Irma leaves path of destruction

MIAMI (CNS) — A weakened Hurricane Irma churned in Florida after ripping through southern portions of the state and the Caribbean islands, flooding cities, knocking out power to millions, destroying homes and businesses and killing more than 20 people.

The massive hurricane, which dwindled to a tropical storm as it neared the Florida-Georgia line early Sept. 11, was forecast to die out over southern states later in the week. Officials in Florida and across the Caribbean, meanwhile, started to dig out and evaluate the full scope of the disaster Irma left behind.

The strength and size of the storm, with 120-plus mph winds stretching 70 miles from its core, left hardly any place near its path untouched. It leveled entire islands in the eastern Caribbean, snapped construction cranes in downtown Miami and brought unprecedented flooding on Cuba’s north coast.

“The hurricane has caused serious damage in the towns, villages and farms of the north coast of our island, from Camaguey to Havana,” said Maritza Sanchez, director of Caritas Cuba. “Flooding was caused by hurricane force winds and rains all the way from Camaguey to Santa Clara in the middle of the country, reaching as far as Matanzas and Havana along the northwest coast.”

By the evening on Sept. 10, roughly 5.7 million Florida residents were left without power. Aerial footage showed large

Engage through joy, Kelly says at ZEAL

BY DENISE FEDOROW

“What I know for sure,” Matthew Kelly told attendees of the ZEAL Missionary Discipleship Summit on Saturday morning, Sept. 9, “is that you can’t catechize someone if they’re not engaged. And the most effective way to get them engaged is to help them hear the voice of God.”

When a participant said, “Us,” he responded, “No. You are going to get your butt kicked. Our culture has a relentless communication of trash, so we need backup. We have to understand that part of our job … is to give people the opportunity to have a personal encounter with God.”

Kelly said while there are numerous ways that God speaks to us, he wanted to focus on three ordinary voices. The first is the voice of the legitimate needs of food, water and sleep; the

Bruised, not broken: Pope encourages Colombians to pursue peace

BY CINDY WOODEN

CARTAGENA, Colombia (CNS) — Pope Francis said he had no magic words or special recipes for Colombians seeking peace, but rather he wanted to listen to them, learn from them and travel a bit of the road with them.

He had a small accident on the road Sept. 10 in Cartagena, the last city and last day of his five-day trip: Riding in the popemobile down a street packed with people who wanted to see him, Pope Francis turned and bashed his face on the edge of the window, cutting his eyebrow and provoking a sizable bump on his left cheekbone.

While the bruise would fade, the overall experience of the trip was likely to linger. “I really was moved by the joy, the tenderness … the nobility of the Colombian people,” he later told reporters flying back to Rome with him.

Before ending the trip with a Mass in Cartagena, Pope Francis had visited Bogota, Villavicencio and Medellin. He celebrated a
Pope says he hopes Trump reconsiders DACA decision

BY CINDY WOODEN

ABOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT FROM COLOMBIA (CNS)

Politicians who call themselves pro-life must be pro-family and not enact policies that divide families and rob young people of a future, Pope Francis said.

Flying from Colombia back to Rome late Sept. 10, Pope Francis was asked about U.S. President Donald Trump’s decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which allowed some 800,000 young people brought to the United States illegally as children to stay in the country, working or going to school.

He announced Sept. 5 that he was phasing out the program; his decision was strongly criticized by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Pope Francis said he had heard of Trump’s decision, but had not had time to study the details of the issue. However, he said, “united young people and separated from their families is not something that will bear fruit.”

“This law, which I think comes not from the legislative, but from the executive branch — if that’s right, I’m not sure — I hope he rethinks it a bit,” the pope said, “because I’ve heard the president of the United States speak; he presents himself as a man who is pro-life, a good pro-lifer. “If he is a good pro-lifer, he understands that the family is the cradle of life and its unity must be defended,” the pope said.

Pope Francis said people must be very careful not to dash the hopes and dreams of young people or make them feel “a bit exploited,” because the results can be disastrous, leading some to turn to drugs or even suicide.

“Anyone who denies this must understand that, as the Old Testament says, ‘Man is stupid, a fool. In the end, the whole earth is almost always money. But the other reason, he said, is that the people are and could continue to lead lives unappealing professionals, honor roll students in the DACA program..settings to be pushed back from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.”

“On the plane we were talking to journalists about the future of Colombia. Pope Francis said he was ‘really moved by the joy, the tenderness’ and the expressiveness of the people. In the end, they are the ones who will determine whether Colombia truly has peace after 52 years of civil war. Politicians and diplomats can do all the right things to negotiate peace deals, he said, but if the nation’s people aren’t on board, peace will not be lasting. In Colombia, he said, the people have a clear desire to live in peace.”

“The deadline for DACA renewal requests is Oct. 5. After that, all renewal requests will be rejected automatically. Ostrognai stressed that once an individual’s DACA benefits expire, that person will no longer have authorization to drive. He or she will also no longer have authorization to work, and deportation will no longer be deferred. This does not mean the person will be automatically deported, but he will then be subject to potential removal from the United States. In order to qualify for renewal, DACA recipients must meet the following requirements:

• Have resided continuously in the U.S. from the time he/she submitted the initial request for DACA up until the present time.
• Not have been convicted of a felony, a significant misdemeanor, or three or more misdemeanors, and must not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.

Catholic Charities is currently prioritizing DACA recipients whose benefits are set to expire in the next six months. It will be operating during extended hours at the Archbishop Noll Center, 915 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, until Oct. 4. Starting Monday, Sept. 11, the closing hour will be pushed back from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., on Fridays until 4 p.m., and on Saturdays it will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Catholic Charities to DACA recipients: We are with you

BY NICK STUMP

In the wake of President Trump’s decision Tuesday, Sept. 1 to rescind DACA, or the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is responding to the fear and concerns of DACA recipients who now face the threat of deportation.

“The young people who are the beneficiaries of the DACA program were brought to the United States when they were babies, young children or teenagers,” Luz Ostrognai, supervisor of immigration services, said Monday. “Today we have working professionals, honor roll college students and high school students in the DACA program. Policemen and diplomats can all do the right things to negotiate peace deals, he said, but if the nation’s people aren’t on board, peace will not be lasting. In Colombia, he said, the people have a clear desire to live in peace.”

“We must examine our position as the American people,” he said, “watching hundreds, perhaps thousands, of fathers and mothers along the roads he traveled, and they would lift their children high so the pope would see and bless them.”

What they were doing, he said, was saying, “This is my treasure. This is my hope. This is my future. I believe in this.”

“It’s not something to play with,” the pope said. “It’s very serious.”

“Politicians who doubt climate change is real or that human activity contributes to it should speak to the scientists and ‘then decide. And history will judge their decisions.”

Asked why he thinks governments have been so slow to act, Pope Francis said he thinks it’s partly because, as the Old Testament says, “Man is stupid, a stubborn one does not see.”

But the other reason, he said, is almost always money.

Talking about his five-day stay in Colombia, Pope Francis said he was “really moved by the joy, the tenderness” and the expressiveness of the people. In the end, they are the ones who will determine whether Colombia truly has peace after 52 years of civil war. Politicians and diplomats can all do the right things to negotiate peace deals, he said, but if the nation’s people aren’t on board, peace will not be lasting. In Colombia, he said, the people have a clear desire to live in peace.

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The storm had already left swaths of cities like Miami and Naples, on the Gulf Coast, under water. State officials had ordered 6.3 million of the state’s approximately 21 million residents to evacuate; many headed north to stay with relatives.

“Millions of Floridians are being impacted by this storm,” Florida Gov. Rick Scott said during a news conference Sept. 10. Earlier, the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops called for prayers for all those in the path of Hurricane Irma.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, whose diocese was hit by flooding from Hurricane Harvey, noted that people in the Caribbean had “felt Hurricane Irma’s full force.”

“Their estimated more than $10 billion in damages in the Caribbean, making it the costliest storm ever in the region. The Netherlands estimated that 70 percent of the houses on St. Martin were badly damaged or destroyed. That left 40,000 people in public shelters as Hurricane Jose approached. The Pentagon mobilized the military to respond to the U.S. Virgin Islands, where at least four people died and devastation was widespread.”

“In Antigua and Barbuda, Arthur Nibbs, minister of Barbuda Affairs who was on Barbuda when Irma hit, said it was the worst storm he’d ever seen.

“It was enormous. There’s nothing that is comparable. It destroyed everything that was in its path,” he said. Nibbs said roofs were torn away, trees were toppled, government buildings were destroyed, and cell towers were snapped in half, leaving the small island of about 1,600 people without any form of communication.

Officials scrambled to evacuate the island before the arrival of Hurricane Jose. The Category 4 storm veered north of Barbuda, sparing it from a second direct hit.

STATEMENT OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHoades
Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Concerning the Trump administration’s decision to end DACA

A few weeks ago, I wrote a column expressing the Church’s strong support for the Dream Act of 2017. The passage of the Dream Act has even greater urgency now that the DACA program has been cancelled. My heart goes out to our DACA youth and their families who have been left unprotected from deportation and fear for their futures in the United States, their home. I am very saddened and disappointed in the Administration’s termination of the DACA program. I urge our legislators to support the Dream Act. It is a matter not only of mercy, but of justice. I hope and pray that Congress will act soon to protect these young people who were brought to the U.S. as minors and not responsible for the violation of our nation’s immigration laws. America is their home. They are part of our community, our churches, our schools, our workplaces, and our military. May we all stand in solidarity with them during this difficult time!”

Additionally, DACA recipients need to have all of the addresses they have had and the dates they moved since submitting their DACA applications two years ago. Those applying for renewal do not need to list out all their addresses again, only those since their last application.

Also, estimates of annual income, expenses and assets are necessary as well. On form I-760WS, estimates of some financial information such as income, expenses and assets are required.

Once a DACA recipient seeking renewal has met these requirements, it is time to take the next step. He or she should seek out Catholic Charities in their area, or a similar organization offering assistance to those in this situation. DACA recipients interested in applying for renewals through Catholic Charities have to first make an appointment by calling, 260-422-5625 Ext. 282; emailing bspaulding@ccfwsb.org or walking in.

Catholic Charities is also conducting community informational meetings at local parishes. This is a chance for the community to receive answers to DACA questions and concerns. It is also where individuals can receive information about their rights and options, and the next steps they need to take. The next meeting is set to take place at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Fort Wayne on Sept. 24.

For many, the decision to end DACA brings an uncertainty as to what the future holds. The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, issued a statement of support for all those who are impacted by the DACA decision. He encouraged the entire diocese to stand in solidarity during this difficult time.
Church leaders, including those from U.S., pray for quake victims

BY DAVID AGREN

CARTAGENA, Colombia (CNS) — Church leaders prayed for Mexicans and Guatemalans affected by a magnitude 8.1 earthquake that struck the Pacific Coast.

At the end of Mass in Villavicencio, Colombia, Sept. 8, Pope Francis prayed “for all the people who are suffering because of the earthquake last night in Mexico.”

In an early morning tweet, the Mexican bishops’ conference prayed: “God strengthen us as brothers in the faith, to (be) available to those that have suffered in this strong earthquake.”

Later, the bishops said “We want to express our solidarity with the Mexican people in the face of this suffering caused by the earthquake last night. ... We offer prayers for the victims and especially the family and populations affected, mainly in the states of Chiapas, Oaxaca and Tabasco.”

They also praised “the many prevention and security measures undertaken in buildings, along with the immediate actions of the authorities through civil protection programs.”

“We realize, however, how far we have to go in our caring for creation,” they added.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, called for prayers “for the victims and their families, as well as for emergency personnel and rescuers.”

“The Mexican and Guatemalan people are resilient in their faith and trust in the loving providence of God,” he said. He entrusted them to Our Lady of Guadalupe, “who, amidst the sorrows of life, reminds us today as she did 500 years ago: ‘Am I not here, who is your mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the fountain of life?’”

The Sept. 7 quake occurred shortly before midnight. In less than 24 hours, Mexico’s seismology service reported more than 260 aftershocks, with the strongest registering magnitude 6.1.

By midday Sept. 10, Mexican officials put the death toll at 90, with most of the deaths occurring in the southern state of Oaxaca. Rescuers raced to rescue people trapped under rubble in the city of Juchitan on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, 450 miles southeast of Mexico City, where the city hall partially collapsed.

Two children died in Tabasco state, with one dying after being crushed by a falling wall. The toll was expected to climb, and school was canceled in 10 states and Mexico City so officials could assess structural damage.

Father Alejandro Solalinde, a priest working with migrants in Oaxaca state, tweeted “solidarity and prayers with those affected by the earthquake in Mexico. Eternal rest for the deceased. Amen.”

State officials in Chiapas reported 1,000 homes destroyed and another 5,000 damaged. Several churches in the Diocese of San Cristobal de las Casas were damaged, according to media reports.

A diocesan priest, Father Marcelo Perez, said some churches were damaged, but was unable to say how many. The Catholic Church in Chiapas was attending to some of the displaced people, he added.

Other churches across southern Mexico were damaged by the earthquake, including four in the state of Oaxaca.

Across the border in Guatemala, the Catholic cathedral in Huehuetenango reported moderate damage. In San Marcos, Guatemala, the hospital was damaged, and rescuers reported moderate infrastructure damage.

Shortly after the earthquake occurred, Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto and Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales took to Twitter to reassure citizens. Pena Nieto called the quake “the strongest in almost a century.”

Morales urgedGuatemalans: “Please maintain calm and be on alert; we’ll have more information soon.”

The quake appeared to do little serious damage to Mexico City, which was devastated by a similarly strong quake in 1985. That earthquake left thousands dead and many more homeless. The federal government — responsible for Mexico City at the time — offered an inexcusable response, forcing people to fend for themselves. Many Mexicans rose to the occasion by forming brigades to pull people out of rubble, including babies from a collapsed children’s hospital.

Experts say the epicenter being located around 400 miles to the southeast of the national capital may have made the earthquake less catastrophic in Mexico City, too.

Since that disaster, building codes in the national capital have improved, and earthquake drills are commonly practiced by apartment residents and office workers.

An earthquake was not the only disaster Mexico has had to deal with. Hurricane Katia slammed into the Veracruz coast Sept. 8, but weakened to tropical storm status after reaching land.

The Veracruz state government reported two deaths due to mudslides triggered by the storm.
Catholic judicial nominee grilled by senators on her religious views

BY KURT JENSEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-California, spurred outrage about possible religious tests for judicial appointees when she questioned a Catholic judicial nominee Sept. 6 about what impact her faith would have on her interpretation of the law.

Reaction from Catholic leaders to the hearing for Amy Coney Barrett, nominee for a seat on the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, was swift, with a leading archbishop calling the Senate hearing “deeply disappointing.”

In the hearing, Feinstein not only referred to Barrett’s speeches in the committee hearing, but also to a 1998 article by Barrett, a law professor at the University of Notre Dame, about the role of Catholic judges in death penalty cases.

The Marquette Law Review article, co-authored by John H. Garvey, who is now president of The Catholic University of America, concluded that although Catholic judges opposed to the death penalty could always simply refuse to participate under federal law, “litigants and the general public are entitled to impartial justice, which may be something a judge who is heedful of ecclesiastical pronouncements cannot dispense.”

Feinstein did not question Barrett about capital punishment cases, but rather the withhold- ing of Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that made abortion legal.

“When you read your speeches, the conclusion one draws is that the dogma lives loudly within you. And — that’s of concern when you come to big issues that large numbers of people have fought for years in this country,” Barret addressed this issue early in the hearing, answering a question from Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, by saying: “It is never appropriate for a judge to apply their personal convictions, whether it derives from faith or personal conviction.”

Richard Garnett, University of Notre Dame law professor, said Feinstein’s line of questioning seemed to say “because you’re a Catholic, you can’t be believed.”

Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty, said the hearing was “deeply disappointing” since

"If you’re asking whether I take my faith seriously and am a faithful Catholic, I am,”

Amy Coney Barrett

a number of senators failed to “simply consider the professional achievements of a nominee for the federal judiciary” and instead “challenged her fitness to serve due to her Catholic faith.”

In a Sept. 8 statement, the archbishop said the line of questioning Barrett received was “particularly odious to our Constitution and our best national traditions, which protect the free exercise of one’s faith and reject religious tests for public office,” they are offensive to basic human rights.”

Garvey was among the first to respond in print to the hearing. “I never thought I’d see the day when a coalition of left-wing groups attacked a Republican judicial nominee for opposing the death penalty,” he wrote in a Sept. 7 opinion article for the Washington Examiner.

“They argue that judges should place their religious beliefs ahead of the Constitution when carrying out their duties.”

“Barrett (and I) said no such thing,” Garvey wrote. “We said precisely the opposite.”

“I suspect what really troubled (the senators) is that, as a Catholic, her pro-life views might extend beyond criminal defendants to the unborn. If true, the focus on our law review article is all the more puzzling. After all, our point was that judges should respect the law, even laws they disagree with. And if they can’t enforce them, they should recuse themselves.”

The report also criticizes Barrett for signing a letter, produced by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, that criticized the Affordable Care Act’s contraception mandate as “morally obnoxious.”

Erich Rassbach, the Becket Fund’s deputy general counsel, issued a statement in response: “It’s not something you could sue her over, but Sen. Feinstein would break her oath to defend Barrett because of her Catholic religious beliefs.”

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Illinois, a Georgetown University graduate, added fuel to the fire when, after calling himself “the product of 19 years of Catholic education,” he brought up the use of the term “orthodox Catholic” in Barrett’s law review article. He asked Barrett to define the term and also to say if she considered herself an “orthodox” Catholic.

Barrett explained that in the context of the article, the term was “a proxy” for Catholic believers, but she didn’t think it was a term in current use.

She added, “If you’re asking whether I take my faith seriously and am a faithful Catholic, 1 am. Although I would stress that my present church affiliation or my religious beliefs would not bear in the discharge of my duties as a judge.”

She responded, “I happen to think Pope Francis is a pretty good Catholic.”

“I agree with you,” Barrett responded, smiling.

Archbishop Lori said the questions to Barrett “sadly, har- ken back to a time in our country when anti-Catholic bigotry did distort our laws and civil order.”

He wondered if the senators’ questions were meant “as a warning shot” for future law students and attorneys not to discuss their faith in a public forum at a time when “we should be encouraging faithful, ethical attorneys to serve in public office, not discouraging them by subjecting them to inappropriate, unnecessary interrogation based on their religious beliefs.”

Photo Booth!

Children’s Games & Inflatables, Food Tent
3:00 pm - 6:30 pm
Festival Picnic, Silent Auction in the PAC
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Talent Show in the Big Tent, Raffle Winners
8:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Live music by Soul 35 in the Big Tent

Picnic Dinner
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Shigs In Pitt BBQ

Cash Raffle
Winners drawn 7:30 pm
$10,000 in PRIZES!

OCTOBER 7, 2017

7:30 am: Confession, Holy Rosary, First Saturday Meditations 9:00 am: Holy Mass Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne Celebrant: Rev. Glenn Kohrman Holy Mass followed by: Marian Procession then breakfast at the Grand Wayne Center with guest speaker Rev. Dan Schendt

Reservations — $15 See www.FatimaFWSB.org for more information
**News Briefs**

**Father Hesburgh honored with stamp**

Condeleezza Rice, former secretary of state and a 1975 graduate of the University of Notre Dame, delivers an address during a Sept. 1 ceremony at the school, where a new postage stamp honoring Father Theodore Hesburgh was issued. Father Hesburgh, a member of the Holy Cross order, was president of the university for 55 years. The stamp honors Father Hesburgh, born May 25, 1917, in Syracuse, New York, for his role as an educator and his service as an adviser on civil rights, peaceful uses of atomic energy, immigration reform, campus unrest and development in poor countries to presidents from Dwight Eisenhower to George W. Bush. Father Hesburgh died Feb. 26, 2015, at age 97.

**New data from Britain: 53 percent of adults say they have ‘no religion’**

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — More than half of the people in Britain say they no longer belong to a religion, said a report released Sept. 5 by NatCen Social Research. Fifty-three percent of nearly 3,000 adults interviewed for the British Social Attitudes survey said they had “no religion,” NatCen reported. That figure, covering 2016, is up from 48 percent in 2015.

The center said in a statement that the data reveals the proportion of people in Britain who describe themselves as having no religion is at its “highest-ever level.” The proportion of nonbelievers has increased gradually since the survey began in 1983, when 31 percent of those surveyed said they had no religion. Most of the decline in religious affiliation has been among people who previously belonged to the Church of England. The survey found that 15 percent of people in Britain consider themselves to be Anglican, compared to about 50 percent in 2000. The proportion of people who say they are Catholic has remained consistent, however, at about 10 percent for the past three decades.

**Pope amends church law on Mass translations, highlights bishops’ role**

MEDELLIN, Colombia (CNS) — In changes to the Code of Canon Law regarding translations of the Mass and other liturgical texts, Pope Francis highlighted respect for the responsibility of diocesan and regional bishops’ conferences.

The changes, released by the Vatican Sept. 9 as Pope Francis was traveling in Colombia, noted the sometimes-tense relationship between bishops’ conferences and the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments on translations of texts from Latin to the bishops’ local languages. The heart of the document, which applies only to the Latin rite of the Catholic Church, changes two clauses in Canon 838 of the Code of Canon Law. The Vatican no longer will “review” translations submitted by bishops’ conferences, but will “recognize” them. And rather than being called to “prepare and publish” the translations, the bishops are to “approve and publish” them. Archbishop Arthur Roche, secretary of the worship congregation, said under the new rules, the Vatican’s “confirmation” of a translation is “ordinarily granted based on trust and confidence,” and “supposes a prior evaluation of the faithfulness and congruence of the texts produced with respect to the typical Latin text.” Pope Francis made no announcement of immediate changes to the translations currently in use. The document is titled “Magnum Principium” (“The Great Principle”) and refers to what Pope Francis called the “great principle” of the Second Vatican Council that the liturgy should be understandable by the people at prayer, and therefore bishops were asked to prepare and approve translations of the texts.

**In TV interview, Steve Bannon slams church, bishops over immigration**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In an interview that aired Sept. 10 on the CBS TV program “60 Minutes,” former White House strategist Steve Bannon criticized the Catholic Church and U.S. bishops for their views on immigration, saying “they need illegal aliens to fill the pews.” In the interview Bannon, a Catholic, told newsman Charlie Rose that the bishops have “an economic interest in illegal immigration.” He also criticized his former boss, President Donald Trump, for taking a step back hours after ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, when the president said on Twitter that he might revisit the decision in six months. “Trust me, the guys in the far right, the guys on the conservative side are not happy with this,” Bannon said.

CBS News also released an interview Sept. 8 with Bannon’s chief communications officer for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said it is “preposterous to claim that justice for immigrants isn’t central to Catholic teaching,” noting that the mandate comes directly from the words of Jesus, who spoke of feeding the hungry and welcoming the stranger. “Immigrants and refugees are precisely the strangers we must welcome,” he added, saying: “This isn’t Catholic partisanship. The Bible is clear: Welcoming immigrants is indispensable to our faith.”

Rogers also noted that caring for the “Dreamers” or DACA recipients, is a response to commands in both the Old and New Testaments. He said the bishops’ views on life issues, marriage, health and immigration reform are “rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ rather than the convenient political trends of the day.”
large outdoor Mass in each city and had a packed schedule of meetings with government officials, bishops, youths, children living in a group home, and with priests, religious and seminarians.

The painful realities of Colombia’s recent past were openly acknowledged with tears and hugs Sept. 8 in Villavicencio. At a national prayer service for reconciliation, a former member of the main rebel group and a former fighter with a paramilitary group shared their stories and asked for forgiveness. A woman who lost two small children in the fighting and another still limping from injuries suffered in an explosion in 2012 offered to “forgive the unforgivable,” as Pastorina Mira Garcia, the mourning mother, told the pope.

The theme of his trip was “Let’s take the first step,” and Pope Francis told reporters he hoped that, after he left, Colombians would take a second step.

Pope Francis seemed confident. No matter how thorough political leaders and professional mediators are in brokering and building consensus, he said, “the protagonist of peacemaking is the people; if not, it will only go so far.”

The country is divided not only between those who participated in the war and those who innocently suffered its effects, but also between those who support and those who oppose the 2016 treaty to end the demobilization of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, commonly known as FARC.

Cardinal Ruben Salazar Gomez of Bogota told the pope Sept. 7 that the process of building peace “has become a source of political polarization that every day sows division, confrontation and disorder.”

But the cardinal also brought up an issue Pope Francis repeatedly warned could undo any hope for peace.

“We are a country marked by deep inequalities and inequities that demand radical changes in all fields of social life,” the cardinal said. “But it does not seem we are willing to pay the price required.”

No peace deal can last without addressing the poverty and social exclusion that led so many people to fight in the first place, the pope said.

“If Colombia wants a stable and lasting peace,” he said Sept. 10, “it must urgently take a step in this direction, which is that of the common good, of equity, of justice, of respect for human nature and its demands. Only if we help to untie the knots of violence will we unravel the complex threads of disagreements.”

With St. Peter Claver, the 17th-century Jesuit saint and apostle to the slaves, far from his mind, Pope Francis asked Colombians to ensure all the nation’s people are part of its progress.

The pope ended his trip in the city where the saint died and his relics are venerated.

St. Peter Claver ministered tirelessly to the African slaves brought to the Caribbean port town in the 1600s, and “he faced strong criticism and persistent opposition from those who feared that his ministry would undermine the lucrative slave trade,” the pope said, standing in front of the church built in his honor.

St. Peter Claver knew what the Gospel was calling him to do, the pope said, even though it was not popular at the time.

With great respect for what Colombians have suffered and admiration for the faith and hope they managed to maintain despite a 52-year civil war, Pope Francis asked them to look beyond their old behaviors and alliances and ask what new thing God might want of them.

“We are called upon to be brave, to have that evangelical courage which springs from knowing that there are many who are hungry, who hunger for God, who hunger for dignity, because they have been deprived,” the pope said at a Mass in Medellin Sept. 9.

In a place that seemed like the pope had all the time in the world, he never seemed to tire. He never cut short a speech and told those who waited for hours that they would get printed copies of the full text. In fact, on several occasions he added long sections — particularly when talking about the evils of the drug trade.

And every evening, after a long day of traveling, reading speeches and celebrating Mass for hundreds of thousands of people, he set aside time for small moments.

With the doors of the apostolic nunciature where he was staying just a stone’s throw away, Pope Francis would watch the evening’s groups perform a folk dance or sing songs or play instruments. One or two or three of them would make a little speech describing what their organization does. And the pope would respond with a few remarks of his own.

No more than 2,000 people could gather on the street outside the nunciature for the evening encounter, but it may have been Pope Francis’ favorite part of the day.

Throughout the trip, he urged everyone to make some gesture of peace: to forgive someone or help someone. On a small scale, that’s what the groups that outside the nunciature were doing, with the help that meant offering shelter and a future to street children, promoting the social inclusion of young people with Down syndrome or strengthening fragile families.

BY RHINA GUIDOS

Trump backtracks a little on DACA after backlash

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Hours after the Trump administration announced on Sept. 5 an end to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program, the president seemed to backtrack, just a bit, by saying that if Congress can’t find a legislative solution to legalize the program’s 800,000 beneficiaries in six months, he might step in.

“Congress now has 6 months to legalize DACA (something the Obama Administration was unable to do). If they can’t, I will revisit this issue!” President Donald Trump tweeted in the evening, early-harmful Attorney General Jeff Sessions said using executive action in such manner, as then-President Barack Obama had done, was “unconstitutional.”

Obama established DACA in 2012 by executive action after Congress could not agree on legislation that would have legalized youth who lost two small children in the fighting and another still limping from injuries suffered in an explosion in 2012 offered to “forgive the unforgivable,” as Pastorina Mira Garcia, the mourning mother, told the pope.

The president seemed confident. No matter how thorough political leaders and professional mediators are in brokering and building consensus, he said, “the protagonist of peacemaking is the people; if not, it will only go so far.”

The country is divided not only between those who participated in the war and those who innocently suffered its effects, but also between those who support and those who oppose the 2016 treaty to end the demobilization of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, commonly known as FARC.

Cardinal Ruben Salazar Gomez of Bogota told the pope Sept. 7 that the process of building peace “has become a source of political polarization that every day sows division, confrontation and disorder.”

But the cardinal also brought up an issue Pope Francis repeatedly warned could undo any hope for peace.

“We are a country marked by deep inequalities and inequities that demand radical changes in all fields of social life,” the cardinal said. “But it does not seem we are willing to pay the price required.”

No peace deal can last without addressing the poverty and social exclusion that led so many people to fight in the first place, the pope said.

“If Colombia wants a stable and lasting peace,” he said Sept. 10, “it must urgently take a step in this direction, which is that of the common good, of equity, of justice, of respect for human nature and its demands. Only if we help to untie the knots of violence will we unravel the complex threads of disagreements.”

With St. Peter Claver, the 17th-century Jesuit saint and apostle to the slaves, far from his mind, Pope Francis asked Colombians to ensure all the nation’s people are part of its progress.

The pope ended his trip in the city where the saint died and his relics are venerated.

St. Peter Claver ministered tirelessly to the African slaves brought to the Caribbean port town in the 1600s, and “he faced strong criticism and persistent opposition from those who feared that his ministry would undermine the lucrative slave trade,” the pope said, standing in front of the church built in his honor.

St. Peter Claver knew what the Gospel was calling him to do, the pope said, even though it was not popular at the time.

With great respect for what Colombians have suffered and admiration for the faith and hope they managed to maintain despite a 52-year civil war, Pope Francis asked them to look beyond their old behaviors and alliances and ask what new thing God might want of them.

“We are called upon to be brave, to have that evangelical courage which springs from knowing that there are many who are hungry, who hunger for God, who hunger for dignity, because they have been deprived,” the pope said at a Mass in Medellin Sept. 9.

In a place that seemed like the pope had all the time in the world, he never seemed to tire. He never cut short a speech and told those who waited for hours that they would get printed copies of the full text. In fact, on several occasions he added long sections — particularly when talking about the evils of the drug trade.

And every evening, after a long day of traveling, reading speeches and celebrating Mass for hundreds of thousands of people, he set aside time for small moments.

With the doors of the apostolic nunciature where he was staying just a stone’s throw away, Pope Francis would watch the evening’s groups perform a folk dance or sing songs or play instruments. One or two or three of them would make a little speech describing what their organization does. And the pope would respond with a few remarks of his own.

No more than 2,000 people could gather on the street outside the nunciature for the evening encounter, but it may have been Pope Francis’ favorite part of the day.

Throughout the trip, he urged everyone to make some gesture of peace: to forgive someone or help someone. On a small scale, that’s what the groups that outside the nunciature were doing, with the help that meant offering shelter and a future to street children, promoting the social inclusion of young people with Down syndrome or strengthening fragile families.
Zeal, from page 1

emotional needs that include the opportunity to love and be loved and to make a difference in people’s lives; and intellectual needs such as the opportunity to learn new things and our spiritual needs for silence, solitude, scripture and the sacraments.

“The problem is we ignore our needs, and we live in a culture obsessed with wants,” he said.

To illustrate, he used an analogy of a flight attendant instructing passengers to put their own oxygen masks on first.

“God wants you to serve powerfully and for a long time, and in order to do that you have to take care of your legitimate needs, because that’s when you thrive, and when you thrive you get joy. It's hard to bring someone closer to God when there’s no joy.”

“The reality is we are each called to be billboards for God and for our parishes, ministries and faith. God needs us thriving because the world needs.”

Kelly pointed out that throughout history, as described in Scripture, God communicated with His people — and he still does so today. “The most common phrase in the Bible is “God said…” God said to Moses…” God said to Noah…” This occurs first through their legitimate needs, secondly through their God-given talents and abilities, and thirdly through their deepest desire. The latter, he explained, can help “point us down the path that God wants us to walk, our vocation. Sometimes there is a path down a path, a little “v” word. It is a gift to walk with God, to grow in awareness. Awareness is evaporating in our culture. Lack of awareness is diminishing our communication.” The Gospel puts life in perspective; we see the true value of things. God wants you fully aware of what is happening, God would like to give you experiences. The growing and deepening of our relationship with God, validated by developments in our consciousness, different levels of awareness, changes the way we see things. God’s voice in our lives, as we teach and guide the young people in their classrooms.

Every year teachers and staff from the diocesan schools gathered to be renewed, refreshed and build community during Mission Days. The days aim to recollect the mission and purpose of Catholic education. Matthew Kelly’s work with inspiring and practical seminars are part of this annual training event.

“Networking for Youth and Growth,” among others.

Relativism,” he said. The problem with relativism and told those present, “The best we can do is be consistent and logical and most important, witness to that.” He used Greek mythology as an analogy of the self-centeredness in the culture today, comparing people to the gods of the ancient Greeks, where they each wanted their own truth. “Joy is very attractive,” he said. “For in their thoughts following Kelly’s keynote at the Annunciation in Bristol shared stories of people who each have their own truth and being their own gods is that people can’t co-exist that way, just as the Greek gods couldn’t. He said Jesus is the key to showing there is no competition, because Jesus was God and Man in one. Total cooperation is how God created the world until the fall of man. “How much more astounding proof is there that God’s not in competition with us than him saying, ‘Oh, you want to kill me? OK.”

“We have to understand and help our young people understand that natural moral law was written into the very essence of our humanity,” Oross continued. “Truth is at the core of my being. God simply abides. When I turn my attention to that God is giving as a gift, not imposing himself upon us, that’s when we discover joy, the third voice is deepest desire for good things. The biggest desires are vocational — to be married and have a family, for example.

“The world is constantly filling our hearts with shallow, superficial desires — we have to dig down deep to find our deepest desires,” Kelly said.

God gives us awareness in order to put things in context, he said, to understand and appreciate true value and he said there are different levels of awareness as we grow spiritually.

Kelly acknowledged that it’s sometimes confusing to determine whether a desire is because of something we want or what God wants, so teaching others how to better listen to God’s voice is key.

“What is God saying to you in this? will get them thinking if they don’t know,” he concluded.

A group from St. Mary of the Annunciation in Bristol shared their thoughts following Kelly’s talk. Judy Keller was struck by the idea of “not just teaching kids, but engaging them and teaching them to slow things down enough to listen to God.”

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St. Mary Director of Religious Education Mary Stutzman said, it was sobering to realize “if it was us against the culture, we’d lose every time. God wants us to step out of the way and realize and in order to do that you have to take care of your legitimate needs, because that’s when you thrive, and when you thrive you get joy. It’s hard to bring someone closer to God when there’s no joy.”

“The reality is we are each called to be billboards for God and for our parishes, ministries and faith. God needs us thriving because the world needs.”

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SPIRITUALITY TO DIOCESE

Matthew Kelly brings Zeal, inspiration to diocese

Kelly keynote inspires educators

Following the keynote, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass with the educators. He spoke of Mary, as the feast of her Nativity and the true mission of Catholic schools.

“The centrality of the true God revealed in Jesus Christ in the life of our Catholic schools is the formula we offer for the true human flourishing of our students. With the deepest conviction, we hold, as the Second Vatican Council taught and as the great Pope John Paul II never ceased to proclaim, “it is only in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of man truly becomes clear. The woman who carried the Word made flesh in her womb is the most beautiful example of true human flourishing.”

Later, he elaborated: “In the Bible, the heart denotes the spiritual center of the person, our core, so to speak. In speaking of the Sacred Heart of Jesus or the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the church is referring to the center of their being. A Catholic education is about the formation of the hearts of our students according to the hearts of Jesus and Mary, hearts that are filled with love. A truly Catholic school educates the heart as well as the mind and the body. The great patron saint of school children and youth, St. John Bosco, once said, “education is a thing of the heart.” How do you educate the hearts of your students? I think you do so by personally accompanying your students, wisely and lovingly leading them to experience God’s love for them, their dignity as his children, and their high calling to serve him. You educate them by your witness as well as by your words of instruction. The vocation of a Catholic school educator is really a supernatural one. You are called to form your students not only to be good citizens of this world, but to be citizens of the world to come, to fulfill their destiny to become saints. And who can better help us in this task than the one whom we honor as the Queen of All Saints?”

On each of the two days, educators celebrating milestones of five to 35 years of service to the diocese were recognized. Recent retirees were honored, and Jane Goldsberry of St. Joseph High School and Theresa Lolmaugh of St. Matthew Cathedral received special awards for 40 years of dedication to their mission.

This year the church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on Sept. 17. The theme will be “Living as Missionary Disciples.” Those who the community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

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There’s a family feeling at Queen of Angels

BY BARB SIEMINSKI

In July 4, 1947, the Independence Day holiday was celebrated in and around the city of Fort Wayne with fireworks, picnics, marching bands and the flag; but there was extra-special rejoicing by local Catholics as then-Bishop John F. Noll announced he had directed Father William Faber to establish a new parish on State Street so the overflow crowd at Most Precious Blood Church would have a new place to worship, in their own neighborhood.

This church was to be named Queen of Angels, and the groundbreaking was May 22, 1950. That was followed by construction that became delayed by severe snowstorms from November 1950 until March 1951. The attached school was opened on Sept. 21, 1951, and staffed by Precious Blood Sisters. Sister Mary Sienna Langhois was the first principal and 83 students were enrolled in the two classrooms that served four grades.

The first Mass — a wedding Mass — was celebrated on Oct. 6, 1951. The next day, Oct. 7, the feast of the Holy Rosary, Msgr. Charles Feltes, chancellor of the diocese, dedicated the church, which had 255 registered families.

Sister Matilda Boyert became principal of the school in 1956, and in 1957 a seven-room addition was constructed.

Father Robert Hammond served as assistant pastor from 1955-60. He was replaced by Father Dennis Blank, who was assistant pastor at the parish until 1964.

Spring 1962 brought the breaking of ground for the new sisters’ convent, which was completed Oct. 7. In 1964, Father David Carkenord became assistant pastor at the parish, serving for nine years.

Changes came to the growing parish and school in the fall of 1972: Now-Msgr. Faber became pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish in Kendallville and Father Robert Hammond, a former assistant pastor, was appointed the second pastor of Queen of Angels. Also in 1974, the Precious Blood Sisters left the school after 23 years of service. In 1973-74, Father Donald Gillig served the parish briefly as assistant pastor, as did Father Brian Carsten in 1974.

Msgr. Stanley Manoski was appointed pastor of Queen of Angels parish in July 1974, and

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‘Impelled to build community’

BY JEANNIE EWING

While ambling through the sanctuaries of most Catholic churches, one seldom ponders their beginnings and the rich stories that often accompany the founding of a parish.

Most Precious Blood Catholic Church is one such parish, with a fascinating history dating back to 1897 when the Society of the Precious Blood purchased a parcel of land between Fourth and Barthold streets in Fort Wayne. At the time the area was considered a prime location for growth in population and business development, which fueled the congregation’s zeal to spread God’s word through education.

Father Joseph Gaughan noted that the history of Most Precious Blood is a large reason why its parishioners are so dedicated to caring for the grounds and the surrounding community. “Many of our families have been part of the parish generationally,” said Father Gaughan, “so they know the history of the parish well. If you can believe it, I am actually the first diocesan priest who has pastored this church.”

Father Gaughan has been pastor of Most Precious Blood for 12 years. Before that, the Society of the Precious Blood ran the church and the school with secularized missionary priests, brothers and sisters. “These priests have an incredible devotion to Jesus’ precious blood and his passion,” added Father Gaughan. “Every week we pray the Litany of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ when we have eucharistic adoration. We’ve maintained the beautiful tradition of focusing on how much Jesus loves us.”

The Society of the Precious Blood is a community of priests, brothers and sisters founded by St. Gaspar del Bufalo in 1815 at the request of Pope Pius VII. They live according to the “Society of Apostolic Life,” which essentially means they are secularized religious who do not take official vows but instead make promises. They live in community and go through an extensive period of spiritual formation that takes several years.

Some men are discerned to formally enter seminary and become priests of the order. In this case, they leave the congregation for a time and eventually take formal vows of ordination. The original motto of the society is: “Christ’s shedding his Blood was for St. Gaspar and is for us the sign of God’s great love for all people. The spirituality of the Blood continues to impel us to build community through the inclusion of the marginalized, to walk in solidarity with those who suffer, and to seek reconciliation in a divided world.”

Father Gaughan said that same spirit has carried on throughout the many generations of faithful laity who have comprised Most Precious Blood. “Our church is in a poorer neighborhood, so it is truly a beacon of hope for many marginalized people in our community.”

The modest-sized school includes around 270 students up to eighth grade, and adds to the longing for hope that many people in the geographical area share. “Non-Catholics in the area have a lot of respect for our church,” Father Gaughan added, “because they see how well-kept the parish is and how welcoming parishioners are to the families and children in the area.”

Father Gaughan believes the greatest strength of Most Precious Blood Parish is that “everyone is really down-to-earth, very warm-hearted and kind.” Many parishioners reside in homes surrounding the neighborhood, and they often chip in to volunteer taking care of the grounds by mowing the lawn, weeding and maintaining the landscape.

Another interesting aspect of the school is that it boasts a full-size bowling alley, which Father Gaughan said is rarely used by the students. “We mostly rent out the bowling alley for parties and men’s and women’s bowling leagues. The proceeds we earn are returned directly to the needs of the parish.”

Pastoral Associate Jessie Bloom has been a member of Most Precious Blood for most of her life. She attended the grade school, was married in the church, and taught first grade in the school for 22 years. “It’s a joy to work here,” she said. “Living in the ‘shadow of the steeple’ is a constant reminder for me to live my faith. The people of the parish and school not only call me to live my faith, but also assist me in that calling.”

Bloom has noticed an increase in weddings and baptisms, as well as enrollment in the school — which she finds to be a “rich mixture of new families and generational families” that strengthens the Most Precious Blood community.

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Most Precious Blood Parish was founded in 1897 by the Society of the Most Precious Blood missionary priests, brothers and sisters, whose main apostolate was to spread God’s word. Until 2005, the church and school were run by the order.
I wanted to be part of the community, in 1972.

School as a fifth-grade teacher she first joined Queen of Angels parishioner, remembered when was Sister Johnine Heinze, a 1974. The new principal assistant pastor in September Father Laurence Tippman as 1982 and Father Barry England 1983, Queen of Angels priest in residence. A convent was remodeled into a rectory that year as well. Three of our four children were baptized there, three made their first Communion, and two were confirmed at our parish.”

In the summer of 1980, Marjorie Mommer became the first lay principal of Queen of Angels School and Father Edward Krason was assigned as Queen of Angels priest in residence. A convent was remodeled into a rectory that year as well.

Mr. Manoski retired in July 1982 and Father Barry England was appointed pastor. In 1985, Steven Bloomfield became principal of the school and Msgr. J. William Lester came to live in residence. In September 1983, kindergarten was begun in the school. The parish, after much hard work and many sacrifices, added an activities center in the spring of 1988, which included a gym, kitchen and meeting rooms. The center was named for the parish’s founding pastor, Msgr. Faber, who joined in the celebration of the parish’s 50th anniversary Mass and the official groundbreaking for the activities center on Sept. 14, 1997. January 2003 saw an extensive renovation of the parish and sanctuary. In August 2008, the diocese’s permission. The parish office was renovated to include private living quarters for the pastor.

In July 2014, Father Ajay Tiru was assigned to Queen of Angels Parish as its ninth and current pastor. Queen of Angels School is proud to offer an activities center in the spring of 1988, which included a gym, kitchen and meeting rooms. The center was named for the parish’s founding pastor, Msgr. Faber, who joined in the celebration of the parish’s 50th anniversary Mass and the official groundbreaking for the activities center on Sept. 14, 1997. January 2003 saw an extensive renovation of the parish and sanctuary. In August 2008, the diocese’s permission. The parish office was renovated to include private living quarters for the pastor.

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The rectory and parish office of Queen of Angels is next to the school.

Father Gary Sigler was appointed the church’s seventh pastor. In June 2007, the parish residence at 2312 Cambridge Blvd. was sold with the diocese’s permission. The parish office was renovated to include private living quarters for the pastor.

In July 2014, Father Ajay Tiru was assigned to Queen of Angels Parish as its ninth and current pastor. The parish office of Queen of Angels Parish, Fort Wayne, in 1988.

Students from Most Precious Blood School work on a prayer book for the Year of Mercy in 2016.

MPB

Continued from Page 11

venir book that showcases Most Precious Blood’s history from 1897 to 1929 elaborates on the hidden treasure of details that make this parish so dedicated to keeping the church and school alive. An excerpt from a poem by an unknown poet succinctly sums up the slow-but-steady growth of Most Precious Blood: “Great things from small beginnings flow; Tiny oaks from tiny acorns grow; Small leaves make up the massive trees; Many tiny drops of water blending make the mighty seas.”

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Sometimes you have to bend the rules

**THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN**

DR. DAVID KAMINSKAS

other options for him. He asked me to walk his daughter down the aisle. I first told him he would have to accept a risk that I estimated to be about a 5 percent chance of a disastrous outcome if he left the hospital. But I told him I would work with him and not mandate the plan. He decided to go to his daughter’s wedding and accept the risk. We then devised the plan. At 10 a.m. on Saturday we would stop his heparin. At 11 a.m., as the heparin began to wear off, I would give him a shot of subcutaneous Lovenox (a blood thinner that would slowly be absorbed through the subcutaneous tissue of his blood thin for 12 hours) to hopefully keep him from clotting off his 99 percent lesion. He then would mysteriously disappear from the hospital. I told him if he was not back by 10 p.m. to be started back on his heparin drip he would turn into a pumpkin. You may be wondering why he had to mysteriously disappear. This is the other interesting piece of the story. In the old days, I could let him go a set amount of time without being discharged from the hospital, but not now. Insurance companies now say that if you leave a patient against medical advice, you risk losing their insurance.

DOCTOR page 14

**THE SUNDAY GOSPEL**

**THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN**

Don’t wait for the young adult group to get involved in your parish

**IN LIGHT OF FAITH**

ZAC DAVIS

creative contribution and accepting their ideas, even when they are challenging."

I think the document has it right. The onus is on parishes to open up spaces for young adults to serve. But so many young adults hold back from engaging in parish life because we’re waiting for the world’s most dynamic young adult group to form before we make any first moves toward committing to a parish or community. That’s what it’s like for me.

I was nervous when I filled out the information card for ARISE, a new small-group, faith-sharing program held once a week in the home of a parishioner. I had apprehensions about not knowing anyone in the group, about being the youngest person by far, and therefore not having enough life experience to have anything meaningful to contribute.

**IN LIGHT, page 14**

Forgive others and the Lord will forgive you

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**IN LIGHT, page 14**

Forgive others and the Lord will forgive you

**THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN**

Sometimes you have to bend the rules

**THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN**

Don’t wait for the young adult group to get involved in your parish

**IN LIGHT OF FAITH**

ZAC DAVIS

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**IN LIGHT, page 14**
IN LIGHT

Continued from Page 13

And as I sat around George and Kathleen’s table for the first meeting, I realized those apprehensions that I had were accurate — but they weren’t at all limitations.

There are some things that you just can’t get at a Theology on Tap event with other 20-somethings: like being in the presence of two couples, one married for 25 years and the other more than 50, while I began a new relationship; hearing about the faith of parents and single adults; and learning that friendship can be just as much of a challenge later in life but remains fiercely as important.

Young adult Catholics suffer from lacking a community of other young adults, but we fundamentally suffer from a lack of a wider Catholic community. A parish can offer that — even without the hip, young adult group.

If you’re nervous about going to a meeting or a program alone — that’s OK. See if you can find just one other person your age who would want to go with you. They could be a fellow parishioner or just someone who you could Skywalker with and also happens to not think it’s totally crazy that you go to Mass on Sundays.

Now, this isn’t exactly a strategy for some of our peers who haven’t been active in the church for a long time, or ever. New modes of evangelization remain to be developed there.

But for those of us who have had recent experiences being a part of a church community, whether that was your Catholic high school or your college campus ministry center, we can take a courageous first step into welcoming the community that a parish can give us, imperfect as it may be.

Join the conversation: Email inlightoffaith@catholicnews.com.

Zac Davis is an assistant editor for digital strategy at America magazine, where he co-hosts “JesusTalk,” a podcast for young Catholics. Find the podcast at http://apple.co/2vGECqB.
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.todayscatholic.org/events. 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.

Chiara Club after school group to meet
MISHAWAKA — Chiara Club is an after school activity open to girls in grades 8-12. Meetings are held every other Tuesday from 3:30-4:45 p.m. in St. Francis Convent Auditorium, 1515 W Dragon Trail, to discover saints, cultivate virtue and have fun being girls. The patron saints of the club, St. Clare, St. Teresa of Calcutta and St. Chiara Badano are all witnesses of allowing the light of Christ to shine through them. For more information email chiaroclubmishawaka@gmail.com.

Beatification of Father Stanley Rother
NOTRE DAME — Father Stanley Rother, an Oklahoma-born martyr who served as a priest in Guatemala for thirteen years, will be beatified in Oklahoma City on Sept. 23. He will become the first recognized martyr to have been born in the United States. At 10 a.m. Rev. Robert Peton, CSC, will give a presentation on Father Stanley Rother followed by a live streaming of the Beatification Mass for Venerable Servant of God Stanley Francis Rother in Andrews Auditorium, 342 Geddes Hall.

VincentFest
FORT WAYNE — VincentFest 2017 will offer great food, fellowship, games, music and more at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1502 E Wallen Rd., on Sunday, Sept. 24, from noon to 4 p.m. Activities and games for all ages. A roasted pig dinner (from local farmers) by Andy Dailey is $10 per person, kids 8 and under eat free. Beer Garden (Beer Garden) for adults, and other favorites will be offered. The Purduettes perform at 2 p.m. and BINGO, corn hole tourney, carnival games, book swap and car cruise-in are also featured. Call 260-489-3537 ext. 5 for information.

40 Days for Life
FORT WAYNE — From Sept. 27 to Nov. 5, from 8 a.m to 8 p.m. daily, 40 Days for Life will take place — a groundbreaking, coordinated, international vigil — in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood, 3914 West Jefferson Blvd. Register as an individual or have your church sponsor a day to pray at www.iccholisticlife.org.

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NOW HIRING

Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana is looking for a new Chief Executive Officer. The position will be responsible for providing strategic leadership and expertise to successfully manage the CCFNEI in all aspects of stewardship and charitable giving in support of the mission of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. For more information on the position, visit the Diocesan website at www.diocesefwsb.org.

Applicants should send an application, resume, and cover letter to Joseph Ryan at jryan@diocesefwsb.org.

Musical Accompanist
St. Michael Catholic Church in Plymouth, Indiana has an immediate opening for a part time accompanist for our Masses. We have two excellent pianos and an electronic organ. We are searching for a Catholic in good standing. St. Michael is a bilingual parish and knowledge of Spanish would be beneficial.

Please contact Kimberley Mendez, kimberleykm@gmail.com or Kathy Girres, 574-936-4935, kgiresses@comcast.net for more information.
Annual Bishop’s Appeal — Over 30 years of helping the diocese and parishes grow and thrive

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

I t seems that all one hears and reads in the news these days is how diversity and differences can divide people. But what Catholics must remember are the words of St. Paul in Romans 12:5: “We, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”

While Catholics within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend speak different languages and have different roots, certainly everyone can come together for the common good and be a blessing to others when the focus is on faith-filled unity and sameness as members of one body in Christ.

This year, the words of St. Paul are worth remembering as the diocese enters into the season of the Annual Bishop’s Appeal.

“Our diocese is enriched by the diversity of our members, faithful of different races and cultures, ethnicities and languages,” said Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. “I see diverse communities and ministries throughout our wonderful diocese and the many diverse gifts that contribute to the welfare of the church. At the same time, there is a beautiful unity in this diversity, our unity in this diversity, our unity in the faith we have received from the Apostles and our unity in the love poured out by the Holy Spirit.” He noted that the Annual Bishop’s Appeal “supports the many diverse gifts that contribute to the welfare of the church.”

The ministries supported by the Annual Bishop’s Appeal include evangelization, formation and education, family and pastoral life, and charity. Every year, parishioners come together to make sure these vital ministries continue and grow.

In the past few years of the campaign, the participation rate in the Annual Bishop’s Appeal has averaged around 37 percent, or 19,900 families. Of each of these families, the average gift is $345. And almost all parishes met or exceeded their annual parish goals. As a result, the total amount of funds returned to those parishes was just under $1.7 million. This year, the goal for the Annual Bishop’s Appeal is $5.33 million. The hope is that “everyone participates, no matter how large a donation, as all gifts of all sizes are needed and appreciated,” said Jeffrey M. Boetticher, director of the Office of Stewardship and Development for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, who added that the success of the appeal for the diocese should also equate to success for individual parishes.

History of the appeal

Before the first Annual Bishop’s Appeal, the work of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend was financed, in part, by 13 percent tax on all parish income. The late Bishop John M. D’Arcy initiated a new structure that allowed individual parishes the freedom to raise money for capital projects and other ministe-rial needs without the burden of a percentage going to the diocese. At that time the 13 percent was taken from all income, including tuition, offertory, campaigns, bequests and other items. The bishop, together with his presbyteral council and leadership team devised a two-part solution still in use today.

The first part of the solution reduced the percentage to only 6 percent, and only included offertory funds. Six percent is well below the national average of 12 percent to 15 percent for parishes.

The second part was to introduce the Annual Bishop’s Appeal. Two key components of the appeal are: 1) That every parish is assigned a mandatory minimum goal; and 2) Parishes keep 100 percent of the funds they raise above their goal.

While adopting these changes was risky, it has been “extremely successful,” said Boetticher. He noted that the number of “building projects have skyrocketed, and programs in the parishes and within (the) diocese have all increased.” In fact, many parishes now expect and budget for an annual appeal overage. “Many other dioceses are adopting similar plans to enhance not only the financial viability of their parishes, but of the diocese as well,” said Boetticher.

According to the 2016 diocesan financial audit, the Annual Bishop’s Appeal has helped to sustain parishes during its history.

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ROMANS 12:5

Through the generous giving of people across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, during the Annual Bishop’s Appeal, various ministries — including education — can continue.

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Provided by New Group Media

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FREE print subscriptions will cease October 1

PRINT EDITION

The newspaper that the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has been printing and mailing locally since 1926 is not changing. Subscriptions are available for $20 per year. A subscription envelope was enclosed in a past print edition or are available from your parish. Visit www.todayscatholic.org/subscribe for credit card subscriptions. The deadline to subscribe to the print edition is Oct. 1, 2017. After that date you will no longer receive the paper in the mail unless you have subscribed to it.

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