Saint Anne Victory Noll assisted living center open for business

BY COURTNEY CHRISTENSEN

The newest Saint Anne Communities facility drew over 200 people from Huntington and many other surrounding areas for its grand opening July 20. Tours of the new building were available, followed by refreshments, entertainment and a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Steve Kimmel, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce of Huntington County, cut the ribbon, describing the new home as “an absolutely top-notch facility.”

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, a strong proponent of the project, blessed the facility back in May while it was still under construction. He said it would be a “place of caring, faith and love,” and talked about how the residents and staff would care for each other.

Kathy Retzios, the head of marketing and public relations for Saint Anne Communities, said the new facility serves two purposes: providing needed services to the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, and allowing the diocesan institution to expand its mission into Huntington County. “We’re bringing our experience, and we’re helping the sisters out; 

A new relationship between Saint Anne Communities and Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters in Huntington has allowed for a new assisted living facility to serve both the order and the Huntington community.

U.S. bishops call for protection for young migrants

BY RHINA GUIDOS

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the migration committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops urged the Trump administration to “ensure permanent protection” for youth who were brought to the U.S. as minors without legal documentation.

Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, reiterated the bishops’ support for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, a 2012 policy under then-President Barack Obama that, while not providing legal

An immigration rally takes place April 18 outside the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington. The U.S. bishops’ migration committee chairman, in a July 18 statement, urged President Donald Trump to “ensure permanent protection” for youth under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA.
Land O’ Lakes statement on Catholic higher education turns 50

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Not all Catholics are familiar with the Land O’ Lakes statement, a document on Catholic higher education with a cool sounding name, but this landmark text needs no explanation for Catholic college and university leaders.

The document’s official name is “Statement on the Nature of the Contemporary Catholic University,” but its catchy title did not give it widespread acceptance. Ever since it was signed July 23, 1967, the text has been both revered and criticized.

Even conferences about the document, on its 50th anniversary, have different takes. Promotional material for an upcoming symposium co-sponsored by St. Louis University and the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities says the statement has not gone uncontested, adding: “Some consider it a revolutionary road map for Catholic education in the modern world; others have declared a half-century of devastation. Others designate it a mixed legacy.”

This past January, the Cardinal Newman Society and the Institute of Catholic Culture sponsored a conference on the text that was described as a discussion of “the crisis in Catholic education under attack from the secularist agenda set forth 50 years ago by the disastrous Land O’ Lakes Statement.”

The document, which is still promoting such strong discussion, was put together by a group of two dozen Catholic college educators at a retreat center in Land O’ Lakes, Wisconsin — hence the statement’s name.

The group — invited by Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, then-president of the University of Notre Dame and Jesuit Father Paul Reinhart, then-president of St. Louis University and what was the Jesuit Secondary Education Association — met to examine the role of Catholic colleges and universities in the modern world and, in the wake of the Second Vatican Council, to submit a paper to the Vatican’s Congregation for Catholic Education.

The group’s members were primarily priests, including superiors from colleges’ sponsoring religious communities, Catholic scholars and a bishop, all of whom belonged to the North American region of the International Federation of Catholic Universities.

Their statement said in part that Catholic universities must have institutional autonomy and academic freedom, along with their commitment to Catholic faith and life. It raised eyebrows at the time, and now, for its wording about university autonomy that some say has contributed to the secularization of many U.S. Catholic universities.

Critics have primarily focused on this sentence: “To perform its teaching and research functions effectively the Catholic university must have a true autonomy and academic freedom in the face of authority of whatever kind, lay or clerical, external to the academic community itself.”

Leaders in Catholic higher education who spoke to Catholic News Service said the document should be judged on its entirety and by what it helped to promote — the success of Catholic colleges in today’s academic environment.

Michael Galligan-Stierle, president and CEO of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, said the group that gathered at Land O’ Lakes, “wasn’t a bunch of renegades or people who didn’t love the church and didn’t want Catholic education to advance.”

He also said the document should be examined and compared to “Ex Corde Ecclesiae” (“From the Heart of the Church”), an apostolic constitution issued in 1990 by St. John Paul II that outlines the identity and mission of Catholic colleges and universities and provided universal norms to ensure colleges maintain these standards.

At its essence, Galligan-Stierle said the statement was meant to be “a way to strengthen our schools” to be competitive with other universities and provide options for students to want creditable degrees.

The fruit of the document, he said, is in the success today of Catholic colleges and universities — where enrollment has doubled what it was when the document was written. Another testimony to what Catholic colleges are doing today, he said, are studies that show Catholic college graduates are often active lay leaders in their parish.

Marc Pugliese, assistant professor of theology and religion at St. Leo University near Tampa, Florida, said before the document was written, Catholic universities were already taking some of the steps it outlined, particularly in making their governing boards and theology staffs include more lay people.

He said one weakness of the document is that it says Catholic colleges and universities need to be a strong Catholic presence but it is vague about what that means.

But the document itself acknowledged it wasn’t covering all the bases. The text’s pre-amble says it “does not pretend to present a full philosophy or description of the Catholic university. It is selectively and deliberately incomplete.”

Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, the current president of Notre Dame, writing about the Land O’ Lakes statement in an America magazine article posted online July 11, said that “despite the brevity of a document composed swiftly,” the statement “presented a bold, hopeful vision informed by Vatican II.”

“The document’s limitations left questions to be addressed, but the vision in broad outline is one that makes truly serious Catholic research universities possible for our time,” he added, stressing that Catholic leaders should acknowledge and correct the limitations of the text but also “continue to strive to realize its vision.”

Jesuit Father Christopher Collins, St. Louis University’s assistant to the president for mission and identity, said the tension that Catholic universities face today are not unlike those the Land O’ Lakes writers considered.

In many ways, he said, today’s Catholic universities are living out that call of Pope Francis, to be at the peripheries. “It’s messy and confusing, but it’s exciting. It’s good stuff,” he said.
status, gives recipients a temporary reprieve from deportation and employment authorization in the United States as long as they meet certain criteria. During his campaign for president, Donald Trump said he would get rid of the program but later backtracked. It’s unclear what will happen to the estimated 750,000 youth who signed up for the program.

“DACA youth are contributors to our economy, veterans of our military, academic leaders in our universities, and leaders in our parishes,” said Bishop Vasquez in a July 18 statement. “These young people entered the U.S. as children and know America as their only home. The dignity of every human being, particularly that of our children and youth, must be protected.”

He urged the administration “to continue administering the DACA program and to publicly ensure that DACA youth are not priorities for deportation.”

The bishops join other Catholic institutions worried about the group and urging protection. In May, more than 65 college presidents representing U.S. Catholic institutions asked for a meeting with the Secretary of Homeland Security to talk about immigration policy, particularly DACA, saying they worried about the future of their students. They cited incidents in which DACA recipients have been placed under immigration detention, including a case in which one of them was deported. “Many of these students will leave our campuses for internships, summer programs and jobs. Our prayer is that they return,” their letter said, but so far there have been no announcements of what the administration will or won’t do regarding the program.

In his statement, Bishop Vasquez said that since DACA is not a permanent solution, “I also call on Congress to work in an expeditious and bipartisan manner to find a legislative solution for DACA youth as soon as possible.”

The country’s Catholic bishops will continue efforts to find a humane and permanent resolution “that protects DACA youth,” Bishop Vasquez wrote. “Additionally, I note the moral urgency for comprehensive immigration reform that is just and compassionate. The bishops will advocate for these reforms, as we truly believe they will advance the common good,” he said.

Cardinal hopes church’s history in Iraq will help its future

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To understand the current situation in Iraq — the evolving and complex conflicts there, and the fear and resilience of its Christians — one has to understand its past, which is often ignored or unknown in the West, said a former papal representative to the country.

“History is itself a victory over ignorance, marginalization and intolerance; it is a call for respect and to not repeat the mistakes of the past,” said Cardinal Fernando Filoni in his book, “The Church in Iraq.”

The book is also “a testimonial” to the victims of “the Islamic terrorism of ISIS,” he told the Christians and non-Christians he met when Pope Francis sent him as his personal representative to encounter and pray with these shaken communities that fled the Islamic State.

That brief visit in 2014 was a homecoming of sorts.

The Italian cardinal, now 71, lived in Iraq during a time of great tension and turmoil. St. John Paul II made him the apostolic nuncio — the pope’s diplomatic representative — to Iraq and Jordan in January 2001.

Several months later, after 9/11, the United States administration started building pressure against Iraq, pushing for military action. St. John Paul firmly opposed military intervention and, despite the fact that he sent peace-seeking missions to Washington and Baghdad, the United States attacked.

“Not even the stern warning of the saint-pope could deter President George W. Bush from his purpose,” the cardinal wrote. He said the day of the invasion, March 19, 2003, became “a very sad day for Iraq and for the whole world.”

The nunciature never shut down, even during the air strikes and occupation or the ensuing chaos of looting and revenge.

It was during his tenure there in Baghdad, which ended in 2006, that Cardinal Filoni went through the nunciature’s archives, which housed “a rich history” of documentation and letters, detailing the history of the Vatican’s diplomatic relations with Iraq and the establishment of an episcopal see in Baghdad in the 16th century.

“Naturally, this caught my eye,” he said, and the idea for a book emerged there in the wealth of material buried in an archive.

The book’s chapters take a historical overview of the church’s long presence in Mesopotamia, dating back to the time of St. Thomas the Apostle, and looks at how the expanding early Christian communities there evolved, faced internal divisions and challenges, and still shared their unique gifts.

Looking at the church’s journey in the past also made him realize: “This is unknown to us. And so I thought, writing a book that traced, especially for us in the West, the birth, the evolution of this history up to present day could be … of service to Christianity in the Middle East, particularly in Mesopotamia, which is suffering because of expulsions, persecution or discrimination.”

Published first in Italian in 2015, The Catholic University of America Press is releasing its English edition this summer in the United States and in mid-August in the United Kingdom.

The cardinal spoke to Catholic News Service in Rome during an interview at the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, where he has served as prefect since 2011.

The book looks particularly at how minorities and the country as a whole should address the challenges of despots and Western hegemony, and yet tenaciously held on to its cultures and religious identities.

In order to defend their identity within this great sea of Islam, Christians had to withdraw into themselves, keeping their own language, which dates back to the time of Jesus, that is, Aramaic,” he said. While, over the centuries, the everyday spoken language developed into different dialects, but it still maintained the original form of ancient Aramaic, he added.

Even though Christians held on to their traditions and culture, they were “truly open” and didn’t ignore the world around them, learning and speaking Arabic, for example, he said.

This kind of everyday contact between Christians and their Muslim neighbors also led to a sharing of ideas and Opus Dei, and mutual respect on the local level, Cardinal Filoni said.

For example, he recalled when he lived in Baghdad, he visited a church dedicated to Mary in a predominantly Muslim neighborhood.

I was astounded by the fact that the walls of this church were dirty with what looked like handprints smudged everywhere, he said.

Is this how he asked church members, “Why don’t you clean this? They said ‘No! Because these are the signs of the Muslim women who come to pray to Mary, mother of Jesus, and as a sign of their prayer, they leave an imprint of their hand.”

Since Mary is revered by Muslims, he said many expectant mothers visit this church to pray to her for protection.

“This influence, for example of Mary, in people’s daily lives” and similar devotions to prayer, fasting and charity, fostered closer relationships, mutual respect and understanding between Christians and Muslims, he said.

“A modern Iraq, full of hope for possibility and responsibility, not least because of its huge oil resources, which continue to be a source of discord, jealousy, envy and oppression — should be defended, helped, and supported more than ever,” the cardinal concludes in his book.

While the primary responsibility for allowing Muslim, Christian and other minorities to return to their country and help build its future belongs to Iraq’s three largest communities — Shi’ites, Sunnis and Kurds — the rest of the world is also “in some way responsible for this crisis,” he told CNS.

“We all have to assume responsibility to rebuild, which is not easy, because people emigrate, they very rarely go back,” he said. “But if we can still preserve the coexistence of these different small communities (that remain), this will benefit peace, which is essential so that Christians don’t keep leaving behind this ancient land so rich in culture, tradition and history.”
**Braxton: Justice, love must be ‘written in our hearts’ and actions**

BY JEAN GONZALEZ

ORLANDO, Fla. (CNS) — In 1955 in Mississippi, a white woman lied and told her husband that Emmett Till, a black teen, flirted with her in the grocery story. In retaliation, her husband and another man kidnapped, beat, shot and lynched the youth. His body was found three days after his murder and returned to his native Chicago.

His mother had an open casket for the 14-year-old’s funeral, where tens of thousands visited his body. Among them was 11-year-old Edward Braxton, his brother, Lawrence, and his uncle, Ellis. They waited two hours in line to view the body.

“I peered into the glass coffin and beheld the terrifying remains of a vicious murder,” said the now 73-year-old bishop at the museum that is housed in a former black church. “I never looked at a human being. Emmett’s mother never did. Emmett’s killers were never convicted of murder. And when he visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture, he was transported to that day in 1955.

“For me personally, the most devastating experience in the history gallery was coming face-to-face with the original casket of dear Emmett Till, which was not seen in anyone’s vision,” Bishop Braxton said during his keynote address July 8 at the National Black Catholic Congress in Orlando, adding that “dear Emmett Till, which I have never forgotten (my uncle’s) words. I have never forgotten those words solely emblazoned on that coffin again brought it back to me.”

That was only one piece of history the museum that registered great emotions for the bishop, who has written extensively on the racial divide in America from a theological and pastoral perspective.


In his congress address, he described how the National Museum of African American History and Culture museum is in eyeshot of the monument to George Washington and the memorial to Thomas Jefferson, both of whom owned “enslaved free human beings.” Not too far away are the Capitol and the White House, both built in part by “enslaved free human beings,” as he put it.

The history presented at the museum is not pretty but so important that it urges every one to visit the museum, especially the lower levels. “I realized 60 percent of the museum is actually underground and it is underground deliberately because the architect wanted to give you the feeling that you were maybe inside a slave ship crowded with very little room to move about,” Bishop Braxton said.

“The images in the museum reminded me of what happened to free human beings as they crossed the Atlantic in the Middle Passage,” he continued. “Human beings chained side to side on top of one another in unspeakable squalor, cramped in darkness. ... An estimated 2 million people lost their lives during the Middle Passage of this African Holocaust.”

In January, he wrote an essay on the museum titled “Too, Sing ‘America’: The Catholic Church and the Museum of African American History and Culture.”

Although he recognized the museum as an outstanding achievement, Bishop Braxton in his remarks to the congress lamented the lack of references there to leading African-American Catholics such as Father Augustus Tolton, the Sisters of the Holy Family, Sister Henriette Delille, Father Pierre Toussaint, Mother Mary Lange, or Sister Thea Bowman at the museum. There are nearly 4 million Catholics in the United States, but only 2.9 million are black.

“These absences reminded me that African-American Catholics then and now are already invisible in the larger influence black church,” Bishop Braxton said. “At the same time, African-Americans were and remain all but invisible in the larger influence black church, not just the African-American Catholic Church.”

The bishop told congress attendees they could do something to know their history and to be engaged in the community. They must exercise their rights to vote, participate in public life, run for public life, use resources that develop discussion about the racial divide, inspire young people to become involved.

“I give you these imperatives: Listen, learn, think, act, and pray,” he said. “African-American Catholics must get into real conversations with others in the community about this history so we can grow by means of knowledge.”

Before closing, Bishop Braxton brought up a theme that he has “raised for years, to no avail” — that “people of color should no longer accept the designation of African-Americans as a minority; we are Americans.”

Referencing the words of the poet Langston Hughes, “We, too, sing America,” he said the prophet Micah declared, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: Act justly, love goodness and walk humbly.”

The recent 12th National Black Catholic Congress in Orlando, Florida, was attended by 15 people from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. In the back row are Wendy Summers; Brother Roy Smith, CSC; Sarah Randall; Cheryl Ashe; and Audrey Davis. In the front row are Metrice Smith, Rebecca Ruvuculpa, Naomi Randall, Tonya Jones, Annie Tardy, Deacon Mel Tardy, Francisce Henley, Thomas Jenkins and James Summers. Not pictured is Notre Dame student Rosemary Agwunche.

Joyful Black Catholics Gather in Orlando

BY DEACON MEL TARDY

“The equal justice initiative, which works to eliminate excessive sentencing, to exonerate innocent death-row inmates, and to challenge the abuse of the incarcerated as mentally ill. Stevenson praised Black Catholics for ‘raising their voice in support of social justice and all the commands of the Gospels.’”

In speaking about “The Black Family: Challenges and Opportunities,” Bent-Goedley described the impact of mental health issues, community violence, and domestic violence on black families. She called on Black Catholics to face these issues with both the power of prayer and the help of professionals.

“The liturgies were very inspiring to witness and experience, with soulful music and words of the Word.”

Provided by Deacon Mel Tardy
Pope approves new path to sainthood: heroic act of loving service

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has approved a fourth pathway to possible sainthood — giving one’s life in a heroic act of loving service to others.

In a new apostolic letter, the pope approved new norms allowing for candidates to be considered for sainthood because of the heroic way they freely risked their lives and died prematurely because of “an extreme act of charity.”

The document, given “motu proprio” (on his own initiative) went into effect the same day as its publication July 11, with the title “Mater Ecclesiae ditionem,” which comes from the Gospel according to St. John (15:13): “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

Archbishop Marcello Bartolucci, secretary of the Vatican Congregation for Saints’ Causes, said the addition is meant “to promote heroic Christian testimony, that has been present up to now without a specific process, precisely because it did not completely fit within the case of martyrdom or heroic acts.”

For centuries, consideration for the sainthood process required that a Servant of God heroically lived a life of Christian virtues or had been martyred for the faith. The third, less common way, is called an equivalent or equipollent canonization: when there is evidence of strong devotion among the faithful to a holy man or woman, the pope can waive a lengthy formal canonical investigation and can authorize their veneration as saints.

With these three roads to sainthood remaining unchanged, they were not adequate “for interpreting all possible cases of holiness, the archbishop wrote in the Vatican newspaper, L’Osservatore Romano, July 11. According to the apostolic letter, any causes for beatification according to the new pathway of “offering of life” would have to meet the following criteria:

— Free and willing offer of one’s life and a heroic acceptance, out of love, of a certain and early death; the heroic act of charity and the premature death are connected.

— Evidence of having lived out the Christian virtues — at least in an ordinary, and not necessarily heroic, way — before having offered one’s life to others and until one’s death.

— Evidence of a reputation for holiness, at least after death.

— A miracle attributed to the candidate’s intercession is needed for beatification.

Archbishop Bartolucci wrote that the new norms arise from the “life of Christ, who gave his life for his friends, his act of loving service to others, inspired by Christ’s example, freely and willingly offered and sacrificed their life for others.”

The new pathway for beatification is meant “to promote heroic acts of charity and the premature death of persons who put themselves at risk and died of infection or disease because of aiding and serving others,” he wrote.

Pope Francis approved the congregation carrying out an in-depth study of the new proposal in early 2014, the archbishop wrote. After extensive input, discussion and the work of experts, the cardinal and bishop members of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes approved in 2016 a new pathway for beatification of those who offered their lives with explicit and recognized Christian reasons.

Archbishop Bartolucci wrote that the new provisions do nothing to alter church doctrine concerning Christian holiness, leading to sainthood and the traditional procedure for beatification.

Rather, the addition offers an enrichment, he wrote, with “new horizons and opportunities for the edification of the people of God, who, in the saints, see the face of Christ, the presence of God in history and the exemplary implementation of the Gospel.”

Catholic leaders mourn for victims of trafficking tragedy

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — The “completely senseless deaths” of 10 people who died of heat exhaustion and suffocation they suffered from being stuck in a tractor-trailer “is an incomprehensible tragedy,” said Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio. “There are no words to convey the sadness, despair and, yes, even anger we feel today,” he said in a statement released late July 23.

Early that day, San Antonio law enforcement officials found eight bodies inside the trailer of an 18-wheeler sitting in the parking lot of a Walmart. The eight people who died were among 59 people packed in the trailer and suffering from extreme dehydration and heatstroke. At least 20 others rescued from the truck were in critical condition and transported to the hospital.

Two later died, and by July 24 the death toll was at least 10. In a July 24 statement, the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Migration said the nation’s Catholic bishops “continue to join in prayer that they and their families may find comfort. We pray, hoping that they may join in prayer that they may find God’s consolation and love.”

The Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales also issued a statement July 24 in which they expressed their “deepest sympathy and compassion” for Charlie and his parents. “It is for Charlie, his parents and family that we all pray, hoping that they are able, as a family, to be given the support and the space to find peace in the days ahead,” the statement said.
NEWS BRIEFS

Reformed churches sign agreement adopting justification doctrine

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Signaling a turning point in ecumenical relations with the Catholic Church, the World Communion of Reformed Churches signed an agreement on a key issue that divided Catholics and Protestants for centuries. In an ecumenical ceremony July 5 in Wittenberg, Germany, the city where Martin Luther nailed his “95 Theses” that marked the beginning of the Reformation, the Reformed churches adopted the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification. The agreement, which explains how people are justified in God’s eyes and saved by Jesus Christ, was first signed in 1999 by Catholics and Lutherans. The World Methodist Council adopted the doctrine in 2006. The Reformed Churches represent an estimated 80 million Christians in Congregational, Presbyterian, Reformed, United, Uniting and Waldensian churches around the world. In a statement published July 4, the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity referred to the event “as another important milestone on the jour- ney toward the full visible unity of Christians: not yet the end of the road, but a significant stage on the way.”

House members approve measure to repeal D.C. assisted suicide law

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The House Appropriations Committee voted July 13 in favor of an amendment to repeal the District of Columbia’s assisted suicide law. The day before the vote, New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan sent a letter to members of the committee urging them to reject the amendment. The D.C. City Council’s deceptively named “Death with Dignity Act” that legalizes the dangerous and unethical practice of doctor-assisted suicide. “The amendment to the fiscal year 2018 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill looks to repeal the assisted suicide law, which went into effect this past February,” it was introduced by Rep. Andy Harris, R-Maryland, who told the committee there is “nothing dignified about suicide” in his opinion. Harris also called the the aid policy as a way to ensure that “physicians were playing God” by prescribing lethal medications to terminally ill patients who want to end their own lives. The Democratic version of the Committee permits physicians in the District of Columbia to legally prescribe lethal drugs to patients who have been deemed mentally competent and who have received a terminal diagnosis of six months or less. In his July 12 letter to House Appropriations Committee members, Cardinal Dolan said the law was “seriously flawed” and said it “poses the greatest risks of abuse and coercion to those who are poor, elderly, disabled, members of a minority group, or with- out access to good medical care.”

Religious order welcomes gas pipeline opponents to pray at new ‘chapel’

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As chapels go, the simple structure on proerty owned by the Adorers of the Blood of Christ congregation in Columbia, Pennsylvania, is not much. It’s more of an arbor, really: four posts and sev- eral cross boards built near a cornfield on farmland the sisters lease. Several pew-like benches are arranged around it. Still, said the sisters, it stands as a symbol of resistance by people of faith to a planned natural gas pipeline called Atlantic Sunrise that developers want to build through miles of farmland and small towns of picturesque Lancaster County. The pipeline’s path takes it through a strip of land the congrega- tion owns in the Harrisburg Diocese that includes farmland and the sisters contend that con- struction poses a danger to God’s creation. They have declined repeated offers of compensation from Transco, the project’s devel- oper, to allow an easement for it to be built. “This is something that we felt as a matter of con- science,” said Sister Sara Dwyer, coordinator of the congregation’s justice, peace and integrity of creation ministry. “We had to look at it more deeply and take a stron- ger stand.”

USCCB: Retain open internet ‘by strongest legal authority available’

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In comments delivered July 17 to the Federal Communications Commission, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops urged the FCC to use “the strongest legal author- ity available” to “retain open internet regulations.” The current regulations, adopted in 2015 by a Democratic-majority FCC, treat the internet as a utility. A prior FCC statement was issued in 2014, recognizing that the internet was “an open platform for innovation and free expression.”

Border bishop denounces hateful words, militarization of border

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Denouncing the “demonization of migrants,” hateful rhetoric, the militarization of the border and a system that divides fami- lies, Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, called on Catholics to heed the church’s teachings to welcome the migrant. In a July 18 pastoral letter “Sorrow and Mourning Flee Away,” on migration and addressed to the “People of God in the Diocese of El Paso,” Bishop Seitz, who serves a border community near Mexico, said the country’s secu- rity cannot be used as a “pretext to build walls and shut the door to migrants and refugees. God did not create a world lacking room for all at the banquet of life.”

Dewane: Budget ‘moral document’; House bill puts poor in ‘real jeopardy’

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. House budget resolution “will place millions of poor and vulnerable people in real jeop- ardy” because it reduces “families and other programs that help the poor, and other programs that help the poor, and other programs that help the poor,” Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development. “Congress should choose a better path, one that honors those struggling in our country,” Bishop Dewane’s July 20 statement was issued in response to the budget resolution that was voted out of the House Budget Committee along party lines July 19. The nonbinding Republican measure is a 10-year budget blueprint that calls for $6.5 trillion in national defense spending, provides for $511 bil- lion in nondefense spending and ties cuts to a major overhaul of the tax code. It includes at least $203 billion in cuts over a decade in Medicaid, food stamps, tax credits for the working poor and other programs that help low-income Americans. The bill also would change Medicare into a type of voucher program for future retirees.

Tennessee Mayan culture

CNS photo/Theresa Laurence, Tennessee Register

Catholics of Mayan ancestry attend Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Cookeville, Tennessee, July 8. The Mass was part of a national Mayan conference held to help young people from Central America better understand their identity as Mayas by celebrating tradi- tional music, culture and spirituality.
New leadership for Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

From left, Sister Joetta Huelsmann and Sister Margaret Anne Hesss, councilors, Sister Judith Ditzl, provincial, and Sister Michele Dvorak, councilor, were installed as the Poor Handmaids Provincial Leadership Team of the American Province on Sunday, July 9. They were elected at the conclusion of the congregation’s governance meeting, Provincial Chapter, in April at Donaldson. This Provincial Leadership Team will guide the congregation to accomplish the focus and calls set forth at the PHJC Chapter earlier this year and will govern and spiritually lead the American Province of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Congregation until 2021.

Catholic Charities fundraising event: Tincaps vs. Cougars

Supporters of the diocesan Catholic Charities organization enjoyed a Fort Wayne TinCaps baseball game against the Kane County Cougars on Saturday evening, July 22, at Parkview Field in downtown Fort Wayne. At right, Father Tom Shoemaker, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, throws out one of the ceremonial first pitches before the game with Jake “the Diamond Dog” watching nearby.
Catholic evangelization in a digital world

The message remains, but mediums must change

BY CHAZ MUTH

T he chief communications officer for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Department of Communications announced earlier in May a restructuring that will shift the focus of its operation from a traditional print structure to a digital model.

“It’s an exercise in enculturation,” said James Rogers, USCCB chief communications officer. “If you’re going to evangelize, you need to reach people where they are.”

The communications department was built when print and newspapers were the dominant force in media. The landscape has been dramatically transitioning in recent years to a digital platform, where information is frequently sought and shared in real time, Rogers told Catholic News Service May 8.

The restructuring involves the elimination of 12 jobs and the creation of 10 new positions.

Employees whose jobs were eliminated will be considered for the newly created positions if they have the required skills to do the work, Rogers said.

Planning for the restructuring began in 2014 with the commission of two different studies from independent communications consulting groups.

The consultants were charged with examining the department’s operation and recommending how to best reach the USCCB’s targeted audiences.

The only area not directly impacted by the communications restructuring was Catholic News Service, which will retain its current staff and remain editorially independent of the USCCB.

“A part of the review was to look at the position of Catholic News Service within, for the lack of a better word, the space of the dialogue that takes place,” Rogers said. “Catholic News Service is very well-respected.

When we did the survey of clients and customers, we found its position of trust is on par with, or higher than that of any other Catholic news outlet that you could compare CNS to.

“The reason you are not seeing change, in terms of the core structure of Catholic News Service, is because of the tremendous content creation capacity that is there,” he said. “It’s a well-respected, well-known brand.”

The challenge for CNS is that “people tie it to channels and since it was born as a print wire service,” they don’t necessarily associate it with the digital content it produces, such as video, its multimedia offerings, or its social media endeavors in breaking Catholic news, Rogers said.

“So, we’re making changes to the marketing structure of CNS,” he said, “because the content is there. The key is raising the awareness among those who would be interested in that content.”

In addition to realigning the communications department markets CNS, the reorganization also will build a dedicated digital team and provide episcopal resources to help bishops throughout the U.S. share national and international news of the church to their audiences.

The marketing team is being renamed Marketing and Episcopal Resources with specialists who will focus on web development, digital media, graphic design, marketing, sales, distribution and content coordination.

The creative services team also will develop multimedia content using elements of graphics, video and writing.

Outside vendors and freelancers will be brought in for ongoing opinion research, as well as creative and content development, so that the USCCB can stay in tune with how the world is receiving its information, Rogers said.

Calling the restructuring a “repositioning of resources and not a retrenchment,” Rogers acknowledged some displaced employees will not meet the requirements for the newly created positions and will ultimately lose their employment at the USCCB.

The independent consultants called their study a “clean-slate” approach, requiring the USCCB to look at the challenges it faces, develop the best structure to meet those challenges, “and that work was done without regard for the current structure within communications at the (USCCB),” he said. “It was based on positions and not people.”

It was done that way to make sure the leadership was focused on the outcome and concentrated on where the communications efforts needed to be, Rogers said.

Quebec cardinal to Catholic media: Strength of the message is God

St. John’s experience with Jesus “transforms him into a great communicator,” said Quebec Cardinal Gerald Lacroix, and he told Catholic media professionals from around the world that the same kind of experience drives their work.

“The strength, the vigor is ... in the seed, in the Word of God,” he told hundreds of participants in the Catholic Media Conference and the Signis World Congress June 21.

In a special Mass at the Cathedral-Basilica of Notre Dame of Quebec, the cardinal moved smoothly among Spanish, English and French, asking participants from the Americas, Asia, Africa, Australia and Europe to pardon his hoarse voice.

Referring to one of the Mass readings, he said St. John “shares a vibrant expression of his faith.” He noted that, at the time, there was “no Facebook account yet, no tweets ... no Internet ... and yet the Gospel spread all over the world.”

Of course, he told the media professionals, they should continue to try to use the professional tools and to make themselves the best they could be.

But he repeated, “We do not forget that the power, the strength, the life is in the seed, the Word of God.”

The Signis World Congress met June 19-22 in Quebec, drawing members of the international association of Catholic communicators.

The Catholic Media Conference met June 20-23 for members of the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada.

— CNS

COMING SOON!
‘TV Mass Sister’ completes 25 years of ministry to homebound

BY VINCE LABARBERA

“Every Sunday, I had the joy of electronically stepping into the sacred space of sick rooms in hospitals, nursing homes, living rooms and prison cells to bring the celebration of the Eucharist to so many dedicated Catholics and others who treasured this prayer of the church so very much,” said Sister Agnes Marie Regan, OSF, earlier this month. “Though I couldn’t see their faces, I knew they were present there with us as the Word and Eucharist were celebrated with them and for them.”

On July 2, Sister Agnes completed 25 years of ministry in both Fort Wayne and South Bend as a vital part of the weekly TV Mass telecasts at both ends of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. In a letter recently submitted to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Sister Agnes requested she be allowed to step down from her responsibilities as master of ceremonies for the TV Mass in South Bend to allow her more time to devote to the 16 Secular Franciscan Fraternities in Indiana for which she serves as spiritual assistant.

“What an honor and a joy it was to begin serving the diocese’s TV Mass ministry in 1992 with the late Msgr. Edward Hession in Fort Wayne and then with Msgr. Bernard Galic in South Bend in 2000,” she continued.

“I was always fascinated and humbled by the sense that the ‘viewing’ parish extends outward 85-90 miles. In the studio (in South Bend and at the University of Saint Francis Chapel, Fort Wayne) all one sees is a wonderful group of faithful ‘parishioners’ who join us for Mass. But the ever-present little red light on the camera is a symbol of the thousands of persons who have joined us for Mass ever since.”

The joy of knowing how much the TV Mass meant to people made me want to continue doing it, because it was helping Catholics and non-Catholics receive this most important prayer in their personal spaces,” related Sister Agnes.

She said two ladies approached her one evening at the Hacienda Mexican Restaurant in South Bend and asked, “Are you the sister we think you are?” Sister Agnes answered, “That depends on who you think I am.” “You’re on TV, aren’t you?” both exclaimed. The ladies shared that they were non-Catholic but watched every Sunday morning because they loved the service.

“It’s always very appreciated when people approach, introduce themselves and say how much the TV Mass means to them. I’ve heard ‘thank you’ in the food court at Macy’s in Chicago, from fellow passengers on the South Shore train and in the food aisles at Walmart and Kroger,” she said. People also ask: “Aren’t you the TV sister?” “Will you be back in South Bend for the TV Mass tomorrow?” and “How do I know you?” The list goes on, she said. “Some of my Franciscan sisters say, ‘We can’t take you anywhere.’”

“Many folks, who are not confused because of illness or other reasons, have indicated they like attending Mass in their respective parish but also watch the televised Mass so they can enjoy a second reflection on the readings. Others have mentioned they’ve learned the value of the TV Mass the first time they were ill and could not attend Mass in their home parish,” Sister Agnes emphasized. “And when a Michiana winter has the rest of the world snowed in, our TV Mass team always feels it’s a sacred honor to brave icy roads and snow to get to WNDU-TV to provide Mass for all those unable to get to their parish churches.”

“We have witnessed baptisms, blessings before surgeries, young priests in the first months of ordained priesthood as well as senior priests in the last days of their ministry to the church, but still dedicated and wanting to share the gift of their priesthood until the very last,” she said. “Technically, we have about 28 minutes and 30 seconds of air time to complete the Mass, so we’ve learned how to ‘stretch’ when celebrants finish too early or ‘punt’ when the flow of prayer exceeds that limit.” She once had to interrupt a young priest who, with 30 seconds of time left, only was at the “Lamb of God.” She whispered to him, “Give them the final blessing.” He replied, “But the Mass is not finished.”

“Sister Agnes Marie Regan, OSF, has served the diocesan TV Mass in both Fort Wayne and South Bend for 25 years.

Born in Chicago, raised in Huntington – where she graduated from Huntington Catholic High School – young Mary Agnes entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration in Mishawaka in September 1960 despite early aspirations of becoming a United Nations interpreter, an interior decorator, a sociologist and a veterinarian.

Four different communities of sisters were working on me through prayer: The Sisters of St. Francis, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters and a Sister of St. Joseph, a friend of my mother. Everybody knew my vocation but me,” she quipped. She holds bachelor’s degrees in education and theology from the University of Saint Francis and the University of Notre Dame, respectively, and a master’s degree in religious studies from Calumet University, Calumet City. Her 57-year religious career includes teaching junior high, twice working as a school principal, serving the motherhouse in liturgy and music, and assisting the diocese in the Tribunal, as director of worship and as a pastoral associate at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend.

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‘What a Catholic university is all about’

University of Saint Francis projects will promote the ‘dual Catholic priorities of faith and reason’

BY JODI MARLIN

The University of Saint Francis took a powerful step toward further defining its mission and calling on July 24, by launching dual and simultaneous construction projects: a standalone chapel and an addition to and renovation of Achatz Hall of Science.

The $22.7 million Faith & Reason Capital Campaign broke ground at 9:30 a.m., when dignitaries from the University and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, city of Fort Wayne, Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, project construction partners and others gathered at the Spring Street campus for remarks and a formal ceremony.

USF’s board of trustees gave the initial go-ahead for the Faith & Reason Capital Campaign on April 25 of this year, the 75th anniversary of the educational institution’s move from Lafayette, Indiana, to Fort Wayne.

“Preparing leaders for the world’s complex challenges demands new and flexible capacity,” the project website explains. “Additionally, teaching strategies, scientific research and technology are constantly changing. With the construction of a new chapel and the expansion and renovation of the science building, the project intends to enhance its core strengths of faith and reason.” Both are at the heart of the university, according to university president Bill Niezer; donors to the project construction timeframe.

Hall of Science.

Planning Committee.

The impact of the projects will significantly modernize the university’s already high-quality and in-demand science and health care programs.

Built in 1968, Achatz hall has been modified multiple times to keep up with the changing demands of science education.

The latest expansion and renovation will significantly modernize the building and highlight the university’s high-quality and in-demand science and health care programs.

Phase 1 of the construction is an addition extending toward the chapel that will be lined with windows to facilitate the view; that phase is expected to continue through 2020. By that time, the university will have 12 laboratories, including biotech, microbiology, computer, organic and chemistry, customized to the specialized needs of today’s science-related technology and pedagogy.

Achatz Hall of Science will include other student-friendly features like a green roof, second-floor outdoor balcony and study spaces in the first and second-floor atrium that have a view of the chapel, Mirror Lake and other campus buildings.

The chapel’s emblematic four sides. Plans for renovations and additions to Achatz Hall of Science, above, include glass-enclosed atriums and study areas that offer broad vistas of Mirror Lake and much of the University of Saint Francis campus.
Dear Friends in Christ:

Once again, we are publishing an accounting of the financial operations of the diocese for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2016. As we have done in past years, we have also included a consolidated financial report of our high schools and parishes. This is done in the spirit of accountability and transparency.

For the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2016, our total gain was $100,802 (from our audited financial statements). This is only for the central operations of the diocese. It does not include the activity of the parishes, schools or missions in the diocese. Investments lost 2 percent versus a budgeted amount of 5 percent. A detailed breakdown of our financial picture can be found inside.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph G. Ryan, Chief Financial Officer

DIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL
- Most Rev. Kevin C. Rhoades
- Msgr. Robert Schulte
- Deacon James Fitzpatrick
- Mr. Thomas Skiba
- Mr. Jerry Kearns
- Sister Jane Marie Klein, OSF
- Mr. Jerry Hammes
- Mr. George Witwer
- Mr. Michael Hammes
- Ms. Linda Teeters
- Mr. Christopher Murphy
- Mr. Joseph Ryan
- Mr. Timothy Dolezal
- Ms. Meg Distler
- Mr. Bob Doelling
- Mr. Tom Schuerman
2016 Diocese of Fort Wayne

Statement of revenues, budgets and expenses

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Designated</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Total Funds</th>
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</table>

**TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE** $30,614,887 ($1,025,708) $57,570 ($22,701) $29,624,048

EXPENSES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
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<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Total Funds</th>
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<td>$16,009,746</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>$4,274,961</td>
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**TOTAL EXPENSES** $29,523,246 $0 $0 $0 $29,523,246

**Change in Net Assets** $1,091,641 ($1,025,708) $57,570 ($22,701) $100,802

**Net Assets at Beginning of Year** $(1,247,490) $12,475,053 $3,109,635 $3,978,937 $18,316,135

**Net Assets at End of Year** $(155,849) $11,449,345 $3,167,205 $3,956,236 $18,416,937

GROUPS RECEIVING GRANTS FROM THE BISHOP’S APPEAL

- St. Vincent de Paul Society, Fort Wayne and South Bend
- Vincent Village
- Women’s Care Center, Fort Wayne and South Bend
- Christ Child Society, Fort Wayne and South Bend
- Matthew 25
- St. Augustine Soup Kitchen
- St. Mary’s Soup Kitchen
- Little Flower Food Pantry
- Chiara Home
- Franciscan Center
- Sister Maura Brannick Health Center
- Catholic Charities
- CORP (Homeless Center, SB)
- Logan Center
- St. Martin’s Health Clinic
- Hannah’s House
- Life Athletes
- Dismas House of South Bend

PARISHES RECEIVING GRANTS FROM THE BISHOP’S APPEAL

- Holy Cross, South Bend
- St. Catherine, Nix Settlement
- St. Patrick, South Bend
- Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne
- St. Monica, Mishawaka
- St. Joseph, Fort Wayne
- St. Anthony de Padua, South Bend
- St. John the Baptist, South Bend
- St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne
- Queen of Peace, Mishawaka
- St. Adalbert, South Bend
- Tribunal
- General Administration
- Parish Assistance
- Personnel
- Diocesan Services Agency
- Data Processing
- US Catholic Conference/Indiana Catholic Conference
- Missions
- Archbishop Noll Catholic Center
- Hispanic Ministry
- Accounting
- Bishop’s Appeal
- Bishop’s Office
- Safe Environment
- Archivist
- Today’s Catholic
- Office of Catholic Communications
- Ecumenical
- Family Life/Pro-Life
- TV Mass
- Property Management
- Office of Vocations
- Hispanic Permanent Diaconate
- Permanent Diaconate
- Hospital Ministry
- Ministry of Education
- Religious Education Office
- Seminarian Education/Priest Formation
- Continuing Ed/Priests
- Catholic Charities
- Catholic Charities Property - South Bend
- International Priests Assigned to Parishes
- Youth Ministry
- Development Office
- Cathedral Museum
- Planned Giving
## Diocesan High Schools

### Income

- **Tuition/Fees**: $20,830,672
- *Diocesan Assistance*: $1,207,000
- Other Grants/Scholarships: $489,320
- Fund Raising: $1,826,803
- Athletic/Other: $4,262,057
- **Total Income**: $28,615,852

### Expenses

- **Administrative**
  - Cost of Employee: $4,085,673
  - Other Administrative: $5,128,464
  - **Total Administrative**: $9,214,137
- **Instructional**
  - Cost of Employee-Teaching: $10,264,180
  - Academic Department-Cost: $122,4133
  - Other Expense-Teaching: $378,468
  - Cost of Employee-Supportive: $1,290,784
  - Other Expense-Supportive: $444,802
  - **Total Instructional**: $12,500,647
- **Operational**
  - Cost of Employee: $1,265,193
  - Other Expense-Operational: $2,110,749
  - **Total Operational**: $3,375,942
- **Miscellaneous**
  - Capital/Miscellaneous: $0
  - Other Miscellaneous: $3,740,112
  - **Total Miscellaneous**: $3,740,112
- **Total Expenses**: $28,830,838

**Surplus/(Loss)**: ($214,986)

### Contributions Distributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
<th>Distributions</th>
<th>06/30/16 Balance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Source – Hispanic</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
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<td>$134,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priest Retirement</td>
<td>$955,400</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,257,777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Schools</td>
<td>$955,400</td>
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<td>$1,257,777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Charities</td>
<td>$1,908,800</td>
<td>(867,500)</td>
<td>$1,778,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Education</td>
<td>$1,908,800</td>
<td>(662,480)</td>
<td>$1,246,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic Ministry</td>
<td>$955,400</td>
<td>(182,175)</td>
<td>$1,047,787</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elementary Schools</td>
<td>$19,118,745</td>
<td>(8,437,049)</td>
<td>$16,695,632</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$25,902,545</td>
<td>(10,149,204)</td>
<td>$24,401,356</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 82 Diocesan Parishes

### Income

- Church Income: $63,709,048
- School Income: $45,362,305
- **Total Income**: $109,071,353

### Expenses

- Church Expense: $40,104,805
- School Expense: $57,901,748
- **Total Expense**: $98,006,553

**Surplus**: $11,064,800

### Legacy of Faith Endowments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
<th>Distributions</th>
<th>06/30/16 Balance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Source – Hispanic</td>
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<td>$25,902,545</td>
<td>(10,149,204)</td>
<td>$24,401,356</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
July 30, 2017

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

Serving Christ through responsible stewardship

DIOCESAN AUDIT

The diocese is audited every year by Leonard J. Andorfer & Company, a certified public accounting firm, and, as in the past, no exceptions were noted. This means that the diocesan books, records and accounting policies are conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. This audit, along with the management letter, is presented not only to the Audit Committee, but to the entire Diocesan Finance Council; and the Council is given time alone with the auditor, without the presence of diocesan officials, to be sure that they were given full access to all appropriate financial records.

For the past several years, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has required that the Diocesan Finance Council sign a report indicating the following: 1) That the council has met quarterly; 2) That the audit and the management letter have been reviewed; 3) That the audit has been reviewed. This report and certification must then be sent to the Metropolitan Archbishop of the Province, which, in this case, is the Archbishop of Indianapolis. We require similar reporting from our parishes to the diocese.

PARISHES

It is also important that there be accountability and transparency in parishes. According to Canon Law, every parish must have a Parish Finance Council. We have a retired accountant who does a financial review of every parish every two years; in addition, every parish is audited at the time of a pastoral change. During thepast nine years, we have sent this financial report, done by our auditor, to each member of the Parish Finance Council. This enables the review to be discussed at a regular meeting. As indicated above, controls have now been established similar to the accountability of each diocese.

It is important to understand how the Annual Bishop’s Appeal has sustained the parishes. It was the hope of our lay leadership prior to the institution of the appeal that the parishes would benefit. This has become a reality. The appeal has increased the incentive of parishes to seek funds. During the 30 years since the appeal began, our parishes have engaged in major capital fund drives. In the last 30 years, fund drives for parishes have brought in over $170,021,794 for new buildings and renovations approved by the Diocesan Finance Council. This includes parish initiatives linked to the Legacy of Faith. Also, over $195,470,970, which would have been paid to the diocese under the previous system, now remains in the parishes. In addition, $6.0 million from the appeal has been given in grants to parishes in need. The 50th Annual Bishop’s Appeal attained $6,869,097.

TWINNING PARISHES

A number of parishes have agreed to twin with certain targeted parishes to help them provide a full Catholic education. From January 1999 thru May 2017, a total of $2,922,224 has been received by 16 parishes. This is true Christian stewardship; and most of the parishes making these contributions do it as part of their parish stewardship effort. These parishes give a proportionate gift to other parishes in need. This twinning program has saved several parish schools.

CURRENT ASSET ALLOCATION

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HIGH SCHOOLS

Over $84 million has been raised for building projects in our four high schools. The four high schools continue to flourish; but not without challenges. The Annual Bishop’s Appeal gives $1.7 million to the high schools every year, which has created a sense of stability. Next year, tuition will increase by $200-$400 in our high schools. Our high schools are audited every year by an independent CPA firm. Each high school has presented a balanced budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017. Two high schools have debts to the diocese and are paying on those debts.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHEAST INDIANA

Both the Development Office and the Business Office helped put in place the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana, which enables parishes, high schools and other diocesan institutions to raise funds for an ongoing endowment. Currently, there are 143 endowments in the Catholic Community Foundation. Talk to your pastor or school board about establishing an endowment for your parish and/or parish school. To establish an endowment and experience endowment growth involves planned giving—bequests, annuities, remainder trusts, as well as gifts and other creative ways by which you can make contributions. Funds placed in this trust will remain there and grow, and the interest realized will continue to fund the designated purpose for years to come. These are gifts that keep on giving. Those who contribute will determine the area where these funds are to be restricted. Regular annual reports and semi-annual newsletters are sent to the donors. The Catholic Community Foundation contains $42,401,441 as of June 30, 2016.

INVESTMENTS

Diocesan investments are overseen by Slocum & Associates of St. Paul, Minn. Investments are placed carefully so as to avoid excessive risk. We have a very diversified portfolio, fully in keeping with Catholic moral teaching. Slocum & Associates meet with our Investment Committee on a quarterly basis. In the fiscal year in question here, investments lost 2 percent. The current asset allocation is detailed in the pie chart below.

- Equity Related 11%
- Long/Short Equity 44%
- Long/Short Fixed 12%
- Real Assets 6%
- Cash 2%
- Long Only-Fixed 14%
- Private Equity 4%
- Long Only-Equity 4%
- Real Assets 6%
- Cash 2%
- Long/Short Fixed 12%
- Long Only-Fixed 14%
- Private Equity 4%
- Long/Short Equity 7%
Several teachers from Marian High School in Mishawaka and Saint Joseph High School in South Bend recently participated in the Science and Religion Seminars, an initiative of the University of Notre Dame’s McGrath Institute for Church Life.

A team of four educators from Marian and a separate group from Saint Joseph attended an introductory seminar and a follow-up conference, respectively, exploring the interface of science and religion on the Notre Dame campus in June.

Marian principal Dr. Mark Kirzeder, along with faculty members Mary Ann Hinora, Lauren Meyers and Eduardo Siguenza, represented the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend at the weeklong Foundation seminar. Because faculty members from Marian and Saint Joseph had participated in that program previously, the schools selected teachers for a follow-up, the in-depth Capstone Seminar.

In lectures and workshops, the representatives worked with leading researchers – including Brother Guy Consolmagno, SJ, director of the Vatican Observatory – and other educators selected for the introductory sessions from 25 Catholic high schools across the nation. They collaborated on innovative plans to explore the dialogue connecting science and religion courses.

“When our high schools excel at exploring that interface, students take two giant steps forward,” said Jay Martin, co-director of the initiative, along with Patricia Bellm at Notre Dame’s nationally known institute serving church apostolates. “The students gain theological insights grounded in reason, plus scientific knowledge that boosts them toward faith-filled lives, as well as tomorrow’s careers.”

The initiative assists schools in expanding the coordination among teachers and principals. Selected from about 120 Catholic schools that applied for this summer’s Foundations Seminar, the Marian team, led by Kirzeder, joined with other participants to better understand the coherent pursuit of truth that spans different high school subjects, the leaders of the initiative said.

Twin sessions of the Foundations Seminar, one held on the Notre Dame campus and one in New Orleans, prepared educators to return to their schools this fall as advocates among their colleagues, ready to implement new lesson plans.

“Our resources help to produce effective plans that nourish the Catholic imagination and allow science and religion teachers alike to feel comfortable in their own skin,” said the McGrath Institute’s Bellm.

Participants from Marian and Saint Joseph heard experts in biology, chemistry, physics and theology shed new light on the compatibility of modern science and the Catholic faith.

The Capstone Seminar allowed teachers from the two schools and other alumni of the Science and Religion Initiative to focus on issues in quantum physics.

“Our school is incredibly blessed to have teachers who view what they do in their classrooms as a vocation, and not just a job,” said Kirzeder. “Their commitment of time and energy in attending this seminar truly illustrates how they are striving to serve the Church by working toward an authentic integration of science and religion.”

The McGrath Institute is now accepting Catholic high schools’ applications for the 2018 Foundations Seminars, as well as inquiries about Capstone Seminars and Institute Days. Go to http://icl.nd.edu/seminar2018 for information.
Family ties and opportunities bring new principal to Fort Wayne

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

Zachary Coyle, newly appointed principal at St. John the Baptist Catholic School in New Haven, noted that family ties are what first directed him toward the Fort Wayne area. “It’s a great time in my life and my family’s, as we take on this new opportunity and relocate here from Baltimore, Maryland, where I grew up and was recently serving as a school principal in the Baltimore archdiocese. We love Fort Wayne and are truly blessed to live here now, where almost all of our extended family lives,” he said.

Coyle brings solid credentials to his new position at St. John the Baptist. He attended Saint Joseph University in Philadelphia, earned his master’s in secondary education at Loyola University in Baltimore. He was a member of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and a full-time teacher at Kolbe Cathedral High School in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He later taught at Maryvale Preparatory School, a Catholic girls’ school founded by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. His first administrative role was as Sacred Heart Glyndon, his family’s home parish in the Baltimore area. He says he was proud to serve as principal for three years.

“Direct teaching offers tremendous joy and I loved leading my own classes. I do miss that work,” he confided. “However, over time, I discerned God calling me to school leadership, to try to help grow the faith and achievement of an entire school, and I find great joy in that calling.”

Core attributes that Coyle brings to the principal’s position include a strong faith, which leads him to prayer and turning to God in all things. He believes skill in strategic planning will help him influence the entire community to collaboratively decide the future of the school, and that skillful communication and organization will strengthen the educational process. Finally, he believes accountability in carrying out St. John the Baptist School’s mission of helping each student become a lifelong learner, live a Christ-centered, Catholic way of life and achieve academic success is a core function of his administrative role and that of leaders in general.

“Our mission is powerful and joyful!” he added.

Nick Bobay appointed principal of St. Therese

BY BARB SIEMINSKI

If new St. Therese principal Nick Bobay ever had any doubt that his teaching belonged in a Catholic school, it disappeared in 2013 when he temporarily left the Catholic school system to teach in Fort Wayne Community Schools.

“After graduating IPFW with a degree in music technology, I was immediately hired by Sweetwater Sound,” said the Bishop Dwenger High School graduate, who also possesses a teaching degree from Indiana Wesleyan University and is currently finishing his master’s degree in educational leadership at IPFW.

“I soon began searching for something more rewarding than sales and in 2013, Sandra Guffey, who was principal when I attended St. Vincent de Paul elementary school as a student, hired me as a music teacher there. I had been baptized and married there as well, by Msgr. John Kuzmich. Then, in my third year of teaching, I briefly left the Catholic school system to teach at North Side High School in Fort Wayne, and immediately found myself missing the Christ-centered approach to education that I had grown up with my entire life. God was definitely calling me back.”

Bobay applied for and was accepted at St. Therese for a position teaching computers and technology. “Chuck Grimm hired me, and toward the end of that year we started talking about the possibility of me taking on assistant principal responsibilities,” Bobay said.

Last August, Grimm’s cancer became worse. He passed away and left Jeanette Donovan in his place and Bobay as assistant principal. He worked under Jeanette’s leadership for the entire year, but then St. Therese experienced another huge loss: Donovan passed away with just two weeks left in the school year.

Bobay took over for the rest of the year, and after immense prayer, contemplation and a conversation with the priest, he came to the conclusion that this is truly what God was calling him to do.

“There is something really special about St. Therese School, which is a combination of the amazing, resilient staff and student body,” he said. “I am truly honored and humbled to assume this responsibility, and I hope to make my mentors Chuck and Jeanette proud.”

Bobay and his wife, Noelle, are the proud parents of a 1½-year-old daughter, Harper Willow. An active musician in the Fort Wayne music scene, Bobay plays with the Todd Harrold Band, which performs at northeast Indiana and Indianapolis shows. He has also played organ and drums in various churches part-time and as a substitute.

Some of his duties as principal include overseeing all the operations of the school and ensuring student and staff success on all levels, said Bobay, whose life has been guided by Proverbs 19:20, “Listen to advice, accept correction, to be the wiser in the time to come.”

“Another philosophy that has had some real guidance for me comes from entrepreneur and philanthropist Tony Robbins, who noted, ‘Life is a gift, and it offers us the privilege, opportunity and responsibility to give something back by becoming more.’

Queen of Angels School welcomes new principal

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

Queen of Angels Catholic School, located on Fort Wayne’s near northwest side, will welcome a new principal when classes begin on Aug. 9.

Michelle Brandle is a seasoned educator who began her career as a middle school social studies and religion teacher in the Diocese of Evansville. She received a secondary education degree in social studies in 2004 after studying at Ball State University and University of Southern Indiana. She received her master of education degree in 2009 and then continued on with Indiana Wesleyan to complete a principal licensure program in 2011. A Marken native, she has extended family in the area and said, “I am looking forward to being closer to my northern Indiana family.”

Brandle is a seasoned administrator as well. Her first principal appointment was at St. Gerard Catholic School in Lima, Ohio. From there she served as principal at Precious Blood Catholic School in Jasper, and most recently at St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic School in Louisville, Kentucky.

She brings a wealth of knowledge and understanding to her new position at Queen of Angels. “In my experiences as principal, I have learned many important lessons and recognized the gifts that God has given me,” Brandle said. “I believe the most important attributes of a Catholic School principal are staying focused on the most important mission of Catholic education and always being open to the Holy Spirit working in every person.” She continued, “I have learned the importance of communication and building relationships with all stakeholders including students, staff members, parents, parishioners and others.

“Queen of Angels School has a long tradition of excellence in Catholic education and I am very excited about all of the opportunities to continue serving our students in the future,” she added. “I feel I have been given the gifts to nurture a loving, Christ-centered environment in which students can be successful.”
Veldman steps in at Holy Family

BY JENNIFER MILLER

“Being family” at Holy Family School, South Bend, is very important to newly appointed interim principal Jennifer Veldman, both personally and professionally. She and her family have been a part of the parish for as long as she can remember. Her husband attended the school, and they chose to send their children to Holy Family. So she feels it is an honor to have been selected as interim principal and to have the opportunity to serve the school she has long called home.

As a mother, parishioner and educator, she knows well the needs of families at Holy Family. As an educator and administrator, she has the background and experience to serve them. She values trust and a good rapport with the parents as vital to the life of the family, and she believes in “getting to know the students individually, where they are coming from, as well as listening to the parents as they support and guide the children.”

Born and raised on the West Side of South Bend, Veldman is proud of the diverse culture and heritage of the area. “Many people don’t realize Indiana State College is here,” she explained. She herself attended St. John the Baptist School and Washington High School. Her parents modeled the call to serve others, she noted, and have always been active Catholics in the parish.

After graduating from Indiana University South Bend with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and a kindergarten endorsement, Veldman taught kindergarten for nine years at Kennedy Primary Academy, wanting to serve the West Side community. In 2012 she transitioned to teaching within the Catholic schools, working at Christ the King, St. John the Baptist and Holy Family schools.

At Holy Family she served on the school board, oversaw yearly testing and developed curricula to meet the Indiana State Core and Career Readiness standards. Continually growing and learning, Veldman most recently earned her master’s degree in education and her administrative certificate from Bethel College. For her, answering the call to serve in Catholic education is unique. “We support and promote a positive relationship and deepen existing relationships with Christ and his teachings,” she said. “We get to bring our faith to the forefront in all areas, from academics to discipline.”

“Our needs are so varied that we can share that!” she shared excitedly. “She has done an outstanding job at our school working on organizing our curriculum,” said Father Glenn Kohrman, pastor of Holy Family Parish. “She really seems to love Holy Family, and the transition from vice principal to principal should make our transition at Holy Family a very smooth one.”

With excitement for the upcoming school year, Veldman said she, too, hopes to continue the smooth transition from last year and build on the strengths displayed by the previous administration.

“I hope to strive for a strong sense of team, and to continue to create a positive environment which encompasses everyone involved,” she said. “In the curriculum, we will continue to collect and teach with differentiated data driven instruction to truly meet the needs of our students.”

Education is vocation for principal Karen Salvador

BY JENNIFER MILLER

L

isten to the Holy Spirit call her “home,” Karen Salvador is grateful to be once again working in her childhood parish.

“I grew up at St. Monica Parish and graduated eighth grade from St. Monica School, where I was the only girl in my class (with 13 boys) for sixth-eighth grades,” she recalled. “This is a homecoming of sorts for me. I get to be a part of all three campuses: St. Bavo, St. Joseph and St. Monica.”

Mishawaka Catholic School educates students from all three nearby parishes. Due to medical situations of the previous principal, Salvador will be the interim principal for the 2017-18 school year.

Originally from Mishawaka, Salvador’s own Catholic school education grew from the vibrant faith community of St. Monica Parish. Attending DePauw University, she earned a B.A. in English again willed and returned to her home to teach third grade at St. Bavo Parish.

“When the three schools in Mishawaka consolidated, I did not move forward with Mishawaka Catholic. My mother’s cancer had returned, and I took time to care for her until my husband’s job became insecure.”

She then felt called to further her studies in educational leadership and studied with the Alliance for Catholic Education Program at the University of Notre Dame, earning her M.A. in education. Salvador also earned her principal license from Indiana University’s School of Education.

Father Glenn Kohrman, pastor of Holy Family Parish, “She really seems to love Holy Family, and the transition from vice principal to principal should make our transition at Holy Family a very smooth one.”

With excitement for the upcoming school year, Veldman said she, too, hopes to continue the smooth transition from last year and build on the strengths displayed by the previous administration.

“I hope to strive for a strong sense of team, and to continue to create a positive environment which encompasses everyone involved,” she said. “In the curriculum, we will continue to collect and teach with differentiated data driven instruction to truly meet the needs of our students.”

Karen Salvador

Wesleyan University. Since 2011 Salvador has worked for the South Bend Community School Corporation, where she was trained as a curriculum coach and instructional leader; she also worked as a Title I and Title II coach.

“I spent time in the classroom modeling best practices for teachers, planned and facilitated weekly professional development opportunities for teachers at the building and district level and was instrumental in raising the performance of our bottom 25 percent in ELA. Ultimately, contributing to our school’s improvement from an ‘F’ school to that of a ‘C’ school. I loved leading and seeing the difference quality teaching and learning can make.”

Salvador adjusted her job slightly, becoming a student advocate for SBCSC, but she felt the Holy Spirit calling her to return to serve in Catholic education.

She remembered, “While I believe that I was doing the Lord’s work daily by serving the students in my building, there was still something missing. I was missing the opportunities to share the Lord’s word and his teachings.” Since graduating ACE, “I always thought of education as my vocation, and I feel the need to return to being a Catholic educator, specifically a Catholic instructional leader. I truly believe it is my responsibility as a member of the church to prepare young people to make God known, loved and served. It is my passion.”

Her supervisor spoke similar words. “From my first interview with Karen, I knew I wanted her on our Mishawaka Catholic School team,” Father Jacob Meyer, pastor of St. Monica Parish and executive pastor of Mishawaka Catholic School, reflected. “She is fun, energetic, intelligent and an ‘all-in’ personality. With her taking the reins this year I am excited about what the upcoming year holds. It may be the middle of July but I can’t wait for school to start again so that I can see how this all works together.”

“I am most excited about Karen’s professional experience and passion, which will keep Mishawaka Catholic moving with the great momentum that we have experienced in these past years.”

Looking toward the upcoming school year, as she answers the call to return home, Salvador said: “I am looking forward to continuing our mission this year of building disciples of Jesus Christ through faith formation, academic excellence and service to others.”

Andy Adams to serve at St. Mary School

BY CLAIRE KENNEY

B

eginning this upcoming school year, Andy Adams will serve as the principal of St. Mary of the Assumption School in Avilla.

“I am happy beyond words to introduce myself as the new principal of St. Mary Catholic School. . . . I feel honored and privileged to be part of the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese,” he said.

Adams considers his new job as principal of St. Mary to be a service role and a way to give to the school community.

“I am very thankful to have the opportunity to be part of this family, bring my experiences to St. Mary Catholic School and to lead through service,” he said. He describes his leadership strategy as “collaborative” and “decentered.” He enjoys leading in an environment that values teamwork and he very much sees the importance of gaining perspectives of others.

Growing up, Adams attended Queen of Angels School in Fort Wayne. He went on to attend North Side High School and then the University of Saint Francis. Later, he returned to school to earn advanced degrees. Over the past several years he has completed his Ed.S. and Ed.D. in educational leadership through Indiana University’s School of Education, while working in the Fort Wayne area. He said he chose the program because of its focus on collaborative-based and team-centered leadership. He is currently working on his dissertation, which concentrates on safety as it relates to children and educational environments.

Adams also received his administration license through Indiana University.

During his career, Adams worked for 11 years in East Allen County Schools and four years in North Adams Community Schools.

Heading into 2017-18 school year, Adams plans to concentrate on working to form students comprehensively. For him, it is important that students have quality experiences to support well-rounded growth.

“The goal throughout my career has been to be a child advocate and to support growth: spiritually, emotionally, behaviorally, (and) academically,” he explained. “This year I will work incessantly to ensure children have the best possible experiences while in attendance at St. Mary Catholic School.”

Though the school year has yet to officially start, Adams has already experienced firsthand the close knit and supportive nature of St. Mary.

“St. Mary’s has been one of the most welcoming communities that I’ve ever been a part of,” he said. “Everyone has been so kind during my transition.”

Classes at St. Mary officially begin on Aug. 8. Adams will welcome the staff back for a retreat on Aug. 5.
Joe Miller to lead at St. Adalbert

BY JENNIFER MILLER

Although not Latino by birth, Joseph Miller’s heart has always been called to be with the Latino community. Thus, his preparation and background for his new position as principal of St. Adalbert School came not only from his academic studies and degrees, but also from being present and coming to know the many Latino families he now will serve.

“Our goal is to help students grow in self-confidence. Every student here is gifted in unique ways. We will be successful if we help each student to realize they are gifted, to grow those gifts and to share them for the benefit of all. There is a wonderfully talented and dedicated faculty in place at St. Adalbert, who believe in these kids and want to continue to build them up,” Miller said of his new leadership position.

Born and raised in South Bend, his heart for service was fostered at an early age by his parents. Miller’s father cared for the church as a deacon while his mother served in numerous capacities, from sewing altar cloths to teaching at Catholic schools.

After earning a degree in communication from Illinois Wesleyan University, a year in volunteer service with the Midsouth Center in Chicago, helping underprivileged children learn. His heart for education and Latino culture blossomed when he next joined the ACE program with the University of Notre Dame serving in Brownsville, Texas, and earning an MAT degree in education. This led him to learn Spanish and theology for an M.Div. from the University of Notre Dame as a seminarian with the Congregation of Holy Cross, where he studied in Costa Rica, Peru, Mexico and Chile. His experience in Peru, in the neighborhoods of Canto Grande, was most formative and spoke to his heart.

Miller there heard about the preferential option for the poor, lived in a concrete way, and felt the Holy Spirit calling him. This way of making God known, loved and served, the motto of the Congregation of Holy Cross, spoke to his heart. Upon returning to the United States he worked at Saint Joseph High School as a language teacher and football coach, and developed a new program called Latino Outreach Initiative. While teaching, he came to know many of the St. Adalbert families, some of whom were first-generation graduates. At the same time, Bishop John M. D’Arcy began to emphasize the importance of reaching out to welcome and serve the rapidly growing Latino population with.

St. John the Baptist, South Bend, welcomes Leon Baker

BY JENNIFER MILLER

“This is not a job — it is a calling,” explained Leon Baker, newly appointed principal of St. John the Baptist School, South Bend.

Retired from his first career as a commissioned officer in the United States Army and about to retire from his second career in education, Baker felt called by the Holy Spirit to serve the students of St. John the Baptist. Originally from Oregon, Baker studied in a military preparatory school and then at West Point United States Military Academy, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in science. With a passion for learning he continued his studies at the University of Virginia, earning a master’s degree in English language and literature.

Baker then taught at numerous military and private schools — wherever his military duties took him — for over 20 years. He always enjoyed and appreciated a classical understanding of education during his time in the classroom and incorporated the arts and music into his lessons, understanding that the liberal arts education teaches to the whole person.

“Everything is connected in our learning. There are not just separate dots of math or science. Originally from Oregon,” he explained. “Find the true, the beautiful and the good and you find God somewhere there.”

After Baker retired from the Army in 1993, he longed to continue sharing his passion of English and education but was accustomed to military-style schools. Howe Military Academy in Howe had an opening for an English master and department chairman, so Baker and his wife made a home in LaGrange County and at a Catholic parish there. He taught in both in the private and public sectors for 23 years, most recently at St. Thomas the Apostle School in Elkhart, until he heard about the position at St. John the Baptist.

Father Glenn Kohrman, pastor of St. John the Baptist and Holy Family, said, “Our search committee was really impressed with Mr. Baker. He seemed to have a passionate Catholic faith and a great love for the kids and a real sense of helping them discover a real sense of the true, the good and the beautiful.”

“Father Glenn has the Holy Spirit’s phone number,” Baker said. “I prayed about it… if you are quiet, you can hear the Holy Spirit speaking, I thought, ‘maybe I can make a difference.’ The Holy Spirit called me here.”

He is excited about the new opportunity. “We are working in conjunction with the diocese to eventually run St. John with the Catholic classical education model. We look forward to the classes being completely integrated: God is operative in all of that — they are not just English and math classes.

“Catholic education here allows us to serve the souls of my students and faculty,” he said. “God gave us reason and the ability to fulfill the commandments. Look at Brother Andre: He used every talent that God gave him, and he served God.”

Baker also shared that he has five children and nine grandchildren, and he tells every parent and adult that he loves his students as he loves his own children.

In the upcoming school year he hopes to “help capture the moments in time of learning… perhaps with an opportunity to teach and assist my teachers in finding the freedom to vary instruction student to student.

At the end of the day, the Holy Spirit is in charge, I am not.”

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Christ Child Society embarks on second year of successful preschool program

BY COURTNEY CHRISTENSEN

“The Little Engine That Could,” “Good Night Moon,” “The Cat in the Hat,” bedtime stories that many people either grew up reading or read to their own children. The stories were part of childhood, but they were also crucial for reading development and literacy skills. For the second year in a row, children in the Fort Wayne area have a new opportunity to develop these skills.

Members of the Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne, along with the Christ Child Society national office, saw a need in the Fort Wayne community to develop literacy skills in preschool children. The organization originally operated a tutoring program for elementary-age children at three Catholic schools in the area, but members felt they could make an even bigger impact with a new program that worked only with preschoolers.

“They’re never too small to introduce to reading,” Pat Spoltman, president of the Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne, said.

Spoltman helped encourage the idea of working with preschoolers, which led to the creation of the Reading Rangers Program. This coincided with “Challenging Poverty, One Child at a Time,” a national program that encouraged local chapters to start their own programs that were most needed in their own communities.

The founder of the Christ Child Society, Mary Virginia Merrick, said that “Nothing is ever too much to do for a child.”

Through the Reading Rangers Program, women in the Christ Child Society are giving children a chance to improve their foundational literacy skills. Studies have shown how much reading readiness impacts a child’s entire future.

Reading Rangers, headed by Barb Niezer, Lori Neumann and Dee Dee Dahm, began during the 2016-17 school year at St. Joseph Catholic School.

“People were most needed in our school who are bilingual.”

The group plans to add a second school to the program, an announcement that will be made closer to the start of the school year. The second school will read the same books, but will meet on alternate days and weeks from St. Joe to allow other committee members the chance to volunteer. Many of the volunteers are parents and grandparents themselves and enjoy working with the children as much as the children enjoy having them.

“It was really kind of exciting.”

Spoltman said. “It’s a great program and I think it’s something that will help children appreciate books and appreciate that they can then learn to read those books.”

“I think that’s so important, especially when we have so many children in our school who are bilingual.”

The group has already selected the nine books for the 2017-18 school year and is excited to add a second school to the program, an announcement that will be made closer to the start of the school year. The second school will read the same books, but will meet on alternate days and weeks from St. Joe to allow other committee members the chance to volunteer. Many of the volunteers are parents and grandparents themselves and enjoy working with the children as much as the kids did.

“The kids loved it and I think the women enjoyed it as much as the kids did.”

“It’s watching children grow. It’s watching them expand from the beginning of the school year into much more confidence and much more self-assurance. It’s watching … the excitement of the children. When you see it in action, that’s when you know it was a good thing to pursue.”

Spoltman said. “Sometimes you just see it in their face, it’s not even anything verbal, but you can see those wheels spinning and going. ‘Wow, this is great!’”

Photos provided by Christ Child Society

Something About Mary

By Michael Soper, author of Xavier Wakes | from Amazon.com

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- Fatima prayers • Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
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Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 13:44-52

T

he First Book of Kings is the source of this week-end’s first reading. As might be supposed, the two books of Kings deal heavily with the kings of unified Israel: Saul, David and Solomon. But while these two books concentrate on these three kings, the books, in fact, are not political histories. The authors of these inspired books were not interested in politics, except when politics furnished some religious consolation, for religion was the most important consideration in life: the Hebrew religion, by which God related to the people and they to God. Nothing else made any difference in the long run.

David and Solomon were almost magical figures in the ancient Hebrew mind. David was the king who confirmed his own, and the nation’s, covenant with God. Solomon, who continued his father’s religious policy, was regarded as the wisest of men.

Under David and Solomon, at least in the estimate of the Hebrews themselves, the unified kingdom of Israel had status among the nations of the ancient Middle East.

In this weekend’s reading Solomon realized that, despite his own intelligence and access to power, God did not support Solomon asked God not for power or wealth, but for the wisdom to govern well. Again, to emphasize the place of religion, governing meant bringing the people to God, and God to them.

St. Paul’s Epistle to the Romans furnishes the second reading. The reading begins with a verse long a favorite source of comfort for Christians: “We know that God makes all things work together for the good of those who love him.” Paul wrote this epistle in 54 or 55AD to encourage the Christian Romans as they faced the scorn of the culture of the time, and indeed as they faced increasing pressure from the political authorities.

The verses in this reading call for strong faith and for commitment to the Church. The Church is not the be-all and end-all for humans.

For its last reading, the church offers a reading from St. Matthew’s Gospel. The reading contains three short parables. These parables belong uniquely to Matthew.

Key to understanding the message is in noting the eagerness of the pearl merchant to possess the truly precious pearl. He sells everything in order to buy it.

The Gospel presents the kingdom, and life with God, as this extraordinarily valuable pearl. If we are wise, we will put everything else aside and seek the pearl that is the kingdom. “Put everything else aside” is the operative phrase. We must invest every part of ourselves in our quest for God. We must “sell everything,” so to speak, to be true disciples.

The reading further reminds us that saints, as well as sinners, are people the world and of the kingdom of God on earth. God, and only God, will balance the picture.

Relection

This Liturgy of the Word confronts us directly with the fact that our kingdom is not of this world, just as Jesus insisted before Pilate that the redeemer’s kingdom was not of this world. As followers of Jesus, as part of the mystical body of Christ, we are in the same situation.

Necessarily, then, this world is not enduring. Only the life we build on earthly gain is inevitably built on shifting, lifeless sand. This is the blunt fact. God’s kingdom will not pass away. It is the most precious pearl, worth everything in our lives and hearts.

READINGS

Sunday: 1 Kgs 3:7-12 Ps 119:57, 72, 93-94, 105-106; 103:6-13 Mt 13:36-43

Monday: Ex 32:15-24; 34:5-9; 34:29-35 Ps 99:5-7; 99:9-13; 103:16-18; 104:1-17; 119:57, 89-90; 57; 72, 93-94; 105-106; 103:6-13 Mt 13:36-43

Tuesday: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28 Ps 84:3-7; 103:6-13 Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday: Ex 34:29-35 Ps 99:5-7; 99:9-13; 103:6-13 Mt 13:36-43

Thursday: Ex 40:16-21, 34-38 Ps 84:3-6, 8-11; Mt 13:47-53

Friday: Lv 23:1, 4:11-15 16, 27, 34b- 37 Ps 81:3-6, 10-11 Mt 13:54-58

Saturday: Lv 25:1, 8-17 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8 Mt 14:1-12

Called to be critics, rebels and saints

The following is the commencement address given by Msgr. Michael Heintz at the graduation ceremony of Marian High School, Mishawaka, his alma mater, on June 2.

H

igh school commencement addresses are notoriously dull and almost universally forgettable. Filled with platitudes and trite sentiment, they’re largely useless exercises in false praise, empty clichés and pious twaddle. My goal tonight is first and foremost to avoid all that.

I want to speak to you as graduates of my alma mater, and now your direct, and honest.

The facts I lay out to you are these. First, the culture we live in is corrosive, and thus damaging to us and to our relationships, but you don’t have to buy in. You can become a critic and a rebel. Second, life is not fair, period; but you can have a good life anyway. Third, as you look to your future, keep in mind the words of a 19th-century French novelist: “the only real victory is personal freedom and expression. In the culture we inhabit, the goal or end of all our striving is nothing more than the removal of all limits so as to maximize personal comfort and pleasure. Plato would have called this hedonism, and really there is nothing noble or beautiful about it. As a matter of the historical record, hedonists are selfish, violent, and always blaming others for being in their way, for foiling their plans and impeding their happiness; or alternating between unhappiness and misery, people leaving in their wake a trail of wounded, damaged and broken relationships. None are all part of this culture, and we can’t simply extricate ourselves from it. We all live and breathe in it. But we don’t have to buy into it.

My advice to each of you is to become a critic and a rebel. And push back. Don’t believe everything Andrea Cooper or Bill O’Reilly tells you. In fact, question all the prevailing orthodoxies of our culture instead to listen to different voices. Don’t buy into the agenda that Hollywood, Wall Street or ESPN peddles about what’s important in life. None of them has your best interest in mind: That is a fact. They’re actually all in the business of making money off you. So listen instead to those whose love and care for you are genuine, especially when they’re telling you things you don’t want to hear (perhaps like your parents or the church); that subtle rebellion inside you is more often than not an indication that they might actually have something important to say.

Formed by the rugged and foolish individualism that is part and parcel of a fallen culture, we tend to avoid asking for help, we eschew looking to others and we’re resistant to the acquired wisdom that is not dependent on our immediate experience (which, by the way, is called tradition). But be wise: Don’t take advice from individuals whose personal life is a train wreck.

THE HUMAN CONDITION

MSGR. MICHAEL HEINTZ

Who speaks for Charlie Gard?

A seriously ill 11-month-old child in Great Britain has garnered the attention of President Donald Trump and Pope Francis and sparked an international debate.

Charlie Gard is unresponsive and totally dependent due to a severe genetic defect that compromises his brain cells’ metabolism. His parents want to sustain his life and transfer him to an American hospital for a highly experimental treatment — one that has benefited children with a similar, but far less serious, condition.

But the hospital caring for Charlie wants to remove the ventilator keeping him alive and provide only palliative care while he dies. British courts have sided with the hospital, though the parents have raised the funds for treatment and ask only to be allowed to transfer Charlie from this hospital’s care.

What does Catholic teaching have to say about a case like this?

First, our moral tradition distinguishes between ordinary and extraordinary means (or proportionate and disproportionate means). We must assess the expected benefits of treatment in light of the additional costs and other burdens they may impose on the patient.

We are morally obliged to accept treatment that offers benefit without entailing greater burdens. Catholic tradition does not teach a “vitalism,” insisting that everything possible must always be done to prolong life.

SECOND SUNDAY

THE MONK’S MONDAY

In 2004, speaking of patients with very severe brain damage, St. John Paul II said that “even our brothers and sisters who find themselves in the clinical condition of a ‘vegetative state’ retain their human dignity in all its fullness. … The value of a man’s life cannot be made subordinate to any judgment of its quality expressed by other men.”

The hospital and the judge in Charlie’s case seem to have made such “quality of life” judgments. The hospital cited his cognitive state to argue that “treatment is not in Charlie’s best interests.”

The judge agreed, saying that...
wreck. How can someone who is a hot mess be in any position to offer you real insight or guidance about life? The network of relationships, friendships and fellowships that we forge in life can make or break us. The people we choose as our friends either help us on the way to heaven or speed our course on the highway to hell. There are no neutral friendships. But we are innately good beings, and we do need each other. Desperately. As the great GK Chesterton once wrote, “We men and women are all in the same boat, upon a stormy sea. We owe to each other a terrible and tragic loyalty.”

So be a rebel and push back. Focus on the good, the true and the beautiful. How! Take long walks, alone; read poetry; take the South Shore up to the Art Institute in Chicago; learn to take art and literature seriously, but not yourself. Read and re-read — the Gospels; take a long bike ride on a country road; listen to music you’ve never listened to before; spend an afternoon alone; an entire afternoon, in the park without any electronic device; go to a daily Mass when you’re not obligated, but just because you want to. Volunteer three hours a week at a local charity, since as Flannery O’Connor observed, God is encountered not only as truth, but also and remember that, when you’re struggling intellectually with the faith — as charity; and learn to appreciate silence. Don’t constantly tweet or post, put the damn phone down and spend more time experiencing life instead of describing it digitally. Build relationships that demand something from you — that’s what real friendships do, and strive to bring out the best in someone who is the best that they can be. Love, real and not focused inward on your self, is truly liberating. Love, real and not focused inward on your self, is truly liberating. Love, real and not focused inward on your self, is truly liberating. Love, real and not focused inward on your self, is truly liberating. Love, real and not focused inward on your self, is truly liberating. Love, real and not focused inward on your self, is truly liberating. Love, real and not focused inward on your self, is truly liberating. Love, real and not focused inward on your self, is truly liberating. Love, real and not focused inward on your self, is truly liberating. Love, real and not focused inward on your self, is truly liberating. Love, real and not focused inward on your self, is truly liberating. Love, real and not focused inward on your self, is truly liberating. Love, real and not focused inward on your self, is truly liberating. Love, real and not focused inward on your self, is truly liberating. Love, real and not focused inward on your self, is truly liberating. Love, real and not focused inward on your self, is truly liberating. Love, real and not focused inward on your self, is truly liberating. Love, real and not focused inward on your self, is truly liberating.

And unfair, things beyond your control to manage or contain, things that make you question the goodness of God and the goodness of others. Sometimes these evils are the product of other peoples’ malice. Often, the evils we experience seem to have little or no rational explanation — they’re just circumstantial. We inhabit a warped cosmos where good things happen to wicked people and bad things happen to good and decent people. Good and evil seem to move about indiscriminately, without any calculous or rationality; it doesn’t seem to make any sense.

Now, one response to this — understandable in some ways — is cynicism. But this rapidly morphs into anger, resentment and bitterness. You can choose to live your days literally mad, as hell at God, at other people or at the world’s unfairness. But this anger only enslaves you and destroys you from within; such rage is ultimately demonic, self-defeating and draws us into the very flow of the world’s disorder. Anger makes us less free. We all know people who seem to be consumed by an inner rage, folks who are angry almost all the time; is this any way to live? And where does it get them?]  

“[One of my heroes is St. Augustine, who didn’t suffer fools, or evils, gladly. He was a shrewd observer of human affairs. Noting that good people and wicked people alike suffer evils and seem to enjoy goods, he pointed out that the difference between the wicked and the righteous is not in what they experience or suffer, but in how they handle it. The wicked respond to life’s unfairness by becoming bitter and resentful. The righteous experience life’s unfairness too, but do not allow themselves to be distorted and destroyed by the evils they suffer, and as such they experience a freedom that the wicked, who in the business of life simply cannot enjoy. Living in dark times, when the power of the enemy seemed to have a terrifying hold, St. Paul’s answer to the Philippians is a reminder to Fredo, lamenting his circumstances and wishing he didn’t have to deal with the taskmaster that he was. ‘Whoever desires to live a life to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.’ ”]

[So do not live in anger or in fear. Resist being drawn into the darkness. Nothing happens apart from the will of God, and we are all creatures of grace. Thank God for the blessings you receive, and ask him for the fortitude and patience to deal with life’s unfairness — and there will be plenty of it — so that it doesn’t destroy your soul. We will each encounter all kinds of obstacles and hardships in life, but the fact of the matter is that none of these, as dreadful as they may be, can block our way to holiness or harm our friendship with God; the martyrs are living (and dying) proof of this. The only obstacles to holiness are self-imposed.

Finally, strive to become a saint. Holiness, freedom and love are all inexorably woven together in the fabric of a life, and while I suspect that most of you would acknowledge your desire for freedom and for love, holiness tends to expand a bit less appealing. Saints seem plastic and boring; we never quite imagine them having much fun. But the saints are those remarkable men and women who have learned how to love and who are thus truly free. The saints share cuts against the world’s darkness, a reality and bitterness. You can choose to live your days literally mad, as hell at God, at other people or at the world’s unfairness. But this anger only enslaves you and destroys you from within; such rage is ultimately demonic, self-defeating and draws us into the very flow of the world’s disorder. Anger makes us less free. We all know people who seem to be consumed by an inner rage, folks who are angry almost all the time; is this any way to live? And where does it get them?

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Continued from Page 20

Continued from Page 20

Gospel for July 30, 2017
Matthew 13:44-52

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: gathering rich crops. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

Finding Good

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

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Society

Continued from Page 20

In light of Charlie’s diminished brain function, “How can he be any better off than he is now?” This approach has grave implications for people with intellectual disabilities.

Fourth, because judgments about burden and benefit have an inescapably subjective or personal dimension, we have to ask: “Who decides?” Catholic doctrine says the patient is the primary decision-maker; then loved ones who can speak for the patient; then doctors. These documents seldom mention judges.

This is the decisive point. In a situation with many uncertainties, but a consensus that Charlie’s parents love him and want the best for him, their right to make decisions for their child should prevail.

And one British law stumbles. When doctors and parents disagree, British judges simply make their own independent judgment as to what is in the child’s best interests. In American law, parents’ right to make decisions for their children is strongly affirmed, to be overridden only in cases of abuse or clear evidence of harm — which is not the situation here.

The American tradition reflects Catholic teaching. When they are not acting against the demands of human dignity, parents are the best advocates for their children’s rights. The courts should step back and let Charlie live, for as long as he will live, in the embrace of the family that loves him.

Richard Doeringer is associate director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, US. Conference of Catholic Bishops. To learn how to write to Congress on this issue visit www.nchla.org; more on the bishops’ pro-life activities can be found at www.usccb.org.
Help Wanted:
Share Foundation Camp Program Director

Job Description: Share Foundation is seeking a person to take over the camp program at Sharing Meadows.

Responsibilities: Responsibilities include recruiting and scheduling staff for each camp; recruiting, inviting and scheduling campers for each camp session; organizing paperwork; establishing themes; planning menus, craft projects and activities for each camp session; purchasing food and supplies and keeping an inventory; conducting orientation and training for camp staff; and evaluating each camp session. The position will also include marketing the camp building for rental to outside groups, scheduling rental contracts and seeing that renter’s needs are met.

Qualifications: Candidates should have a bachelor’s degree in human services or a related field, good organizational skills, proficiency in Microsoft Office, proven public speaking skills and be able to work with minimal supervision.

Benefits: This full time position offers a salary commensurate with experience and knowledge, health insurance, vacation and paid holidays. More importantly, the right person will be part of a meaningful experience and know the joy of making a difference in the lives of our other abled campers.

Please submit résumé to share@sharefoundation.org or by mail to:

Share Foundation
P. O. Box 400
Rolling Prairie, IN 46371

EOE

Bishop celebrates Mass at Elkhart County 4-H Fair

July 30, 2017

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades speaks to nearly 400 worshippers during a celebration of Mass at the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds Sunday, July 23, in Goshen. The second-largest county fair in the country has offered a Catholic Mass on the first Sunday of fair week since the early 1990s.
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.

Bishop Luers Show Choir Camp offered
FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School will offer a show choir camp for children in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade from 9-11:30 a.m. Aug. 1-4. A Friday family performance will be at 11 a.m. followed by a picnic lunch. Cost is $50 and includes a T-shirt. Visit www.bishopluers.org for information.

Running on a prayer 5K
ROME CITY — The second annual Running on a Prayer 5K run/walk will be Saturday, Aug. 5, from 7:30 a.m. in the Tippmann Pavilion. Limited tickets are $125 and include drinks, cigars and heavy hors d’oeuvres. Reserve space online at www.amothershop@mishawakac.com. Proceeds will benefit A Mother’s Hope.

Portzincula indulgence Day and Franciscan Festival
FORT WAYNE — A Franciscan festival will be Wednesday, Aug. 2, from 4-7:30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church, 4500 Fairfield Ave. Gain a plenary indulgence and enjoy food, games, music, vendors and confessions throughout the event. Mass offered at 4 and 6 p.m. For information contact the Confraternity of Penitents at 260-739-6882.

Sacred music concert in thanksgiving
ANGOLA — St. Anthony Church, 700 W. Maumee St., will have a sacred music concert from Karl Foste and Emily Thompson Sunday, July 30, at 2:30 p.m. They will perform music from 14th century Italian to Bernstein. A free-will donation will follow 20 percent given back to the parish.

A Catholic Tour of St. Joseph Cemetery
MISHAWAKA — St. Joseph Church will sponsor “A Catholic Tour of St. Joseph Cemetery” at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 5. The tour, led by Pete De Vreese, will explain the cemetery’s history and visit 13 prominent graves. St. Joseph Cemetery is located at the southeast corner of Liberty Drive and Jefferson Blvd. The tour will last one hour, and there is no cost to participate. In case of rain, Aug. 12 will be the alternate date.

Spaghetti dinner planned
SOUTH BEND — The Knights of Columbus Council 5570, 5020 Linden Ave., will have a spaghetti dinner Thursday, Aug. 10, from 4-6 p.m. Tickets are $8 for adults and $2.50 for children 5-12.

Holy Smokes
NEW HAVEN — A men’s cigar benefit featuring keynote speaker Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, will be Wednesday, Aug. 30, at 6:30 p.m. in the Tippmann Pavilion. Limited tickets are $125 and include drinks, cigars and heavy hors d’oeuvres. Reserve space online at www.amothershop@mishawakac.com. Proceeds will benefit A Mother’s Hope.

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Bishop Rahodes to make visit
ALBION — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will visit Blessed Sacrament Parish on Saturday, Aug. 6, for the 4 p.m. vigil Mass, followed by a parish dinner. Guests should RSVP to blessed sacramentmnc@gmail.com by Sunday, Aug. 20.

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Father Daniel Scheidt named Legatus National Chaplain of the Year

BY BONNIE ELSBERON

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, was the scene recently of the Legatus organization’s celebration of its chaplain, Father Daniel Scheidt, and his recently received National Chaplain of the Year award.

The chapter was recognized earlier in the year when it won a membership growth award at the Legatus National Summit in Naples, Florida; but local recognition of Father Scheidt’s distinction, with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in attendance, occurred at a Legatus dinner meeting Tues., July 18, at the parish’s Msgr. Kuzmich Life Center.

Legatus is an international organization of practicing Catholic laymen and laywomen, composed of CEOs, presidents and managing partners and their spouses, from the business community and professional enterprises. According to local president Diana Parent, the Fort Wayne chapter has 40 members from the surrounding area, who represent companies that boast at least $6-1/2 million dollars in annual sales and have 50 or more employees. These business leaders serve as ambassadors of Christ in the marketplace, she said, pointing out that 23,200 area employees are under Legatus members’ influence and guidance.

The Legatus prayer verbalizes its mission: “We continue to pray for Your gracious Spirit to work through us as we take Christ into our community... humbly ask you to strengthen Father Daniel Scheidt, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish and chaplain of the Fort Wayne Legatus chapter, is honored at the start of a dinner meeting of the chapter at the St. Vincent de Paul Parish Msgr. Kuzmich Life Center on July 18.

Chapter president Diana Parent stands at right, while Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, left, prays a blessing on a surprise gift from the chapter to Father Scheidt, which he holds: new vestments that depict the logo of Legatus.

The honor is not so much mine as it is a tribute to our Fort Wayne chapter’s constant commitment to grow and deepen the networks of friendship that can unite the Catholic business leaders of our area. Our membership, like every gift of Christ, has multiplied.”

Bishop Rhoades offered several thoughts at the recognition ceremony. “I’m happy to see how Legatus has grown so quickly,” he said, attributing that growth in large part to its chaplain’s inspirational leadership. Though Father Scheidt is pastor of one of the largest parishes in the diocese, the bishop said he knew Father Scheidt could effectively serve in this ministry as well.

Addressing the audience, the bishop said the Legatus organization “needs a priest who leads you, who preaches God’s word; and Father Scheidt was the first priest I thought of” for the position. Then he blessed and presented to him a new chasuble and stole emblazoned with the Legatus symbol, a gift from the chapter.

Legatus Regional Director Nancy Haskell, who nominated Father Scheidt for the recognition, outlined a chaplain’s duties for the organization. These include offering Mass and confession for its members as well as providing ongoing spiritual guidance. Father Scheidt fulfills these duties and more, she said. “I’ve been able to provide the sacraments at every Legatus event, he delivered for residents and community members with a doctor’s script. This new building is connected to the original building that the sisters operated, forming a courtyard that the residents can use at any time. Additionally, the original chapel and cafeteria will be used by residents. Pastoral care is available and Mass is celebrated daily.

“We fit our roles into your lifestyle, not you into ours,” Retzels said. “This is a place where people actually live. They’re doing activities; they’re coming and going. This facility is unique because we have the beautiful grounds, so if we get somebody that’s a little more active — this is a resort setting.”

Over the last couple of weeks the first residents, all of whom are Victory Noll sisters, have moved into the new facility. As of July 20, a total of 14 sisters were living there, leaving 26 open beds for anyone in the Huntington community.

“God has blessed us with gifts to share with a partner in Saint Anne Communities, so that together we can begin a new ministry, a new service, for the city of Huntington,” Sister Nelson said in her remarks.

Sister Varleria Folz, 97, a new resident of Saint Ann Victory Noll, is still sewing. She had towels, pillows, aprons and many other items for sale at the event to raise money for the activity fund at the community. She selected a room that is both close to the chapel and overlooks the St. Joseph building, where she used to live. “So far I love it, because it’s like fairyland: You go down the hall, the lights all go on,” Sister Folz said about the new facility and the automatic lights in the hallway. “I love my room because I’ve got a recliner and a bed, and they let me have my sewing machine in there.”

The sisters look forward to this new community allowing their work to continue into the future.

“God has blessed us with gifts to share with a partner in Saint Anne Communities, so that together we can begin a new ministry, a new service, for the city of Huntington,” Sister Nelson said in her remarks.

Sister Nelson hopes that this is only the beginning of opening up and developing the Victory Noll Center. The sisters recently sold a portion of their land to ACRES Land Trust, which will help develop it into walking paths that everyone in the community can use — while still preserving the forests and fields.

“Father Dan Scheidt spoke to the whole group of those in attendance during the evening, expressing his reciprocal affection for the Fort Wayne Legatus chapter. It’s a step into the future, and the future is our collaboration with a whole network of people, not just trying to do what we do on our own,” Sister Nelson said. “This is a step toward opening our campus. We have the Victory Noll Center, and now this is another group, another entity here. They can really serve a variety of people, a variety of needs, in a beautiful space.”