

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 91 No. 11

50¢

TODAYSCATHOLICNEWS.org

Archdiocese announces beatification date for Oklahoma priest

BY RHINA GUIDOS

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City announced that one its native sons, Father Stanley Rother, a North American priest who worked in Guatemala and was brutally murdered there in 1981, will be beatified Sept. 23 in Oklahoma.

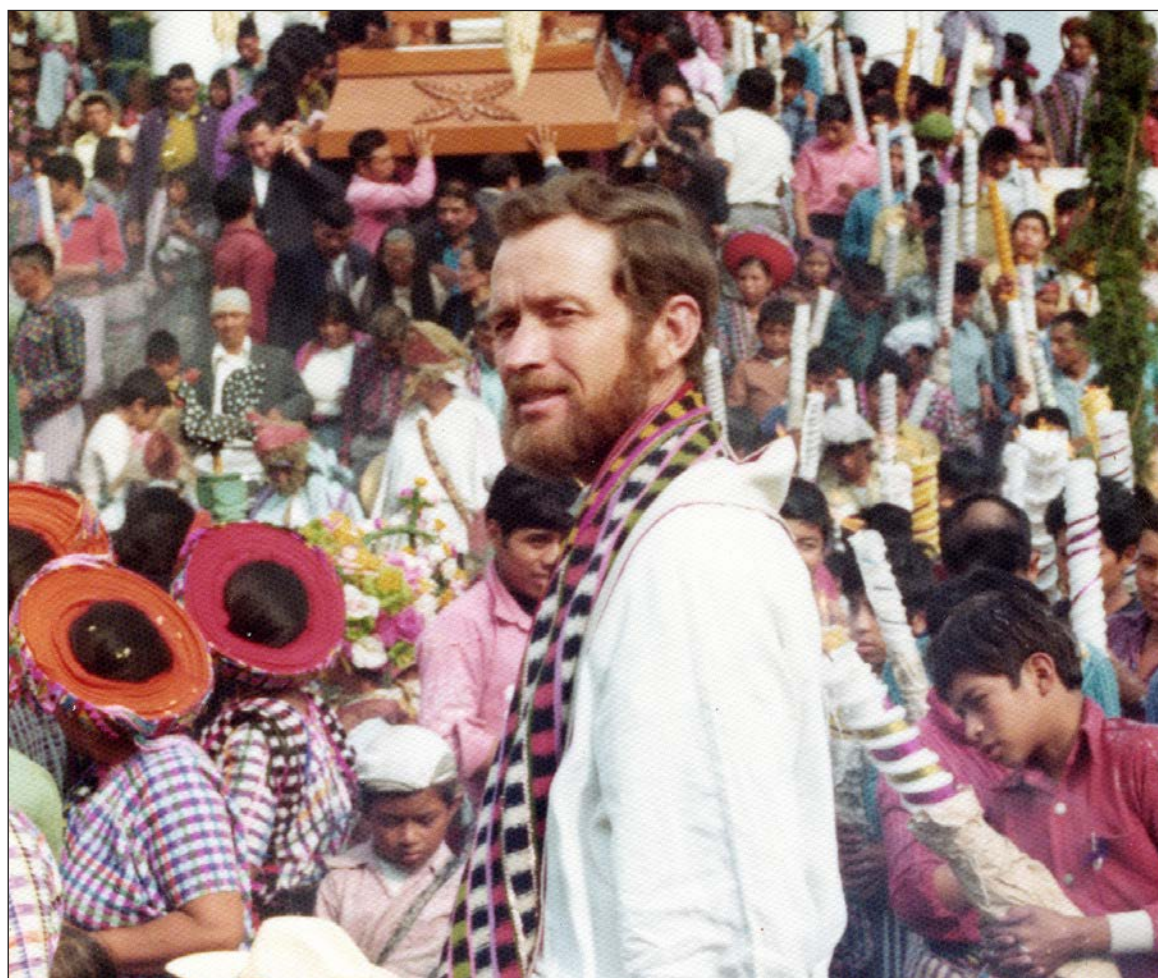
"It's official! Praised be Jesus Christ! Archbishop Coakley received official word this morning from Rome that Servant of God Father Stanley Rother will be beatified in Oklahoma City in September!" the archdiocese announced March 13 on its web-site.

Pope Francis recognized Father Rother's martyrdom last December, making him the first martyr born in the United States.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City also tweeted the news about the priest born near Okarche, Okla., on a family farm: "Just received notification of the date for the beatification of Fr. Stanley Rother, Oklahoma priest, missionary and martyr. September 23!"

In an interview published March 13 by *The Oklahoman* daily newspaper, Archbishop

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Archdiocese of Oklahoma City/CNA

Father Stanley Rother of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City entered the mission field in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala — a country that was suffering, at the time, through a decades-long civil war. In 1981, during that conflict, Father Rother was gunned down in the rectory. He will be beatified Sept. 23 in Oklahoma.

Like water in the desert, Jesus thirsts for us

Do we long for Him?

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Annual collection for Catholic Relief Services



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Next weekend, March 25 and 26, our diocese will be taking up The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC). By participating in this collection, you are responding to Jesus in disguise in some of the most marginalized communities in our world. The CRSC provides services for immigrants, humanitarian aid in the wake of natural disasters, refuge for the displaced, and advocacy for peace and justice around the world. Let us join together in this collection to support those suffering and on the margins of society.

For example, in Niger, changes in climate in western Africa are adversely affecting poor and rural farmers. No matter how hard these farmers work, droughts are shortening the rainy season, leaving harvests too small to support families and communities. Your support of the CRSC is helping connect businesses that provide drought, resistant seeds to these communities. These new relationships are providing hope to these communities for a sustainable future.

Your support of this collection makes a difference for so many around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection this year. If you want to learn more about the collection and the people who benefit, please visit www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Support the collection and answer the knock of Jesus in disguise.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Kevin C. Rhoades

Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Official newspaper of the
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
P.O. Box 11169
Fort Wayne, IN 46856

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Published weekly except second Sunday of January; and every other week from the third Sunday in June through the second Sunday of September; and last Sunday in December by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, 1103 S. Calhoun St., P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, IN 46801. Periodicals postage paid at Fort Wayne, IN, and additional mailing office.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856-1169 or email: gfrank@diocesefwsb.org

MAIN OFFICE: 915 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Telephone (260) 456-2824. Fax: (260) 744-1473.

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News deadline is the Monday morning before publication date. Advertising deadline is nine days before publication date.

Today's Catholic may be reached at:

Today's Catholic,
P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN
46856-1169; or email:
editor@diocesefwsb.org

(ISSN 0891-1533)
(USPS 403630)



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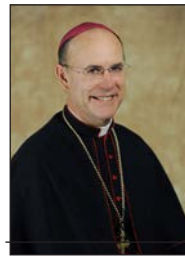
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The woman at the well



**IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY**

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

This Sunday, the Third Sunday of Lent, we will hear in the Gospel the story of the encounter and conversation of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. I invite you to think about the thirst of Jesus and the thirst of the woman in the Gospel, representing also our thirst, the thirst of our souls.

First, let's think about Jesus being thirsty. On the surface, Jesus was naturally thirsty. He had been on a long journey on foot and He sat down beside Jacob's well in the mid-day heat. Jesus asks the woman for a drink of water. It was quite unusual for a Jewish man to speak to a Samaritan and a woman. But our Lord does so with a deeper motive. He is thirsty for water, yes, but He is also thirsty for the salvation of the Samaritan woman. St. Augustine wrote: *Although Jesus asked for a drink, His real thirst was for this woman's faith.*

We see this thirst of Jesus again when He is hanging on the cross. Some of His last words at the crucifixion were: *I thirst.* Yes, Jesus was physically thirsty, but these words have deeper meaning. He is thirsty for our salvation, thirsty for our faith and our love. St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta often meditated on these words of Jesus from the cross. She recognized their deeper meaning. Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity. In every convent of the sisters throughout the world, the words "I thirst" are displayed beneath an arm of the crucifix.

Mother Teresa wanted the sisters to meditate on these words, to realize that Jesus is thirsting for our love, our affection, our intimate attachment to Him, and our sharing of His passion. God is thirsting for us to come forward to satiate His thirst by giving Him our love and by spreading the love of His heart. God is thirsty for souls. Jesus was thirsty for the soul of the Samaritan woman and brought her to faith. She, in the end, went forth to bring the Good News to her people.

When we look at the crucifix, it is good to remember Jesus' words: *I thirst.* God thirsts for us. He thirsts for you and for me. What specifically is Jesus thirsting for in us? He longs for our love, our attention, our devotion, the total entrusting of our lives to Him. Reflecting on Jesus' words from the cross, Mother Teresa said: "At this most difficult time He proclaimed, 'I thirst.' And people thought He was thirsty in an ordinary way and they gave Him vinegar...; but it was not for that thirst; it was for our love, our affection, that intimate attachment to Him, and that sharing of His passion."

In prayer, I invite you to hear Jesus saying to you: "I thirst." Imagine Jesus saying those words personally and directly to you. We can then respond to these words by being generous with Jesus with our time, giving Him attention throughout our day, and spending time with Him in prayer. Mother Teresa also taught that we satiate Christ's thirst by loving Him in our neighbor, those people He places in our lives, especially those in most need of our care and attention. Jesus thirsts for us to surrender our lives to Him, to entrust ourselves to Him.

The other part of today's Gospel to consid-



Public domain

Carl Heinrich Bloch's painting, "Woman at the Well," from the Chapel at Frederiksborg Palace in Copenhagen.

er is the thirst of the Samaritan woman. She went every day to the well to draw water. Yes, this was a physical necessity. But again there is something deeper here. The woman had many disappointments in her life. Like all of us, she was thirsty for meaning in her life. She was thirsty for love. Jesus pointed out to her that she had been married five times and now was living with a sixth man. Her life-thirst was not being satisfied. She was unhappy. She wasn't finding authentic love. She didn't find anyone or anything to satisfy the deep longing of her heart until she met Jesus.

Our Lord spoke to the Samaritan woman about the living water He would give, the water that would truly quench her thirst and become in her "a spring of water welling up to eternal life." This is the water we all thirst for, the living water of the Holy Spirit, the water that satisfies our infinite thirst. Pope Francis wrote about this in these words: "Man of every time and place desires a full and beautiful life, just and good, a life that is not threatened by death but that can mature and grow to fullness. Man is like a traveler who, crossing the deserts of life, thirsts for the living water: gushing and fresh, capable

of quenching his deep desire for light, love, beauty, and peace. We all feel this desire! And Jesus gives us this living water: He is the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and whom Jesus pours out into our hearts. "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly," Jesus tells us."

Lent is a time for us to quench our thirst, to rediscover the meaning of our life in Christ. This is a special time to encounter Jesus like the Samaritan woman at the well, and to be transformed by our encounter with Jesus, like she was. The Lord wants to give us living water. This is why He came to earth, that we might have life and have it abundantly. Sin is an obstacle to that full life in Christ, so we have this time of Lent for our deeper conversion to the Lord.

The Church invites us to drink from the living waters of the Holy Spirit. Then, like the Samaritan woman, we are no longer thirsty. In fact, we are transformed into missionary disciples, who go forth to bring the Good News to others, like the Samaritan woman did and like Mother Teresa did, going forth then to spread the love of Christ and satiate His thirst for the salvation of souls.

Catholic leaders react to House bill to repeal, replace health care law

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Calling health care “a vital concern for nearly every person in the country,” the U.S. Catholic bishops said March 8 they will be reviewing closely a measure introduced in the House March 6 to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

“Discussions on health care reform have reached a level of intensity which is making open and fruitful dialogue difficult, even while most people recognize that improvements to the health care system are needed to ensure a life-giving and sustainable model for both the present and future,” said a letter to House members signed by the chairmen of four U.S. bishops’ committees.

“Given the magnitude and importance of the task before us, we call for a new spirit of cooperation for the sake of the common good,” they wrote.

The letter was signed by Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman, Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty; Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Fla., chairman, Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman, Committee on Migration.

Main provisions of the new House bill include: eliminating the mandate that most individuals have health insurance and putting in its place a new system of tax credits; expanding Health Savings Accounts; repealing Medicaid expansion and transitioning to a “per capita allotment;” and prohibiting health insurers from denying coverage or charging more money to patients based on pre-existing conditions.

It also eliminates any government subsidies, such as tax credits, for health plans that cover abortion (except in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother); and blocking about \$500 million in federal funding for Planned Parenthood, the nation’s largest single abortion provider.

The Catholic Health Association in a March 7 statement said it “strongly opposed” the House repeal and replace measure, saying it “asks the low-income and most vulnerable in our country to bear the brunt of the cuts to our health system.”

It pointed to the proposal to cap federal financing of Medicaid, which is a state-federal program; to eliminate cost-sharing subsidies for low-income people and create “barriers to initial and continuing Medicaid enrollment.”

CHA said the provision on pre-existing conditions would come with a 30 percent monthly premi-



CNS photo/Carlos Barria, Reuters

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price gestures at a stack of papers that he said was the Affordable Care Act during a March 7 press briefing at the White House in Washington. The law, as passed in 2010, was 906 pages long. Republicans in the U.S. House have introduced a measure to repeal and replace the federal health care law.

um surcharge for a year “should they have a lapse in coverage.” Its vision for health care in the U.S. “calls for health care to be available and accessible to everyone, paying special attention to poor and vulnerable individuals,” the CHA statement said.

In their letter, the Catholic bishops called on lawmakers to consider moral criteria as they debate the measure, including: respect for life and dignity; honoring conscience rights; access for all; a plan that is “truly affordable ... comprehensive and high quality.”

The U.S. bishops “continue to reject the inclusion of abortion as part of a national health care benefit,” they said. “No health care reform plan should compel us or others to pay for the destruction of human life, whether through government funding or mandatory coverage of abortion.”

Hyde Amendment protections, they said, “must extend to any relevant health care plan in order to prevent federal funding of abortion, and federal resources — including tax credits — must not be used to assist consumers in the purchase of health care plans that cover abortion.” Such protections should not be “a temporary fix or future promise,” they said.

The 41-year-old Hyde Amendment, which has to be approved each year as part of the budget for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, prohibits tax dollars from paying for abortion except in cases of rape, incest or threat to the woman’s life.

The House Jan. 24 passed the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act to make the amendment permanent. The Senate has

not yet acted on the measure.

Regarding conscience rights, the committee chairmen said, “Congress should expressly provide conscience protections as part of any health care plan for those who participate in the delivery or coverage of health care services.”

They also said that “any modification of the Medicaid system as part of health care reform should prioritize improvement and access to quality care over cost savings.”

The U.S. Catholic Church, the bishops said, “remains committed to the ideals of universal and affordable health care, and to the pursuit of those ideals in a manner that honors” the moral criteria they outlined.

Health care is not just another issue, but a “fundamental issue of human life and dignity” and “a critical component of the Catholic Church’s ministry,” they added.

The U.S. bishops have advocated for universal and affordable health care for decades and they supported the general goal of the Affordable Care Act, which was passed in 2010, but the bishops ultimately opposed the law because it expanded the federal role in abortion and failed to expand health care protections to immigrants.

Catholic Charities USA sent a letter March 8 to Congress voicing its opposition to the new health care measure, signed by Dominican Sister Donna Markham, president and CEO of the organization. She noted “commendable efforts” in the bill including protection for the unborn and greater flexibility for the states.

But Sister Markham said the measure makes major reductions in health care for more than 70 million poor and vulnerable on Medicaid and said it “undermines access to life-saving health care coverage.”

Tom McClusky, vice president of government affairs for March for Life Action, praised lawmakers for the bill’s pro-life provisions.

“House leadership and those who drafted the American Health Care Act deserve high accolades for their efforts to make certain that any changes to the health care system do not encourage, subsidize or directly pay for abortions,” he said. “They also deserve praise for sticking to their commitment to eliminate Planned Parenthood, America’s largest abortion provider, from Medicaid reimbursements for one year.”

“This will redirect women to federally qualified health centers, which provide all of the health services American women need and outnumber Planned Parenthood clinics by a ratio of 20-to-1,” McClusky added.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, March 19: 5 p.m. — Vespers and Dinner, Old College, University of Notre Dame

Monday, March 20: 9 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, Saint Joseph High School, South Bend

Wednesday, March 22: 3 p.m. — Meeting with Catholic Relief Services U.S. Operations Committee, Baltimore, Maryland

Thursday, March 23: 8 a.m. — Meeting of Board of Directors of Catholic Relief Services, Baltimore, Maryland

Saturday, March 25: 9 a.m. — Conference on Religious Brothers, DeBartolo Classroom Building, University of Notre Dame

Saturday, March 25: 12 p.m. — Mass and Dedication of New Church, Saint Pius X Church, Granger

Saturday, March 25: 6 p.m. — Dinner Celebrating New Saint Pius X Church, Gillespie Center, Inn at Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame

Bishops say U.S. must address needs of immigrants, show compassion

BY RHINA GUIDOS

WASHINGTON (CNS) — While one Catholic archbishop was urging a fix to the country’s immigration laws before a Catholic crowd, another was pleading with the government not to separate mothers from their children while in immigration detention, and yet another, a cardinal, was accompanying a grandfather to an appointment that could have resulted in his deportation.

Catholic Church leaders in the U.S. spent the week of March 6-10 trying to allay fears, urging compassion, not just from the government from those who are not seeing “God’s creation” when they malign unauthorized immigrants.

“In the church, we say, ‘¡Somos familia!’ Immigrants are our family. We say, ‘En las buenas y en las malas.’ In the good times and in the bad. We always stay together,” said Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, in a March 8 address to those who attended the Napa Institute’s Washington conference. “That is why the church has always been at the center of our

debates about immigration. And we always will be. We cannot leave our family alone, without a voice.”

Archbishop Gomez, vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said immigration is the “human rights test of our time” and said that having a policy that solely focuses on deportations without addressing reform of the

immigration is the “human rights test of our time”

ARCHBISHOP JOSE H. GOMEZ, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE USCCB

immigration system risks causing “a human rights nightmare.”

He said it’s not morally acceptable to say: “It’s their own fault,” or “This is what they get for breaking our laws.”

“They are still people, children of God, no matter what they

did wrong,” Archbishop Gomez said.

He said he was concerned because people seem to be incapable of showing mercy, or to see in another person, for example, an unauthorized immigrant, a child of God.

“And so we are willing to accept injustices and abuses that we should never accept,” he said.

In Texas, Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio was pleading with

Diocesan director of human resources hired

BY MARIAM SCHMITZ

Area parishes will especially benefit from a recently hired director of human resources who began serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in February. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades selected Jonathan Harber to fill the newly created position.

One of Harber's main responsibilities is to assist parishes, high schools and diocesan organizations as they recruit and hire employees. Harber said his first priority is to help the staff write job descriptions and effectively advertise those job openings in hopes of garnering a large pool of applicants in a timely fashion. He can then subsequently help staff formulate interview questions and assist with the vetting of candidates. Another of priority is to help parish priests in whatever way he can.

Other responsibilities Harber is taking on include helping with



JONATHAN HARBER

hiring paperwork, as well as keeping personnel files current. He will instruct parish staff, as needed, on how to conduct performance evaluations. He will soon begin giving presentations to parish business managers and pastors in the diocese about his vision, and answering questions.

Harber said there are roughly 3,000 diocesan employees and 81 parishes, so coordinating and standardizing human resource functions throughout the diocese is a big responsibility. There are currently a benefits coordinator and payroll coordinator in the business office; working with them has helped him learn a lot about his role, he added.

He reports directly to diocesan Chief Financial Officer Joe Ryan, who said the new position will help the diocese do a better job assisting parishes and schools with essential human resource functions. He added that Harber is a "fast learner and is doing a great job."

Harber is a Fort Wayne native. He attended Queen of Angels and then Bishop Dwenger High School, graduating in 2004. He earned a Criminal Justice degree from IPFW in 2008. Harber worked for the Allen County Sheriff's Department and the Allen County Jail before returning to school a few years later. In 2016 he earned a second bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis on human resources. He accepted the position at the diocese shortly thereafter.

Harber said he is particularly enjoying the working atmosphere at the diocese. "The professionalism is higher here than anywhere I've ever worked before," he noted. He also emphasized the uniqueness of the job, which allows him to combine his career with his Catholic faith on a daily basis, "it meant a lot to me to work for our diocese and to work for my faith. I basically work for God."

NEEDS

Continued from Page 3

the government to stop plans that would separate children from mothers in immigration detention centers, a proposal confirmed by U.S. Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly March 6.

Calling it an "unjust and inhumane method of border enforcement," Archbishop Garcia-Siller said the proposal had been put out into the public sphere with the suggestion "that once this is known, it will serve an example to discourage future such attempts at entering our country illegally."

"With my brother bishops and millions of people of goodwill, I must say that the willful separation of families is a terrible injustice on its face!" he said in a March 8 statement, adding that it is "an assault on the human dignity we proclaim and uphold."

Archbishop Gomez in his address said politics today are more divided "than I can ever remember" and "by our inaction and indifference we have created a quiet human rights tragedy that is playing out in communities all across this great country."

While all can agree that a person who commits a violent crime and is not authorized to be in the country should be deported, "what is the public policy purpose that is served by taking away some little girl's dad or some little boy's mom?" Archbishop Gomez asked.

"Right now the only thing we have that resembles a national immigration 'policy' is all focused on deporting these people who are within our borders without proper papers," he said.

And while some people see them as less than human, these "millions of men and women" are living as "perpetual servants — working for low wages in our restaurants and fields; in our factories, gardens, homes and hotels."

"Why aren't we punishing the businesses who hired them, or the government officials who didn't enforce our laws? It just does not seem right to me," Archbishop Gomez said.

While saying that the deportation situation is not new and that President Barack Obama had deported more people than any other president, "the sad truth is that the vast majority of those we are deporting are not violent criminals," he said.

The week ended with Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, N.J., accompanying a 59-year-old grandfather in New Jersey, Catalino Guerrero, who was facing deportation after living in the U.S. for 25 years. Cardinal Tobin prayed with Guerrero, who was subsequently granted a short-term stay but needs to see immigration officials again in May and still faces deportation.

According to a report by NJ Advance Media, Cardinal Tobin later said: "I can't accompany the 11 million undocumented people in this country, what I hope to do is say look they've got faces, they've got histories and there's a lot of advantage to leaving them alone."



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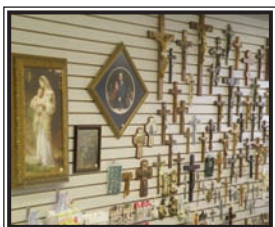
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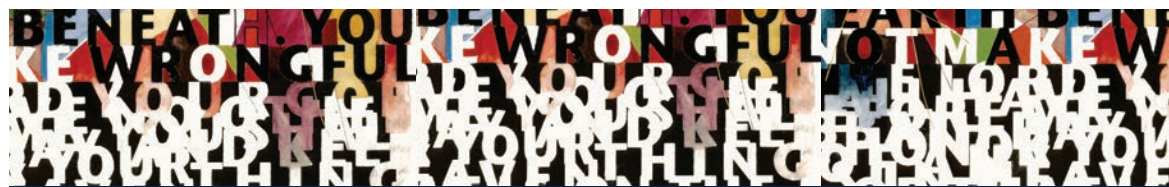


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Bill to protect religious liberty in public schools advances in Senate

INDIANAPOLIS — A bill to strengthen and clarify students' ability to pray in Indiana public schools advanced to the Senate Education and Career Development Committee March 8, and is expected to pass the Senate committee by St. Patrick's Day, March 17. The Indiana Catholic Conference supports the legislation.

House Bill 1024, authored by John Bartlett, D-Indianapolis, aims to ensure the religious freedom of students in public schools. Under the proposal, students would be able to express their religious beliefs in their homework, artwork and other written and oral assignments. If the measure passed, students would be permitted to pray or engage in religious activities or expressions before, during, and after the school day, and would allow students to wear clothing, accessories and jewelry that display religious messages or symbols.

The legislation directs the State Department of Education, in collaboration with the Attorney General's office and organizations with expertise in religious civil liberties, to establish a model policy for all schools. The bill would permit, but not require, school corporations to offer electives on world religions.

"House Bill 1024 only puts prayer back into schools. It does not mandate or force students to participate in it," said Bartlett. "It is giving Hoosiers the ability to express their faith without fearing discrimination." He added, "It also brings clarification to the First Amendment which allows people to practice their faith. However, it restricts you from forcing your faith on others."

In addition to protecting the First Amendment right to pray

in school, Bartlett shared his concern with discipline problems in the public school during the Senate hearing. Citing a book written by William H. Jaynes, Ph.D., called "A Call for Character Education and Prayer in the Schools," Bartlett noted the alarming changes in student discipline and behavior problems since 1962 when prayer was removed from schools.

Teachers surveyed in 1962 reported the top discipline problems among their students were talking, chewing gum or leaving trash on the floor. Today teachers report their main student behavior problems include drug and alcohol abuse, pregnancy, suicide, rape, robbery and assault.

Bartlett said a recent report by the United States Health and Human Services Administration indicated 1,000 teachers per month are assaulted by students, requiring the injured teacher to seek medical attention or hospitalization. Bartlett said, "I think we need to get prayer back in school and allow our students to pray."

Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference testified in support of the bill, said, "We appreciate Rep. Bartlett bringing forward a bill that affirms faith and one's expression of it in an appropriate manner. The church teaches that exercising one's rights always come with responsibilities when exercising it."

Tebbe said that while case

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BRIGID CURTIS AYER

law sets out the parameters in this arena, implementing the principles in a concrete way in a school setting requires prudence and guidance. Tebbe said he expects this bill to help school officials in this important responsibility. "Affirmation of religious rights in Indiana code should help in protecting them and also assist school officials in implementing best practices that affirm students and protect the constitutional rights of all involved," said Tebbe.

Eric Miller, attorney and founder of Advance America, an Indianapolis-based family and religious advocacy organization, said legislation like this could prevent future instances of the situation that occurred at Carmel High School in Carmel, where a pro-life student group was forced to remove a sign which had been pre-approved by the administration, but was taken down because its pro-life message was deemed offensive by another student.

Mary Carmen, president of Carmel Teens for Life, a senior at Carmel High School and parishioner of Our Lady

of Mount Carmel Parish in Carmel, testified in support of the bill, and echoed Miller saying if a bill like HB 1024 had been in place students' First Amendment rights would have been protected, and the sign not removed.

Several individual citizens testified in opposition to the bill raising concerns that they felt House Bill 1024 could give students of a majority religion the potential to discriminate against students in a minority religion. Opponents also argued the legislation is unnecessary since the First Amendment right to exercise one's religion is already protected.

Ryan McCann, director of operations and public policy for the Indiana Family Institute, said House Bill 1024 sets out a neutral guideline for schools so that all students are free to exercise their faith. McCann said that school officials are so afraid of being sued by the American Civil Liberties Union that the pendulum has swung

in the other direction thereby diminishing students' ability to freely exercise their faith at school.

House Bill 1024 received bipartisan support and passed the Indiana House with a vote of 83 to 12, Feb. 27. Tebbe said he expects the Senate panel to approve the bill by St. Patrick's Day March 17, and to move to the Senate floor for consideration before the end of the month.

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




REP. JOHN BARTLETT

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NEWS BRIEFS

El Salvador hopes for a miracle and another saint-in-waiting

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (CNS) — El Salvador's Catholic Church circles these days with news about a possible miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Oscar Romero, one that many hope will lead to his canonization. But in the not-so-quiet whispers of hope, there's also the yearning that the momentum will help the beatification cause of his martyred Jesuit friend, Father Rutilio Grande. Father Grande was killed 40 years ago — March 12, 1977 — while on his way to a novena. More than a dozen bullets went through his body, killing him and parishioners Manuel Solorzano, 70, and 16-year-old Nelson Rutilio Lemus. "We're waiting" for word that will make Father Grande El Salvador's next saint-in-waiting, said Andrea Perla, of the Archdiocese of San Salvador's canonization department. Perla, a 20-something charged with using social media to teach others about Father Grande, said there's a lot to learn from the priest's exemplary life: humility, generosity, and caring for those who need help the most. Like many young Catholic Salvadorans, she said she didn't know a lot about Father Grande, other than his association with Romero until she started reading about his life. "And I really fell in love," she said.

Cardinal Dolan op-ed urges passage of nationwide school choice bill

NEW YORK (CNS) — Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York urged President Donald Trump to follow through on a recent call for legislation that funds school choice for disadvantaged youth nationwide. Writing in a column for *The Wall Street Journal* March 9, Cardinal Dolan said he hoped that the president would "push Congress to make scholarship tax credits available to working-class families." The cardinal called for rapid action in Congress so that families can benefit as soon as possible from having a choice on where to send their children to school. Seventeen states already have scholarship tax credit programs and Cardinal Dolan said children in the remaining states "deserve the same opportunities." Under a nationwide tax credit program parents can opt to send their children to private schools, the cardinal wrote, noting that 97 percent of Catholic high school students in the Archdiocese of New York graduate in four years and 95 percent attend college. The column cited the benefits of one such program, the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship program, for 300 students who attend St. Andrew Catholic School in Orlando, Fla., which Trump visited March 3 to announce his sup-

Fire victims remembered



CNS photo/John Haeger, Catholic Courier

People attend a 50th anniversary Mass Feb. 26 at the Church of the Annunciation in Rochester, N.Y., honoring Father George Weinmann and Sister Lilian Marie McLaughlin, a member of School Sisters of Notre Dame. The two religious were killed in a 1967 fire at St. Philip Neri Church in Rochester while attempting to rescue the church's Blessed Sacrament.

port for school choice. Statewide, nearly 98,000 children from low-income families attend parochial or private schools under the program.

Pope to visit Colombia as it emerges from half-century of war

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis will be visiting Colombia in mid-September as the Latin American nation works to implement a new peace deal and rebuild after 52 years of war. The Vatican announced March 10 that the pope had accepted the invitation of President Juan Manuel Santos and the Colombian bishops. The trip, Sept. 6-11, will include visits to the cities of Bogota, Villavicencio, Medellin and Cartagena. Details of the trip were to be published at a later date. Pope Francis will be the third pope to visit the nation after Blessed Paul VI and St. John Paul II. The previous papal visit

there was 31 years ago in 1986. The bishops' conference posted on their website the trip logo: the pope smiling and walking flanked by the white and yellow colors of the Vatican on one side and an early indigenous symbol on the other. The motto is "Let us take the first step" ("Demos el primer paso").

Pope talks criticisms, populism in latest interview with German weekly

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When facing criticism, a sense of humor and the grace to remain at peace are always the best response, Pope Francis said in an interview with Germany's *Die Zeit* newspaper. In the interview, published March 8 online and in print March 9, the pope laughed and said the Roman dialect featured in posters that were plastered around the Rome city center criticizing him

"was great." The poster, featuring a stern-faced picture of the pope, said: "Ah Francis, you've taken over congregations, removed priests, decapitated the Order of Malta and the Franciscans of the Immaculate, ignored cardinals ... but where is your mercy? There is this prayer — which is attributed to (St.) Thomas More — that I pray every day: 'Lord, give me a sense of humor!' The Lord preserves my peace and gives me a great sense of humor," Pope Francis said. Vatican Radio released a brief summary with selected quotes from the nearly 6,000-word interview, in which the pope discussed several issues and events. Among the areas of discussion was his relationship with Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, current patron of the Order of Malta, who is often viewed as one of Pope Francis' most vocal critics.

U.S.-Holy See ties won't change with Trump, U.S. diplomat says

ROME (CNS) — Despite opposing views on some issues, the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See will still look for common ground on global issues, the interim leader of the embassy said. "There's an expectation that the relationship between President (Donald) Trump and Pope Francis will be difficult to establish" and that "the bilateral relationship between the United States and the Holy See is going to suffer and that is not the case at all," Louis Bono, charge d'affaires to the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See said. Bono temporarily leads the embassy while it waits for a new U.S. ambassador to be named and confirmed. Speaking to Catholic News Service March 6, Bono talked about expectations of the future relationship between the United States and the Holy See under the Trump administration. The embassy, he said, hopes to continue its joint efforts on global issues, such as combating human trafficking and ending modern slavery. "Our goal right now is to keep that relationship moving forward, to look for more areas of collaboration" and "to build upon the successes that we've already experienced," he said.

Venezuelan government relations with Catholics deteriorating

CARACAS, Venezuela (CNS) — A series of attacks and confrontations against Catholics in Venezuela has marked a renewed deterioration of relations between the church and the national government. Some church leaders have openly speculated that the events could form part of a broader, coordinated campaign. "These are not isolated events and sometimes we even ask ourselves to what extent this is a systematic campaign," said retired Archbishop Ramon Ovidio Perez Morales of Los Teques, a town just outside of Caracas. At San Pedro Claver church in Caracas in late January, a pro-government collective crashed Sunday Mass and shouted insults at Father Angel Tornero before closing the doors, standing up near the altar, and prohibiting parishioners from leaving while further criticizing the local priest. Collectives are pro-government groups that organize community events and social projects, but they also have been accused of intimidation and violence against those who oppose the government. "They started to shout insults, then would be calm, and then they would shout again," said Maria Cisneros, who has attended the church for 20 years. She requested her name be changed for this story out of fear of retaliation.

Disaster recovery grant awarded to local Catholic Charities office

SOUTH BEND — Catholic Charities USA has announced the award of a long-term, disaster-recovery grant to Catholic Charities Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Inc., in the amount of \$131,100. Thanks to the generosity of individuals and families from local parishes across the country who contributed to the second collection offered by The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, CCUSA is supporting CCFWSB as it continues to meet the needs of survivors from the August 2016 flooding in St. Joseph County.

On Aug. 15, 2016, a torrential storm released an unprecedented amount of rainfall in St. Joseph County and the South Bend area. Eight inches fell within three hours, followed by more rain overnight. The flooding impacted over 700 homes in the county and left a number of homes damaged. As a result, there are families who still have unmet needs. The primary activity of this grant is to provide long-term recovery services and disaster-related housing assistance. The highest priority will be to serve the elderly, those living with a disability, families with children and those living in unsafe housing condition as a result of the disaster.

Ancilla College partners with business administration program

DONALDSON — The University of Evansville Schroeder School of Business hosted an invitational orientation for four Ancilla College students and four staff members of Ancilla College Feb. 23-24 on the University of Evansville campus. The University of Evansville Schroeder School of Business is the No. 1 business program in the country for small colleges.

The University of Evansville and Ancilla College have a formal collaborative agreement in support of Ancilla College students who complete an associate degree

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Standing in solidarity with Syria



Provided by Laura LaMaster

On Wednesday, March 15, Caritas International, Catholic Relief Services and the Syrian people will mark six years of armed conflict in Syria. The students and staff of Bishop Dwenger High School stand in prayerful solidarity with the people of Syria and pray for peace in the country. Their prayer has been: "Lord our God, Father of all humanity; change the hearts of all peoples and their rulers, so that peace may be established among the nations on the foundation of justice, love and righteousness. May the spirit of peace descend upon the people of Syria and upon our world until all conflicts cease and peace reigns on earth."

and wish to pursue a four-year degree.

The structure of the program is designed to give students real-world experience from the beginning of the program. Part of that structure involves creating a cohort of ambassadors who represent the program to companies as well as prospective students. Ancilla College will explore the development of a similar program with the Schroeder School of Business support.

One additional important potential benefit for Ancilla College students is the No. 1-ranked ranked study abroad program in the U.S. at its Harlaxton College in Grantham, England. Harlaxton is housed in a massive historic estate and hosts an extensive array of courses, often partnering with other colleges.

Ancilla College, founded in 1938 by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, is a two-year residential and commuter liberal arts

college located near Plymouth. The school offers over two dozen associate degree programs. In the past two years, two new residence halls and a new dining hall have been constructed. Currently, the college has a diverse population of 560 students.

A soulful Stations of the Cross

SOUTH BEND — This contemporary and thought-provoking meditation combines the beautiful singing voice of Tina Jones with a spirit-filled narration. Each station is represented by real-life experiences and situations. This event will be Friday, March 24, at St. Augustine Church, 1501 W. Washington St., at 6:30 p.m. Preceding the stations at 5:30 p.m. will be a free soup and salad dinner. A Soulful Stations of the Cross is sponsored by The Black Catholic Advisory Board of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. For information email clashe1952@hotmail.com.

Recital planned for Laetare Sunday

MISHAWAKA — Anne Fuchs, soprano and cantor at St. Bavo, and Joe Higginbotham will present a recital on Sunday, March 26, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Bavo Church, 511 W. 7th St.. They will be joined by Jim Grondin on clarinet, Emilie Grondin on cello and Alexandra Van Nevel to perform the Ave Maria, some classical works and several new compositions. Admission is free.

A celebration of young authors



Provided by Martha Berghoff

Nearly 60 students in grades three through five recently gathered at St. Charles Borromeo School, Fort Wayne, to share the books that they had written and illustrated. Fifteen students will represent the school at the city-wide Young Authors' Conference in April.

Bishop Luers students cover tough life issues in Get Schooled Tour



Provided by Tim Johnson

Bishop Luers High School students participated in the Get-Schooled Tour on Thursday, Feb. 23. They participated in an anonymous poll through their mobile device's web browser, connected to a secure, closed Wi-Fi environment throughout the Get-Schooled Tour. The high-energy conversation covered topics such as abusive dating relationships, bullying, cyberbullying, sextortion, teen suicide, support systems and mentors. At the conclusion of the hour-long convocation, students had the option to speak directly with a school counselor or chaplain to help with their struggles.

Bishop Rhoades visits Corpus Christi

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated an all-school Mass at Corpus Christi School, South Bend, on Thursday, March 9, and spent time with every one of Corpus Christi School's 10 classes, giving students a chance to share what they've been learning and to ask him questions. He personally thanked each teacher.

The school, with 214 students, has several special intentions, including one for a teacher recovering from a very serious accident and another for a vice principal fighting leukemia.

Bishop Rhoades told the students, during Mass, that he had heard about their wonderful school and was happy to be with them during the holy season of Lent, when we are invited to grow closer to Jesus. He reminded them that the greatest prayer we can offer is the holy Mass. During his homily, he asked students questions about the four classic types of prayer: adoration, contrition, thanksgiving and supplication. Second graders recited together the act of contrition they had learned, and third graders mentioned reasons to be thankful.

Dressed in red, navy and tan uniforms, the students participated actively in the a capella singing, including the parts of the Mass that were in Latin. At the end of the liturgy, an eighth grade student presented the Bishop with a framed piece of art: a cross surrounded by colorful thumbprints representing offerings in a spiritual bouquet.

During his morning at the school, Bishop Rhoades enjoyed many light moments.

He gamely played a boomwhacker in Patty Mauch's fifth grade music class, and tried his zucchetto on fourth grader Bryce Flattery ('You'd make a good Bishop,' he said).

The bishop was surprised that a joke is always included in the morning announcements. He learned what one first grader weighs, and how many times another eats nachos in a given day. He told the students his only childhood pet was a turtle, since he is allergic to furry animals. The bishop gently chided one student for procrastinating on his homework, but enjoyed a second grader's perceptive answer to

the question, "What should you not do for an hour before communion?" Her response: "Sin." The bishop then taught them about the one-hour Communion fast.

Calling on them by name as often as possible, Bishop Rhoades asked students what they had been learning about in religion class. Their answers included Lent, the Beatitudes and their favorite Bible stories. He engaged seventh graders in discussing Theology of the Body, telling them he had been in Rome to hear Pope St. John Paul II's original lectures on the topic. He praised Kathy Leyes' sixth graders, who each recited a different Psalm from memory. Pre-kindergarteners sang a song for him, and second graders wanted to turn the tables and bless their bishop.

The students also had questions for the bishop, ranging from his favorite color (green), and his favorite leisure activities (hiking, mountain climbing, tennis, reading history, spending time with friends) to his vocation to the priesthood and what he's giving up for Lent. He was willing to tell them he's doing without bread this year. They were curious about his "uniform" and whether the "bracelet around your neck" chokes him. They also asked about the most rewarding and challenging parts of being a bishop: He replied that it's rewarding to celebrate the sacraments and meet the people of the diocese, but challenging to keep up with the demands on his time.

When Bishop Rhoades asked seventh graders what they liked best about Corpus Christi School, they said, "How close we are. We care about each other." To illustrate the point, it was noted that one teacher, Tricia Perry, is a graduate of the school who lives in the neighborhood. Younger classes have a "buddy class" to help with activities, and all students are divided into six "houses," that include students from each grade. Each house has a patron saint, a mascot, a motto and the name of a character trait like responsibility or trust.

The entire student body gladly included their shepherd in Corpus Christi's family atmosphere. Members of the junior high drama club ended the morning by singing several songs from their upcoming performance of "The Lion King" for the bishop.



Corpus Christi students



In Teresa Foley's fourth grade classroom, student Bryce Flattery tries on the bishop's zucchetto.



Felicity Nolan cantors during the all-school Mass.



Julie Kaniewski with her kindergarten class.

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Students: 214 Grades pre-K-8

Christi School



Students answer the bishop's questions during Mass.

Photos by Kevin Haggenjos



Father Daryl Rybicki and Principal Maggie Mackowiak pose with Bishop Rhoades during his pastoral visit.



At left, Corpus Christi students rehearse their upcoming production of "The Lion King" for Bishop Rhoades.



Bishop speaks with student Cece Farrell in a sixth-grade classroom.



In MY diocese

Sacred Heart, Fort Wayne

Allen County

Latin Masses embraced at Sacred Heart Parish

BY MARIAM SCHMITZ

The rich history behind Fort Wayne's Sacred Heart parish illustrates the economic ebb and flow of the city's southeast side. The parish was founded in 1947 as the result of a post-World War II building boom. Over the decades though, homes aged, jobs left the area and residents moved out. The parish responded to the changing reality, and Sacred Heart is now a tight-knit community of faithful Catholics, most of whom travel great distances to attend Mass there.

The roots of the parish go back to Ralph L. Shirmeyer, who donated six acres of land at Gaywood Drive and Capitol Avenue to the diocese. Archbishop John Francis Noll assigned Father Fred Westendorf, who had just returned to diocesan work after



FATHER MARK
WOJDELSKI, FSSP

servicing as an Army chaplain, to oversee the parish.

The original church building was a World War II military barracks that once served as a hospital ward. It was located at Baer Field, now Fort Wayne International Airport, but moved to the donated land. The wooden, single-frame building had a seating capacity of 250. Parishioners donated their time to renovate the building and construct the altar. As construction progressed, Father Westendorf was assigned to serve as director of Central Catholic High School. His successor, Father Thomas Durkin, celebrated the first Mass at the location, held at midnight on Christmas Day 1948.

The following year, ground was broken for an eight-classroom school just south of the church, on Gaywood Drive. Construction also began for a convent to house the Holy Cross sisters who agreed to teach at the new school. It opened for the 1949-50 school year with 102 students enrolled. In 1954, the school expanded to include 16 classrooms, a library, central

office and storage rooms.

It became necessary to offer more Masses, as the congregation quickly grew. Initially, there were two Sunday Masses at Sacred Heart. However by the mid-1950s it was up to eight Masses: five in the church and three in the school chapel, located in the basement.

Parishioner and architect James McCarron Sr. designed a new church with a seating capacity of 660 to help accommodate the increasing number of parishioners. McCarron also designed St. Henry School, St. Therese School, Victory Noll in Huntington and the Crosier House of Studies, which has since been demolished. In May 1963, the old church was burned down to make way for the new building. With Father Andrew C. Mathieu as pastor, the first Mass in the new space was celebrated on Christmas Day, 1963.

In 1990, with Bishop John M. D'Arcy's approval, Latin Mass — the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite — was offered two Sundays each month at Sacred Heart. It quickly gained popular-



Mollie Shutt

The Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite Mass — known as the Latin Mass — is the form in which liturgies are celebrated at Sacred Heart Church. Parishioners who prefer it travel to Fort Wayne from as far away as Michigan and Ohio each weekend to worship.

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4643 Gaywood Dr
Fort Wayne, IN 46806

www.sacredheartfw.org

Mass Times:

**Sunday: 8 a.m. (low Mass)
10 a.m. (Missa Cantata)**

**Weekday: 7:30 a.m. M, T, Th
Saturday: 9 a.m.**

First Friday: Confession at 5:30 p.m., Mass at 6 p.m., followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Sacred Heart devotion and Benediction.

**First Saturday: Rosary at 8:25 a.m.
Confession at 8:30 a.m., Mass at 9 a.m.**

ity, and Bishop D'Arcy subsequently granted permission for Latin Masses to be celebrated there every Sunday and Holy Day. Over the years, as diocesan priests who had learned the Latin Mass as seminarians aged and were not able to assist as often, Bishop D'Arcy asked the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter for help. In 2008, Fort Wayne native and Bishop Dwenger High School graduate Father George Gabet, FSSP, was sent in response to Bishop's request.

In the meantime, demographics of the city's southeast side were changing. Major employers were moving out, as were residents. Changes were also happening at Sacred Heart School. It closed in 1994 after merging with St. Henry's. The new school was named Benoit Academy.

In 2011, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades announced that Sacred Heart would become a "personal parish" and serve those who

In MY diocese

St. Henry, Fort Wayne

Allen County

The small but mighty parish of St. Henry

BY CLAIRE KENNEY

A measurement of the strength of St. Henry Parish, Fort Wayne, should not be based solely on an evaluation of its physical size. In fact, the humble nature of the parish allows it to give frequent individual attention to not only its parish members, but also those living in the surrounding community.



FATHER DAN DURKIN

“Our number one goal is to change lives one at a time,” the parish’s pastor, Father Dan Durkin, said.

Father Durkin has led the parish for the last decade. During his time at the parish, he has witnessed a lot of change.

The parish remains relatively small, with approximately 250 registered parishioners. It works to be involved in multicultural engagement within the local community.

With the help of Redeemer Radio, parishioners’ contributions, fundraiser sales from the community thrift shop and the support of Foellinger Foundation’s Summer Club House, the Brandon Foundation and surrounding parishes, St.



Provided by St. Henry Parish

The Community Garden, a thriving St. Henry initiative, is not only meaningful to parishioners but also serves as an outreach to the neighborhood.

Henry has not only been able to carry out its mission of serving “those in our community in any way we can,” but also foster agricultural innovation.

The parish’s ministry outreach, Community Garden, allows it to feed 101 families from 18 different countries. Paul Gerardot, property manager of St. Henry and member of the parish since 1970, is the visionary behind this ingenious agricultural program.

Inspired to honor his brother, Philip Gerardot, who passed away from cancer on the Feast of St. Henry in 2010, Paul launched the Community Garden project just a year after Philip’s death.

“One month after he died, I was looking out at the open plot of land Philip and I grew

up playing football on, I said to him, ‘Philip, we are going to do something great with this land,’” Paul recounted in an interview with *Today’s Catholic*.

And, well, Paul did just that. Paul is, after all, in his own words “relentless.”

“Through the garden, I could give joy to people through the death of my brother,” he said.

The church provides 500 four by eight-inch raised seed bank beds and supplies seeds for members of the parish and members of the larger outside community, so they call all grow produce at the location free of charge. Once an individual inherits a plot, he or she is expected to maintain their garden. And in the spirit of St. Henry Parish’s attention to the individual, each person or fam-

ily who inherits a plot is given a specifically sized one and types of seeds that cater to their particular needs.

For Paul, the Community Garden has served as therapeutic after his brother’s death. Other participants have benefited in varied ways.

“We grow more than vegetables,” Paul said. “We grow friendship, love and community.”

Many people have come back to their faith through participa-

tion in the garden project.

“Last year, we had about six people come back to the church, including one who had not been back to the Catholic Church for 45 years,” Paul noted.

Because gardening helps with anxiety, the parish invites members of its Alcoholics Anonymous group to participate in maintaining land as well. “They have been actively a part of our garden for about a year,” he said.

On April 8 the parish will host its annual “big event,” as they refer to it, where the banks are prepped for spring. Participating local community members and parishioners restore and refurbish these plots for future use.

Sonia Mares has been a member of the parish for the last five years and has served as the director of religious education for the past three and as the parish administrative assistant for one.

Mares said her participation in the parish helped her to “become more mature in my faith.”

St. Henry Parish is one that works to instill in its members, and those outside of their parish community, a sense of purpose.

“With the resources that we have, the church is a hope for the hungry and despairing,” Father Durkin said.



St. Henry
2929 Paulding Rd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46816
www.sthenryfw.org

Mass Times:
Saturday: 8 a.m., 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 8, 10:30 a.m.
Weekday M-F 8 a.m.
Eucharistic devotion: T 8:30-10 a.m.
Reconciliation: Saturday 8:30-9:30 a.m.; Before Mass on First Friday



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Preparation for the test

I remember the colossal relief I felt after my doctoral defense, noting that I would never have to take a test again. But of course, bigger tests awaited.

Christ was frequently tested: In the desert by the devil, by the Pharisees who were threatened and envious, by the Apostles who resisted a way without worldly glory and by His own doubts before the crucifixion, when Jesus wondered whether His Father had abandoned him.

During Lent, we can reflect on how we have faced our tests. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are preparations that turn our attention to how we relate to God, things and other people for the test that matters most.

My reading on the topic includes a somewhat unusual source: a blog by my son Justin, a doctoral student in theology who has completed his coursework but is taking a year out to think about his way to proclaim God in a culture that is distracted and dismissive about God.

His reflections touch me deeply, and I hope it is more than just the pride of a mom. With permission from Catholic News Service, I have included the essay below.

'Deliverance from the test'

By Justin Bartkus

The author of Hebrews (2:14-18) describes Jesus' mission as His coming to share in flesh and blood with those who are "being tested" so that He might assist those who are undergoing "the test." That humans undergo this "test" is the reason for the earthly visitation of the divine

compassion. However, in the Our Father, we pray that we might be delivered from the test.

What is this "test"?

I believe that it is the burden of human existence, which is another word for suffering. To be "tested" is to experience affliction, pressure, fear, futility, inability. To be tested is to understand that there are values and convictions that shimmer with a godly glow, but also to know that we ourselves and our world are at best sluggardly and at worst downright hostile to the realization of these convictions.

To be tested is to know of this burden. Bodily sickness and personal failings are symbols of this weight. To be tested means that we are asked, despite this burden, to commit ourselves to God.

Human existence is a judgment on our persistence in this regard, our obligation to remain true in the face of darkness and our own demons. To be tested as a human being is to be suspended between good and evil, with the immense dignity and burden of freedom existing in the choice between them.

The knowledge that human existence is a test is the principle of all human compassion. It was that knowledge that drives Jesus to preach the kingdom of God.

It was that knowledge that, in contrast to burdened humanity's weariness, drove the God-man with unremitting energy to announce the divine compassion, the strength of divine mercy. The healing and exorcisms of Jesus are a deliverance from the test, and a motive energy for persever-



OUR GLOBAL FAMILY

CAROLYN WOO

ance in our own test.

We are not asked to meditate primarily on our own nothingness and bankruptcy in the face of the "test," but on the divine energy revealed in Christ — that is, the Holy Spirit — that provides the funds, the motive force, the joy to accomplish our own work.

We live as borrowers of the divine life. Whatever our own darkness, it has already been flanked and outmaneuvered by the love of Christ. The healing and exorcisms are a sign; the sacrifice of the cross and the eucharistic body and blood are the reality. Our test is enfolded within Christ's test, and He always passes with flying colors.

Carolyn Woo is the former president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services and former dean of the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business. Justin Bartkus contributed to this article.

The dignity of work and the rights of workers

Each week of Lent, this 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: El Salvador

Catholic social teaching principle: Dignity of work and rights of workers

Question: What skills has God given you that you can share with others?

Scripture quote: But Jesus answered them, "My Father is at work until now, so I am at work." — John 5:17

Prayer intention: For all of us, that we may promote the rights of workers

Almsgiving challenge: Give \$.25 to your CRS Rice Bowl for each chore you complete this week.

With a population of just over 6 million people in an area slightly smaller than Massachusetts, El Salvador is the most densely populated country in Central America. Income inequality is great in El Salvador, as is the likelihood of natural disasters. Catholic Relief Services has been on the ground in El Salvador since 1960. Agriculture was the focus then and continues to be a focus today, along with other work in disaster response, youth, peace building and microfinance.

In a country like El Salvador,

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES: RICE BOWL

MELISSA WHEELER

where nearly 20 percent of the population emigrates, the growth of vocational development needs to be strong. This week we encounter a young man, Fernando, who is a beneficiary of the CRS YouthBuild project. Through this program, participants are trained in the ways of business. Through a six-month commitment to YouthBuild, Fernando learned about the commitment needed to found and run one's own business. Currently he works selling cookbooks on buses. The program was a difficult one to complete, as the work could be dangerous and Fernando needed to spend a lot of time away from home. Now that he has completed the course, he stays connected to YouthBuild by mentoring other young people in the program. He has also been able to start a plan for his own business.

Fernando's story demonstrates the principle that the United States bishops have called the dignity of work and rights of workers. We know that Jesus himself was a worker. He

CRS, page 13

The Lord is in our midst



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Third Sunday Of Lent Exodus 17:3-7

The source of the first biblical reading for this Lenten weekend's liturgies is the Book of Exodus, one of those five books of the Bible regarded as the basis of God's revelation to the Chosen People. The initial theological concepts and regulations about behavior are seen as being rooted in the original teachings of Moses.

Together, these books constitute the Torah, then and still the cornerstone of Judaism. Another name is the Pentateuch, this term coming from the Greek word for five.

As the title implies, the Book of Exodus greatly is concerned with the experiences of the

Hebrews as they fled Egypt and moved toward the land God that had promised them. It was a very difficult trip. Even today, a journey across the Sinai Peninsula by land is bleak. It is not surprising that the Hebrews wondered if they had swapped the witch for the devil as they wandered across Sinai. In frustration, bewilderment and misery they grumbled about Moses, who led the way.

Water was a precious commodity in this arid environment. Understandably, the people feared thirst. Moses, enlightened by God, told them to look for water in an improbable place. It was the side of a rock. As directed, the people struck the rock, and water flowed.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans supplies the second reading. As is so typical of Paul's writing, this passage celebrates Jesus as the only source of life and of bonding with God, and it proclaims salvation in Christ as the gift coming from the willing sacrifice of the Lord on Calvary.

For its last reading this weekend, the church presents a section of St. John's Gospel. It is the

story of the Lord's meeting with the Samaritan woman beside a well in Samaria. The reading is heavy with lessons for us.

First, the site is Samaria. For the Jews of the Lord's time, Samaria represented many bad things. The woman is a Samaritan.

Samaritans were of Hebrew heritage, but they had acquiesced when foreigners invaded the land, compromising with paganism, and even intermarrying with pagan foreigners. Intermarriage added insult to injury, because by such unions Samaritans defiled the Hebrew heritage.

Faithful Jews scorned Samaritans and looked upon Samaritans with contempt. Also, at the time of Jesus, no adult, unmarried man ever engaged a strange woman in conversation, let alone a Samaritan.

The message is that, obviously, Jesus set all these considerations aside. He bore the mercy of God, a mercy was meant for everyone—all conventions aside.

Furthermore, by outreach to this Samaritan woman, the Lord

asserts that every person possesses a dignity, indeed a right to eternal life.

More than Jacob of old, Jesus promises a gift of water greatly more satisfying than any that could be drawn from a well.

Finally, the Lord predicts that a new order is coming. It will be neither centralized in Jerusalem, nor on the mountaintops where the Samaritans customarily worshipped.

Reflection

Very much a part of Lent are the church's preparations to receive new members during the Easter Vigil. Central to the vigil is the triumphant celebration of the Eucharist. The Lord lives! Water also is a prominent symbol. With water blessed at the vigil, the church will baptize new members.

For those Catholics already members of the church, not being baptized at the Easter Vigil but participants nevertheless, water also will symbolize life. The previously baptized will renew their baptismal promises aloud. The priest will sprinkle

them with blessed water to recall their baptisms.

While water will symbolize new life, in these readings, the church is telling us that God alone, in Jesus, is the source of life eternal. Baptism indicates this.

Lent is our time to decide whether to embrace this life or not.

READINGS

Sunday: Ex 17:3-7 Ps 95:1-2, 6-9 Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 Jn 4:5-42

Monday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43 Ps 25:4-9 Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9 Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28 Ps 95:1-2, 6-9 Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10 Ps 81:6c-11b, 14, 17 Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Ps 40:7-11 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38

The Eucharist at the heart of the faith

In early Christian mystical theology, drawing on the Platonic tradition, there was an aphorism commonly used by spiritual writers: "you become the object of your contemplation." That is, whatever we fix our attention upon, whatever becomes the focus of our energies and our imagination, whatever it is that consumes our thoughts and desires, has an imperceptible but genuine impact upon us, shaping our sensibilities, molding our personality and making us — far more than we often realize — who we are. The standard objects of fallen human desire — power, pleasure, wealth — can subtly take hold of us, and our desire for them changes who we are; we stray farther and farther from God and find ourselves in a land of unlikeness.

In the course of our life there are countless spectacles presented to our senses. Our attention is drawn here and there, and, in the culture of the microwave and the internet, our focus shifts rapidly. As followers of Christ, as those who are seeking to grow more and more into the likeness of Christ, there is no better way to achieve this than to focus our attention on the Eucharist: Christ's sacrifice, Christ's memorial, Christ's presence. The Eucharist is Christ's one sacrifice, made present to us again in all its power and promise. Everything which occurred on the cross and in the adjacent garden is made present to us sacramentally; His sacrifice becomes our food. The Eucharist

is also Christ's abiding presence — He is present under the appearances of bread and wine, whether we happen to feel any different or not; He abides in the tabernacle and, shortly, on this altar, whether we we're tired or bored, distracted or distressed. His presence to His people — thank God — depends little on our worthiness or often half-hearted devotion.

As a people who are formed by the eucharistic love of Jesus (quite literally), we should concentrate on what we do when we gather at the Lord's altar. We should fix our attention on Christ's self-emptying love — this is My body, broken for you; this is My blood, poured out for you. We should seek to live what we celebrate, so that we will become more and more like Him who freely and humbly gave Himself for us. The more our life becomes a Mass, the more we can offer all we are and all we have to the Father, the more we can break ourselves and

pour ourselves out for our neighbor, the more we will purge ourselves of unredeemed desires and fixations, the more we will grow in the likeness of Christ and the more we will become the glorious creatures God created to be. The ultimate effect of the Eucharist, according to Thomas Aquinas, is to give unity and cohesion to Christ's body, the church, strengthening our capacity to be living witnesses in the world.

Though trained by our American culture to be rugged individualists, our faith in Christ

in this small country. Most of the wealth in the country was held in the hands of very few people. There were gross inequities in the economic life of Salvadorans. There was also brutal violence taking hold in the country. Disappearances and other human rights violations were common. Many priests and nuns spoke out on behalf of those who were being persecuted.

Blessed Oscar Romero entered into the fray as well. He denounced the violence against the people in weekly addresses and homilies. His voice became known as the "voice of the voiceless". He spoke for the thousands of people who did not have a platform to do so.

Blessed Oscar Romero was shot and killed while celebrating Mass on March 24, 1980. He was formally declared a martyr by Pope Francis in February 2015 and beatified in May 2015.

There are many lessons to be learned from the lives of



THE HUMAN CONDITION

MSGR. MICHAEL HEINTZ

relates us — and, what is more, puts us under obligation — to our brothers and sisters, especially those in need. The bond established among us in baptism is both ratified and strengthened by our shared participation in the body and blood of the Lord.

We must never overlook the link between the eucharistic communion we are privileged to share and the obligation we have toward the poor. As God has so lavished His generous goodness and mercy upon us, so are we are to do toward others, particularly the poor to whom He is so close, to whom He has united Himself in the divine poverty of the Incarnation. In this we have no choice; it is not one option among many we may choose or select. If we take seriously the presence of Christ in the Eucharist, it is our sacred obligation and duty to reverence and serve Christ in the poor.

Msgr. Michael Heintz is on the faculty at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md.

the people of God. Here is a piece of advice from Blessed Oscar Romero on the life of the Christian. I will let these words end the reflection.

"Each one of you has to be God's microphone. Each one of you has to be a messenger, a prophet. The church will always exist, as long as there is someone who has been baptized. ... Where is your baptism? You are baptized in your professions, in the fields of workers, in the market. Wherever there is someone who has been baptized, that is where the church is. There is a prophet there. Let us not hide the talent that God gave us on the day of our baptism, and let us truly live the beauty and responsibility of being a prophetic people."

Melissa Wheeler is the diocesan director for Catholic Relief Services.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for March 19, 2017

John 4:5-42

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle A: Jesus makes a disciple of the woman at the well. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

- | | | |
|--------------|---------|---------------|
| SYCHAR | JOSEPH | WELL |
| JOURNEY | NOON | FOOD |
| SAMARITAN | WOMAN | A JEW |
| LIVING WATER | FLOCKS | THIRSTY AGAIN |
| ETERNAL | WORSHIP | NOW HERE |
| TRUTH | MESSIAH | CHRIST |
| I AM HE | BELIEVE | SAVIOR |

NO MORE THIRST

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

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CRS

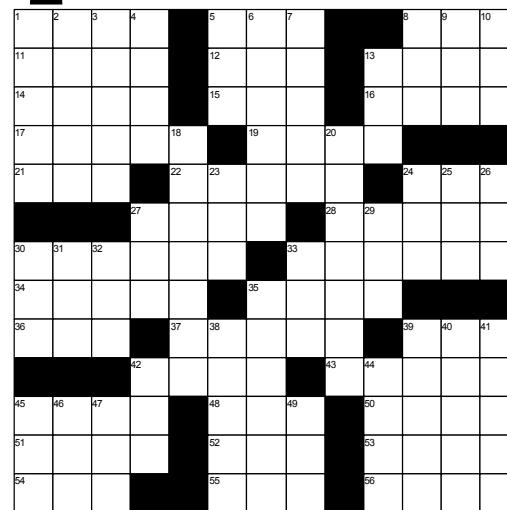
Continued from Page 12

learned the trade of carpentry from St. Joseph. Work was an important part of Jesus' life and should be an important part of all of our lives. It is essential to us being able to provide for ourselves and our families. Work is also a way for us to realize our dignity and worth, which is why fair wages are vital for those in need. The work of Catholic Relief Services in El Salvador with those in need is a demonstration of the love Christ had for the poor. When thinking of the plight of the poor in El Salvador, one cannot help but feel a connection to Blessed Oscar Romero.

Oscar Romero served as Archbishop of San Salvador, El Salvador from 1977-80. At the time, civil war was gaining speed

The Cross Word

March 19 and 26, 2017



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Based on readings: Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 and 1Sm 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

ACROSS

- 1 Open jaws
- 5 School group
- 8 Estimated arrival time
- 11 Spoken
- 12 Samuel had a horn filled with
- 13 Special breastplate
- 14 Brief autobiographical sketch
- 15 Electroencephalograph (abbr.)
- 16 Moses struck with his staff
- 17 Objects
- 19 Pope (Italian)

- 21 Serving of corn
- 22 Colder
- 24 Canine
- 27 Soon
- 28 Ship's caulking
- 30 Show off
- 33 Third Person of Trinity
- 34 Wedge
- 35 Danish physicist
- 36 Not downs
- 37 European river
- 39 Frozen water
- 42 Computer worker
- 43 Highest male singer
- 45 Another word for Great Serpent

- 48 Joan of ___
- 50 Christmas
- 51 Cut
- 52 ___ vs Wade
- 53 ___ the Red
- 54 Spider home
- 55 How many days Jesus stayed in Samaritan town
- 56 Religious faction

DOWN

- 1 Video
- 2 Type Japanese ceramic
- 3 Jesus gives living ___
- 4 Bang down
- 5 "Raven" author
- 6 Men's jewelry
- 7 Fish tank growth
- 8 Pride
- 9 Twitch
- 10 ___ and you shall receive
- 13 Time period
- 18 Jesus died while we were still ___
- 20 Isaiah was one
- 23 Portable bed
- 24 Danish krone (abbr.)
- 25 French "yes"
- 26 Time zone
- 27 Assumption month
- 29 Oxygen
- 30 Winter malady
- 31 Type of rabbit
- 32 Advertisements
- 33 ___ of God
- 35 Take on loan
- 38 God judges the ___
- 39 Harden
- 40 Infant's disease
- 41 Upright
- 42 Referee
- 44 Jesus used clay on
- 45 Compass point
- 46 We believe in ___ God
- 47 Taken from Adam
- 49 Chief executive officer

Answer Key can be found on page 15

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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. 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.

Euchre tournament planned

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School will host a euchre tournament on Friday, March 24, in the cafeteria. Doors open at 6 p.m. and euchre begins at 7 p.m. Cost is \$30 per two-person team or \$20 per two-person team with a LuersKnight auction item donation. Cash prizes will be awarded. Adults 21 and older only. Beverages available for purchase and light snacks, soda and water provided. Make reservations to Kathy Skelly at 260-456-1261, Ext. 3142 or kskelly@bishopluers.org.

5K run/walk to benefit orphans in Haiti

FORT WAYNE — The Formula for Life 5K run/walk and silent auction will be Sunday, April 23 at 1 p.m. at the University of Saint Francis. Complimentary lunch. Free T-shirt for the first 300 participants. All proceeds will benefit residential and nutritional needs of orphans in Haiti. Register at RunReg.com.

Evening of reflection planned

MONROEVILLE — St. Rose Parish will host an evening of reflection Sunday, March 19, at 6 p.m. in the St. Rose School Chapel with Father Tom Shoemaker. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the talk.

Morning of reflection planned

COLUMBIA CITY — A Women's Morning of Reflection will be held at St. Catherine Church on Saturday, March 25. Mass

at 8 a.m. will be followed by breakfast in the church hall. The program will be on Our Lady of Fatima along with other activities, and will end at 11 a.m. A free-will offering will be taken up for Right-to-Life. Contact Linda Bustamante 260-344-3112 for further information or if you will be able to attend.

Career ministry to host panel night

FORT WAYNE — The St. Vincent de Paul career ministry is made up of volunteers with a background in HR, recruitment and senior level management. An open panel night will be Monday, March 20, at the Spiritual Center, 1502 E. Wallen Rd. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Dress is casual. Bring a copy of your resume.

ACIES planned

SOUTH BEND — The Legion of Mary ACIES will be held on Sunday, March 26, at 3 p.m. at St. Anthony's Church, 2114 E. Jefferson. For information contact Elsie at 574-259-6215 or Lora at 260-422-4061.

FISH FRIES

Fish fry for Vietnam Memorial
COLUMBIA CITY — The Knights of Columbus and Leatherneck Coffee Club of St. Paul of the Cross Church, 315 S. Line St., will host a fish fry from 4-7 p.m. Friday, March 24, in the parish community center to raise money for a Vietnam memorial. Tickets are \$8 per adult, \$4 per child ages 6-10. Younger children free.

Carryout available. Additional donations will be accepted.

Fish fry

SOUTH BEND — The Our Lady of Hungary Holy Name Society will have a fish fry on Friday March 24, from 4-6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$5 for children 6-12 and children under 6 free. Tickets at the door. Carryout available.

Holy Name Society fish fry

NEW HAVEN — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry Friday, March 17, from 4-7 p.m. Adults \$9, children 5-12 \$5.50 and children under 5 free.

Drive-through only fish fry

ARCOLA — St. Patrick Church, 12305 Arcola Rd, will have a drive-through only fish fry on Friday, March 24, from 4:30-7 p.m. Cost of dinner is \$9.

Fish fry and stations offered

BLUFFTON — The Knights of Columbus, Father Aloysius Council No. 7555 will host a fish fry on Friday, March 31, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph

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Oral R. Evans, 93, St. Anthony of Padua

Frank R. Palmers, 73, St. Anthony of Padua

Donaldson

Sister Marjaleen Kelley, PHJC, 89, Ancilla Domini Chapel

Elkhart

Dr. Richard C. Boling, Sr., 89, St. Thomas the Apostle

Fort Wayne

Elizabeth M. Reuille, 92, St. John the Baptist

Patricia Ann Reed, 66, St. Vincent de Paul

Robert O. Rowlett, 88, Most Precious Blood

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Daniel E. Stewart, 96, St. Charles Borromeo

Huntington

Katherine L. DeLaGrange, 57, St. Mary

Gloria A. Rupley, 83, Sts. Peter and Paul

Mishawaka

Charlotte J. De Broka, 74, St. Joseph

Monroeville

Stephen J. Swygart, 61, St. Rose of Lima

Notre Dame

Sister Nancy Ganse, CSC, 89, Church of Our Lady of Loretto

May Lee Johnson, 66, Church of Our Lady of Loretto

South Bend

Nicholas Ferraro, 97, St. Anthony de Padua

Mary Elizabeth Veldman, 74, Christ the King

Adam C. Dyczko, 24, Christ the King

Elmer A. Van De Wiele, 86, Corpus Christi

Donald J. Laurent, 78, St. Jude

Steven J. Nijak, 27, St. Therese, Little Flower

Submit obituaries to mweber@diocesefwsb.org

Church, 1300 N. Main St. Adult ticket is \$10, children ages 6-12 are \$6 and children 5 and under free. Carry out available. Stations of the Cross will be at 7 p.m.

Fish fry and salad bar on tap

SOUTH BEND — St. Adalbert will have a fish fry and salad bar on Friday, March 17, from 3:30-7 p.m., in the Heritage Center, 519 S Olive St. Adults and carryout tickets are \$12, children 5-12 \$5, and children under 5 free. For information call 574-288-5708.

The CrossWord

March 19 and 26, 2017

M	A	W	S		P	T	A		E	T	A			
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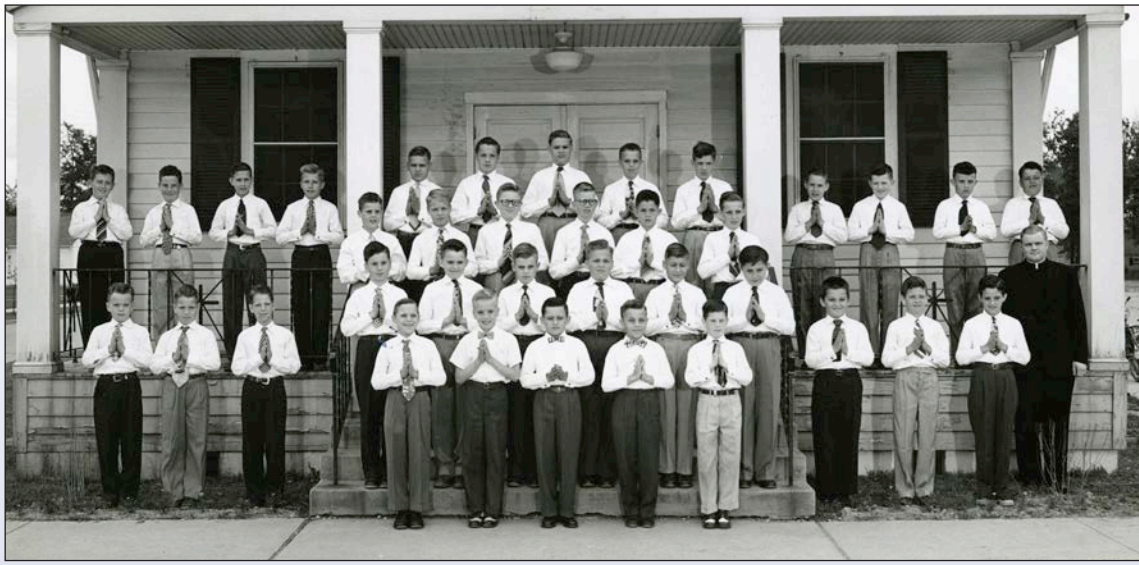
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Cathedral Museum Archives

Altar boys from 1952 pose in front of the then-new Sacred Heart Church.

SACRED

Continued from Page 10

prefer the Extraordinary Form of the Mass. Father Gabet became pastor and Father Dan Durkin, pastor of neighboring St. Henry Parish, would offer English Mass once each weekend at Sacred Heart.

During Father Gabet's time as pastor, in addition to leading the small but faithful Catholic community, an ambitious construction project was begun that included a renovation of the sanctuary. In 2016, as that project continued, he was transferred to Holy Family Parish in Dayton, Ohio. Father Mark Wojdelski, FSSP, subsequently became pastor, with Father James Buckley, FSSP, in residence. Renovations

are wrapping up under Father Wojdelski's leadership, and plans call for the building of a shrine area in the back of the church.

Edward Smith has been a Sacred Heart parishioner for about eight years. He drives to Fort Wayne from Auburn to attend the Latin Mass, but notes that many people drive much farther distances; some coming from Michigan and Ohio. St. Stanislaus parish in South Bend is the only other parish in the diocese that offers Latin Masses.

Smith said he especially enjoys the reverent atmosphere, traditional music and small, multi-generational community at Sacred Heart. He added that all are welcome to enjoy coffee and donuts in the school basement every other Sunday after Mass. There are potluck meals at least every other month, and children often gather together to play football, soccer or bas-

ketball in the area next to the school.

Latin Masses are currently the only Masses offered at Sacred Heart. First Friday and First Saturday devotions continue, and there is also a Rosary Sodality as well as an adult choir that sings at all High Masses.

Smith said he would like to invite everyone to try Mass at Sacred Heart, and Father Wojdelski echoed those sentiments by quoting Philip's words to Nathaniel in John's Gospel: "Come and see." In the end, though the history of Sacred Heart parish is rich and meaningful, it is the liturgy celebrated within its walls that has the richest history and the most meaningful experiences, which is the reason it has been a fixture of Fort Wayne's southeast side for 70 years.

ROTHER

Continued from Page 1

Coakley said Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, will be representing the pope at the beatification ceremony in Oklahoma City. It will take the priest one step closer to sainthood. In general, following beatification, a miracle attributed to the intercession of the person being considered for sainthood is required for that person to be declared a saint.

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City sent Father Rother to its mission in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala, in 1968 and while stationed there, he helped build a small hospital, a school and its first Catholic radio station.

In 1981, as Guatemala was in the middle of a decades-long conflict, Father Rother, who lived in an indigenous rural area that had been accused by the government of sympathizing with rebels, suffered the same fate as many of his parishioners and native Guatemalans and was gunned down in the rectory. Like many deaths at that time, his assassins were never identified, nor prosecuted. His body was returned to the United States.

"It continues to challenge me to know that my brother, an ordinary person like you or me, could give himself in the prime of his life to such a complete dedication to serve 'the poorest of the poor' of another culture

and language, and to give of himself in such an extraordinary way," wrote his sister Marita Rother, who is a religious sister of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, in the introduction to "The Shepherd Who Didn't Run: Fr. Stanley Rother, Martyr from Oklahoma," a 2015 biography by Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda.

Archbishop Coakley, who wrote the foreword of the book, said "the recognition of this generous parish priest's simple manner of life and the sacrificial manner of his death serves as a tremendous affirmation to priests and faithful alike in the United States and around the world." He went on to write that "saints are local, they come from ordinary families, parishes and communities like Okarche, Oklahoma. But their impact is universal."

Father Rother was one of about 200,000 killed during the civil war in Guatemala, a conflict that began in 1960 and ended with peace accords in 1996. He was 46 at the time of his assassination and died in a rural community he loved and one that loved

him back. Because his name was tricky to pronounce for the community, he went by "Padre Francisco," adopting his middle name of Francis.

Archbishop Coakley told *The Oklahoman* newspaper that a delegation from Guatemala is expected to be present at the September beatification ceremony. Before it was official, he was considered a martyr by the church in Guatemala and included on a list submitted to the Vatican of 78 martyrs for the faith killed during the country's conflict.

Like many deaths at that time,

his assassins were never

identified, nor prosecuted.

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