total and partial. A total fast is eating nothing and drinking nothing for a designated period of time where a partial fast involves giving up certain things for a specific period of time.

Partial fasting is a popular part of Lent where people choose to give up something such as soda, candy, beer, television or more increasingly, social media.

The top things people said they were going to give up this Lent, according to OpenBible.info, a Web search engine that examined Twitter posts during the week of Feb. 26, included a mix of social media and food and one wishful thinking: school. The only other top 10 mention that wasn't a food or drink was to give up swearing.

Partial fasting, just like a full fast, shouldn't be done to benefit the person doing it. "It's not to make us more narcissistic, which it can do," said Paulist Father Jack Collins, who helped Busted Halo, the Paulist website, with videos like "You don't know Jack about Lent" a few years ago.

"We don't fast to feel good, but to remind ourselves that half the world goes to bed hungry," he said, adding that it's a way of reminding us "we are our brother's keeper."

Paulist Father Larry Rice, director of the University Catholic Center at the University of Texas at Austin, is not keen on people looking for a loophole in their fasting practices, for example saying that Sundays don't count and they can have whatever they gave up that day.

"I get that people want a pressure relief valve," he said, "but when I open my missal it says the First Sunday of Lent" meaning Sunday counts.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops gives a little leeway here. In its fasting guidelines it notes that if someone is giving something up for Lent it is more effective if it is continuous — "kept on Sundays as well. That being said, such practices are not regulated by the church, but by individual conscience."

Father Rice, who is giving up riding elevators for Lent, said the Catholic college students he works with typically give up a food or social media. "They won't give up texting. That would be like giving up breathing," he added.

— Carol Zimmermann



Jerry Kessens

Parishioners at St. Patrick Church, Fort Wayne, receive ashes as a sign of sorrow for their sins on Ash Wednesday, March 1.

# SEASON OF THE CHURCH'S YEAR

## Almsgiving:

### Lenten practice gives chance to 'be generous with the poor'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although the word almsgiving does not come up much in regular conversation, Catholics hear it plenty during Lent since it is one of the three pillars of the church's Lenten practices along with prayer and fasting.

Although the three practices work together, almsgiving can sometimes get the short shrift because people might be more apt to pray and fast — in private or at church — than they might reach out to those in need.

The church defines almsgiving as donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity. The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes it as "a witness to fraternal charity" and "a work of justice pleasing to God."

There is plenty of biblical support for this practice in both the Old and New Testaments. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus urged his disciples not to brag about helping others saying: "When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others."

An Old Testament passage puts almsgiving at the top of the Lenten practices: "Prayer with fasting is good. Almsgiving with righteousness is better than wealth with wickedness. It is better to give alms than to store up gold, for almsgiving saves from death, and purges all sin. Those who give alms will enjoy a full life" (Tobit 12:8-9).

Father John Riccardo, pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Plymouth, Mich., takes the Bible passage at its word, saying: "I always think almsgiving atones for a multitude of sins."

"It's a simple way to respond. God's been generous to me; clearly I can do this with the poor," he told Catholic News Service March 1.

The priest, who hosts the radio program "Christ is the Answer" for Ave Maria Radio, in Ann Arbor, Mich., said a good way to tie in almsgiving to fasting is by putting aside the money one might spend on a purchase not bought during Lent and give it to the poor.

Another idea, he said, is to make a conscious effort not to dodge those on the street looking for money but to pray that they will be put in your path and then be generous with them not only with money but by taking the time to look at them, ask them

what their name is and tell them you will pray for them.

"Simple things like that are astounding, because they don't often hear their names," he said, stressing that Catholics should use the time of Lent to "be on the lookout for opportunities to be generous with the poor."

Paulist Father Larry Rice, director of the University Catholic Center at the University of Texas at Austin, says he encourages almsgiving with Catholic Relief Services' annual Rice Bowl program for Lent. College students don't use the Rice Bowl's cardboard box of old, which is still used in parishes around the country, but are more likely to use program's app which takes online donations because they "never carry cash," the priest said.

The Rice Bowl, now in its 42nd year, has been a Lenten staple to raise awareness about hunger and funds to combat hunger and poverty. Last year, more than 13,000 faith communities participated in the annual collection.

In a Lenten message posted on Ascension Presents website, Father Mike Schmitz, director of youth and young adult ministry for the Diocese of Duluth, Minn., stressed that donations to the CRS Rice Bowl should be more than spare change. Donations shouldn't be "leftovers," but cash, he said.

He also said almsgiving could take on forms other than just monetary donations and could even involve writing a note to someone different each day of Lent.

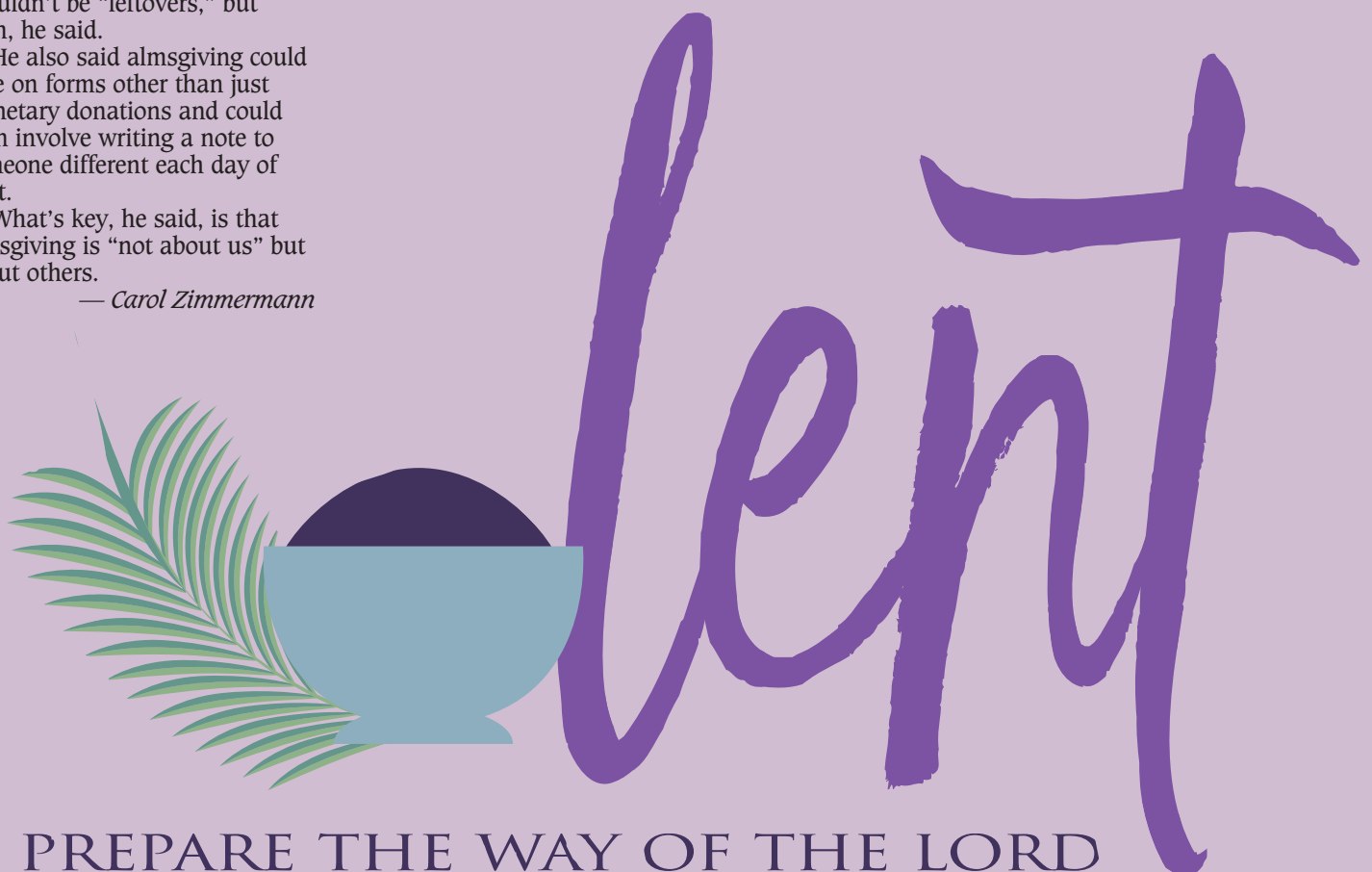
What's key, he said, is that almsgiving is "not about us" but about others.

— Carol Zimmermann



CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

An usher uses a collection basket during Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Patrick's Pro-Cathedral in Newark, N.J., March 1. Almsgiving, or donating money or goods to the poor, is one of the three pillars of the church's Lenten practices, along with prayer and fasting.



# Catechumens, candidates draw closer to full communion

BY JODI MARLIN

Catechumens and candidates in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend declared their desire to be joined to Christ and His Church during the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, celebrated Feb. 26 at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, and March 5 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne.

The catechumens, who are called the Elect following the Rite of Election, are unbaptized individuals who will enter the Catholic Church by receiving the sacraments of initiation — baptism, confirmation and the holy Eucharist — the night of April 15 at the Easter Vigil Mass. Candidates, or those who are already baptized and wish to complete their initiation into the church, will receive the sacraments of Eucharist and confirmation the same evening.

Their godparents and sponsors presented the catechumens and candidates to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades during the liturgies. Catechumens were asked to write their names in the “Book of the Elect,” which was then presented for Bishop to sign in an event called the Enrollment of Names.

During his homily at both Masses, Bishop Rhoades spoke of the “holy journey, a journey of faith” on which all 481 of the catechumens and candidates were traveling. He gave thanks to God for how, “guided by the Holy Spirit, you have been growing in faith, attracted to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus as it has been preserved and handed on in its fullness in the Catholic Church.”

Recalling the Gospel reading, in which John the Baptist pointed Jesus out to two of His disciples, Bishop noted the parallel between John directing them to look at Jesus and to follow Him and the spouses, relatives or friends of the catechumens and candidates who led them to Him and invited them to follow Jesus in His church. He once again thanked God, this time for those modern-day John the Baptists.

In that same Gospel reading, the two disciples, Andrew and Simon, then engage the Lord in conversation.

“I invite you to identify yourselves with these two disciples in the Gospel,” the bishop said. “In their little dialogue with Jesus, they asked Him where He was staying. Jesus responded with an invitation and a promise: ‘Come, and you will see.’ The Lord has invited you to come and see: to come to faith in Him and to see who He is. Jesus invites you stay with Him,” the bishop said. “The Lord is inviting you to be part of the community He founded, the Catholic Church, in order to know Him and to receive His life, His grace, in the sacraments,



Photos by John Martin

Candidates and sponsors rise, parish by parish, as they are presented to the bishop during the Call to Continuing Conversion, celebrated at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, on Sunday, March 5. Their sponsors confirmed that the candidates have come to a deeper appreciation of their baptism and now wish to share fully in the church's sacraments.



great gifts of His love. He wants you to be united with Him in His Body, the Church, and to remain in Him and in His love. You are answering Jesus' invitation: “Come and see.” He invites you to an intimate and lasting personal relationship with Him.”

The bishop also spoke about Simon, one of the two disciples in the reading, being given a new name by Jesus.

“Simon's new name indicates he is entering a new stage in his life... Simon becomes Cephas, the Rock, the foundation of the Church that Jesus will build. Catechumens, the Lord will give you a new name when you are baptized and that name is ‘Christian.’ Many of you, catechumens and candidates, will choose a new name at Confirmation, the name of a saint. This expresses the newness of what is happening in

your life. It is the newness of life in Christ. And you will live that life within the community that Jesus established on the rock who is St. Peter, the Catholic Church, the apostolic Church, the community that is led by the successors of Peter and the apostles, the Pope and the bishops, those through whom Christ preserves the faith and unity of His Body, the Church.”

While all Catholics are encouraged to use the 40 days of Lent to prepare for the joyful celebration of the resurrection, the period is one of more intense

spiritual preparation for the catechumens and candidates, Bishop said. But he and all of the faithful would be praying for them and looking forward to their joining in at the table of the Eucharist, growing in holiness and communion with Christ, and to their joining in the mission of evangelization, he said.

“The Lord will give you His true Body and Blood as spiritual food, not only at Easter, but throughout the journey of your

life. He will nourish you with His grace. My prayer is that your discovery of Christ and your communion with Him in His Church will grow and deepen in the years ahead, that you will grow in holiness through your communion with Christ in His Body, the Church. And I pray that, like Andrew, who brought his brother to Jesus, you in turn will bring others to Him as well.”

During the Rite of Election, the catechumens were presented and affirmed by their godparents and the assembly of the faithful, and invited to enroll their names in the “Book of the Elect,” in which the names of a parish's particular Elect were written, was then presented by the parish RCIA director or pastor to Bishop Rhoades to sign.

# Why become Catholic?

## Catechumens respond and offer insight into the mind of a convert

BY JENNIFER MILLER

This Easter, Kim Pesta will join in full communion with the church at Christ the King Parish, South Bend. Originally from Erie, Pa., she never considered herself religious, growing up in a family that did not attend church and where religion was “not really discussed.” Now an auditor for a large firm, she began college at a public university, but decided to transfer to a Christian college because her brother attended there and “because it had a great reputation for producing hard working, smart individuals.” Suddenly, Pesta became “surrounded by people who practiced Christianity and who exuded Christian qualities. I wanted to be a part of whatever they were a part of...because they all seemed happy. I wanted to be more like them.”

Pesta was “always open to religion, but never pursued it” until transferring. A key point in her conversion came when she needed to find a roommate. After having a hard time finding the right fit, Pesta found herself frustrated and at a loss of what to do. “I decided to pray about it, because my friends told me that when they pray about things it would help their situation, in one way shape or form.” The next morning, she received an email from another female student — this time a good fit — asking to meet up with her to see if they would like to be roommates.

Pesta thought a lot about which denomination of Christianity she wanted to join. Her first impressions of Catholicism seemed very exclusive. “The people who I met that were Catholic were not very inclusive and it was difficult to follow along at Mass, so it was way down on my list of possible denominations to enter,” she explained. “I continued to do research, and ultimately came to the conclusion that I could not base an opinion about a denomination on a few bad apples, since in reality Catholicism preaches togetherness of the church.” Years later, “Truth became the rule of thumb, and all of a sudden Catholicism became my No. 1 choice because it adheres to the main principles of Christianity and is what I believe to be truth.

“When I ended up dating a Catholic who I could see a future with, it sealed the deal since I wanted my future family to be able to worship together and go to church together and not feel left out in any way, as I did when I was growing up.” Pesta will be married this autumn



Photos by Jennifer Miller

**Kim Pesta, Elect at Christ the King Parish, South Bend, will join in full communion with the church during the Easter Vigil.**

and looks forward to raising a Catholic family.

What she loves most about the faith is “the feeling of being a part of something bigger than all of us, but everybody acknowledging it and being happy about it all at the same time.”

Describing herself as “a door-keeper of sorts,” Lisa Marino, director of the RCIA program at St. Matthew Cathedral Parish, South Bend, highlighted the beauty of the program.

“As people come knocking on the door of the Catholic Church at the invitation of Christ Himself, I am commissioned to answer that door, help them feel welcome, and help remove any obstacles which may impede them from entering the church fully. These may include misunderstandings, ignorance, despair, sin — the same obstacles I face,” she said. “We are constantly called to a deeper understanding of and life in the gifts of the church. Watching God draw each person to Himself in the sacraments in very concrete ways, and witnessing their response of longing and love for Him constantly encourages me. All this compels me into a deeper prayer life — prayer for the RCIA participants, myself, my family and community, and most centrally — worship of God out of sheer gratitude for who He is.”

Eleven people will enter the church this year at St. Matthew during the Easter Vigil. One of the elect, Wes Hamrick, Ph.D., is a postdoctoral research associate with the Moore Institute, part of the National University of Ireland at Galway. In South Bend with the Keough-Naughton

Institute of Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame, he is grateful for Marino’s dedication to the RCIA program. “She’s a gifted teacher. The catechumens and candidates get so much support from the parish and the congregation and all of that makes a tremendous difference.

“Being the only non-Catholic in a large Catholic family, the question of conversion was always just kind of there, even if no one was actually talking about it. So part of the motivation for me was wanting to set a good example for my children. In other words, I didn’t want them to have doubts about their faith because of the fact that I remained outside the church.”



**Wes Hamrick, one of the Elect from St. Matthew Parish, South Bend, will join in full communion with the church at the Easter Vigil.**

Raised by Christian, Bible-based Protestant parents who “weren’t particularly devout,” Hamrick “had always maintained some kind of relationship with God, mainly through prayer.

“I suppose I began thinking more deeply about my relationship with God about five years ago. My wife is a convert to Catholicism, and both she and our children entered the church at Easter in 2012. ... Over time, living in a Catholic family and having many close friends who were devout Catholics led me to think more consciously about what Christianity, and Catholicism in particular, meant for me.”

A turning point came in 2015.

“I’m an Irish-language scholar, so I was living in the Irish-speaking area just outside of Galway, where Mass at the local church was conducted entirely in Irish,”

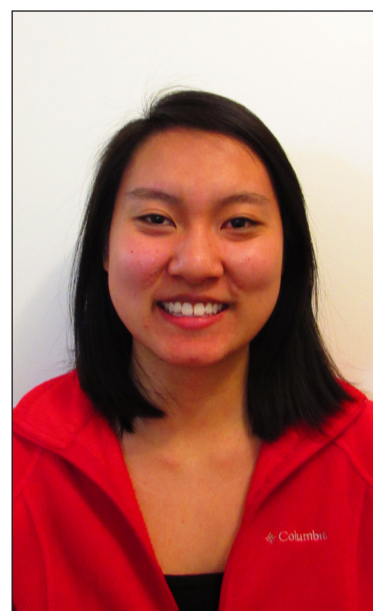
Hamrick remembered. “I

started going to Mass there partly because I was curious to hear it in Irish. But because it was in a foreign language, I really had to listen and think about what I was hearing in order to understand it. I didn’t know any of the prayers and responses, either, so I started memorizing those, just so I wouldn’t look like a complete interloper at this small village church. After a while “both the liturgy and the experience of the Mass itself started to have a profound effect on the way I thought about Catholicism,” Hamrick reflected.

“Eventually, I started going to Mass not because I wanted to hear it in Irish, but because I really wanted to be there. I can’t explain it in rational terms, and I’m not sure that’s even the right way to think about it.”

The beauty and thinking of Catholic theology also appealed to Hamrick. “There’s a comprehensive intellectual framework that answers almost every question. I’m not particularly interested in theology, as such, but it’s been really helpful to be able to turn to the Catechism or the tradition for answers.”

One thing Hamrick loves about the faith is “the way that the passage of time is divided up by the liturgical calendar and how that ties in with particular practices or observances, such as the lighting of additional Advent candles each week dur-



**Adele Zhou is part of the Elect from the Sacred Heart Parish at the University of Notre Dame’s Campus Ministry RCIA program.**

ing Advent. In that way, the whole year is imbued with special meaning,” he described.

“Growing up, the celebration of Christmas was mainly limited to just a couple of days; but for Catholics the Christmas season runs from the first day of Advent through the Baptism

of the Lord, with important holy days in between. I love that, because it allows us to continually reflect on what is sacred about the Christmas season.”

As he prepares for full communion in the church, he is strengthened by an increasing faith in God, as well as his wife’s support and encouragement.

“She went through RCIA five years ago, so she understands and can relate to what I’ve been doing. In addition, encouragement and well wishes from the members of St. Matthew parish have meant a lot to me,” said Hamrick.

A Hoosier originally from downstate, former atheist Adele Zhou found herself becoming a believer, “in a matter of seconds” after something happened during the summer. “I was in my room alone, meditating on my anxiety in starting grad school, and I felt something unexplainable and nonbiological within me. I couldn’t attribute a body part to it. I just knew somehow that it was infinite and it was God. And that was the beginning of everything.”

Zhou is currently a first-year graduate student at the University of Notre Dame in mathematics, and she appreciates efficiency. So when she heard another student remark at an information session at the general graduate school orientation about how the Catholic group was very well organized, it piqued her interest. “Also, more seriously, I figured God brought me to Notre Dame for a reason. So in a way I feel like Catholicism chose me first, and I’ve never questioned my choice to remain on this path.

“Life makes sense to me now because of Catholicism,” she continued. “I was very troubled before Catholicism, because I was being taught all of these values and roles that didn’t make me happy. But God’s word is the truth. Maybe the best way to say it is through the words of C.S. Lewis: “I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”

What troubles her about being Catholic is that now she fervently wishes everyone would accept a relationship with God and His church.

“I feel like I have a dinner table full of food and I see people around me, who I love, starving and I can’t feed them. The world is growing more and more secular; I used to be a part of that world, and I know what it feels like to starve spiritually. It is painful to see others go through it.”

# Servus Omnium: Profit, common good not mutually exclusive

BY PATRICK MURPHY

Sister Helen Alford wants people to think. The Dominican nun and international voice for justice in the work place asked deeply challenging questions from the moment she began to present the Servus Omnium Lecture address at the University of Saint Francis' Robert Goldstone Performing Arts Center in downtown Fort Wayne on Feb. 28.

A professor of economics and ethics at the prestigious Pontifical University in Rome and advisor to the United Kingdom's Blueprint for Better Business, Sister Alford asked those in attendance early on the Tuesday morning:

- What do you want from your job?
- What makes a good product?
- What makes you to get out of bed in the morning?

The answers varied, with audience member citing fulfillment, enrichment and helping others as components of the basis of their professional lives. Sister Alford said their answers indicate that people want more from their jobs than money and security. Those aspirations, she said — as well as demands of the market place — are at the core of Catholic social thought that has evolved over the centuries from its origin in papal encyclicals.

Sister Alford cited Interface Inc., of Atlanta, Ga., and owner Ray Anderson as a highly successful company that has placed CST at the heart of its operations. The company, one of the world's largest manufacturers of modular carpet, makes a quality product, she said, treats

employees justly and respects the environment. "And the company is doing better than ever," she noted.

Interface makes a return on investment while also maintaining good relations with suppliers, using resources wisely, recognizing the needs of the wider society and complying with environmental standards set by the local, state and national agencies, "using CST as a blueprint."

Catholic social thought includes concerns about wages and profits, she continued, "but it includes something more" — a respect for human dignity and service to the common good, a vision of a business as a community of persons. CST encourages leaders to focus on producing goods and services that meet genuine human needs while taking responsibility for the social and environmental costs of production and of the supply chain and distribution chain — all the while serving the common good, and watching for opportunities to serve the poor.

"Work is for man," Sister Alford said, rather than "man for work." Recognizing the human dignity of employees and their right to flourish in their work enables employees to do their best. Catholic social thought includes using resources to create both profit and well-being while providing a just wage for workers, just prices for customers and supplies and just taxes for the community.

During a question-and-answer period, Sister Alford said companies are generally accepting of the principles of Catholic social thought if the concept is presented reasonably and clearly. Business executives are receptive of most ideas that improve their companies, she said.



vorderman-photo.com/University of Saint Francis

**Sister Helen Alford, a Dominican nun, former business executive and member of the Ethical Leadership International Program social sciences faculty at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, speaks with Dr. Lance Richey, left, and Dr. Andrew Prall following the annual Servus Omnium lecture at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne Feb. 28.**

The audience, meanwhile, was receptive to Sister Alford's message. There was sustained applause at several points, and individuals stayed after the presentation to ask questions and solicit her insight.

"Her talk was interesting," said Fred Nash, who works at Bowmar, an aviation components company, "and very deep." Another member of the

audience, Kathleen Fogarty, said the presentation was "thought-provoking."

The event was a great success, said Dr. Lance Richey, dean of the USF School of Liberal Arts and Science and spokesperson for the series. Sister Alford spoke a Dominican, Sister Alford explained, "I felt that was what God was calling me to do."

The day before her presenta-

tion to local business leaders, Sister Alford spoke with USF students during class and at a private luncheon. "Students commented on the relevance of her studies to their own careers," Richey said, "They thought she raised questions that matter to them personally and also are important for businesses and governments to address in the future."

## At business breakfast, Bishop Rhoades calls for prayer for the persecuted

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades addressed a full room at the monthly Catholic Business Network breakfast March 3, held in Cathedral Center at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

The morning started with Mass in the Guerin Chapel and followed with networking, fellowship, camaraderie and an important message from Bishop Rhoades. His comments pertained to how Catholics should be aware of religious persecution abroad, and he called on the faithful to pray for their cause.

Before getting into the specifics, he opened with a report on the state of vocations to the priesthood in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Two seminarians will be ordained into the priesthood this June and five will be ordained to the transitional diaconate.

"We're doing well, and that's (due to) your prayers," he said.

While the number of vocations is encouraging, he said they pose a "happy problem" for the diocesan budget. Traditionally a collection on Pentecost is offered up for seminarian education.

Following these remarks, Bishop Rhoades explained that Pope Francis has dedicated the month of March for prayer and penance for persecuted Christians. There's no shortage of need for those prayers, as he outlined the dire situation many Christians are facing in the Middle East and worldwide.

"Seventy-five percent of the world lives in countries where there are high restrictions on religious freedom by the government," he said. "Millions have been displaced fleeing violence by extremist (groups)."

He cited a report from the United Nations, which claimed

that 65 million were forcibly displaced by persecution in 2015. Those families are seeking asylum in other countries or living in refugee camps in their native lands, which creates a host of other issues.

Persecution is only part of the picture, he went on to explain. In its most recent annual report, the organization Aid to the Church in Need listed 38 countries with religious freedom violations, which the bishop called a "fundamental breach of human rights."

The report also sheds light on discrimination based on religion. This includes restrictions on access to jobs, holding public office, media and education posed by the state, he said. Turkey, Iran, Laos, Vietnam and Algeria are among the countries with such practices in place. The report listed 23 countries that have been known to impose persecution. Interestingly, the oppo-

sition is not the government, he said. Instead, it's "virulent and extremist forms of Islam."

Fortunately there is a growing awareness of these atrocities, and the U.S. bishops have taken action. The bishop cited Catholic Relief Services, the Knights of Columbus and church collections, which all help fund emergency relief in affected countries.

What makes CRS different than other humanitarian organizations, he said, is the fact that they partner with local people, churches, religious orders and dioceses to meet the needs of the people there. He called this a "real strength" and is confident in the sustainability of the work.

But there is plenty of work left to be done — and such organizations depend on the support of laity. But where to begin? The bishop suggested starting with prayer. "The number thing I hear from persecuted people is 'Please, don't forget us. Pray for us,'" he

said. "Solidarity is so important."

Equally as important is being informed and spreading the word about the realities of religious persecution. He suggested supporting organizations that provide relief, such as CRS, Knights of Columbus and Aid to the Church in Need.

In closing, Bishop Rhoades quoted St. Edith Stein, who said

**An audio file of Bishop Rhoades' talk is available with this story online at [www.todayscatholicnews.org](http://www.todayscatholicnews.org).**

"The star of Bethlehem shines in the night of sin." Even though we are living in dark times, faith will prevail.

Following his remarks, the bishop answered a few questions from attendees pertaining to topics including slavery in Muslim countries and the status of religious freedom in China.

# Notre Dame's 'organ for the ages' in full voice

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

It took four years to craft and almost four months to install and tune, so expectations were high. Still, the brand-new Murdy Family Organ in Notre Dame's Sacred Heart Basilica is surprising worshippers and musicians alike with its versatility and the beautiful sounds it makes. With 70 stops and over 5000 pipes, this is "an organ for the ages" that "will outlive us all," according to master builder Bruce Shull.

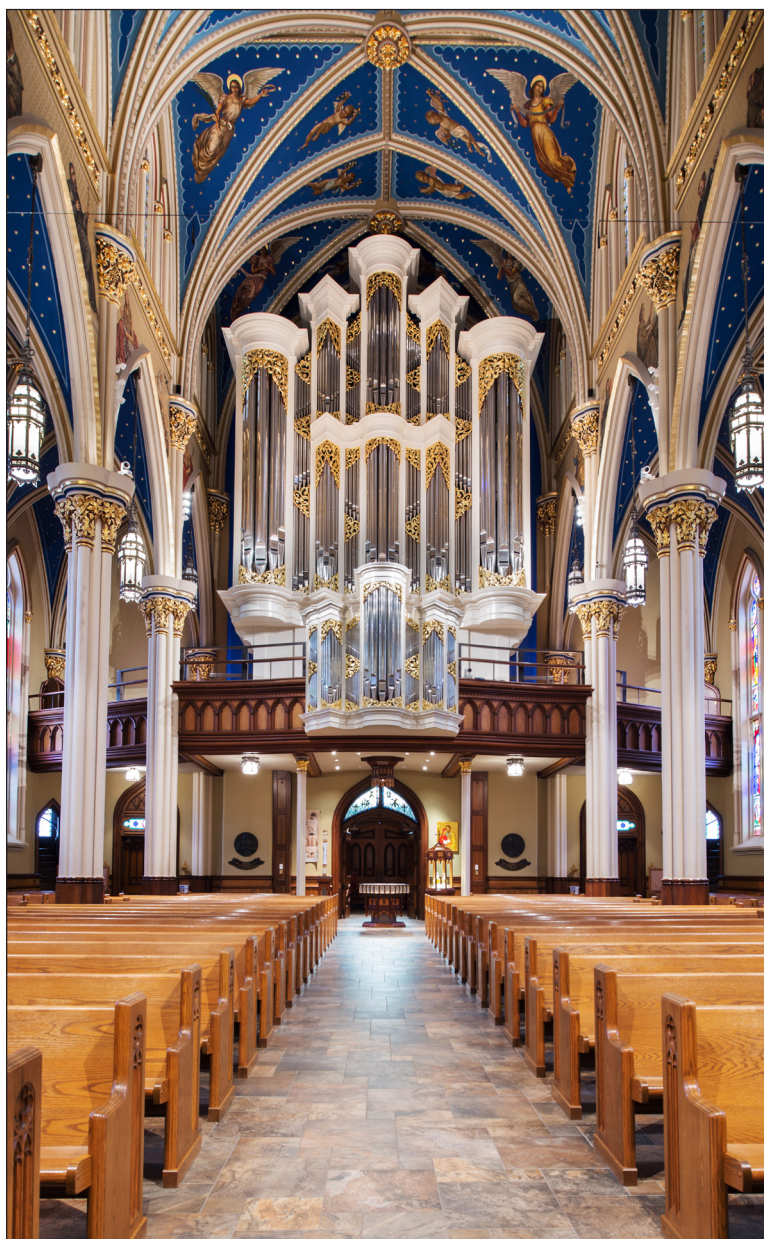
The new organ was dedicated on Jan. 20, the feast of Blessed Basil Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross. It is the fifth pipe organ to accompany worship at Sacred Heart since the 1850s, each one bigger and better. Paul Fritts and Company Organ Builders of Tacoma, Wash., were charged with creating an organ of "rare beauty, coherence and depth." Choir director Karen Kirner calls the result "fantastic" and "stunning."

Gail Walton, long-time organist and liturgical choir director at the basilica, died in 2010. She is credited with the vision for a new organ. The Holtkamp Organ, installed in 1978, had become increasingly inadequate. Andrew McShane, director of music, explained that the organ at Sacred Heart gets much more use than a parish organ, which may be played once a day or

even once a week. Long the only recital-quality organ on campus, it was used for concerts as well as liturgies, besides all the necessary practice time. Eventually, McShane said, the sound of the organ could barely reach the sanctuary, let alone the Lady Chapel behind the main altar. "The basilica has simply outgrown the Holtkamp organ and there was a need for a larger, better functioning organ to occupy the space and sustain the basilica for years to come."

The new organ was made possible by a generous gift from Diana and Wayne Murdy of Colorado, whose children and grandchildren attended Notre Dame. The Murdys, who also endowed an engineering chair, claim no musical expertise. But they are good friends of basilica rector Father Peter Rocca, CSC, and they love the sound of the new organ.

In eighth grade, Fritts wanted to write a paper about becoming an organ builder. His workshop makes its own pipes, adopting European techniques like casting the metal on a smooth layer of silica sand and peanut oil several inches thick, rather than on cloth. The shop has crafted two previous pipe organs for the University, one in Reyes Organ and Choral Hall at DeBartolo Performing Arts Center and the other in the Gail Walton choir rehearsal room in the campus ministry building.



Provided by Barbara Johnston, University of Notre Dame

**The new Murdy Family Organ, with its more than 5,000 meticulously crafted pipes, is displayed in its environment, in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. It was installed last summer and dedicated in January.**

Preparation had to take place at Notre Dame as well as in Tacoma. Because the new organ is 9-1/2 tons heavier than the old one, steel-ribbed piers and concrete were used to reinforce the 145-year-old building. Changes were also made to the flooring in the basilica to improve the acoustics, and climate control was another important consideration.

The Holtkamp Organ's unique three-keyboard console, whose keys all have a natural-wood finish, will be on display in the basilica museum. Sadly, there is no market for its case and internal works, but its 2,929 pipes have been donated for the new church at St. Pius X in Granger. There, organ builder Aaron Bogue is combining them with parts from the parish's own old organ. He estimates that the Holtkamp pipes are worth \$300,000 to \$400,000.

After the organ was delivered on July 31, the Fritts team spent months assembling it piece by piece, tuning each pipe and voicing the organ to sound right in this unique space. They had to work off hours, putting their tools away when the basilica was being used for weddings and liturgies.

Now that the work has been completed, students in Notre Dame's increasingly competitive undergraduate and graduate organ programs "will be able to explore and perform the breadth and depth of the organ literature of the last 400 years," according to organist Craig Cramer. The two larger Fritts organs on campus "will be the best teachers these students ever have."

# Trump visits Catholic school in Florida to show school choice support

BY JEAN GONZALEZ

ORLANDO, Fla. (CNS) — President Donald Trump visited St. Andrew Catholic School in Orlando March 3 to show his support for school choice.

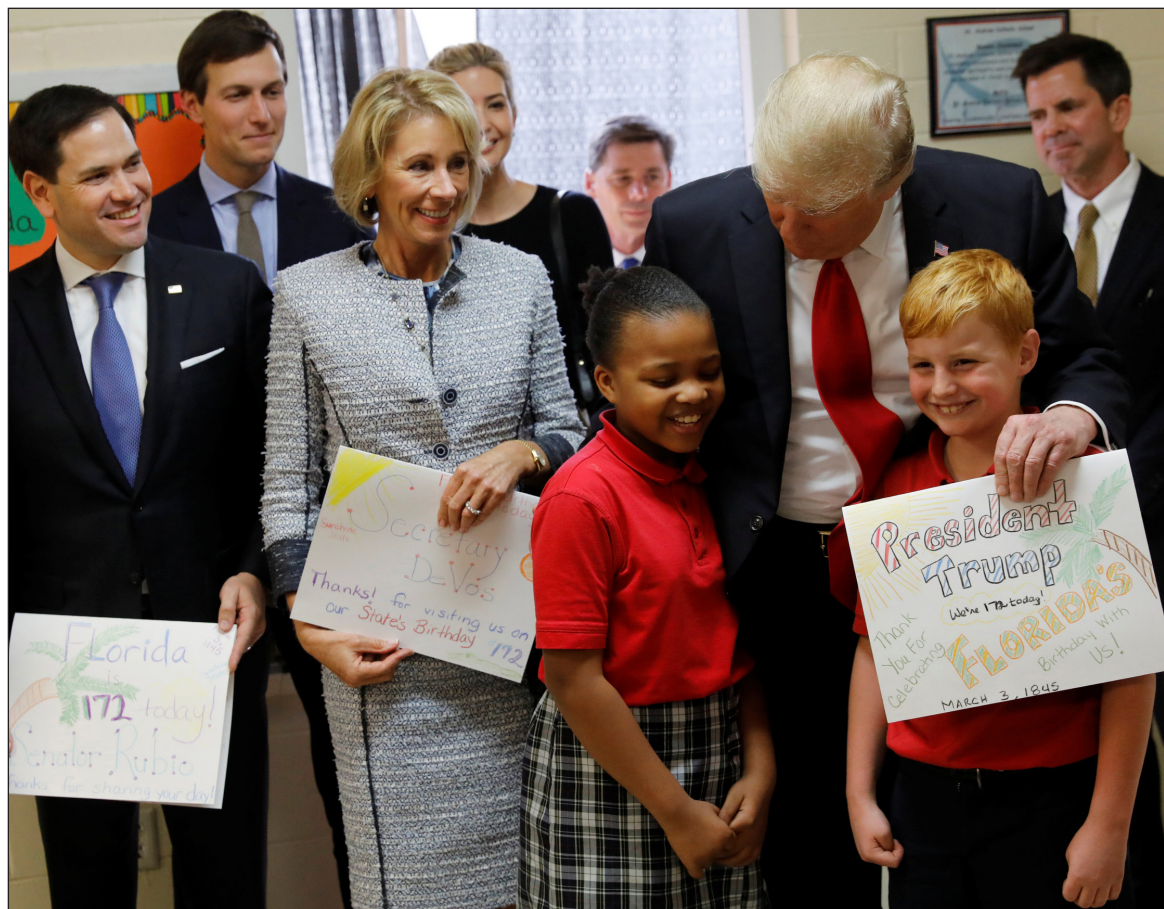
The president was joined by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Florida, and Florida Gov. Rick Scott in a tour of the school that started with a visit to a fourth-grade class.

The visit, which was private, was dubbed as a listening session.

One of the tour guests was Denisha Merriweather, who attended a private high school through Florida's voucher program, which she credits with turning her life around.

"We want millions more to have the same chance to achieve the great success that you're achieving," Trump said. The president also told school administrators that "the love you have for what you do is really fantastic." The Associated Press reported.

In his address to Congress Feb. 28, Trump said that education was the "civil rights issue of our time" and urged Congress to pass



CNS photo/Jonathan Ernst, Reuters

**U.S. President Donald Trump chats with students from St. Andrew Catholic School in Orlando, Fla., March 3. U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., and U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos also joined the president.**

legislation to fund school choice for disadvantaged young people, but he did not offer any details.

St. Andrew Catholic School, which opened in 1962, teaches 350 children from pre-K to eighth grade. On its website it says: "Our goals are simple: college and heaven."

The school partners with the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education, or ACE, which serves under-resourced Catholic schools.

A March 3 statement from ACE said the president's visit gave the St. Andrew's students "a historic opportunity to share their story with the nation."

"We are acutely aware that the current political climate is among the most polarized in American history," the statement said. "These divisions have real implications for relationships here in the St. Andrew community."

It also stressed that "every family has the right to choose the best school for their child" and that "because of the parental choice program in Florida, this school will continue to empower families, form faithful citizens, strengthen the Pine Hills community, and provide children with educational opportunities."

## The legacy of a special child

On Sept. 7, 2010, a baby boy was born in a hospital in Missouri. His mother named him Simon and proclaimed "he was absolutely perfect to our family." This was despite the fact that Simon was born with congenital heart defects and a cleft lip. A few days later Simon was diagnosed with an uncommon genetic defect called trisomy 18. At this particular time, Mom and Dad did not understand all the ramifications of trisomy 18. What they did know is that God had given them a special child that they loved dearly, and they were completely dedicated to providing the care that their son needed.

It turned out Simon was a lot sicker than they had first realized. He had to remain on oxygen at all times. Because he could not suck effectively, he was fed via a small tube going through one nostril down into his stomach. After the diagnosis of trisomy 18 was officially made, Simon's parents began to notice the doctors were less attentive to his care and tried to minimize communication with them. One day when Simon's mom was at lunch, she returned to find that one of the doctors had deliberately removed his heart monitor. There was an awful moment when she thought her son was actually dead, since there were no heartbeats coming from the bedside monitor.

Simon's clinical course was one of gradual deterioration, until one day his oxygen saturations fell dangerously low. They were told by the nursing staff

that nothing could be done. There was no effort to resuscitate Simon as he was taken into God's hands.

Months later, Simon's parents obtained and reviewed his medical records from the hospital stay. They found an order in the chart that stated Simon was a DNR — do-not-resuscitate. The attending physician had made this decision unilaterally. This particular hospital in Missouri had what is called a "Futility Policy" in place, which means that if a physician believes aggressive care of a given patient should not continue (because in his opinion it is futile) this order can be written without necessarily discussing it with the parents.

Simon's parents were devastated when they found out that care had been withheld from their child. During further review of the records they discovered that their son's feedings were only comfort care and he was not getting enough nutrition to sustain growth and life. Finally, on the day he died, a doctor had ordered Ativan, a sedative that suppresses breathing and could have contributed to his death.

Simon's mom subsequently went on a crusade to pass legislation in Missouri to prevent doctors from ever again limiting medical care without the parent's permission. During testimony in front of the state's legislature, Simon's mom said this: "You see, it was a battle we fought to defend our son's life and dignity. Not only were Simon's rights violated, but also our parental rights were taken away. When

## THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

DR. DAVID KAMINSKAS

our son, Simon was a living, breathing human being, who brought incredible joy to his family; and he experienced love and joy from us ... did he not deserve the right to live?"

Simon's Law, as it is coined, has two basic components. First it ensures a health care facility inform patients and family if they have a futility policy. Second, a do-not-resuscitate order cannot be validated without the parents or legal guardian's permission.

I did some research on babies with the diagnosis of trisomy 18 for a better understanding of the overall prognosis. It is a complex disease with an overall poor prognosis, but death soon after birth is not a fait accompli. With aggressive medical treatment, one study reported a 1-year survival of 25 percent. Further research on the subject led me to a journal where many doctors get up-to-date information on many of the diseases they treat. It said this when discussing Trisomy 18: "A noninterventional paradigm of withdrawal of intensive treatment has been recommended for trisomy 18 ... although acceptance of this para-

DOCTOR, page 17

## Working to end AIDS in Africa

Each week of Lent, this reflection series will provide ways to incorporate global solidarity and the struggles of our brothers and sisters throughout the world into your Lenten journey.

### Nation Focus: Zambia

**Catholic social teaching principle:** Dignity of the human person

**Question:** What role can we play in ensuring all of God's family has access to healthy food?

**Scripture quote:** "If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him? Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." — 1 John 3:17-18

**Prayer intention:** For mothers, grandmothers and all women who work to provide nutritious food for their children

**Almsgiving challenge:** Give \$.25 to your CRS Rice Bowl for every new person you meet this week.

This week we hear about Catholic Relief Services' work in Zambia. Zambia is a landlocked nation in Southeast Africa. While Zambia remains a peaceful country, it continues to suffer from the AIDS epidemic that has claimed the lives of so many and left so many young people orphaned across the African continent and indeed the world. In Around 74 percent of the people

## CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES: RICE BOWL

MELISSA WHEELER

there live below the poverty line. Many families in Zambia are subsistence farmers. When the "hungry season" comes, many families go hungry hoping for at least one meal per day.

Catholic Relief Services works in Zambian communities for sustainable agricultural methods to help during this hungry time. Also, through an initiative called Savings and Internal Lending Communities, CRS Zambia helps families become more self-reliant through savings. There is also continued work to provide health care for those living with HIV and AIDS in Zambia.

This week we meet Evelina Banda, a young woman in Zambia who is working to provide nutritious food for her family. Traditionally, families have eaten a porridge-type food called *nshima*, to feed their families. *Nshima* does not hold much nutritional value. Banda and other women are learning how to prepare healthier meals and grow different crops to contribute to the health of their communities. These women also take time

CRS, page 17

## When the Lord calls, do we respond in faith?



### THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### Second Sunday of Lent Matthew 17:1-9

The Book of Genesis is the source of this weekend's first biblical reading. As its name implies, Genesis reveals the divine origin of life and the divine plan in the forming of the Hebrew race.

First and foremost, Genesis is a splendidly vivid revelation of God's majesty and power, but also of the dignity of humanity and purpose of life. It is a great pity that this marvelous book has been so tortured and misconstrued by well-meaning but uninformed readers over the years. The message of Genesis is not about the details of how creation occurred.

This weekend's reading is

about Abraham. Considered by scholars to have been an actual person and not a myth, Abraham is regarded as the father of the Jewish people.

The reading makes several points, including that God is active in human affairs; and that God communicates with humans, and they with God.

Abraham has very strong faith. God rewards this faith by pledging that Abraham's descendants, until the end of time, will be God's special people. It is not a dignity conferred without obligation. Descendants of Abraham must be loyal to God and, by their lives of faith, reveal God to the world.

For its second reading, this weekend's liturgy presents a passage from the Second Epistle to Timothy.

Timothy was a disciple of Paul. The church venerates Timothy as a great saint, very important in the formation of Christianity. According to the New Testament, Timothy was the son of a pagan father and a devout Jewish mother. He was Paul's secretary at one point and once was imprisoned with Paul,

although eventually released. Tradition is that Timothy was the first bishop of Ephesus, then a major city. Its present ruins lie on the Mediterranean coast of modern Turkey.

This reading encourages Timothy to be strong in his Christian belief despite difficulties and obstacles.

St. Matthew's Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is the story of the Transfiguration, ablaze with symbols of God with which any Jew instantly would have been familiar, as these images appear throughout the Hebrew Scriptures. In these Scriptures, brilliant light, mountaintops and pure white all symbolized God. Finally, surrounding Jesus were Moses and Elijah, the great heroes of the Hebrew religious tradition.

This scene utterly contrasts with that of Calvary. Instead of shimmering clothes, Jesus is crucified after being stripped of his garments. Instead of glowing clouds and brilliant light, gloom and darkness surround the cross.

### Reflection

Lent is little more than one week along, and already the church is encouraging us and reinforcing our faith, just as Jesus strengthened the faith of the Apostles who stood trembling and in dismay before the divine sight manifested on the mountain.

The message is clear. Jesus is God, active and present among us.

To be personally saved, however, we must believe, and in our belief we must commit our very lives to Christ. So, Abraham is critically a part of this weekend's lesson as an example.

Nowhere in these readings is any account of the crucifixion, no reference to Calvary. Nevertheless, the event of the Lord's death on the cross is essential to understanding fully this weekend's message.

Calvary represents the world. It was for a moment, seemingly, the triumph of earthly power and human sin over good. Certainly the enemies of Jesus saw the crucifixion as their victory. Jesus died, but then came the wonder of Easter.

Every human being can be tricked into assuming that earthly things, or earthly satisfaction, will bring them reward. Instead of reward, sinning brings death. All around it is gloom and darkness.

So, the church counsels, have faith, see beyond the gloom, rejoice in the light of Jesus. Remember the Transfiguration and remember Abraham, our model of absolute faith. Remember the true reward in life.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Gn 12:1-4a Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22 2 Tm 1:8b-10 Mt 17:1-9

**Monday:** Dn 9:4b-10 Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13 Lk 6:36-38

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

**Wednesday:** Jer 18:19-20 Ps 31:5-6, 14-16 Mt 20:17-28

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

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

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



# A Lent to remember

The best Lent of my life involved getting up every day at 5:30 a.m., hiking for miles through ankle-twisting, cobblestoned city streets, dodging drivers for whom traffic laws were traffic suggestions, avoiding the chaos of transit strikes and other civic disturbances and battling bureaucracies civil and ecclesiastical — all while 3,500 miles from home sweet home.

Lent 2011, which I spent in Rome working on “Roman Pilgrimage: The Station Churches,” did have its compensations. Each day I discovered new architectural and artistic marvels, brilliantly explained by my colleague Elizabeth Lev. Each day I watched with pride as my son Stephen pulled off one photographic coup after another, artfully crafting pictures that would get our future readers “inside” the experience of the Lenten station church pilgrimage in Rome. Each day, I had the opportunity to dig more deeply than I’d ever done before into the biblical

and patristic readings for the Mass and Divine Office of the day.

Then there was the fun: freshly baked, sugar-crusted *ciambelle* from the Roman Jewish quarter after the station Mass at Cardinal Newman’s titular church; the first stir-fry dinner

ever concocted in the Vatican apartment where Pope Julius II asked Michelangelo when he would finish the Sistine Chapel ceiling; rating the post-station church coffee bars for relative quality of cappuccino, *cornetti*, and restrooms; singing all nine rowdy verses of “Maryland, My Maryland” at a March 25 Maryland Day dinner; meeting the newly elected Major-Archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Sviatoslav Shevchuk, who would become a friend; cringing when my former stu-

dent, Father Matthew Monnig, SJ, scolded me about “not going crit” — i.e., academic-skeptical — when I made some comment or other about a particularly implausible legend about a particularly obscure saint; Liz Lev’s incomparable rolled stuffed veal, plus the first wine in 40-some days, at an Easter Sunday *pranzone* for the ages.

That Roman Lent also taught me a lot about the vitality of the Church in the United States and the effects of that vitality on other Anglophones. While the tradition of pilgrimage to a “station church” in Rome for each day of Lent goes back to the mid-first-millennium, the tradition had lain fallow for some time before it was revived by North American College students in the mid-1970s. By the mid-1990s, when I first encountered it, the entire American seminary community was participating. By 2011, that daily Mass community had grown to over 300 (and sometimes over 400) souls, as students from the Roman campuses of American universi-

ties, English, Scottish, and Irish seminarians from their national colleges, and English-speaking ambassadors accredited to the Vatican became regulars.

That Anglophone liturgical and spiritual fervor was not replicated, alas, by the Vicariate of Rome, which also sponsored a daily “station” Mass at the church of the day. On the Friday after Ash Wednesday, 2011, Stephen and I hiked back up the Caelian Hill to the Basilica of Sts. John and Paul to complete the photography Stephen had begun at the 7 a.m. English-language station Mass that morning. We got our work done just before the Vicariate Mass started in the early evening, and saw a half-dozen concelebrants and

Simon’s mom, Sheryl Crosier, to get updated on her efforts to get Simon’s Law passed in as many states as possible. It turns out that in 2014 a committee chairman blocked the law from proceeding to the Missouri state legislature, and therefore it never had a chance to pass. She has a champion that she is working with in the Missouri legislature, and is hopeful it will eventually get passed. In 2016, Kansas passed Simon’s Law in the senate, 37-3; but ran out of time to vote on it in the House. They are starting over in this year’s legis-



## THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

perhaps fifteen elderly people enter the basilica for the station Mass of the day sponsored by the pope’s diocese — a sharp contrast to the 250-300 Anglophones who were there as the sun was rising. The day before, at St. Giorgio in Velabro, the same number of English-speakers had to scurry out of the basilica at 7:30 p.m. sharp to accommodate the half-dozen German priests celebrating their station Mass: beautifully chanted, but concelebrants-without-a-congregation.

For those who will be in Rome this Lent, there’s no better way to enter into the pilgrim character of the season than to participate in the 7 a.m. station Mass led by the priest and students of the North American College. If you’re unable to travel to the Eternal City but would like to make the Roman station church pilgrimage from a distance, there’s “Roman Pilgrimage: The Station Churches.” I’d especially recommend the eBook edition, in which all the photos are in color and a zoom feature allows you to study closely numerous masterpieces of fresco and mosaic. A foretaste of what’s available pictorially in “Roman Pilgrimage” can be glimpsed on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQa1QwNZ5Yw>.

*Buona Quaresima!*

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

lative session.

Sheryl Crosier wrote a book in 2012, called “I am not a Syndrome — My Name is Simon”. To read more about Simon’s life and Sheryl’s efforts to prevent future violation of parental rights, visit [www.simonismyname.com](http://www.simonismyname.com).

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

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for March 5, 2017

Matthew 4:1-11

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Lent, Cycle A: the time after Jesus fasted for 40 days. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

BY THE SPIRIT	TEMPTED	DEVIL
FORTY DAYS	TEMPTER	THESE STONES
BREAD	IT IS WRITTEN	NOT LIVE
ALONE	EVERY WORD	MOUTH
HOLY CITY	TEMPLE	ANGELS
DASH	A STONE	TEST
WORSHIP ME	SATAN	SERVE

### AFTER FORTY DAYS

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

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Photo by Jim Stipe/Catholic Relief Services

Evelina Banda, 35 years old, is pictured with her son, Steven, 16 months, in Ndombi Village, Zambia. Banda is learning about nutrition and hygiene by participating in the Catholic Relief Services Food and Nutrition Security Enhanced Resilience project, implemented by Caritas Chipata in Eastern Zambia.

## CRS

Continued from Page 16

to build a sisterhood of support with one another, which helps to strengthen their community.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic that has affected Zambia has been a threat to the dignity of humanity. Those who are suffering need to be able to have access to basic health care and social services to realize their dignity and to contribute to their communities. CRS finds inspiration in this work through the life of St. Damien De

Veuster of Molokai who has been called the unofficial patron saint for people living with HIV/AIDS. St. Damien De Veuster bravely made it his life’s work to live among and pastor those with leprosy. He provided basic medical care, organized schools and farms, dug graves and restored dignity to those suffering with leprosy. He eventually contracted leprosy himself and died from the disease. May his life and ministry continue to inspire all those working with marginalized people throughout the world.

Melissa Wheeler is the diocesan director for Catholic Relief Services.

## DOCTOR

Continued from Page 16

dig in not universal.”

Nor should it be! The world, as well as this country, continue to head in the direction of a “culture of death”. Parents have every right and obligation to make prayerful and sound decisions about their minor child’s medical care.

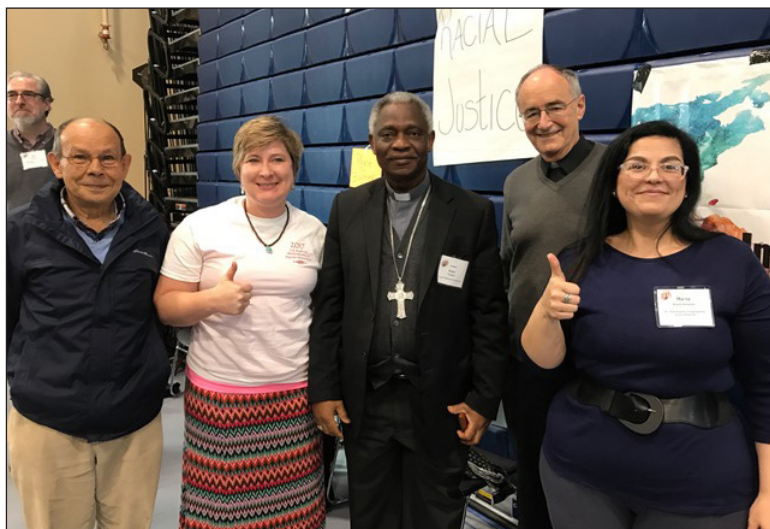
I have very recently had the opportunity to talk with

# Diocese participates in gathering of faith, social justice leaders

BY JODI MARLIN

Local faith leaders participated in the first U.S. convening of the World Meeting of Popular Movements Feb. 16-19. Representatives of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend traveled to Modesto, Calif., to participate in the historic gathering of faith and social justice movement leaders organized by the Vatican's department for Integral Human Development, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and PICO National Network, the largest network of faith-based organizing groups in the nation. The event brought together hundreds of people from various cultures and communities from across the world.

As a pastor of a bilingual, urban parish, Father Kevin Bauman of Our Lady of Hungary



Provided by Audrey Davis

**Pictured here are delegates to the World Meeting of Popular Movements. From left are George Del Corral, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne; Audrey Davis, Social Justice Ministries, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend; and Maria Nevarez, St. Patrick Parish, South Bend; alongside Cardinal Peter Turkson, Prefect for the Vatican Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development; and Father Michael Czerny, SJ, Undersecretary of the Vatican's Section for Migrants and Refugees.**

Church in South Bend went to the meeting to learn how to empower and protect the families of his community to live into their fullest dignity in the years ahead — and also shepherd the moral conscience of the broader faith community," he said.

The Modesto meeting was the first U.S. regional convening organized in conjunction with three international meetings that took place in Rome in October 2014 and November 2016, and in Bolivia in July 2015. The purpose of each was for grassroots groups to push for workers' rights, housing and environmental justice, as well as deepen relationships among these organizations and the faith community.

Audrey Davis, coordinator of social justice ministries for the diocese, found the most profound calls to action and highlights from the Modesto gathering to be Pope Francis' opening

letter, and an address given by Cardinal Joseph Tobin of the Diocese of Newark, N.J. Father John Korecsmar, CSC, agreed.

"Gaudium et Spes" begins, "The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ." It is important for us as individual Catholics and as Church to respond to the specific situation of each time and place. The World Meeting of Popular Movements provided a clear description of the context of our ministries and response to the needs of people today.

"Cardinal Tobin reminded us of what Pope Francis calls the "economy of exclusion," he continued. "There are many vulnerable people who suffer great need and who must be cared for and protected. We need the light of the Gospel and its values to see our way through these dark times of fear and exclusion."

Participant George Del Corral was inspired to see so many people responding to the issues of migration, racism, unemployment, and lack of housing, and by "hearing so many profound and heart wrenching words that dig deep into our core being." ... All of this is itself impressive, and gave me a sense of the surreal and of the importance of words and actions when they go together.

"For us from Northeast Indiana, we came to see what we could learn to take our fledgling efforts a step further and to build relationships with other organizations... what most inspired me was the great level of leadership that can be achieved in our families, churches and dioceses."

Attendee Theresa Driscoll, a longtime director of religious education in the diocese and a Catholic publishing professional, thought the conference was by far the most intensive and challenging experience she had ever had.

"While I became much more aware of the depth of the problems our world is facing, I was also filled in a new way with hope and the conviction that there is much that can be done to address these issues on whatever level a person might want to start. Once we break through the walls of indifference that can so easily separate us from others, it's a small step to become aware of what needs to be changed," she said. "While the way forward demands critical examination of the problem, the possibilities for action are almost limitless. If our heart is moved by compassion and the desire to make a difference, God's Spirit can take even our smallest efforts and create something good. The people I met at this conference are living proof of it."

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

**Trivia night**

**GOSHEN** — St. John the Evangelist Parish, 109 W. Monroe St. will have a trivia night Saturday, March 18, from 6-9:30 p.m. Ten rounds of trivia begin at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. for "table-gating." This is an adult-only event so adult beverages are welcome. Cost is \$80 per table (\$10 per person). "Mulligans" may be purchased for \$1 a mulligan, maximum ten per team. To register in advance call the St. John's Parish office at 574-533-3385. Proceeds will benefit the St. John welcoming committee.

**Volleyball team to raise funds**

**FORT WAYNE** — Bishop Luers volleyball will collaborate with Wings, Etc. at the 6247 Bluffton Rd. location on March 15 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Wings, Etc. will donate 15 percent of all pre-tax food and soft drink sales to the Bishop Luers High School volleyball team. Download the Wings Etc., Dine-to-Donate Coupon at [bishopluers.org](http://bishopluers.org).

**Corpus Christi plans Jonah fish fry**

**SOUTH BEND** — Corpus Christi Parish will have a fish fry from 4-7 p.m. on Friday, March 10, in the school gym., 2817 Corpus Christi Dr. Tickets are \$9 by March 9 at the parish office, \$10 at the door. Children tickets are \$4, children under 6 free.

**Lenten Fish Fry,**

**FORT WAYNE** — A Lenten fish fry will be Friday March 17, from

4:30-7:30 p.m. in the Our Lady of Good Hope School gym, 7215 St. Joe Rd., sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Carryout will be available. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$5 for children 6 thru 10 and children 5 and under eat free.

**Fish fry on the menu**

**FORT WAYNE** — Queen of Angels Parish will have a fish fry with Burns Fish, on St. Patrick's Day, Friday, March 17, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the activities center, 1500 West State Blvd. Dine in or carryout available for adults at \$10, children 6-10 at \$4, and children 5 and under are free.

**St. Patrick's Day concert**

**LAGRO** — Historic St. Patrick Church, 950 Main St., will host the Wabash Community Band in concert Sunday, March 19, at 2 p.m. The traditional Mass will be celebrated Friday, March 17, at 5:30 p.m.

**Catholic Near East Welfare Association to speak at St. Jude Parish**

**SOUTH BEND** — Christopher Kennedy and Norma Intriago of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association will be speaking at St. Jude Church, 19704 Johnson Road, on Monday, March 13, about their work and the issues faced by Christians in the Middle East. Refreshments will be provided. Contact the parish at 574-291-0570, ext. 308 for information.

**Lenten lecture series set to begin**

**NOTRE DAME** — Holy Cross Village will host a Lenten lecture series every Wednesday in March at 7 p.m. at Andre Place, 54515 St. Rd. 933 North. Visit [www.holycrossvillage.com](http://www.holycrossvillage.com) for speaker listings and more information.

**Stations of the cross and Archbishop Sheen videos planned**

**FORT WAYNE** — Lenten stations of the Cross and video presentations by Archbishop Fulton Sheen will be held at Queen of Angels Parish, during the Lenten season every Friday at 7 p.m. in the church, 1500 W. State Blvd. Archbishop Sheen touched the lives of millions worldwide and had the gift of preaching and teaching the Gospel in a way that was easy to understand.

**Spring Theology on Tap event for Fort Wayne area**

**FORT WAYNE** — A trivia night is planned for young adults on Thursday, March 16, at Calhoun Street Soups, Salads and Spirits, 1915 S. Calhoun St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., trivia begins at 7 p.m. No registration required.

## REST IN PEACE

**Auburn**

Bonnie Waffle, 79, Immaculate Conception

Craig Kaufman, 61, Immaculate Conception

Barbara DeLong, 81, Immaculate Conception

Mildred Lemper, 93, Immaculate Conception

**Bremen**

Janet M. Lakner, 80, St. Dominic

**Decatur**

Thomas A. Staub, 69, St. Mary of the Assumption

**Elkhart**

Frances DeBoni, 92, St. Vincent de Paul

**Fort Wayne**

Marcella M. Eminger, 101, St. Therese

Mark A. Girgash, 65, Most Precious Blood

William E. Gibson, 67, St. Vincent de Paul

Paul Joseph Haughan, 86, Most Precious Blood

Joan M., Robel, 86, St. Vincent de Paul

**Huntington**

Joanne L. Pyle, 84, St. Mary

**LaGrange**

Gary Hays Myers, 73, St. Joseph

**New Carlisle**

Edward F. Druzbiak, Jr. 82, St. Stanislaus Kostka

**New Haven**

Michael Wayne Lord, 55, St. John the Baptist

Mary Ann Ginder, St. John the Baptist

**Notre Dame**

Sister Geraldine Liquore, CSC, Our Lady of Lorreto

Dorothy R. Leader, 93, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Mary M. Hickner, 92, St. Paul Chapel

**South Bend**

Frank J. Beriakovich, 92, Our Lady of Hungary

Geraldine L. Cyman, 90, Holy Family

Howard J. Roedel, 95, Corpus Christi

Marisela Flores, 27, St. Casimir

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

### Arcola Fish Fry

**ALL YOU CAN EAT**

Fish Fry at St. Patricks Church March 10, 2017 4:00 - 7:00 pm

fish, potato salad, cole slaw, baked beans, applesauce & dessert. Peanut butter & Jelly sandwiches available for the kids.



Adults: \$10.00  
Seniors (60 plus) \$9  
Child (5-10) \$5  
Children 4 and under: FREE  
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Saint Patrick Catholic Church, 12305 Arcola Road, 46818



## PRINCIPAL OPENING

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL** in New Haven is accepting applications for its principal

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Accepting applications through March 20.

For more information, contact Stephanie Howe in the Catholic Schools Office 260-422-4611 (x3335) | [csopersonnel@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:csopersonnel@diocesefwsb.org)  
Applications available at [diocesefwsb.org/administrative-application](http://diocesefwsb.org/administrative-application)



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# Ground broken for Divine Mercy Funeral Home



Photos by Nate Proulx

Dignitaries of the city of Fort Wayne, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and Catholic Cemetery Association break ground Feb. 28 on Divine Mercy Funeral Home, a funeral provider with a Catholic identity that will be located on the grounds of Catholic Cemetery, 3500 Lake Ave., Fort Wayne. From left are Bruce Buchanan, president of Buchanan Group and Flanner & Buchanan Mortuaries, advisors to the project; Karen Lohergan, Divine Mercy Funeral Home director of pre-planning services; Casey Miller, Catholic Cemetery Association executive director; Bob Jesch, Divine Mercy Funeral Home director; The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend; Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry; Fort Wayne City Council member Tom Didier; and Scott Guerrero, Catholic Cemetery Association director of maintenance. Not pictured is Bill Hoot, president, Catholic Cemetery Association board of directors.

## 'The focus on Divine Mercy will bring consolation'

BY JODI MARLIN

The first Catholic funeral home in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend took a public step toward reality at 10:30 a.m., Feb. 28, with a groundbreaking event and a blessing of the site on which it is to be constructed.

Dignitaries of the diocese and the city of Fort Wayne were present and participated in the ceremony, which took place on the grounds of Catholic Cemetery, 3500 Lake Ave.

Preceding the initial, ceremonial shovelfuls of dirt, the Most

Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, sprinkled holy water on the ground and imparted a Prayer of Blessing on the exercise of a ministry of consolation, "guided by a profound trust in Divine Mercy" that will take place within the finished facility.

He continued by noting that burial of the dead is an important work of mercy.

"The focus on Divine Mercy will bring consolation to those who are grieving, as we entrust the souls of the faithful departed to the mercy of God," the bishop stated previously. "I am hope-

ful that this new ministry of the Catholic Cemetery Association will bear much good fruit in serving the Church's mission of mercy.

"We know the familiar words of the psalm: 'If the Lord does not build a house, in vain do its builders labor.' Let us, therefore, pray for His help through this celebration, that God will bring the construction of this new funeral home to successful completion, and that His protection will keep those who work on it safe from injury," he said Tuesday.

Interest on the part of the Catholic Cemetery Association

Inc. board of directors in creating a Catholic funeral home surfaced a couple of times between 2001 and 2012. In 2015 Executive Director Casey Miller — whose managerial background includes both cemeteries and funeral homes — joined the organization, researched the possibility and approached Bishop Rhoades with a proposal. He was granted permission to move forward on Aug. 12, 2016. "Bishop really had a vision for the project," Miller said.

Divine Mercy Funeral Home will be owned by the diocese and will provide funeral services for Catholics and those of other

faiths, as well as those not planning to be buried in Catholic Cemetery. The interior of the facility will feature a strong Catholic presence in look and feel, however, achieved under the direction of Father Daniel Scheidt.

The facility will house two visitation rooms, each with a personal family room; a crematorium and embalming facility; and the offices of Catholic Cemetery.

Construction of the funeral home began March 1. An open house for the 14,000-square-foot facility is planned for late September or early October.