

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Eleven instituted to ministry of acolyte



Joe Romie

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades offered 11 men spiritual guidance during a Mass on June 10, as they began the climactic steps toward their ordination to the diaconate next June. "Brothers, in the last year of your preparation for diaconal ordination, I cannot think of any better advice than for you to take time for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament," he said. After Mass, the new acolytes gathered for a photo on the steps to the sanctuary of the cathedral with Bishop Rhoades, concelebrating priests and deacons. From left, in the front row, are: Fred Everett, Ricardo Garcia, Jose Ruvalcaba, Juan Campos, Christian Nieves, Giovanni Munoz, Bishop Rhoades, Alejandro Garcia, Marco Castillo, Victor Sandoval, Blas Olayo and Huberto Vasquez. In the back two rows are Deacon Patrick Hake, Deacon Mel Tardy, Deacon Jim Fuchs, Deacon Jim Tighe, Father Constantino Rocha, Deacon Dave Elchert, Father Tony Steinacker, Msgr. Robert Schulte, Father Evaristo Olivera, Deacon Bill Gallagher, Father Kevin Bauman, Deacon Stan LeMieux, Deacon Bob Byrne and Deacon Jim Fitzpatrick.

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

"Make your life worthy of your service at the table of the Lord and of his church." It was with these words that Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades formally instituted each member of the newest class of acolytes for the Diocese of Fort

Wayne-South Bend on June 10.

While the ceremony signified one of the customary steps on the path toward ordination, this particular Mass of installation was the first class of acolytes to be uniquely tasked with the mission of serving Hispanic communities throughout the diocese. For the 11 men, representing seven par-

ishes, all of their training, coursework and examinations have been administered in Spanish as they prepare for ordination to the diaconate in service to Hispanic Catholics.

The final stage of preparation, the institution as acolytes — meaning "attendant" in Greek — indicates the new role each of

these men now have to serve at the altar in a special way.

Bishop Rhoades, who celebrated the Mass entirely in Spanish, emphatically stressed the importance of devotion to the Blessed Sacrament for sustaining fruitful ministry.

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Bishop of Evansville named as archbishop of Indianapolis

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Francis has named Bishop Charles C. Thompson of Evansville to head the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Archbishop Thompson, who has been Evansville's bishop since 2011, will succeed Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, who was named to head the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., last November.

The appointment was announced June 13 in Washington by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Archbishop Thompson, 56, a native of Louisville, Ky., was vicar general of the Louisville Archdiocese from 2008 until he was named bishop of Evansville.

On the national level, he is a member of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Administrative Committee, the Committee on Priorities and Plans and the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.

No details on Bishop Thompson's transition to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis were available at press time, but look for more information in the June 25 issue of Today's Catholic.



CNS photo/the Message

Pope Francis has named Bishop Charles C. Thompson of Evansville to head the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.



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The Eucharist: the New Manna from Heaven



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

This Sunday, we will be celebrating the beautiful Eucharistic feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). On this day, the Church gives thanks to God for its greatest treasure: the amazing gift He gave us on the night before He died, the gift of His Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist.

In the first reading from the Book of Deuteronomy this Sunday, we hear about the hungry people in the desert during the Exodus being fed by God with manna. In the Gospel from St. John, we hear part of the great discourse of Jesus on the Bread of Life in which He refers to the gift of manna and reveals that the bread He will give, also bread from heaven, is even greater since it is His "flesh for the life of the world." Jesus says: "Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

The great Bishop and Doctor of the Church, St. Ambrose, wrote the following: "What is greater, manna from heaven or the body of Christ? The body of Christ, of course, for He is the Creator of heaven. In addition, he who ate the manna died but he who has eaten this body, it will become for him the forgiveness of sins and he 'shall not die forever'."

The manna from heaven given by God to His people in the desert during the Exodus is clearly an anticipation or foreshadowing of the Eucharist. The Eucharist is "the new manna." In fact, the Jewish people expected that there would be a new miracle of manna when the Messiah came. As God fed the people with bread from heaven on their journey in the desert to the promised land, so God feeds us with bread from heaven on our journey through the desert of this life to the promised land of heaven. The bread is different, however, since the bread of the Eucharist is the Bread of Life; it is Jesus, His flesh that gives life through the Holy Spirit.

The "new manna" of the Eucharist is the food for our journey to heaven. That is why the Eucharist is called "Viaticum," a Latin word that means "with you on the way." The Eucharist is spiritual food. As the manna provided bodily nourishment for the Israelites in the desert, the "new manna" provides spiritual nourishment for us, satisfying our hungry hearts. As we sing so often in a popular hymn: "You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat, come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat."

We are reminded of the gift of manna in the Second Eucharistic Prayer, especially with the more accurate English translation which now reads: "Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ." During the Exodus, dew fell upon the camp of the chosen people in the desert and, when it evaporated, the heavenly manna was there on the ground. The dewfall yielded food from heaven for



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the Israelites on their pilgrimage. For us, in the Eucharist, the dewfall of the Holy Spirit yields the Body and Blood of Christ for our pilgrimage to heaven.

Another parallel between the manna and the Eucharist is that the Israelites conserved the manna in the Ark of the Covenant, which was kept in the Holy of Holies where God's presence was adored. Though the manna was not God, it came from God. This foreshadows the tabernacle in our churches where Christ is adored in the Eucharist, His Real Presence. The hosts are kept in a golden ciborium, reminiscent of the gold jar in which the manna was kept in the Ark of the Covenant.

In Psalm 78:25, the manna is described as the "bread of angels." It was not eaten by angels, but it was angelic in its supernatural origin. The Eucharist is truly the "bread of angels" because of its effect in our souls. As the angels have a participation in the divine life through grace and glory and thus can be said to partake of this bread, so we are nourished in sanctifying grace through Holy Communion, a participation in divine life. And so we receive the "bread of angels" in the Eucharist, the new manna. St. Thomas Aquinas wrote of this truth in the Sequence for the Mass of Corpus Christi: "Behold the Bread of angels, which became the Bread of wayfarers: truly the Bread of the children, not to be thrown to the dogs."

St. Thomas also wrote the hymn "Sacris sollemniis" for the Feast of Corpus Christi,

one strophe of which is the text of the popular hymn "Panis angelicus." In English, it reads: "May the Bread of angels become bread for mankind; the Bread of heaven puts all foreshadowings to an end; Oh, thing miraculous! The Body of the Lord will nourish the poor, the servant, and the humble..."

The beautiful tradition of processions of the Blessed Sacrament on the feast of Corpus Christi remind us that the Holy Eucharist is truly the new manna for our journey. We walk in procession with the Blessed Sacrament through the streets, expressing our love and devotion, but also to bring the Lord's presence with us into the world. The Corpus Christi procession reminds us of our mission to carry Christ with us when we leave Mass, to live the mystery of love we have celebrated and received. We are called, in other words, to live "Eucharistic lives." The Eucharist nourishes us to live our faith with renewed energy and strength, so that our lives are authentic signs of the presence of the Lord.

If you have the opportunity, I invite and encourage you to participate in a Corpus Christi procession in your area or with me in Elkhart. I will be carrying the Blessed Sacrament in procession from St. Thomas the Apostle Church to St. Vincent de Paul Church in Elkhart, beginning at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 18.

Let us rejoice in the Lord Jesus, the Bread of life, the New Manna, the Bread of Angels! Have a blessed Feast of Corpus Christi!

Hundreds mourn man killed during heroic act to protect fellow passengers

BY ED LANGLOIS

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — The morning after police in Portland arrested 14 demonstrators at dueling political protests, about 800 worshippers turned out in a unified show of support for a man whose heroic act transcended division.

Ricky Best was laid to rest in Willamette National Cemetery in Portland June 5 after a funeral Mass at a packed Christ the King Church in the suburb of Milwaukie. On hand were Christians, Muslims, Jews, peace activists and members of a motorcycle club that backs President Donald Trump.

"Many of us consider him a hero. Many of us in the church consider him a martyr," said Msgr. Richard Paperini, pastor of Christ the King.

Best, a 53-year-old city of Portland employee, was one of three men who stepped forward May 26 to defend two teens on a Portland commuter train. The girls, one in a Muslim headscarf and the other black, were the target of an anti-Muslim and racist verbal attack from 35-year-old Jeremy Christian.

When Best — along with 23-year-old Taliesin Myrddin Namkai-Meche and 21-year-old Micah Fletcher — spoke up, Christian pulled a knife and slashed at the men. Best and Namkai-Meche died and Fletcher was hospitalized. Police apprehended Christian, who has been arraigned

on charges of aggravated murder. One of the girls, 16-year-old Destinee Mangum, attended the funeral with her family.

During the Mass, Best's 19-year-old son spoke to the crowd.

"I look into my father's eyes and I see the love of God made manifest," Erik Best, a Clackamas Community College student, said in a halting voice. "He loved everyone."

The whole family wore white headbands, a symbol of mourning and honor in the Vietnamese tradition of Myhanh, Best's wife.

"We are grateful to Ricky for the example he gave us," Msgr. Paperini said during his homily, citing the Gospel reading from St. John, which said in part: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." He told the Best family that the parish stands with them now and will stand with them in the future.

"He saw the opportunity to love as a privilege," said Msgr. Paperini, who recalled Best once telling him: "It's really not about us, but about our ability to be there for others."

Portland Archbishop Alexander K. Sample, who attended the funeral, said Best fulfilled the call of those who follow Jesus, an act that will live on in memory and change the world for the better. The archbishop said even he asks "why?" when tragedies happen, but over time, "I always see the good God is able to draw out of the most hor-

rible of human tragedies."

He said Best's act of heroism has already borne fruit, drawing together Christians and Muslims in a mutual stand against hate and violence.

Harris Zafar of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Portland told mourners he wishes he could thank Best in the flesh.

"I would thank him for being the father I strive to be and the human being I strive to be," Zafar said. "I would tell him thank you for helping me be able to go home to my kids and say, 'Daddy was wrong. Superheroes do exist.'"

Zafar cited the Quran, which says that if you kill one, it's as if you have killed all; and if you save a life, it is as if you saved all.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley attended the funeral and greeted the family.

As the funeral procession wound up Mount Scott to the cemetery, citizens lined the road, waved flags and saluted.

At the cemetery, more than 50 flag-carrying motorcyclists welcomed the hearse. Best, who served in the Army for 23 years, was buried with full military honors. Oregon Gov. Kate Brown was on hand to help present the casket flag to his wife.

Ed Langlois is managing editor of the *Catholic Sentinel*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Portland.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, June 18: 3:30 p.m. — Corpus Christi Procession, St. Thomas the Apostle Church to St. Vincent de Paul Church, Elkhart
Monday, June 19-23: Annual Priest Retreat, Potawatomi Inn, Pokagon State Park, Angola
Friday, June 23: 7 p.m. — Mass for Education for Ministry graduation program, St. John the Evangelist Church, Goshen
Saturday, June 24: 10:30 a.m. — Jubilee Mass for Sisters of Saint Francis, Saint Francis Convent, Mishawaka



Priest assignments

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

Reverend Peter Pacini, CSC, to Administrator of St. Bavo Parish, Mishawaka, effective July 1, 2017.

Reverend Vincent Joseph, VC, to Parochial Vicar of St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne, effective July 1, 2017.

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

- St. Joseph Church, 1300 N. Main St., Bluffton: Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty takes place at 5 p.m. and ends with Mass at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday monthly.
- St. Charles Borromeo Church, 4916 Trier Rd, Fort Wayne: A Holy Hour all Fridays at 7 p.m. in the chapel.
- Queen of Peace Church, Mishawaka: Adoration and Exposition every Saturday prior to Mass at 5:30 p.m.
- St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Decatur: Eucharistic exposition on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 4:30-6 p.m. and on Thursday from 9-10 a.m. and 4:30-8 p.m.
- Our Lady of Good Hope Church, 7215 Saint Joe Rd., Fort Wayne: A holy hour for religious liberty beginning with a rosary at 9:30 a.m. every Tuesday.
- Chapel of Divine Mercy at The Life Center, 2018 Ironwood Circle, South Bend: Eucharistic Adoration Tuesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Wednesday from 2-6:30 p.m.

National collection for military services appreciated

Your Excellency,

Thank you for your support of the 2016 National Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. The gift from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend of \$74,650.34, dated 12, April, 2017, has been received.

I am grateful to you and to my brother bishops for the approval of this special triennial collection, because the AMS receives no funding from the military or the government and must rely solely on private donors to support its programs and services for your people while they are in uniform,

including the Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program which provides priests for the Church and the U.S. military.

With more than 300,000 Catholics between the ages of 18-29 on active duty, the U.S. military provides the Church with a substantial pool of priestly vocations. I join you in continuing to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and the religious life.

Thank you and the parishioners of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for helping me continue to minister to those who protect this great nation of ours, and who defend the freedoms we hold dear.

Fraternally in Christ,

Timothy P. Broglio
Archbishop for Military Services, USA



CNS photo/Ed Langlois, Catholic Sentinel

Msgr. Richard Paperini comforts Myhanh Best, wife of Ricky Best, who was killed on a Portland, Ore., commuter train May 26 while defending two girls from an anti-Muslim racist attack. The ceremony was held June 5 at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, following a funeral Mass for Ricky Best at Christ the King Church in Milwaukie, Ore.

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London victim committed to justice

BY SIMON CALDWELL

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — The Spanish government paid tribute to a Catholic man stabbed to death as he used his skateboard to try to defend a woman from a knife-wielding terrorist in London.

Ignacio Echeverria, 39, native of Spain working in London for a year, was one of eight victims of three assailants who drove a van into pedestrians on London Bridge before they attacked people randomly with knives and machetes in nearby Borough Market the evening of June 3.

The Spaniard, a Catholic and the nephew of a deceased bishop, was returning from a skateboard park when he stumbled upon the atrocity and saw one of the terrorists repeatedly stabbing a woman.

Witnesses have reported that Echeverria used his skateboard as a weapon against the terrorist before he was fatally wounded himself.

The Spanish government said in a statement that Echeverria's relatives and friends "are not alone in their pain, and that, today, Spain is with them, sharing their feelings and desolation and joined with them in this terrible moment."

"The exemplary attitude shown by Ignacio Echeverria during the attacks is a demonstration of solidarity for all to see," said the statement posted June 7 on the government's official website.

"His bravery in defending a helpless person serves as a reminder of the need to remain united before the scourge of terrorism, facing up to those whose only language is one of violence and terror," it said.

The statement added: "The government believes strongly that unity among democrats can overcome many challenges, including terrorist madness."

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy Brey of Spain suggested on social media that the Silver Cross of the Order of Civil Merit should be awarded posthumously to Echeverria, who came from Las Rozas, near Madrid.

The Las Rozas City Council, which called for two days of mourning, also indicated it will bestow a medal of honor posthumously on Echeverria and open a new park with a skateboard arena in his name.

Echeverria moved to London a year ago to work in money laundering prevention for HSBC Bank.

Spanish media reported that Echeverria was the nephew of Bishop Antonio Hornedo Correa, the late bishop of Chachapoyas, Peru, and was described by friends as being devoutly religious himself.

His brother, Joaquin, told *El Mundo*, a Spanish newspaper, that Echeverria "was a religious man" who never missed Mass on Sunday. He had also belonged to a group of young Catholics who met weekly in Madrid, the newspaper reported.

Friends described Echeverria



CNS photo/Echeverria family via Reuters
Ignacio Echeverria, 39, of Spain, was one of eight victims of three Islamist terrorists who drove a van into pedestrians on London Bridge before they attacked people randomly with knives and machetes in nearby Borough Market June 3. Echeverria is pictured in an undated family photo in Madrid.

as courageous with a strong sense of justice and a desire to serve the weakest.

One of his friends, Rafael Duarte, who worked with him at Banco Popular Espanol, told *El Mundo* that Echeverria was "humble, upright and very ethical." Another friend recalled how Echeverria once risked his own life to rescue a friend struggling against sea currents off San Vicente de la Barquera, Spain.



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Indiana convocation delegate takes cues from Pope Francis

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cindy Black's copy of "Evangelii Gaudium" — Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on the church's mission to evangelize the modern world — is worn from use, marked up and with notes in it.

Black, executive director of Redeemer Radio, a Catholic radio station based in Fort Wayne, said she is inspired overall by the 2013 text, which she considers a guide, but one sentence particularly stops her in her tracks.

The line, from paragraph 49 reads: "If something should rightly disturb us and trouble our consciences, it is the fact that so many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength, light and consolation born of friendship with Jesus Christ, without a community of faith to support them, without meaning and a goal in life."

That quote, for her, sums up why Catholics need to share their faith and it has been her own motivation in recent years. She also takes to heart a message Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, preacher of the papal household, said years ago in a homily about the parable of the lost sheep. He suggested viewing the parable differently when thinking about the modern church — not that a shepherd leaves his flock of 99 sheep to find the one that is lost but that 99 sheep are lost and one remains.

"The danger for us is to spend all our time nourishing this one remaining sheep and not to have time — also because of the scarcity of clergy — to seek out those who are lost. The contribution of the laity in this situation seems providential," he said in his Advent homily.

Black said she tells "anyone who will listen" that story, emphasizing that Catholics need to find some way to reach out beyond those already in the church which requires re-thinking the way things are usually done.

Unpacking more of what the pope is saying in "Evangelii Gaudium" or "Joy of the Gospel" and gaining a deeper understanding of how Catholics can effectively evangelize in the modern world is something Black hopes to gain during the "Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America" in Orlando, Fla., July 1-4.

The Fort Wayne native and mother of two is attending the convocation, sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, with a delegation from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. In a June 5 interview with Catholic News Service, she said she hopes delegates are "open to the Holy Spirit" and willing to be reinvigorated in their mission.

She has been to enough con-



CNS photo/Cindy Black
Cindy Black, executive director of Redeemer Radio, a Catholic radio station based in Fort Wayne, says the church needs to make evangelism a priority. Black, who will be a delegate at the "Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America" in Orlando, Fla., July 1-4,

ferences over the years in her work at the Indiana diocese in adult faith formation, youth ministry and evangelization offices to wonder: "How many times can we strengthen the same people over and over?"

She hopes the convocation will not be so much about making the 3,000 delegates stronger in their faith but equipping them to go back and enliven their parishes and ministries and reach out to those no longer in the church, especially young adults.

At Redeemer Radio, where she has worked for a year and a half, in her work in diocesan ministries for about a decade and anecdotally among friends and parishioners, Black often has had people ask her for prayers for their grown sons or daughters who no longer go to church.

This is not an isolated trend either. She points out that the church has an 85 percent attrition rate for young adults, adding that it is no different for people who attended Catholic schools, went on missions, or

not. As she sees it, the church needs to really face this fact and listen to these young people to find out what prompted them to walk away. To reverse this trend, she said, church leaders are going to have to make changes, take risks and try new things.

That's what Pope Francis is calling us to, she said, to go out not with the idea that "we have the truth in the upper hand" but to recognize where others are in their faith journey and to get them to a deeper relationship with Jesus.

When she applied for the job at the Catholic radio station, she was already accustomed to reaching out beyond the parish walls. She said in her interview: "If your goal is to pat the one (sheep) on the back, I'm not your person."

Instead, she hoped to challenge the listener, those on the peripheries that just happen to tune in, which is something she hopes will only be further reinforced at the convocation.

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NEWS BRIEFS

House OKs bill to aid genocide victims; Senate urged to act

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The co-authors of a House bill that will provide humanitarian aid to Christians and other religious groups suffering at the hands of Islamic State militants praised the June 6 House passage of the measure and urged the Senate to quickly act on it. The House unanimously approved the bipartisan Iraq and Syria Genocide Emergency Relief and Accountability Act, or H.R. 390, in a voice vote. Co-authored by Rep. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, and Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-California, the bill will provide emergency relief and aid to the victims of genocide in Iraq and Syria, particularly the Christians in the Middle East as well as other religious minorities. The humanitarian aid will be directed to groups such as the Chaldean Catholic Archdiocese of Irbil, Iraq, which provides direct care for victims, and those groups in turn get the assistance to those in need. "This legislation appropriately focuses on atrocities being committed against Christians and other religious and ethnic minorities in the Middle East, especially in Iraq and Syria," said Bishop Oscar Cantu of Las Cruces, N.M., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace. He made the comments in a June 9 letter urging swift passage of the measure by the Senate.

Gomez: Amid climate worries are 'human ecology' issues like homelessness

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — As reaction swirled around President Donald Trump's June 1 decision to withdraw the country from the Paris climate accord, Los Angeles received a report on "the dramatic increase in the numbers of our brothers and sisters who are homeless," said Archbishop Jose H. Gomez. "Each night in the county of Los Angeles — nearly 58,000 people have no place to call home," the archbishop wrote June 6 in *Angelus*, the online news site of the Los Angeles Archdiocese. "Personally, I am worried about the quality of life here in Los Angeles. Every day, it seems the distance grows wider between those who have what they need for a dignified life and those who do not," he said, adding that the lack of affordable housing "is directly related to 'the human ecology.' Human life and human nature must be protected and cared for — our rights and dignity, the needs of our bodies, minds and spirit," the archbishop said. Trump's action on the Paris accord "provoked deep concern everywhere about the future of the earth we live on," Archbishop Gomez said. "Concern about global warming and climate change is real. The U.S. bishops have long

Archbishop to be Lithuania's first beatified Soviet-era martyr



CNS photo/courtesy Diocese Kaisi

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A Lithuanian archbishop who was killed by lethal injection after 16 years in prisons and labor camps is to become the first Catholic martyr from the country's communist era to be declared blessed. The beatification ceremony for Archbishop Teofilus Matulionis, who died in 1962, is planned for June 25 in Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital. Archbishop Matulionis' "radical belief" in "seeking the truth at any cost" offered an attractive message, especially for young people, who will take part in a two-day youth festival before the ceremony. "Given current tensions in our part of the world, his call to remain at peace and follow the divine will, knowing God always gives us the gifts we need, remains highly relevant," said Archbishop Gintaras Grusas of Vilnius, the president of Lithuania's bishops' conference.

supported the need for prudent action and dialogue about the impacts of climate change, especially as they affect the poorest and most vulnerable people."

Pence addresses religious freedom at National Catholic Prayer Breakfast

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Vice President Mike Pence and other speakers addressed securing religious liberty and protecting the sanctity of human life both in the United States and worldwide, particularly in the Middle East, at the 13th annual National Catholic Prayer Breakfast in Washington June 6. Pence spoke about President Donald Trump's commitment to the securing of all religious freedoms to over 1,200 attendees, following speeches by keynote speaker Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, head of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, and special guest Mother Olga of the Sacred Heart. Pence

expressed his sorrow over the recent terrorist attacks in Europe, reassuring those in attendance that the president is committed to ending attacks on religious liberty around the world, as well as in America. "Catholicism has made an indelible mark on the American spirit," Pence said. "Your faith has moved mountains and the Catholic Church, and its millions of parishioners have been a force for good in our communities large and small throughout our land throughout our history. All the great American Catholics gathered here, let me assure you this morning, bright and early, at this prayer breakfast: American Catholics have an ally in President Donald Trump."

Pope, Panama bishops discuss World Youth Day, gender theory

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Preparations for World Youth Day 2018 and the dangers of gender theory on marriage and the family were among the major themes that bishops from

Panama discussed with Pope Francis. Describing the nearly two-hour meeting June 8 with the pope as a "wonderful visit among brothers," Archbishop Jose Domingo Ulloa Mendieta of Panama told journalists that the pope emphasized the important role that lay people and young men and women have in the church. Pope Francis "insisted very much that young people are not only the future; they are the present of the church and the present of humanity," Archbishop Ulloa said. "What a responsibility to be a young person in this time! Young people are the last breath of fresh air that we have so that hope continues to be renewed in us because a different world is possible thanks to young people." Pope Francis met with the 10 prelates from the Central American nation during the "ad limina" visits that bishops are required to make to the Vatican. Archbishop Ulloa, who also serves as president of the Panama bishops' conference, said Pope Francis "knows the situation in Panama very well."

Desecration of Philippines cathedral draws condemnation

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — Muslim religious and political leaders in the Philippines have joined in the barrage of condemnation of the desecration of a Catholic cathedral by terrorist gunmen in the besieged city of Marawi. "Let it be known to all that Islam commands all Muslims even in wartime to protect places of worship," read a statement issued June 7 by the National Ulama Conference of the Philippines, which represents the Muslim leaders. The harsh reaction came after a 96-second video surfaced June 5 on social media showing militants wrecking St. Mary Cathedral, ucanews.com reported. The video, believed to be filmed May 23, the day Muslim insurgents began attacking Marawi, shows men smashing and stomping on religious images and a large wooden cross inside the cathedral. They later burned the church and abducted Father Teresito Soganub, vicar general of the Prelature of Marawi, and several church workers. The Muslim leaders said, "what this terrorist group has done is un-Islamic and a blatant disrespect and disregard of the teachings of Islam."

Pope tells Nigerian priests to accept bishop or be suspended

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis is giving priests belonging to the Diocese of Ahiara, Nigeria, 30 days to write a letter promising obedience to him and accepting the bishop appointed for their diocese; priests who do not write will be suspended, according to Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. The papal text in English was posted June 9 on the blog of Archbishop Ignatius Kaigama of Jos, president of the Nigerian bishops' conference, and Fides posted it in Italian. The Vatican press office could not immediately confirm its authenticity, although Cardinal John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan of Abuja, who also was present, told Catholic News Service they were the remarks of the pope. A day earlier, the Nigerian church leaders met Pope Francis to discuss the situation of Bishop Peter Ebere Okpaleke, who was appointed bishop of Ahiara by then-Pope Benedict XVI in 2012, but who has been unable to take control of the diocese because of protests, apparently by the majority of priests. The Vatican June 8 issued only a short communique on the meeting with the pope, describing the situation in the diocese as "unacceptable." The protests were motivated by the fact that Bishop Okpaleke is not a local priest.

Humanitas Award given to Melissa Wheeler

NOTRE DAME — The Humanitas Award, given out annually by the Alumnae Association of Saint Mary's College, recognizes an alumna who is outstanding in her personal and volunteer accomplishments and is recognized for her concern for the interests and welfare of her fellow human beings. Her actions exemplify the qualities of personal dedication, compassion, selflessness and sacrifice through social action, education and reform within the community, the church and the world.

This year's recipient is Melissa Roberts-Wheeler, '97, of Fort Wayne, for her service in Catholic education and with Catholic Relief Services. The award was announced June 3 at a reunion banquet held on campus.

Roberts-Wheeler has taught theology at her alma mater, Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne, since 2001, and has served as the school's social justice coordinator since 2005. She was also head of the Theology Department from 2003-12. Working in these capacities, she has touched the lives of countless students.

In 2012 Roberts-Wheeler was named director for Catholic Relief Services for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. As the director, she is responsible for representing the diocese at national CRS events and coordinating the organization's work within the diocese. She manages this role along with teaching and other responsibilities.

One of her nominators and classmates, Molly Schleeter Bell, Class of 1997, wrote that Roberts-Wheeler's "character and moral compass guide her in all aspects of her life... (she is) a giver, a woman of faith, a volunteer, a teacher. She deserves this award because she would never expect it, with the way she lives her life as the reward to others."

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Avilla students record acts of kindness



Provided by Sara Lake

Students of St. Mary of the Assumption School took a pledge at the beginning of the school year to show kindness to everyone. Students and staff created a paper chain of links showing all the kindnesses they witnessed throughout the school year, and as the school year came to a close they walked the chain through Avilla to the library, where they presented it for display. The children hoped others would see the chain and continue to spread acts of kindness throughout the community.

Catholic schools recognized by state

FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND — The state of Indiana issued recognition June 1 for achievements that have taken place in schools across the state, including several of the Catholic schools within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, and Saint Joseph High School, South Bend, received 2017 Indiana AP recognition from the Indiana Department of Education and the College Board for their efforts to provide students with access to and success in advanced placement courses and exams. They were honored at the Indiana AP recognition ceremony at the Indiana Statehouse

atrium on June 14, an event that recognizes all schools in the state where at least 30 percent of the graduating class cohort earned a score of 3 or higher on at least one AP exam. This year, a total of 53 schools achieved the 30 percent success rate for the 2016 graduating cohorts including the two from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Students who receive scores of 3 or higher on an AP

exam can use that score to test out of entry level college courses.

Additionally, 10 diocesan schools have been recognized by the Indiana Department of Education as Four Star Schools. Created in 1988, the Four Star School Award has been in existence for nearly 30 years. To receive Four Star designation, a school must receive an "A" on the state's A-F accountability system, have excellent ISTEP pass rates, carry overall high graduation rate (if applicable) and show success in closing achievement gaps.

Four Star Schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend schools are: Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne; Christ the King School, South Bend; Marian High School, Mishawaka; Queen of Peace School, Mishawaka; St. Anthony de Padua School, South Bend; St. Bernard Elementary School, Wabash; St. Joseph High School South Bend; St. Joseph School, South Bend; St. Michael School, Plymouth; and St. Pius X School, Granger.

Brell awarded St. Jude scholarship

FORT WAYNE — Maryjane Brell, a student at St. Jude School, is the winner of the 2017 Mike Barnes "Woolfus" scholarship, an award given annually to the second-grader



MARYJANE BRELL

who puts forth his or her best effort in class, works and plays well with other students and is courteous and kind in helping others. The scholarship was created in memory of Barnes, who was a second-grade teacher at the school for many years.

The \$500 that accompanies the honor will be applied to Brell's tuition at St. Jude School for the next school year.

Millersburg dad teaches that God is our first father

BY DENISE FEDOROW

Jack Senger delivers more than the parcels he transports nearly every day for United Parcel Service; he has also been delivering a strong message of faith to his four children. The Senger family has had more than their share of challenges, but through those challenges one thing has remained central — their Catholic faith.

"I always tell the kids God is their first father, I'm their second father," Senger said.

Jack and his wife, Julie, have four children between them — Jamie, 26, from Julie's first marriage; Lindsey, 25, from Jack's first marriage with now-deceased wife Chrystal; Jarrett, 15, and Jenna, 12. He has been a driver for UPS for 32 years, and he met

Julie on a blind date fixed up by another customer on his route. He discovered he'd delivered to Julie's house, too. He related that Julie said she'd been praying for a man who'd accept Jamie as his own.

Senger said Julie was protective of Jamie at first. But, according to Jack, when Julie saw how well they got along and how he treated Jamie, she relaxed.

Senger was born and raised Catholic in South Bend, and attended St. Jude Parish. He moved to Millersburg in 1999 when he and Julie married, and the family attends St. John the Evangelist Church in Goshen.

Aside from Jamie's autism, the Sengers encountered other personal and family obstacles. When Jenna was born in 2004, Jack could tell right away that there was something different

about her. "She looked like she might have Down syndrome."

Senger said they had an "amazing pediatrician," P.J. Whalen, who also attended St. John and spent several hours with Jenna when she was born. He also connected the family right away with the Elkhart County Down Syndrome support group — an organization in which the family is still actively involved.

When Jenna was 2-1/2, her intestine ruptured. "That was a big scare — we thought we were going to lose her," her father said. But they turned to God in prayer, and Jenna pulled through.

When Jarrett was about 10 years old, they discovered he had cysts. They turned out to be benign, but it was traumatic for a while. The family took him to

Riley Children's Hospital, where they prayed with the doctors. Although it was an outpatient surgery, Jarrett was in pain: so they stayed in a hotel, with Jack going out in pouring rain to get him a heating pad and medication.

Jamie faces brain surgery this month to remove a rare brain tumor. They have been told it's noncancerous, but the doctors are not sure if it's possible to remove all of it. Once again, the family finds itself relying on God and turning to each other and to their parish family for prayers.

When asked if their seemingly larger share of challenges gets discouraging at times, Jack replied that he wouldn't say discouraging; but admitted they do get scared. This latest health issue has been particularly frightening for Julie and for

Jamie, who has had the most problems.

"We both help each other through the hard times. We put it in God's hands. We pray that God will provide the doctors with the knowledge to help them," he said. "It takes two to make a marriage work and (manage) the children."

Prayer is a daily part of this family's life even when they're not experiencing a medical crisis.

"At night we all kneel around our bed and pray together. The Our Father, Hail Mary, Act of Contrition and petitions," Jack said.

Before they travel they pray for safety, and they pray before meals — even out in public.

"Sometimes we get funny

In MY diocese

St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, Fort Wayne

Allen County

St. Joseph Hessen Cassel stands as a beacon for 175 years

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Church, located south of Fort Wayne on what was once called the Piqua Road, has been a beacon of faith for Catholics since its founding in the early 1840s.



FATHER
WILLIAM J.
KUMMER

The first settlers were immigrant farmers who came to the area from Hessen Cassel in the diocese of Fulda, Germany, and established a German colony in Indiana that was similar to their former village in its life and culture.

A century and three-quarters later, the parish population is about 1,100 families strong. The names of the founding families — Sorg, Minnich, Herber and Wyss, to name a few — are still on the list of St. Joseph parishioners. As Father William Kummer, pastor for the last four years, pointed out, “stability is certainly a character trait of this parish.”

St. Joseph is a thriving, faith-filled parish with many active ministries. One that especially pleases Father Kummer is a food pantry that has been in operation for more than 30



Photos provided by Michelle Rupright

Preschool students at St. Joseph Hessen Cassel School express joy during a recent graduation ceremony.

years. Currently under the direction of Mary and Lannie Ross, the pantry, which operates out of the parish office, is open on Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon and Saturday from 9 a.m. until all have been assisted. It serves between 200 and 225 area families each month, prompting Mary to describe it as “so worthwhile” and “just spectacular” in its mission. A dedicated volunteer group orders food from the Community Harvest Food Bank at a nominal price, then picks it up and helps distribute it.

“They know our patrons,” Mary said, and relationships develop between workers and shoppers. “People feel very comfortable.” Area high schools also conduct food drives, the volunteer fire department donates money to buy hams at Christmas, and private donations come in as well. “People are so good,” said Ross.

Another important parish ministry is a grief group run by the three-member team of Donna Gleason, Carolyn Sorg and Kathy Hartman. The min-

istry was founded in 2004 by Sorg, who brought the idea back from Michigan, where a friend’s parish had such a ministry. With the encouragement of then-pastor Father Edward Erpelding, she began a group at St. Joseph, which now plays a vital role in both the parish and the wider community. “We’re not licensed counselors,” said Gleason. “We’re just listeners.” Following the philosophy of recognized author, educator and grief counselor Dr. Alan Wolfelt, she said, “we companion the bereaved.” A typical grief group consists of half a dozen people who meet once a month at the church, along with a facilitator, for discussion and problem-solving.

St. Joseph is also adept at fundraising while having fun. “We sponsor a famous and successful parish fall festival with all the usual Catholic things — a chicken dinner, bingo game, car show, softball tournament, country store ... and music to the wee hours,” said Father Kummer. “It’s really fun.”



St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Church offers a lending library of religious books, videos and CDs to interested parishioners and visitors.

Another popular annual event is the Notre Dame Smoker, now in its 22nd year. Held the first Sunday in March, the stag event draws 800 attendees for an evening of raffles, food and games. Past and present Notre Dame football players attend to mingle with guests, sign autographs and talk about the upcoming season. It typically nets \$25,000 to \$35,000, which goes for big-ticket items like new windows in the school or electronics for the computer lab. The smoker, now smoke-free for many years, was the early brainchild of good friends Ed Merz, Chuck Litchfield, Kevin Harris, Bobby Rauner, George Rupright and the late Les Sorgen.

Merz pointed out that more than 70 men of the parish work the event. “It wouldn’t be successful without all the guys,” he said. He noted that younger men are beginning to take over. In describing the long-running popularity of the smoker, Merz could only say “we’re very blessed.”

Father Kummer also has high praise for St. Joseph School, a hallmark of the parish since its opening in the mid-1850s. It currently has an enrollment of 136 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Principal Rose Worman said that the school’s mission is to assist the Catholic Church in its teaching of the Gospel and to support parents in their obligation as teachers of their children. “We strive to prepare every child spiritually, academically and physically by giving them

the information, training and knowledge necessary to develop their talents to serve God and their country.”

Students have daily religion class and attend Mass twice weekly. There is a second- and eighth-grade sacramental buddies program. Seventh graders study the “theology of the body,” and Father Kummer personally prepares eighth graders for the sacrament of confirmation. Students participate in community service projects at Ave Maria House and St. Anne’s retirement home, support food drives for the parish food pantry and collect items for the troops overseas.

Academically, St. Joseph is fully accredited in all educational areas and offers SGO awards as well as Indiana State School Choice scholarships. Students participate in a spelling bee, geography bee and have qualified nationally in a history bee. Art and computer classes are also available, as well as choir and band.

Physically, students are prepared as well. There are weekly physical education classes, and they have the opportunity to play football, basketball, volleyball, track, cross country and soccer.

Principal Worman called St. Joseph School a “special place” with a unique environment. Father Kummer both echoed and enlarged on that sentiment. “What is special is the kindness and concern that people show for each other,” he said. Though the church is sizable, “it has that small and close feeling.”



St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel

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Holy Day: See bulletin

Weekday: M-F 8:15 a.m.

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In MY diocese

St. Rose of Lima, Monroeville

Allen County

Small-town church has large commitment to Christ

BY RON BUSCH

Southwest of Fort Wayne, just 3 miles from the Ohio state line, exists the small community of Monroeville. Like many smaller churches across the diocese, the Catholic parish of St. Rose, located in the town, plays a large part in the development of the local Catholic faith and community.

The church is named St. Rose de Lima, after the first saint born in the Western Hemisphere. In 1868, Father E. P. Walters erected a small church for 20 families, which stood for 19 years. In 1882, during Father B. Hartman's administration, a residence was built and cemetery was secured. Father J. Grogan was appointed the first resident pastor in 1884.

A church bell and Stations of the Cross were all that were saved from a fire that destroyed the church in October 1887. A fund of \$4,500 was quickly raised to replace the church:



FATHER
LOURDINO
FERNANDES

Much of the money was donated by the non-Catholic community. A cornerstone for the new church was laid by Bishop Joseph Dwenger in July 1888, and on May 12, 1889, the new church was dedicated.

The city of Monroeville acquired the ability to generate electricity in 1904, and the church was wired to receive it. A steam heating and boiler room was built, and a new rectory as well. In the fall of 1912 a school opened, and teaching nuns from the School Sisters of St. Francis in Milwaukee came to live in its east wing and instruct the students. The sisters served the school from 1912 to 1972.

Father C.W. Marr succeeded Father Felden in June 1922. Father Marr oversaw numerous improvements to the church and school, including a home deeded by Dr. William Conolly to the church, which became a home for the nuns.

Under the administration of Father Theodore Fettig in 1931, a commercial building was moved and the ground turned into a play area for the school children. Father Fettig was instrumental in reducing the parish debt and erecting a new rectory, complete with furnishings and landscaping. Church



Ron Busch

Many parishioners of St. Rose of Lima Parish carry on the faith of their forefathers, who built the faith community's first church in Monroeville in 1868 under the direction of Father E.P. Walters.

improvements were also made.

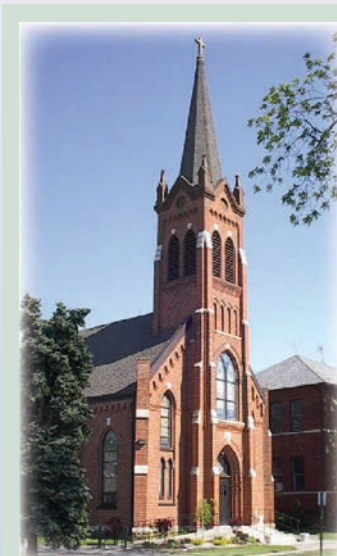
Father Joseph Hennes was appointed pastor in March 1943. Five years later, in July 1948, a new Kilgen harmonic ensemble organ was installed. Serving from 1958 to 1964, Father E. Roswog oversaw a remodeling of the school building.

The late 1960s and 1970s saw four pastors serve the parish. First was Father C. Ueber, from 1964-69. During his tenure, St. Rose was the first church in the diocese to turn the altar around and have the priest face the congregation, in

accordance with the reforms of Vatican II. Father Paul Miller served the parish from 1970-72, followed by Father Richard Urbine from 1972-78. On July 6, 1978, Father Paul Miller became pastor to St. Rose's 228 families.

The first century of the present church was celebrated in 1988. It featured activities including an open house, parish picnic, a homecoming anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop John D'Arcy on Sept. 11, a dinner and an open reception.

ROSE, page 10



St. Rose of Lima

206 Summit St.
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Mass Times:

Saturday: 5 p.m.
Sunday: 8, 10 a.m.
Holy Day: 8 a.m.; 6 p.m.; Vigil 6 p.m.
Weekday: M, T, Th 8 a.m.;
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Reconciliation: Sat. 4-4:45 p.m.
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ROSE

Continued from Page 9

A festival that took place during the anniversary year raised nearly \$13,000 for the parish.

Present day

Since 1972 the school has been administrated by laypersons. Dennis Fletter was the first lay principal. He was succeeded by Michael Casper. Carolyn Kirkendall followed, and served as principal for 27 years. Principal Stanley Liponoga IV came to the school in July 2012. Current St. Rose of Lima school

principal is Gale Powelson.

In 1998 a kindergarten class was added to the school, and a cafeteria that served hot lunches opened in 2009. The pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade classes at the school currently serve 118 students.

Grades five through eight participate in Catholic Youth Organization sports programs; speech therapy and transportation are cooperatively provided by the East Allen County School Corporation.

Today the pastor of St. Rose of Lima Church is Father Lourдино Fernandes, and longtime parishioner Annette May serves as the church secretary. Parish membership consists of 240 families and 608 individuals.

Father "Dino" acknowledges the selfless contributions of time

and talent to the parish given by school and parish staff members and the many volunteers who maintain both the physical facilities and the spiritual life of the parish.

"St. Rose Church takes care of us from cradle to grave," said May. "Father Dino has worked to infuse the parish with enthusiasm and love that feeds our spirit. We are a longstanding, vibrant parish."

She reflects often, she said, on the rich lineages represented at St. Rose. "I often see many generations of a family and can't help but note the uncles, cousins and cousins' children around me. I know my grandmother is smiling from heaven when she sees her family still rooted in this church."

Father Dino is likewise very positive about his role, the past, and the future of St. Rose.

"I am impressed with the great faith (parishioners) have inherited from their forefathers, and continuing this tradition that we have inherited is what I would like most," he said. Concretely, among his hopes for the future are active involvement in faith-enhancement activities, the giving of witness to the Catholic faith by taking it out into the world, and the building a community of faith to which others will feel drawn because of the welcome they receive at St. Rose. He also has hope that the sesquicentennial celebrations of St. Rose of Lima Parish might accomplish the "outrageous" dream of building a community hall that would enable the members to hold fellowship with each other after Mass and serve as a suitable venue to hold social and cultural gatherings.

Fort Wayne physician remembered for caring and excellence

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

A longtime physician, devout Catholic and dedicated husband and father was honored posthumously with a distinguished lifetime achievement award May 17



DR. JOHN CSICSKO

at Fort Wayne Country Club.

Dr. John Csicsko died suddenly in August 2016, while still actively working. A parishioner of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, he was a thoracic and cardiac surgeon and practiced in Fort Wayne for many years. A graduate of Bishop Noll High School in Hammond, he obtained degrees from Purdue University and Indiana University School of Medicine.

In addition to his medical practice, he held various teaching and administrative roles throughout his career, including chief of staff at St. Joseph Hospital and president of the Fort Wayne Medical Society. He served as the Fort Wayne Medical Society Foundation president from 2005 until his death.

A friend to many, he was known to be a patient, kind and caring doctor who put his patients first. His work touched the lives of many people who were facing medical crisis. For these reasons, he was publicly recognized at the Fort Wayne Medical Society and Fort Wayne Medical Society Alliance annual dinner. His widow and sons — Barbara, Nick and Chris Csicsko — accepted the award, in front of a room of members of the local medical community.

According to the society, the honor carries great significance.

Specifically, it recognizes medical professionals known for exceptional patient care, medical education, research, administration or combinations thereof.

Many colleagues offered high praises for Dr. Csicsko, at the event. Dr. Bill Clark offered this remembrance in a written tribute:

"One of the first patients with whom we shared care returned to see me as an outpatient following cardiac surgery. He had already seen John for outpatient follow-ups, and had been given an appointment for a one year return visit. He said he was disappointed not to see John sooner, the reason being: "because I just really like talking with him." That story suggested to me that John could fix a lot more for patients than just their heart, lungs or blood vessels. He held strongly principled views; while at the same time to my observation, he always spent as much or more time listening to others than in to talking to them."

Those who knew him on a personal level were aware of the role his Catholic faith played in both his personal and professional lives. In his wife's words, "he might be the only person I have ever known who never missed Sunday Mass as an undergraduate or graduate student. His faith and belief in God's love was very strong. He believed in the communion of saints and had an uncanny understanding of history."

She described him as a life-long teacher and learner. Despite his credentials and esteem, he remained humble and hardworking. Perhaps most importantly, he knew how to tend to the spiritual needs of patients.

"He provided hope in a way that others could not," she said. "He had the heart of a servant, and the hands of a healer."

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Photo by April Moord

From left, Nick, Chris and Barbara Csicsko accept the Physician Exemplar award presented by Dr. Zachry L. Waterson, Fort Wayne Medical Society president, in honor of Dr. John Csicsko's career excellence.

A father's perspective: Prayer brings us to what matters most

BY BEN EWING

There are few moments that I can recall in my life that have had massive impacts: graduating from college is certainly one, marriage being another (and certainly greater) event. The birth of my first daughter ranks as an impactful experience too; but these are all happy occasions, and one would expect a happy occasion to be something that brings joy to the heart. Not all experiences that have a lasting impact are necessarily happy, though. Some become shocking because they have changed your life and your worldview forever. If I were to gauge the impact and shock of an event and think of what has changed the course of my life there is only one that comes to mind: the birth of Sarah.

It was March, and I remember the weather being windy and cold with freezing rain. Jeannie had given pretty solid indications she was going into labor, and I felt happy and confident about the whole process. We'd done it once before, and going to the hospital was easy for me. Thinking of the first time I would meet this little girl and the future we would share together as a family was something that quickly warmed my soul and brought praise to God who knitted this little girl in Jeannie's womb. The labor progressed as fairly normal, and when it was time for delivery, this stubborn little girl just wouldn't come out. I was slightly puzzled by this, since everything from our sonograms showed a normal little girl. I was tired at this point, but certainly nowhere near the exhaustion of Jeannie, who had been in labor for 24-plus hours. The news came of a cesarean: what Jeannie was dreading. In the back of my mind there was



Provided by Jeannie Ewing

The close-knit Ewing family consists of parents Ben and Jeannie, and daughters Sarah and Felicity.

a nagging feeling of something not being right, but I held off those thoughts, because I knew that Jeannie was counting on me to be a source of strength when it seemed her world was falling apart from sleep and worry.

Once she was wheeled into the operating room, I soon followed and sat by where her head was positioned. I honestly wanted to watch the operation taking place, but I knew that if I did, I would blurt out to her what was going on, and I don't think that would have been appreciated at that moment. Hormones, sleep-

lessness and anxiousness can do bizarre things. The operation went beautifully, but it was after this moment when my world fell apart. The last ounce of strength I was holding onto was now held by God's grace alone.

I saw her. I saw her hands, her feet and her poor squished nose and brow. I knew something wasn't right, and I was now standing on the precipice of my own little bubble being popped unceremoniously. Something was wrong with Sarah. She screamed like a newborn, but she didn't look like one

to me. Her webbed toes, mitten hands and pronounced brow had suddenly become hard to look at, yet, once again through God's grace, I was able to open my heart and arms to her. The selfish, egotistical side of me was suddenly at war with the humble and providence-seeking side. It felt like two armies at a fever pitch when they had just clashed swords against shields in a swirl of action. God had knocked the wind out of me, and just like a slender glass vase that has shattered into a million pieces, I never thought I would be put back together.

Every father wishes for their boys to exude manliness in all of the biblical sense, and for their daughters, who are beautiful, to embody the quiet strength of Mary. This was not meant to be for Sarah. I don't mean that I don't find her beautiful physically, but I find beauty in her joy. In this year since her birth there have been many questions and many trials. God has asked me to sacrifice a lot, but in so doing he has turned the meager amount of bread and fish I can offer into great blessings. Sarah has come through her surgeries and challenges with a joyful heart and courage beyond measure. This tiny child has taught me more about sacrifice than anyone I have known. She goes through it all with a smile.

At times it's difficult to bear those initial thoughts that I've been plagued with from her birth: thoughts that she would have been better off if she had quietly passed away after birth or through miscarriage, thoughts that we would all feel guilty about having because it puts our selfishness squarely into focus.

I see the providence now in this little girl. Her large blue eyes staring back at me in an adoring manner melts my heart and helps me come to grips with my

first thoughts about her. This little soul will grab onto your heart and never let go. She will shake you from your little world, and make you question what you see. She forces everyone to view her soul and not her perceived defects. This is how she has transformed my life.

It is easy to have your eye drawn to physical beauty but most difficult to look at those who do not meet the worldly definition of beauty. Once you spend any moment of time with Sarah, however, those thoughts quickly fade, and you cannot help but look for the soul in each person. You seek the human soul, because you question what the world values. You begin to strip away the exterior and look for the interior.

Many times, as fathers, we leave the emotional aspect to the mothers to talk about and relate to others. We just listen and nod and grunt in approval while so many other thoughts that are left unsaid are never verbalized. I suppose in some way we are built to be involved in action. Work, play, building, fixing, mowing or any of the numerous tasks that fill our day are meant to be ones of action. Contemplating and beginning to come to grips with those things that devastate our own little world are not always things that we can verbalize. This must change. I believe that God is always calling us to action, but many times those actions are not what we think. The action of contemplation, of moving beyond the superficial is critical and will help us to be better fathers. Prayer, and lots of it, help us through this world of contemplation and bring us to what matters most: God.

When you see God in what appears to be the most devastating of situations you finally come to the heart of what is truly important.

SENGER

Continued from Page 7

looks, but we do it," he said.

The couple has also set an example for their children by attending Mass with them, attending parish missions and other services, and bringing the children to religious education classes. They've also modeled and encouraged service to church and others.

Jack feels his rapport with kids, and he regards his special needs children in particular as "a gift God gave me."

He was told by Jarrett's Boy Scout troop leader, "You need to be an assistant leader — the kids love you!" Jack became an assistant Scout leader known, as Jarrett said, for "taking care of everybody and making sure they

have what they need and are having fun. No one goes hungry around Jack!"

God first, family second

He tells his kids all the time, "God first" — which includes the church — and family second. (Boy Scouts third, according to Jarrett.)

The couple has also been an example of service to church and others. Jarrett and Jamie are ushers, like their dad. Jarrett was also an altar server. Jarrett has been an usher at St. John since sixth or seventh grade. Jack admits teaching Jamie to usher was a bit more challenging. He does fine as long as he is on the same side of the church; varying from routine throws him off.

When St. John had church picnics the kids would help cook the food, and when Father Steinacker needed to have some meals brought in, Julie would



Denise Fedorow

St. John the Evangelist parishioners Jack Senger, right, and his son Jarrett hold open the doors of the church for parishioners. Both are greeters and ushers and serve the church in a variety of ways. Senger leads his family in living a Catholic life both privately and publicly.

cook — with the kids assisting. Jenna likes to help hand out bulletins, and she always wants to take the gifts up.

When asked his thoughts on keeping our young people Catholic, Senger said: "It takes parents teaching what the church teaches: It also helps if you have a great priest. He's a help to the families and one who is involved with the youth."

The couple has also continued to nurture their own faith. Each attended a Christ Renews His Parish retreat at St. John, and they attended a marriage encounter weekend. Jack is also a regular at Rekindle the Fire men's retreats.

He offered this advice to other dads: "Pray to God to help you; ask for God's hand to guide you with His Holy Spirit. God will answer your prayers."

Can I donate my body to science?

Some people may wish to donate their body to science after they die. Such a gift of themselves can be objectively good and praiseworthy provided their body would contribute to meaningful research or study, and that it would not be used in a disrespectful or otherwise inappropriate manner.

There are number of potentially laudable projects that can benefit from a person's decision to donate his or her body to science. A human cadaver can be useful for anatomical studies, to help train medical students to save lives later. It can be of assistance in carrying out basic biomedical research or in developing new medical instruments. It can be used as a forensic tool to help solve crimes, such as studying advanced states of bodily decay. It can assist with the training of surgeons and can even help with the development of various types of safety or protective gear, like helmets, automobile airbags or bulletproof vests.

In 1956, Pope Pius XII noted that consenting to "damage to the integrity of the corpse in the interest of those who are suffering, is no violation of the reverence due to the dead." St. John Paul II wrote in a 1995 encyclical that one way of nurturing a genuine culture of life "is the donation of organs, performed in an ethically acceptable manner, with a view to offering a chance of health and even of life itself to the sick who sometimes have no other hope" (EV 86). The U.S. Catholic bishops have given similar guidance in their policy document called "The Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic

Health Care Services," where they say: "Catholic health care institutions should encourage and provide the means whereby those who wish to do so may arrange for the donation of their organs and bodily tissue, for ethically legitimate purposes, so that they may be used for donation and research after death" (No. 63).

Although there are not any fundamental moral objections to donating our bodies to science, certain details of how the donation is carried out are important.

First, bodily remains should be properly interred in the earth at the conclusion of their use. The body should not be surrendered to researchers and then merely "left in limbo." Often a university or research institution will oversee and pay for the cremation of the body after the research is completed, so the family can then be given the ashes. This may be specified in the agreement signed by the individual ahead of time. Assuring appropriate respect and reverence for the body would thus include arranging for burial in consecrated ground afterwards.

A second consideration of importance for Catholics involves the offering of prayers, and particularly the sacrifice of the Mass, on behalf of the deceased. Father Edward McNamara, a well-known writer and liturgy professor in Rome, offers some practical guidance in this regard: "Since it is usually impossible to have a funeral with the remains shortly after death, as this would render the body unsuitable for research purposes, a memorial Mass without the body can be



FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

celebrated so as to entrust the soul of the deceased to God and offer the family the opportunity of mourning together. When the remains are released to the family, another Mass may be offered."

A third potential area of concern involves the possibility that certain cells or tissues derived from the human body may be inappropriately used in research. To consider one instance, it is possible to harvest sex cells, or their progenitor cells, from corpses even up to a few hours following death. Some researchers might be tempted to use these cells, for example, to create human embryos in the laboratory for biomedical research. Although such practices are uncommon, if an individual believed that his or her cells were likely to be used in this unethical way by a research institution, they should not agree to donate their bodies after death.

Those contemplating the possibility of donating their bodies to science should weigh a fourth consideration as well, namely, whether others in their family are open to their body being utilized in this way. They should find out whether their

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Empathy: a Father's Day gift

While visiting with friends and family who work with the homeless population and elderly veterans, the conversation turned to how many of these men are estranged from their families. Some have had no interaction with their children for decades. This brokenness, deep and searing, is probably encrusted in dark stories of abandonment, addiction or abuse.

In my last column, I noted that 25 percent of this country's children are raised by single mothers. This statistic also denotes the widespread phenomenon of dads who are AWOL.

Father's Day happily offers an official day to put our dads on the pedestal for their love, sacrifices and impact on us. Yet, clearly not everyone has this wonderful dad. The relationships between fathers and children are often painful, and many father narratives include shadows and wounds: some small and some big; some long healed, others still gaping; some making us laugh, others drawing tears.

Sometimes damage gets carried forward from one generation to another. We probably know a father whose explosive temper, modeled after his own father, shut down communication with his children: or a young woman whose father left her mother, who is gripped by fear that all men would do the same, thereby placing a heavy burden on each person she dates.

These stories abound and testify to the impact of fathers on their children. Given fathers'



CAROLYN WOO

OUR GLOBAL FAMILY

primal significance to us as shelter and security, affirmation and first authority, these dynamics can mold us in behavior, attitudes, sense of worth and even perspectives about God.

A recent op-ed in *The New York Times*, "The Birth of a Mother," observes that there is woefully insufficient attention given to the psychological transformation of a mother, because the focus is on the physical well-being of the mother and child. Worse, discussion on the transformation and trauma of fatherhood is almost nonexistent. Prenatal classes teach dads what to expect during birth and how to hold, feed, burp, change and bathe the baby.

This constitutes the preparation for fatherhood. The rest of it, like how to deal with the fear of such a huge responsibility, the resentment of losing one's independence and how to set boundaries for space, time and resources are left to the individual's improvisation from scripts in one's own background and from trial and error.

When does guidance become

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'I am the living bread, come down from heaven'



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ John 6:51-58

This weekend the church celebrates the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, perhaps better known by its Latin translation, "Corpus Christi."

The first reading is from the Book of Deuteronomy, one of the first five books of the Old Testament. Deuteronomy recalls the passage of the Hebrews from Egyptian slavery to the Promised Land. Moses is the central figure in this book, in the Pentateuch, and in the list of ancient Hebrew prophets. He is the principal fig-

ure in this weekend's reading.

To understand this book, and indeed to grasp the plight of the Hebrews as they fled from slavery in Egypt, across the Sinai Peninsula and eventually to the Promised Land, it is necessary to realize how bleak and sterile the Sinai was — and still is, for that matter.

The fleeing Hebrews virtually were helpless. They faced death from starvation, as well as from thirst. Food and water were in short supply at best.

Through Moses, God supplied. As a result, the people lived. They did not starve. Eventually, they arrived at the Promised Land.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians supplies the second reading. Along with the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, First Corinthians provides the New Testament records of the institution of the Eucharist.

The presence of this record in First Corinthians indicates how important the Eucharist was in early Christianity. The similarity among all the accounts shows

how carefully the first Christians wished to repeat the Last Supper.

St. John's Gospel is the source of the last reading, and it is powerful and eloquent. Jesus states: "I am the living bread come down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he shall live forever; the bread I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world".

Jesus used no symbolic phrases, no vague illusions. The biblical texts are clear. He said, "I am the living bread come down from heaven," directly and exactly. It is a simple, straightforward declaratory sentence. Not surprisingly, the first Christians, as does Catholic teaching today, remembered the Lord's words as literal.

Reflection

Few Americans die of starvation, despite the chronic poverty endured by many, but millions around the world literally starve. It is a plight that the desperate Hebrews feared as they traveled across the Sinai Peninsula, as recalled by Deuteronomy, the

source of the first reading.

They were completely at the mercy of an unknown and very unforgiving land. They had no way out. They could help themselves very little. Without food and water, without any direction as to where to go, they were facing death itself.

God supplied them with food and water, pointing them on the right path to the Promised Land. God gave them life.

Even if we experience material plenty, we all are in circumstances similar to those confronted by the ancient Hebrews. Today, as humans have been in any time, we are lost in our own stark and sterile Sinai Peninsulas created by sin and human limitation.

Perhaps the worst danger is that so often assume that we know where we are, where we should go with our lives, and that we have more control that we actually have.

In fact, we too are at the mercy of harsh, even deadly conditions surrounding us. In the spiritual sense we all are vulnerable to the eternal death created by sin.

Here, God enters the picture. He gives us Jesus, the son of God. The Lord gives us the Eucharist. As the early Christians so firmly believed, the Eucharist is not merely a symbol. The Eucharist is the Lord's "body, blood, soul and divinity." In the Eucharist, we intimately connect with Jesus, unite with Jesus. Jesus gives us life.

READINGS

Sunday: Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 1 Cor 10:16-17 Jn 6:51-58

Monday: 2 Cor 6:1-10 Ps 98:1-4 Mt 5:38-42

Tuesday: 2 Cor 8:1-9 Ps 146:2, 5-9a Mt 5:43-48

Wednesday: 2 Cor 9:6-11 Ps 112:1-4, 9 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: 2 Cor 11:1-11 Ps 111:1-4, 7-8 Mt 6:7-15

Friday: Dt 7:6-11 Ps 103:1-4, 6-8, 10 1 Jn 4:7-16 Mt 11:25-30

Saturday: Is 49:1-6 Ps 139:1b-3, 13-15 Acts 13:22-26 Lk 1:57-66, 80

Keeping cradle Catholics in the church

In his book "The Four Loves," C.S. Lewis writes: "The typical expression of opening friendship would be something like, 'What? You too? I thought I was the only one.'"

I think this is the reason that a good number of my friends are Catholic converts. I have spent the better part of my adult life trying to communicate the church's teachings in various professions. The Gospel is good. I've always thought it worth sharing.

Conversion requires a "turning toward" the truth. Whenever I meet a convert, I think of the Gospel of Luke in which Jesus decisively "sets his face toward Jerusalem." There is a boldness to it that I admire. I never had a radical turn at any point: no conversion, no reversion. It's been rather unglamorous.

Each one of my friends who are converts has asked me how I managed to stay Catholic as an adult. The odds aren't great for those of us who start out in the faith. According to the Pew Research Center, nearly half of Catholics in the United States leave the church at some point in their lives. Four out of 10 of them don't return.

I suppose from a statistical standpoint, I made it through a cultural gauntlet and tepid catechesis (perhaps captured best as a soccer-playing Jesus who graced the cover of one of my CCD books). But asking me how I've stayed Catholic is like to asking me how I've stayed female or stayed Italian-American.

In fact, growing up, I didn't realize there was a difference between being Catholic and being Italian. I thought that every child ate Sunday meals at

their grandparents' house near the local parish, buried a statue of St. Joseph upside down to sell a house and prayed one Hail Mary before taking the pizzelle off the iron.

Cradle Catholics begin their lives standing "toward" Christ. But we do need a sturdy foundation under our feet. In my life, this foundation came from my parents and grandparents. Pope Francis has been telling youth for four years to pay attention to them. I always cheer him on.

I also needed people to help me stay on course. These were priests and campus ministers who counseled me in college. They were the professors who helped me to see that what my grandmother had shared at her dinner table had coherent scriptural, theological and philosophical support behind it (maybe not how to sell a house, but other things).

That combination of pastoral care and intellectual clarity compelled me to choose to conform my moral life to the Gospel.

I needed people standing side by side with me, holding my hand in dark moments as I looked at the cross and thought, "Why?" These have been friends and mentors. It helped to meet strangers — 1.5 million or so — at World Youth Day, who traveled to Madrid to see and hear the pope like I did.

I also needed to encounter — both in passing and very intimately — people who didn't see the world through the same lens. Being challenged by them, asking them questions, loving them and being loved by them has been uniquely fortifying.

Pope Francis has said that "no one becomes a Christian on



ELISE ITALIANO

IN LIGHT OF FAITH

his or her own." No one stays a Christian on his or her own, either. If cradle Catholics, especially those at pivotal moments during their youth, have a shot at staying in the church, we need to help them experience, like C.S. Lewis says, that they are "not the only ones."

Grace doesn't need big moments through which to work — only a little openness and some opportunity.

Join the conversation: email inlightoffaith@catholicnews.com.

WOO

Continued from Page 12

dictate? How does correction become humiliation? At what point do expectations cripple the child? How does one recall angry words? To whom can a father turn when he feels inept, overwhelmed and wants to flee?

This essay is not about passing judgment, giving an easy pass or diminishing the hurt and suffering from these father-child experiences. But it is a call for empathy for our fathers for their failings or inability to express love and regret even when they have these feelings.

It is a call to let go of the father we wish we had, or the one who disappointed us, for the father who needs grace and our tenderness. It is a call for healing that may be beyond us, but not beyond God, the only perfect father.

Carolyn Woo is distinguished president's fellow for global development at Purdue University.

BIOETHICS

Continued from Page 12

spouse, children or others close to them would have any objections or concerns. At the end of the day, there may be some family members who, in the words of one commentator, can't quite get past the idea, "that you will be dissected over a period of months in anatomy class, or cut up and divided among different programs (brain to an Alzheimer's study, joints to an orthopedic surgery training)." Careful vetting of the details ahead of time helps avoid resentment, pain and surprises after a loved one passes on.

With these caveats and considerations in mind, donating a body to science can indeed allow someone to "give back" or "contribute to society" after death.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

Saint of the Week



Juliana of Falconieri
1270-1341

Juliana was the only child of a wealthy couple in Florence, Italy, who had built the church of the Annunciation there. She refused to marry and was enrolled as a tertiary with the Servite order; her uncle, St. Alexis Falconieri, was one of the seven founders of the Servites. For nearly 20 years, Juliana lived a devout and useful life at home. In 1304 she formed a community of tertiary sisters who devoted themselves to prayer and good works in Florence. She is considered the foundress of the Servite community of nuns, and was canonized in 1737.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for June 18, 2017

John 6:51-58

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, Cycle A: part of the bread of heaven discourse. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

BREAD	COME DOWN	HEAVEN
EATS	FOREVER	MY FLESH
THE JEWS	HOW CAN	THIS MAN
TO EAT	JESUS	SAY TO YOU
UNLESS	SON OF MAN	DRINK
HIS BLOOD	LAST	FOOD
I IN HIM	LIVING	ANCESTORS

LIFE S BREAD

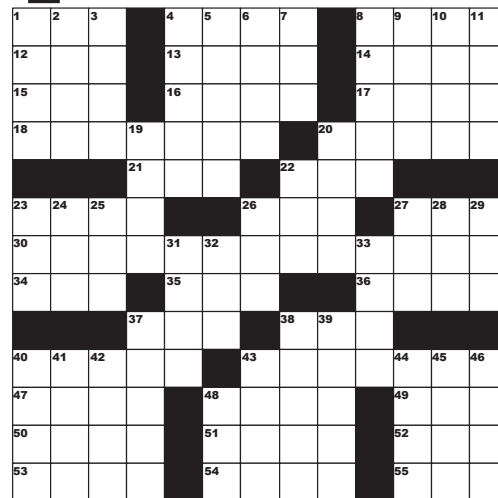
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A H O W C A N E V A E H
T N A M F O N O S N I S
H A C B R E A D A S I E
E L L E N H C N B J N L
J E S U S W T L W K H F
E D S A Y T O Y O U I Y
W L L J F O O D J O M M
S I P A D H C R E L R O
Y V H R S T H I S M A N
V I I J O T A E O T O H
U N L E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

June 18 and 25, 2017



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Based on readings: Deut 8:2-3, 14b-16a; 1 Cor 10: 16-17; Jn 6:51-58 and Jer 20:10-13; Mt 10:26-33

ACROSS

- 1 Dekagram (abbr.)
- 4 Some (2 wds)
- 8 Male child (2 wds)
- 12 River (Sp.)
- 13 Company symbol
- 14 Lower part of a wall
- 15 Loose gown worn at Mass
- 16 Front of boat
- 17 Holy Spirit emblem
- 18 Withers
- 20 "O Lord of ___"
- 21 Sunbeam
- 22 Play on words
- 23 Hairdo

DOWN

- 26 Assumption month
- 27 Sister for short
- 30 Put on to Jesus' head (3 wds.)
- 34 Symbol of the Father
- 35 Horse grain
- 36 Christ's blood
- 37 FM radio style
- 38 Compass point
- 40 Plate over chalice
- 43 Swamps
- 47 Very curious
- 48 Make reference
- 49 Talk incessantly
- 50 Indian attire
- 51 S. American Native

- 52 Before (prefix)
- 53 Mined metals
- 54 Attention-Deficit disorder (abbr.)
- 55 Discontinue

DOWN

- 1 Dull
- 2 Murder body or soul
- 3 Mongolian desert
- 4 "I am the ___ and the Omega"
- 5 ___ years in desert
- 6 Self-esteems
- 7 Great!
- 8 Annex (2 wds)
- 9 Country in SE Asia
- 10 Advertisement (abbr.)
- 11 Present sense "to do"
- 19 Cultivate
- 20 St. ___ of Cluny
- 22 Set down
- 23 Type of playing card
- 24 Sauté
- 25 Fish eggs
- 26 Toward a plane's tail
- 27 ___ Lanka
- 28 Bethlehem hotel
- 29 Compass point
- 31 When sun went dark at Calvary
- 32 Rowing device
- 33 Possesses
- 37 Backing or support
- 38 Shepherds kept ___ on Christmas Eve
- 39 Christ's body
- 40 El ___ (Texas city)
- 41 Seaweed substance
- 42 Ripped up
- 43 God probes ___ and heart
- 44 Publicity
- 45 Garner
- 46 Rushed

Answer Key can be found on page 15

Takin' it to the streets: St. Paul Street Evangelization

BY RON BUSCH

Street evangelization can sound like a foreign idea; however, there is an organization attempting to change that. The St. Paul Street Evangelization project is developing an outreach to bring the Gospel and the Catholic faith to a public that often has little accurate information about Catholicism.

St. Paul Street Evangelization is a grassroots, nonprofit organization dedicated to responding to the mandate of Jesus to preach the Gospel to all nations by taking the faith to the streets. Christ's call to evangelize, reiterated by the Second Vatican Council urges each of the baptized to bring the Gospel, found fully in the Catholic Church, to today's culture. As an on-the-street Catholic organization, St. Paul Street Evangelization provides an avenue for sharing the person of Jesus Christ and the truth and beauty of the Catholic faith with people hungry to receive it.

The organization had its beginning in 2012 when founder Steve Dawson, a Catholic from the Detroit area, was stationed in Bloomington with the Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate Conception. Dawson



Provided by St. Paul Street Evangelization

Father Christopher Goodwin, from the Apostolic Nunciature, left, and Father Gregory Shaffer, pastor of Assumption Parish, Washington, D.C., to the right, are pictured following a recent SPSE evangelization outing in that diocese. Father Goodwin is spiritual advisor to a Gaithersburg, Md. SPSE team; Father Shaffer began his own SPSE parish team in southeast D.C., which is doing well.

has written several pamphlets and booklets, and his connection with the Bloomington community proved instrumental in the organization's beginning and establishment. Today, St. Paul Street Evangelization claims 295 teams, or chapters, including 18 outside of the United States. The SPSE website, www.street-evangelization.com, provides dates and locations throughout the Midwest where training and informational education can be

obtained, as well as information on how a group as small as two or more Catholics may form a local team.

The procedure of an SPSE team is to set up in an area or at an event where there is foot traffic. Teams of two people are positioned for the purpose of answering questions and providing pamphlets or literature to the public. Group members do not force themselves on anyone, but are available to those who might

have an interest in knowing more about the Catholic faith.

Team members often report engaging in conversation with one-time Catholics who have fallen away from the church, or for one reason or another do not actively participate in the church. SPSE representatives do not participate in high-profile arguments in an attempt to defend the church with anyone who might want to provoke such behavior.

Participation in street evangelization often proves to be a very worthwhile activity for lay Catholics, who frequently gain an inner desire to learn more about their own faith. It creates a win-win situation, as SPSE members strengthen their own beliefs by sharing the faith with others.

The Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese has three active SPSE chapters. One is located in Warsaw, another in Goshen, and organizational efforts are underway to activate a chapter in South Bend. The Warsaw chapter is headed by Ida List and calls itself a Parish Evangelization Team, or PET. Those involved participate on the first Friday of the month in downtown Warsaw, usually on Courthouse Square, from 5-8 p.m.; at the Kosciusko County Fair; and they have been available for a few

hours on Saturdays at Winona Lake Park. They greet people by asking if they are in need of any prayers: Intentions are then placed in the parish prayer basket and presented at a Saturday or Sunday Mass.

The SPSE Goshen chapter team leader is Alice Wheeler, while the South Bend chapter is organized by Don Harty. Harty recently completed the required training before leading the South Bend outreach, and he said he has been impressed with that training, which included appropriate responses for interaction with the public that an SPSE leader might experience.

For further information, visit the website and click on the "Get Involved" and "Locations" tabs for contact information for chapters that are currently active in within the diocese. Additional resources, an online store and donation opportunities are found there as well. To reach the SPSE by phone, call 657-777-2963.

St. Paul Street Evangelization outreach has gained considerable traction since its founding just five years ago, and it welcomes inquiry into just what is involved in starting a chapter in any locale. The main ingredients include just two or more members of the Catholic faith, and a desire to share the Gospel with others.

Widows of Prayer supports priests, church leaders

BY SARAH DUSTMAN

The Widows of Prayer is a consecrated, lay community composed of widowed, practicing Catholic women who were married in the Catholic Church. The mission statement for the organization calls for the widows to "serve Christ through His Church by praying for priests and others in Church leadership, to be devoted to the Blessed Sacrament, and to promote Adoration of Christ in the Eucharist."

Women who choose to become members of the Widows of Prayer devote a minimum of an hour to daily prayer: This time can be dedicated to the rosary, adoration, daily Mass, the Divine Office or mental prayer. They must also be willing to attend prayer gatherings and meetings, and engage in outreach. "The Widows of Prayer are an apostolate of prayer," Huntington Servant Leader Catherine Fitzgerald said.

Members devote their supplication to vocations to the priesthood, to priests and to church leaders: These prayers have borne fruit within the dioceses in which they are located. The Most Rev. Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, along with bishops in other dioceses with Widows of Prayer communities, have reported increases in

vocations to the priesthood that they attribute in part to the widows' faithfulness.

Widows of Prayer has its origins in the Diocese of Green Bay, Wis., in 1994, when Mary Reardon, along with Father John Guimond, OFM, called together a few widows to pray together for priests and church leaders. A Widows of Prayer community first formed in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in Huntington in 2003, under the guidance of Father John Guimond; a second community formed in Fort Wayne when the number of members from Fort Wayne who were driving to Huntington for the meetings reached the point of filling three cars.

The process for becoming a Widow of Prayer takes about three years. The first focuses on spiritual formation; after a year, a candidate may apply for membership and can be admitted to a temporary promise of full membership. She may renew her temporary promise after another year, before making her final promise after the end of the second year.

Currently, participation in the two Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Widows of Prayer communities consists of five widows in Huntington, five in Fort Wayne and three at St. Anne's retirement home in Fort Wayne. Historically their numbers have been higher, but as Fitzgerald pointed out, since members are usually elder-



Provided by Catherine Fitzgerald

At Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Huntington, on Sept. 22, 2016, all 13 Widows of Prayer professed their Vow of Consecrated Life. Pictured from left to right, in the front row, are Catherine Fitzgerald, Mae Leedy, Veronica Bartoch and Vera Johnson. In the second row are Virginia Gibson, Mary Lou Sohn, Virginia Salge, Cecilia Baker and Msgr. Owen Campion, former interim administrator of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish. Not pictured are Marilyn Brown, Rita Carboni, Barbara Garrard, Mary Troutner and Dorothy Ward of Fort Wayne, who are homebound but attend occasionally when weather and their health permit.

ly, the passing of one or another is a fairly regular occurrence.

Fitzgerald shared that all the members of the Huntington community belong to Sts. Peter and Paul Parish. Their community attends adoration on Wednesdays at Sts. Peter and Paul, and on Fridays at St. Mary Church, Huntington. They also participate in daily Mass and the praying of the Divine Office and the rosary. Three of the members are homebound, but still par-

ticipate in the prayers through the assistance of EWTN and Redeemer Radio. In the last year, the community's spiritual adviser, Father Silvino Ndayambaje, has also invited the members to pray the rosary at funeral visitations for parishioners.

Ginny Gibson, servant leader of the Fort Wayne Widows of Prayer, said the members of her community are from multiple parishes that include Queen of Angels, Our Lady of Good Hope,

St. Charles, St. Jude and Most Precious Blood. The community participates in activities such as listening to CDs, studying the daily Mass readings and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and sending cards to diocesan seminarians. In addition, the Fort Wayne and Huntington communities gather together once a month at a location that alternates between Huntington and Fort Wayne. They also meet with the St. Anne's Widows of Prayer members every few months.

One of Gibson's prayer concerns is the women she sees at her parish who have yet to express an interest in Widows of Prayer. She said there are five or six who attend daily Mass with the Fort Wayne community, but do not attend other events. She and her sister widows continue to reach out to potential new members, though, through bulletin announcements and personal invitations.

Fitzgerald and Gibson emphasize the power of their combined prayers, however, and the role that gathering together plays in supporting each other in daily life.

To learn more about the Widows of Prayer communities in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, contact Fitzgerald at 260-356-8021 or bookly7@gmail.com.

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. 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.

Rummage sale planned

ANGOLA — St. Anthony of Padua's Altar and Rosary Society will have a rummage sale July 17-21, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the parish hall, 700 W. Maumee St.

Fatima prayer and rosary

FORT WAYNE — Prayer and a rosary honoring the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima will take place on the 13th of every month

through October from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Mary's Glen, 2514 Reynolds St. Reading of the Fatima apparition and message of the day will be shared.

Literary gathering for Catholic writers

NOTRE DAME — "Trying to Say 'God': Reenchanted Catholic Literature" is a literary gathering at the University of Notre Dame featuring established, emerging and aspiring writers working out of the Catholic tradition of letters. The gathering will be held from June 22-24, at DeBartolo

REST IN PEACE

<p>Bristol Steven Platz, 68, St. Mary of the Annunciation</p> <p>Fort Wayne Robert J. Masbaum, 91, St. Jude</p> <p>Roberto Villajuan, 87, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</p>	<p>Kathleen A. Hyndman, 66, St. Vincent de Paul</p> <p>Dennis C. Hipskind, 66, St. Jude</p> <p>Notre Dame Sister Mary Jeanne Finske, CSC, 92, Our Lady of Loretto</p>	<p>South Bend Betty J. Ethier, 92, St. Matthew Cathedral</p> <p>Catherine Honora Vroman, 88, St. Paul's Chapel</p> <p>Anita U. Costin, 91, Holy Cross Chapel</p>
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Submit obituaries to mweber@diocesefwsb.org

Hall, and will feature speakers such as Mary Karr, Tim Powers, Bishop Daniel Flores, and Brother Guy Consolmagno, director of the Vatican Observatory. For information on registering, visit www.tryingtosaygod.com.

9 a.m. to noon. Youth ages 12 and older are invited to be crew leaders. Set up will be the week prior. Contact Cathy Bryan, DRE, at cathy@stanthonyangola.com for more information or at www.stanthonyangola.com.

Corpus Christi Exposition and Benediction

FORT WAYNE — A Corpus Christi celebration will happen Sunday, June 18, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Good Hope, 7215 Saint Joe Rd. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 5 p.m. at which time Solemn Vespers will be prayed. Following vespers will be Benediction. Sign up for time to be with the Lord on the parish website olghfw.com/4505.

Building Inclusive Parishes

FORT WAYNE — Building Inclusive Parishes will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 20, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel, 1122 S. Clinton St. The group strives to make parish communities welcoming and accessible to all. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. The chapel is handicap accessible. To find out more about this ministry or how you can start one, contact Cecilia Aguilar-Tussey at 260-399-1447 or caguilar-tussey@diocesefwsb.org or visit www.buildinginclusiveparishes.com.

Save the date for VBS

ANGOLA — St. Anthony of Padua's Vacation Bible School "Maker Fun Factory" will be Aug. 7-11 for children ages 4-11 from



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Poor Handmaids celebrate jubilees

BY BARBARA ALLISON

Seven Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ sisters who celebrate jubilees this year have ministered in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Three other sisters have home parishes in the diocese.

Chicago native Sister Jolise May celebrates 60 years as a Poor Handmaid sister this year. Sister Jolise served in health care, administration, on the Elected Leadership team and parish ministry.



**SISTER JOLISE
MAY**

Currently the director of mission integration at Ancilla College in Donaldson, Sister Jolise also served as an instructor, principal and dean of girls at Ancilla Domini High School from 1969-74. She was a member of the Elected Leadership team of the PHJC American Province from 1982-91 and served as provincial from 1997-2005. She was also the PHJC treasurer from 1994-97. Coordinator of sister residents at Catherine's Cottage in Donaldson, she ministered in that role from 2006-07. Sister Jolise was general superior of the PHJC Congregation in Dernbach, Germany, from 2007-13.

Sister Deanne Blume celebrates 50 years as a PHJC Sister. She was born in South Bend and her home parish is St. Joseph, Mishawaka. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Sister Deanne ministered in education, health care, administration, leadership and elder care.



**SISTER DEANNE
BLUME**

At present, she is the local leader of the sister residents at Catherine Kasper Home in Donaldson. Sister Deanne was director of compliance at Ancilla Health Care in Mishawaka from 1997-2000 and compliance education coordinator at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in South Bend and Mishawaka from 2000-06. Additionally, Sister Deanne was an administrative assistant at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center from 2006-08, and an assistant with the Genesis Project at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center from 2008-09. She was also coordinator of sister residents at Catherine's Cottage in Donaldson from 2009-14.

Sister Jean Christianson, formerly Sister Keith, celebrates her 50th jubilee as a Poor Handmaid sister this year. She



**SISTER JEAN
CHRISTIANSON**

is a Mishawaka native, and her home parish is St. Monica. She has served in the ministries of education, administration, leadership and parish ministry.

Presently, Sister Jean lives in Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz, Mexico, and is the novice director and leader of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Mexico Pro-region. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, she was principal of St. Monica School from 1983-88. She was also a member of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Elected Leadership team from 1991-97.

Sister Joyce Diltz celebrates 50 years as a PHJC sister this year. She is also from Mishawaka, and hails from St. Monica Parish as well. She has ministered in the fields of education, administration, leadership, vocational direction, spiritual direction and spiritual wellness.

At present, Sister Joyce is the director of Bethany Retreat House in East Chicago, Indiana. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, she taught at Ancilla Domini High School from 1974-79, was vocational director for the Poor Handmaids from 1975-77 and retreat leader and spiritual director at Crosier House of Prayer in Fort Wayne from 1980-83.

Sister Kathleen Kelley, formerly Sister Colleen, also celebrates her 50th jubilee as a Poor Handmaid of Jesus Christ this year. Originally from Asuchnet, Mass., she has served in numerous ministries including education, child care, health care, elder care and cosmetology.

Currently, Sister Kathleen volunteers in community at Convent Ancilla Domini, where she also resides. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, she ministered in child care at St. Vincent Villa in Fort Wayne from 1967-68, and 1969-71. She served in community at Convent Ancilla Domini, Donaldson, and at Holy Cross Parkview Hospital in Plymouth from 1986-88. In 1988, she changed careers and began studying for her cosmetology license, which she obtained in 1989. She worked at several area salons while earning her license and returned to Convent Ancilla Domini, where she established on-site hair care services for the sisters and senior residents of Maria Center and Catherine Kasper Home, both Poor Handmaid ministries, in 1990.

Sister Kathleen ministered in health care at St. Joseph



**SISTER
JOYCE DILTZ**



**SISTER
KATHLEEN
KELLEY**

Community Hospital in 2000, and at Home Instead Senior Care from 2000-08, both in Mishawaka. She was a CNA at St. Paul's Retirement Community in South Bend in 2001, and medical technician at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Plymouth from 2008-13. Sister Kathleen served as sacristan at Catherine Kasper Home Chapel from 2014-17.

Sister Margaret Anne Henss celebrates 50 years as a PHJC sister this year. From Trenton, Ill., she served in various ministries including education, finance, mission and communications.

At present, Sister Margaret Anne is the director of Mission and Communication at HealthVisions Midwest in Hammond. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, she served as a teacher at Ancilla Domini High School in Donaldson from 1974-77. In addition, Sister Margaret Anne was the controller for the PHJC Ministry Center from 1994-97, and PHJC treasurer from 1997-2007. In July 2017, she returns to Donaldson as a member of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Elected Leadership team.

Sister Connie Bach celebrates 25 years as a PHJC sister. Born in Hammond, Sister Connie's ministries include education, administration, leadership, vocations, volunteer program direction and music therapy.

In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Sister Connie was principal of St. John the Baptist School in South Bend from 1996-2003 and a third-grade teacher at Queen of Peace School in Mishawaka from 2003-04. She became a music therapist and ministered in that field at Behavior Services and Therapy Inc., and Behavior Services of Indiana, both in South Bend, from 2006-08. In 2008-09, Sister Connie served as music therapist and an assistant at Hannah and Friends Farm in South Bend. She began BACHworks, a music therapy ministry sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, in 2009, and served as its director and therapist until it closed in 2016. Sister Connie is currently the vocations director for the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ and the co-director of the PHJC Volunteer Program.

For more information about the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, visit poorhandmaids.org. Follow the order on Facebook and Instagram.



**SISTER
MARGARET
ANNE HENSS**



**SISTER CONNIE
BACH**



Joe Romie

Huberto Vasquez, in the foreground, and 10 other men who together comprise the diocesan Hispanic Diaconate Formation program, line up in prayer just before Bishop Rhoades institutes them as acolytes.

ACOLYTE

Continued from Page 1

"In the Eucharist, Christ gives himself to us and we welcome him. The existence of the church would be unthinkable without the Eucharist. In this Mass with the institution of acolytes, we remember that the Eucharist carries meaning to all the different activities of the church. It offers us contact with God. The Eucharist is the most sacred presence of Christ in the church. It is truly the source and summit of all the ministries and apostolates of the church."

As acolytes, their responsibilities will include assisting priests and deacons in the Mass, especially by arranging the altar before consecration, purifying sacred vessels and serving as extraordinary ministers of holy Communion. They will also participate in making the Eucharist present by exposing and reposing the Blessed Sacrament for adoration and bringing Communion to the sick and homebound.

"It is a great privilege to distribute the holy Eucharist, the new manna, to the faithful," Bishop Rhoades stated. "As you know, as acolytes, you must show the greatest reverence for the most holy Eucharist with your behavior, your attire and the way you handle the body and blood of Christ."

Signifying an outward and concrete sign of his new role within the liturgy, each man dressed for Mass in a white alb to indicate his servant role at the Eucharistic feast. Up until this point in their formation, including this past year while ministering as instituted lectors, the men have dressed simply as lay members of the church. Remarking on this change, new acolyte Fred Everett shared: "wearing the alb provides a more tangible, visible sense of taking your next step on the road toward diaconate."

Giovani Muñoz, another of the instituted acolytes, shared

his excitement to take on this new role of service. "Through the ministry of lector, I was able to understand more deeply the great responsibility of proclaiming the word of God. This penetrated my mind and heart and changed my way of seeing and appreciating life from the levels of husband, father, friend and member of a community of faith. Now, this ministry of acolyte brings the Eucharist to the center of my life. The very sacrifice of Christ was sealed on the altar of the cross, therefore it means joining my own life to the sacrifice of Christ the Redeemer in every Mass, which continually increases my love and devotion for him."

Everett further recounted his joy and gratitude for those who have been instrumental in the formation process and spoke on how it has impacted his own faith journey. "Having a dialogue with your spiritual director, your spouse, and those in the program provides a beautiful affirmation that this is what your vocation is — that I am exactly where I should be. It actually brings your family closer because of the commitment and promise to obedience. While you don't know where that will take you, with trust you are open to God's will and just move forward. It is nice to have the sense that this is the path where God wants me right now."

After the homily, each new acolyte placed his hands over a chalice in front of Bishop Rhoades, indicating both his intention to serve and the commission from the church to bring the Eucharist to the faithful. Four of the new acolytes then presented the gifts for consecration.

Bishop Rhoades concluded the Mass by reminding the men that celebrating Mass in the Cathedral reminds us of the patroness of the diocese depicted in the stained-glass window in the sanctuary: the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The bishop encouraged the newly instituted acolytes to be devoted to Mary immaculate, the woman of the Eucharist, in their final year of preparation for ordination.