Father David Tyson, CSC, inaugurated president of Holy Cross College

The new president of Holy Cross College, Father David Tyson, CSC, addresses the audience during his installation ceremony Oct. 6. Father Tyson, who will serve for a period of five years, is the fifth president of the educational institution.

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Trump administration Oct. 6 issued interim rules expanding the exemption to the contraceptive mandate for religious employers, such as the Little Sisters of the Poor, who object on moral grounds to covering contraceptive and abortion-inducing drugs and devices in their employee health insurance.

Leaders of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops praised the action as “a return to common sense, long-standing federal practice and peaceful coexistence between church and state.”

The contraceptive mandate was put in place by the Department of Health and Human Services under the Affordable Care Act.

While providing an exemption for religious employers, the new rules maintain the existing federal contraceptive mandate for most employers.

President Donald Trump had pledged to lift the mandate burden placed on religious employers during a White House signing ceremony May 4 for an executive order promoting free speech and religious liberty, but Catholic leaders and the heads of a number of Catholic entities had criticized the administration for a lack of action on that pledge in the months that followed.

From the outset, churches were exempt from the mandate, but not religious employers. The Obama administration had put in place a religious accommodation for nonprofit religious entities such as church-run colleges and social service agencies morally opposed to contraceptive coverage that required them to file a form or notify HHS that they will not provide it. Many Catholic employers still objected to having to fill out the form.

The HHS mandate has undergone numerous legal challenges from religious organizations, including the Little Sisters of the Poor and Priests for Life.

A combined lawsuit, Zubik v. Burwell, made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, where the justices in May 2016 unanimously returned the case to the lower courts with instructions to determine if contraceptive insurance coverage could be obtained by employees through their insurance companies without directly involving religious employers who object to paying for such coverage.

Senior Health and Human Services officials who spoke to reporters Oct. 5 on the HHS rule on the condition of anonymity said that the exemption to the contraceptive mandate would apply to all the groups that had sued against it. Groups suing the mandate all the way to the Supreme Court include the Little Sisters of the Poor, the Archdiocese of Washington, the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Eternal Word Television Network and some Catholic and other Christian universities.

In reaction immediately after the 150-page interim ruling was issued, religious groups that had opposed the mandate were pleased with the administration’s action.

In a Oct. 6 statement by Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

CONTRACEPTIVES, page 20

NOTRE DAME — Father David Theodore Tyson, CSC, was installed as the fifth president of Holy Cross College on Oct. 6, amid festivities that extended into a two-day schedule that included his investiture ceremony, social events with students and faculty and a Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

On Thursday, Oct. 5, Father Tyson hosted a presidential picnic on behalf of students. At 7 p.m., the 2017 Delta Epsilon Sigma academic honors society induction took place in Driscoll Auditorium. Friday’s events began with the Mass, celebrated at 10 a.m. in the St. Joseph Chapel on the campus of Holy Cross College.

During the inauguration Mass, Bishop Rhoades took the opportunity to both pray for the success of the mission on which Father Tyson was to embark, and to express joy over it.

“I have known Father Tyson since I came to the diocese almost eight years ago, and we worked closely together when he served as the provincial superior of the
The Gospel of Life is the Gospel of Mercy

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Bishop Rhoades delivered the following homily during Mass at the Afternoon of Prayerful Remembrance and Intercession on October 8th at the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne:

October is Respect Life Month. It is a time to renew our commitment to the Gospel of Life and our deep respect for the gift of human life, from conception to natural death. It is important during this month to remember, as we do this afternoon, the impact of abortion on women who have had abortions, the mothers and fathers, and grandparents of a new life and all who have been affected by the sin of abortion. We gather this afternoon, not only to remember, but to intercede and pray for those impacted and harmed by abortion. The Gospel of Life is the Gospel of mercy and love, and so we pray for all who are suffering from the wounds of abortion.

Pope St. John Paul II wrote a great encouragement to all the value and inviolability of human life. It is entitled "The Gospel of Life." In his beautiful reflections on the dignity of human life, St. John Paul II dedicated a special word to women who have had an abortion. He said the following:

"The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have been healed. Certainly what happened was wrong and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. Try rather to understand what happened and face it honestly. If you have not already done so, give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you His forgiveness and His peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You will come to understand that nothing is definitively lost and you will also be able to ask forgiveness from your child, who is now living in the Lord. With the friendly and expert help of other people, and as a result of your own painful experience, you can be among the most eloquent defenders of everyone's right to life. Through your commitment to life, whether by accepting the birth of other children or by welcoming and caring for those most in need of someone to be close to them, you will become promoters of a new way of looking at human life."

There are many women who have had abortions, repented, and are now strong defenders of the right to life.

St. John Paul II's words can also be extended to those who have been involved in abortion, for example, men who assisted women or pressured them to procure an abortion. Or the women's parents, the grandparents, the unborn child, who may have done the same, assisting or pressuring their daughter to have an abortion. Or those who did not help a woman in crisis to choose life for her unborn child. There are many wounds being carried by these mothers, fathers, grandparent, and others. These wounds may not yet have healed, as Pope John Paul stated, "I say to anyone here who is suffering from these wounds what John Paul said, "do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope." Entrust yourselves to the Father of mercies and to Jesus, our merciful Savior."

"Let us pray for the healing of wounded by abortion. Healing is needed, the healing that comes from for the forgiveness received in the Sacrament of Reconciliation."

I know women and others who have gone to confession and been absolved, but still live with anxiety and shame over the past sin of abortion. They may even believe that God has forgiven them, but they can’t forgive themselves. Help is needed. God’s healing love and mercy is sometimes blocked by a person's inability to accept that they committed such a sin. The problem in these situations is a lack of humility, the admission that yes, ‘I did a terrible thing, but God is greater than me’. If we think that we are only valuable because of our virtues, we will never love ourselves and forgive ourselves. One’s pride needs to be uprooted by the recognition that "yes, I am a sinner and God still loves me. I am still precious to Him." We are frail and needy sons and daughters of God who can fall, who do fall, but God rescues us. His grace is more powerful than our sins. We are more precious in His sight than we can imagine. He loves us, despite our weaknesses and failings. Our self-worth should not be dependent on our being perfect. None of us is perfect, and when we sin, even gravely, we must truly humbly approach the Lord like the prodigal son and admit that we have sinned, that we are unworthy to be called His sons and daughters, and allow the Father of mercies to embrace us with His tender love and to restore us to life. Only then will we experience peace in our souls, the peace of God, which St. Paul says "surpasses all understanding.”

The Church’s post-abortion healing ministry, Project Rachel, is a vital part of our pro-life apostolate. As I said, the Gospel of Life is also the Gospel of Mercy. As life is a beautiful gift from God, so is His mercy. In the Diary of St. Faustina, we read these words of Jesus to Sister Faustina: ‘The greater the misery of a soul, the greater its right to My mercy.’ Jesus told her repeatedly: ‘I am love and mercy itself.” The Church has a great duty to help women who have had abortions and others to believe in God's merciful love and to be enveloped in God’s mercy. People wounded by sin, and that's all of us, need the courage to allow ourselves to be loved by God. As Catholics, we have the wonderful opportunity to encounter God’s mercy in the sacraments.

As we continue with this Mass, let us remember in our prayers all who suffer post-abortion pain. Let us pray for the healing of their hearts, that they will not give in to discouragement or lose hope, but that they will receive and experience the Lord's love and mercy, forgive themselves, and become, as St. John Paul II said, “eloquent defenders of everyone’s right to life.”
Las Vegas Catholic churches, schools respond with prayers

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Students at St. Viator Parish School in Las Vegas began school Oct. 2 — 15 hours after the mass shooting in that city — by praying the rosary together in the school gym.

The school is just three miles east of the Las Vegas Strip, the location of most of the city’s largest hotels and casinos, and the site of the Oct. 1 mass shooting at a musical festival that left 59 people dead, including the shooter, and wounded more than 500.

“Many of our students’ family members work in the hotels on the Strip, so obviously there was a lot of concern when we heard hearing of the horrible events that were occurring on Sunday evening,” said Viatorian Brother Rob Robertson, school counselor.

A few students had attended the Route 91 Harvest festival, the outdoor country music concert barrageed by gunfire from a shooter on the 32nd floor of the adjacent Mandalay Bay casino resort hotel. A fourth-grade student who attended the concert told his classmates his guardian angel had been watching over him that night.

Several parents who had been at the concert decided to keep their children at home the next morning, saying they needed to help their children process the event as a family.

One mother who had attended the concert brought her sons in to school late the next day “understandably shaken” and said “what could have been” and by the horrible scene she witnessed right in front of her, Brother Robertson told Catholic News Service in an Oct. 3 email.

“It was so very obvious as a parish that we needed to respond to our parishioners who needed a comforting moment of solace,” he said, noting that the young adults in the parish organized a candlelight Taize prayer service Oct. 2 attended by several hundred people.

At the prayer service, people approached the cross at the front of the altar and knelt down for private prayers. One of the couples that came forward was still wearing their wristbands from the concert.

“St. Anne Church in Las Vegas, three miles north of the Las Vegas Strip, many of the parishioners know someone who was injured or dead,” said Msgr. Gregory Gordon, pastor.

The priest told CNS Oct. 3 that no parishioners lost their lives at the concert.

Immediately prior to coming to Holy Cross College, Father Tyson served as director of non-profit professional development at the University of Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business. He has had a long, distinguished career in education as a professor, administrator and president, as well as a provost and faculty member at Indiana Province of Holy Cross.

Father Tyson was named interim president of Holy Cross College on April 7. At that time, David Bender, chairman of the Holy Cross College board of trustees, said in a news release: “Father Tyson’s life-long passion for Catholic education and his keen understanding of the mission of the college make him an ideal leader to help Holy Cross College flourish. We have every confidence that he will serve the college skillfully and faithfully. Father Tyson was formally elected the fifth president of the college in a unanimous vote of the board of trustees on July 31.

People mourn during an interfaith memorial service Oct. 2 in Las Vegas for victims of a shooting spree directed at an outdoor country music festival, late Oct. 1. A gunman perched in a room on the 32nd floor of a casino hotel unleashed a shower of bullets on the festival below, killing 59 people and wounding more than 500.

Provided by Holy Cross College

FATHER DAVID TYSON
PRESIDENT OF HOLY CROSS COLLEGE

In praying this psalm of our hands,” Bishop Rhoades continued. “In praying this psalm, the reason Holy Cross College was founded, its reason for being, its purpose.

This community in fidelity to its great mission and in securing the means needed to accomplish its holy mission,” he concluded.

As St. Joseph, the patron saint of the workers, who is known for having over and protected Jesus and Mary, Bishop Rhodes asked that he watch over and protect the church, and specifically Father Tyson, as he leads Holy Cross College not only as its president, but as its spiritual father.

An installation ceremony took place in the Pfeil Recreation Center following the Mass. The public then had the opportunity to meet Father Tyson at a reception on the O’Connor Commons. To conclude the inaugural events, Father Tyson invited students to attend a ball on O’Connor Commons after dinner.

Father Tyson, a 1970 gradu- ate of the University of Notre Dame with a bachelor’s degree in sociology, earned his Master of Theology from Notre Dame in 1974, and a doctorate in higher education administration from Indiana University Bloomington in 1980. Father Tyson took his final vows in 1974 and was ordained at Sacred Heart Basilica at Notre Dame in 1975.
Eliminating any difference between sexes ‘is not right,’ pope says

BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While societies must find a way to overcome the subjugation of women, pretending there are no differences between men and women or even using technology to change a person’s sex is not the answer, Pope Francis said.

Using science “to radically eliminate any difference between the sexes, and, as a result, the covenant between man and woman, is not right,” the pope said Oct. 5, opening the Pontifical Academy for Life’s general assembly.

“The biological and psychological manipulation of sexual difference, which biomedical technology now presents as a simple matter of personal choice — which it is not — risks eliminating the source of energy that nourishes the covenant between man and woman and makes it creative and fruitful,” the pope said.

Pope Francis offered several reflections for the academy’s consideration of humanity’s relationship with technology, particularly in a culture he described as egocentric and “obsessively centered on the sovereignty of man — as a species and as individuals — in relation to all of reality.”

“This approach is not harmless: It forms a person who is always looking at himself in the mirror, who can’t look others, or the world, in the eye,” the pope said. “This approach has negative consequences for all one’s affections and relationships in life.”

Although real scientific and technological progress should inspire “more humane policies,” the pope said that men, women and children today suffer “with bitterness and sorrow from the false promises of technocratic materialism.”

Relationships are essential, he said, noting that God entrusted “creation and history to the covenant between man and woman,” which is seen especially in marriage and the transmission of new life.

But the partnership between men and women goes beyond individual families, he said. “It is an invitation to become responsible for the world, in culture and politics, in the world of work and in the economy, and in the church as well.”

Meeting new challenges “is not simply about equal opportunity or mutual recognition,” he said. “Man and woman are called on not only to speak about love, but to speak to each other, with love, about what they must do to ensure that our lives together can be lived in the light of God’s love for every creature.

“Speak to each other, ally with each other, because neither man nor woman can shoulder this responsibility without the other,” he said.

And, in a culture where some people consider the transmission of new life “a degradation of woman or a threat to societal well-being,” he said, the church is called to affirm new life “as a gift.”

“Generating life gives us new life,” he said, it “makes us richer.”

Compassion for children and the elderly is also crucial, the pope said, because there are “areas of the soul and of human sensitivity that demand to be heard and acknowledged, guarded and appreciated, by individuals and by the community.”

Pope Francis thanked the members of the Pontifical Academy for Life for their commitment to defending the “responsible accompaniment of human life from conception and throughout its years to its natural end” and engaging in dialogue with people and scholars with different views to “bring a more authentic wisdom about life to the attention of all peoples.”

“Open and fruitful dialogue can and must be established with the many who are seeking the true meaning of life,” the pope said.
Students, Catholic Charities mobilize to aid storm victims

BY AMY WISE TAYLOR

CHARLESTON, S.C. (CNS) — In a demonstration of what charity is all about, students in the Diocese of Charleston — like people across the nation — are trying to help victims of the three massive hurricanes that unleashed their fury on the U.S. mainland and islands in the Caribbean.

One after the other, in a span of about three weeks, hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria wreaked havoc with destructive tornados, floods and winds so strong they bent and twisted an iron cross outside a Jesuit school in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Debbie Willong, principal of St. Andrew School in Myrtle Beach, said a group of fifth-grade girls, “upon their own initiative,” met with her to get permission for a bake sale. They set a date, created posters to advertise the event and assigned jobs to all the fifth-graders.

They even tapped Father Roger Morgan, administrator of St. Andrew’s volleyball team and the outreach, deciding to donate all proceeds from their weekly bake sales to hurricane victims.

Willong praised the students “for being altruistic, and being examples of service beyond self,” adding that the kids also made cards for children in the disaster areas.

Other schools are participating in the “Student to Student” campaign run by the National Catholic Educational Association — http://nacea.org/STS. Some of those schools in the Charleston Diocese include St. Peter in Hanahan, and St. Gregory the Great in Bluffton.

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The NCEA will distribute 100 percent of funds collected to dioceses in affected areas for their school communities, said Kathy Preston, principal of St. Peter, in an interview with The Catholic Miscellany, Charleston’s diocesan newspaper.

One of the most popular ways for schools to raise money is to let students ditch their uniforms for a day, in exchange for cash. St. Mary’s Student Council in Greenville sponsored a casual dress day and collected more than $900. Students at St. John Neumann in Columbia paid $1 for each nonuniform item they wanted to wear and raised $1,800.

At Prince of Peace in Taylors, students created and sold T-shirts plus held a dress-down day. Meanwhile, at Holy Trinity in Longs, a collection was held at Mass and students were planning a car wash for Oct. 14.

Schoolchildren also were praying for everyone, and sending letters and cards.

“Students are expressing their concern and letting the children (in storm areas) know they are praying for them,” said Pati Lenthalier, principal of St. Paul the Apostle in Spartanburg.

Chris Trot, principal of St. Gregory, said they also were writing to the seminarians based in Houston.

In addition to students’ support, Catholic Charities workers from South Carolina were in Florida from Sept. 25 to Oct. 6 to aid in the recovery process for communities ravaged by Hurricane Irma.

In response to an SOS from Catholic Charities USA in South Florida, the agency deployed Kelly Kaminski, director of disaster services; Brantli Senn, disaster program manager; and disaster case managers Britany Soward and Sherry Starrs.

The disaster recovery team in South Carolina is probably one of the best in the country,” said Deacon Dan Powers, executive director for the agency in the Diocese of Charleston. “Kelly Kaminski leads a great team that has been working on recovery since the 2015 floods and Hurricane Matthew in 2016, so they have a lot of experience.”

When Kaminski spoke to The Catholic Miscellany, she and her colleagues were assisting Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Palm Beach, which covers five counties in South Florida.

They spent the first several days collaborating on a strategic plan to help local victims. Then, Kaminski said, the workers held five community events to help determine what residents needed. Translators who spoke Spanish and Creole were on hand to assist the area’s diverse population, which includes a large number of Hispanic and Haitian residents.

“We conducted more than 200 assessments and discovered that the largest unmet needs were basic needs including food and water,” Kaminski said. “There also were some people with intermediate needs such as rent and utility assistance, and temporary housing for the displaced.”

She said Palm Beach County was the hardest hit in the area, and most of the people they are assisting live inland or in rural areas, where many were affected by heavy rains but do not have flood insurance.

Before they left for home, the South Carolina workers helped assess residents’ needs, distributed food and water, and assisted people with scheduling appointments for further assistance during a Catholic Charities-sponsored community outreach events at four parishes in the cities of Fort Pierce, Pahokee and Belle Glade, Florida.

According to Kaminski, Irma’s effect on Florida was by far the largest disaster the team has been involved with. As of Oct. 3, 93,000 people had registered claims with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Palm Beach County alone, and nearly 2 million people had registered with FEMA statewide.

Kaminski added that she likely would head back to Florida within a week of returning home Oct. 6 to continue the relief efforts. She said Catholic Charities also planned to assist thousands of Puerto Rican victims of Hurricane Maria, who are expected to start arriving in Florida in the near future.

Christina Lee Knauss contributed to this story. Taylor and Knauss are reporters at The Catholic Miscellany, newspaper of the Diocese of Charleston.
Bishop Vasquez urges U.S. to help solve expanding Rohingya crisis

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Migration called on the federal government to work with the Myanmar government and the international community to solve the crisis affecting the persecuted Rohingya people.

Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, said in written testimony to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs Oct. 5 that the situation affecting the largely Muslim Rohingya population in Myanmar deserve “safe, humane and voluntary durable solutions” as they struggle amid violence that has caused them to flee their homeland.

More than 500,000 Rohingya have fled Myanmar’s Rakhine state to Bangladesh since Aug. 25, after government forces began retaliating after attacks on security check posts by militants from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army. The conflict has resulted in more than 1,000 Rohingya deaths, dozens of houses burned and countless women being raped, Bishop Vasquez offered several recommendations to the House committee, including steps to stabilize the situation in Rakhine state and Bangladesh, provide protection and humanitarian assistance for the displaced Rohingya, resettlement of Rohingya in other countries as necessary, and work for long-term peace while addressing the root causes for the displacement of people from Myanmar, also known as Burma.

‘Love Saves Lives’ theme for 2018 March for Life marking Roe decision

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The theme for the 45th annual March for Life will be “Love Saves Lives: Life is the Loving, Empowering and Other-Sacrificing” with a theme for March for Life Education and Defense Fund announced the theme for the 2018 rally and march at a briefing on Capitol Hill Oct. 3 with Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life organization and other pro-life leaders in Washington.

She moderated a panel discussion on “how the pro-life movement continues to empower women” with Susan Gallucci, executive director of the Northwest Center, which offers a range of services to pregnant women and new mothers; Chuck Donovan, president of Charlotte Lozier Institute, the research and education institute of the Susan B. Anthony List; and Allison Howard Centofante, director of alliance relations at Alliance Defending Freedom, a nonprofit legal group that supports pro-life, religious freedom and other issues. The March for Life will take place Jan. 19, which is a Friday and comes ahead of the Jan. 22 anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 ruling in Roe v. Wade.

U.S. House passes bill to ban abortion after 20 weeks of gestation

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. House Oct. 3 passed the Pain- Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which bans abortions after 20 weeks of gestation, about the time doctors have determined that an unborn child can feel pain. Introduced by Rep. Trent Franks, R-Arizona, it would punish doctors who perform an abortion after 20 weeks, except in cases of rape, incest or if the life of the mother is threatened.

Physicians could face up to five years in prison. Women seeking abortions would not be penalized under the bill. In a statement Oct. 2, the Trump administration said it strongly supported the bill, H.R. 36, and “applauded the House of Representatives for continuing its efforts to secure critical pro-life protections.” President Donald Trump said he would sign the measure if it reached his desk.

The Senate still must schedule consideration of the bill but that seemed unlikely. Senate Whip John Cornyn, a Texas Republican, told reporters, “That’s not a near-term priority.” In a Sept. 29 letter to House members, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, urged passage of the bill, calling it “common-sense reform.”

Glendon to receive 2018 Evangelium Vitae Medal from Notre Dame center

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — Mary Ann Glendon, a Harvard professor of law and former U.S. ambassador, has been named the 2018 recipient of the Evangelium Vitae Medal bestowed by the University of Notre Dame’s Center for Ethics and Culture. The recipient is announced annually on Respect Life Sunday, which this year was Oct. 1. The award, comprised of a specially commissioned medal and $10,000 prize, will be presented at a Mass and banquet April 28 at Notre Dame.

Named for St. John Paul II’s 1995 encyclical on life issues, the Notre Dame Evangelium Vitae Medal is a lifetime achievement award given to “heroes of the pro-life movement.” It honors individuals whose efforts have served “to proclaim the Gospel of human life by steadfastly affirming and defending its sanctity from its earliest stages. Glendon is one of the most extraordinary figures in academia and the global public square,” said O. Carter Snead, director of the Center for Ethics and Culture, adding that she “personifies” what is at “the heart of the Evangelium Vitae Medal.”

“Child Martyrs of Tlaxcala recalled for their devotion to faith

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Blessed Cristobal was about 12 or 13 when he confronted his father in 1527 over drinking “pullque,” an alcoholic beverage made from fermented sap of agave plant. He poured out the pulque in his family home and told his father, a cacique (local leader) called Acxtecail, to give up idolatry. His father, according to an account from the Diocese of Tlaxcala, Mexico, locked Blessed Cristobal in his room and repeatedly beat him. The youth, lying on his death bed, told his father, “Oh father, do not think that I am angry because I am very joyous. Know that you have honored me in a way much more than all your lands and titles.” Acxtecail attacked his son again, killing him, but also making Blessed Cristobal one of the first martyrs in Mexico and the New World. Blessed Cristobal, along with two other indigenous Tlaxcalteca youths, Blessed Antonio and Blessed Juan, will be canonized Oct. 15 at the Vatican.

The latter two were 12 or 13 at the time of their deaths in 1527. The trio, known as the Child Martyrs of Tlaxcala, were among the early converts to Christianity in Mexico. They are considered the first martyrs in the Americas, “protonarrioles,” because they were killed for their faith and will be canonized for that reason.

Anti-nuclear coalition wins Nobel Peace Prize

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize Oct. 6, recognizing the Norwegian organization for its efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons.

“The Norwegian Nobel committee that ICAN, more than anyone else, has in the past year given the efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons a new direction and new vigor,” it said. Launched in 2007, the organization is a coalition of non-governmental organizations in 101 countries aimed at promoting global nuclear disarmament. The Nobel committee honored ICAN for its efforts “to achieve a prohibition of nuclear weapons under international law through the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.”

Vatican uses ecologically friendly cleansers on outdoor art

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Roughly half of the Vatican’s 110 acres is devoted to gardens, and a major project is underway to keep them as “green” as possible. It’s not about watering the plants, although that was a big concern this year with a drought in Italy. The Vatican uses ecologically friendly cleansers through the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The Vatican Museums and the Vatican uses ecologically friendly cleansers on outdoor art

The Vatican Museums are an armament. The Nobel committee acknowledged ICAN, more than anyone else, has in the past year given the efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons a new direction and new vigor,” it said. Launched in 2007, the organization is a coalition of non-governmental organizations in 101 countries aimed at promoting global nuclear disarmament. The Nobel committee honored ICAN for its efforts “to achieve a prohibition of nuclear weapons under international law through the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.”

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Roughly half of the Vatican’s 110 acres is devoted to gardens, and a major project is underway to keep them as “green” as possible. It’s not about watering the plants, although that was a big concern this year with a drought in Italy. The Vatican Museums and the Vatican City government’s office — which includes the gardeners — are in charge of the five-year project to develop ecologically friendly cleaning agents and techniques to clean, restore and maintain the 570 works of art on display outside. Those works include fountain basins, statues and stone plaques. The project involves art experts and biologists.
Students at St. Joseph Hessen Cassel School, Fort Wayne, recently collected school supplies that will be delivered to their counterparts in Catholic schools in Florida that were affected by Hurricane Irma.

A new statue of St. Francis of Assisi stands prominently in front of the University of Saint Francis Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center in downtown Fort Wayne. Placed the morning of Oct. 3, the work is a replica of the statue designed by the late Sufi Ahmad, former USF art professor and sculptor, which sits in front of Brookside Mansion on the main campus of the university.

Football player’s kicks contribute to curing cancer

Sometimes there’s no question that something’s the right thing to do.

When Bishop Luers High School senior Peyton Howe saw a presentation for Kick-It, a worldwide program that raises money for cancer research, while at Kohl’s training camp for kickers, punters and long snappers over the summer, he had no reservations that volunteering to participate was the right thing to do.

“During the presentation he turned to my husband and silently indicated that he was going to volunteer for Kick-It,” Peyton’s mother, Becky Howe, explained.

The Fort Wayne student had always admired professional football players who support childhood cancer research, and he quickly recognized that Kick-It provided an option for him to do the same.

“I always thought highly of the NFL’s philanthropic initiatives for finding a cure for cancer, in particular childhood cancer,” Peyton said. “So when I saw the opportunity to volunteer for Kick-It, I got excited.”

Kick-It raises funds for child cancer research through pledges made for its volunteers’ successful field goal and point-after attempts. Supporters pledge to give a certain amount per point made during game time from these types of kicks. The organization was inspired by Quinn Clarke, a child who, during his second battle with cancer, coordinated a kickball game as a fundraiser for cancer research.

Peyton’s participation in Kick-It has been associated with adjectives synonymous with terms like “role model.” Though touched by the recognition, he believes that his participation in Kick-It is simply a duty that cannot be dismissed. It is a belief that has not wavered since he turned to his father four months ago with evident eagerness to get involved.

“Peyton does not think of himself as a leader,” Becky said.}

KICKS, page 8

Bishop Luers High School placekicker Peyton Howe goes for the point after — and earns money for cancer research — during a game against rival Bishop Dwenger High School Sept. 29.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society in Fort Wayne organized its annual CharityFest Sept. 30 at The University of St. Francis Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center. A live auction, silent auction Pumpkin Patch gift card sale, cookie sale, jewelry sale, 50/50 raffle, dinner and dancing were enjoyed by the guests. All CharityFest funds directly support the St. Vincent de Paul Society charitable programs.
Deacon professes final vows with Third Order Franciscans

BY EMILY DIEHM

B e still and know that I am God (Ps 46:11).

Be still. Sitting in Deacon Jim Kitchen’s office, surrounded by pictures of him and his wife, their children, grandchildren and a beautiful cross that was recently gifted to him, this is easy for a guest to do. Deacon Kitchens emits an air of contentment and peacefulness that stays with a person.

During a recent conversation, squeezed in after Mass but before the work day officially started, Deacon Kitchens reflected on his recent profession of faith to the secular Third Order of Franciscans. However, even in his busy office, a calmness was present.

Sharing stories about his love for his family and the great joy he feels from his weekends spent with his grandchildren in Indianapolis, Deacon Kitchens talked about attending their cross-county meets and his frequent Skype conversations with another grandson in Sweden. He has found a way to obtain a balance between home and career.

Deacon Kitchens said that on date he has baptized 332 babies, and each of their names are written in his journal. He shared about times he was called to sit and pray with and for people as they passed, and mentioned the complete happiness he felt during each of the 35 weddings he has officiated.

“I have felt God’s hand in so many aspects in my life. I encourage all to find a way to connect their heart to God in all they do. Doing so will make their life richer and their decisions better.”

Although many topics and situations were discussed, Deacon Kitchen’s message was clear: Slow down. Embrace quiet time, pray often and enjoy the blessings God has given.

“I think young people, all people really, need to take a moment and be still,” he said. “Turn off the cell phones, step away from the noise and enjoy and marvel at the beauty that God has created for us to see every day. God is always present. In everything.”

In 2005, Deacon Kitchens was finishing up his masters of theology degree at the University of Notre Dame. It was a busy time for him, as he was simultaneously completing the diaconate program.

There was a lot going on at that time in my life,” he said. “I remember one day sitting in class and observing how these two deacons always seemed to be at ease. They were happy. Peaceful. I wanted that.”

The two men he referred to are Deacon Bill Gallagher and Deacon Jim Fuchs. They shared with Deacon Kitchens that they both were members of the Third Order Franciscans. An official order within the Catholic Church, the Secular Franciscan fraternity was established early in the 13th century by St. Francis of Assisi.

“Deacon Kitchens was intrigued. He wanted to learn more, and did. On Sept. 17 of this year he made his public commitment to live as a Secular Franciscan.”

“In these fraternities the brothers and sisters, who are led by the Holy Spirit, strive for ongoing change. We pray that we always will strive to turn away from sin and to be faithful to the Gospel,” said Kitchens. “We ask for God’s grace in helping one another in this a journey to become closer to Christ. I want to follow in the footsteps of St. Francis. I strive for joyful simplicity in my daily life.”

For Deacon Kitchens, the process of becoming a professed Secular Franciscan involved a commitment of four years of formation. This included a monthly formation meeting, coupled with prayer and study. There is heavy emphasis on prayer.

“Formation is divided into three stages: an orientation stage, an inquiry stage and a candidacy stage,” he explained.

The orientation stage is a time for determining a person’s interest, eligibility and disposition to enter into the rest of the process. To be eligible, a person must be in good standing with the Catholic Church.

The inquiry stage is a time of learning about the Franciscan charism and history. It is an important time of discernment, designed to determine if the inquirer has a vocation to the order. If a vocation is discerned, both by the individual and the local fraternity, the inquirer is received into the order.

“Normally the bishop does this, but this year Father Dave (Voors) presided. Our ceremony included five new inductees.”

The new Secular Franciscans have prayerfully chosen to live a simple, God-centered life. They practice abstinence and regular prayer is clear. Leading by example; Deacon Kitchens is teaching, urging, others just be still.

“I feel that we should not let our possessions own us,” said Kitchens. “I will instead live a life devoted to Christ, imitating him and following in the footsteps of St. Francis.”

KICKS, from page 7

“He just said that he’d do something.”

But certainly the humility that shines through Peyton’s outlook on his involvement with Kick-It is, in fact, a significant leadership quality. It’s also what provides further evidence of Peyton’s heroism.

Becky describes her son as an “every-day-kind-of-a-hero;” “not a grand-gesture-kind-of-guy,” and as “someone who grinds away at the hard things in life, makes no excuses, and says ‘yes’ when he feels called by God to do so.”

Bishop Luers’ football program has been very involved in Peyton’s efforts. So far the varsity football team has visited Lutheran Children’s Hospital in Fort Wayne twice as part of the Kick-It project.

“My teammates are very supportive and totally willing to help,” Peyton said. “The whole school really has been supportive.”

He and his teammates are driven by the fact that their field goal and point-after attempts could quite literally save a child’s life.

“I love knowing that my team and I could potentially be doing more than just scoring touchdowns,” he said. “The game means more to us now because points are more than points. It’s the possibility of saving lives.”

Peyton, who is also a Knight for Life and Sodalitis leader, said that his Catholic education played a role in his initiative to participate in Kick-It.

“My Catholic education influenced me to give back, especially to the community. It has made me feel at peace when I give to those less fortunate,” Peyton said.

“Knowing that giving back is how we can glorify God, he explained. “I would like to glorify God to the best of my abilities and I felt this (Kick-It) would be a great way to do that.”

There’s been another major influence on Peyton’s willingness to give back: the active role models right in his home.

“My husband Rob is a man of action,” Becky said. “I believe his example of doing has had an impact on Peyton developing a can-do attitude. We have together tried to instill in Peyton a sense of courage regarding speaking out and standing strong for what he believes is right.”

Additionally, cancer has hit close to home. The Howes have lost five relatives to cancer and one of Peyton’s uncles is currently battling the disease.

“(Peyton) knows what it feels like to lose someone close to him,” Becky said.

To the children he’s helping, Peyton says “stay strong,” as “there are people out there who truly care … even if you don’t know their names.”

So far Peyton has raised nearly $6,000 for Kick-It. For more information on the program and how to support Peyton’s efforts, visit www.kick-it.org/ champ/2017/08/kick-it-with-peyton.
Archiepobish celebrates Holy Cross School language program

BY MOLLY GETTINGER

When one imagines the daily tasks of an archbishop in the Catholic Church, turning his head like a penguin, bending it like a giraffe or raising his shoulders like a lion probably does not come to mind.

Yet that is exactly what the Most Reverend José H. Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles, found himself doing on Tuesday, Oct. 3, surrounded by eager prekindergarten and kindergarten students at Holy Cross School, South Bend, as he read “De la cabeza a los pies” (“From Head to Toe”) by Eric Carle.

The purpose of Archbishop Gomez’s visit to the school was to celebrate its dual-language immersion track. Students who opted into the program begin with a 90/10 Spanish-to-English ratio and will be fluent in both languages by the time they complete elementary school. For those who prefer a traditional track, the school also continues to offer the usual English-dominant education.

The dual-language immersion track is in its inaugural year, with prekindergarten and kindergarten classes participating. Each year, the program will be implemented in a higher grade as students move up.

The program is the result of a collaboration with the University of Notre Dame’s Alliance for Catholic Education and Institute for Latino Studies. Archbishop Gomez can relate to learning another language at the elementary level. As a young boy born in Monterrey, Mexico, in 1951, his mother insisted he learn English. “And I wasn’t too happy about that. I didn’t want to spend more time going to school,” he remembered.

He did as his mother asked, and now Archbishop Gomez is now proficient in English. He says he learned two things along the way. First and foremost, mothers are always right. Second, knowing multiple languages is an incredible blessing to be used in the world.

Now vice-president of the United States Council of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Gomez also shepherds the largest diocese in the country, in which offers Mass in 42 languages. The Archdiocese of Los Angeles is also a pioneer in bringing dual-language immersion programs, like that offered by Holy Cross School, to the Catholic School system. The archdiocese currently has six dual-language programs in its schools: five are Spanish-English programs and one is a Spanish-Mandarin program. Archbishop Gomez was proud to share the news that 14 more schools are also preparing to launch dual-language programs.

“I think the opportunity to teach languages is a great invitation because we are helping each other understand our cultures and how to work together,” the archbishop shared. “We are all from different cultures: This is the reality of our country.”

It was “an amazing honor” that Archbishop Gomez would take time to come visit Holy Cross School, said Principal Angela Budzinski.

Archbishop Gomez began his visit with Mass. “It is very important for all folks to understand God is with each one of us all the time... He gave us the gift of life and is with us every second of it,” he said.

“De la cabeza a los pies” (“From Head to Toe”) by Eric Carle, to read to the young budding bilinguals.

His visit then took him to both the dual-language and traditional track students in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, who they sang for him a trilingual song in English, Spanish and sign language. The students asked questions, particularly about Archbishop Gomez’s pectoral cross, and they smothered him in hugs before he left.

For more information about the Holy Cross School dual-language immersion program visit www.holycrosscrusaders.org.

Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles displays a gift given to him by the students of Holy Cross School, South Bend, at a Mass celebrated at the parish Oct. 3. Archbishop Gomez traveled to the school to support and celebrate its new dual-language immersion program. Pictured concelebrating the Mass is Father Richard Warner, CSC, left. Father Vincent Cuppola, pastor of the parish, is at right.

Prekindergarten and kindergarten students sing a song in Spanish for Archbishop José H. Gomez, of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, at Holy Cross School in South Bend Oct. 3.

More photos are available with this story at www.todayscatholic.org
Red Masses bring to light those who work in law

Legal profession gathers amid secular trends

BY WILLIAM SCHMITT

L

awyers, judges, law profes-
sors, political scientists and
students who gathered Oct. 2 for the South Bend-area’s annual Red Mass heard Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades urge them to follow the Holy Spirit despite different, secular directions taken recently in government.

He said preparing for the Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit, which traditionally seeks God’s blessings upon those in the legal professions, prompted him to respond to controversial remarks made on Capitol Hill in September. He also invited the Red Mass participants to receive enlightenment as witnesses for Christ amid today’s civic controversies, referring to remarks U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein made at a Sept. 6 hearing on the nomination of Notre Dame Law School Professor Amy Coney Barrett to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals.

America seeks to uphold rights of conscience, and Catholics must continue to stand up for the rule of law and for just laws respecting fundamental human rights, Bishop Rhoades said. His comments came as he and his concelebrants, wearing red vestments symbolic of the Holy Spirit, focused attention on everyone’s constant need for the Spirit’s gifts.

“What would our nation be like if it was deprived of lawmakers, judges and others who act from consciences and characters inspired and shaped by faith — those who, for example, worked to abolish slavery and to promote civil rights?” he asked. He pointed to America’s founders and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. as examples of powerful influence grounded in faith.

Bishop Rhoades said Catholics with civic and legal duties must be able to embody their values while respecting the rule of law.

St. Thomas More, who is honored at every Red Mass as the patron of lawyers, politicians and statesmanship in general, modeled a well-formed Christian conscience in his love for country and service to just laws, Bishop Rhoades pointed out.

Ultimately, St. Thomas More was beheaded in 1535 when his conscience could not allow him to recognize King Henry VIII’s violations of God’s law in which the monarch made himself head of the Church of England.

More took a stand reflecting his openness to the Holy Spirit’s gifts of wisdom and fortitude, Bishop Rhoades pointed out.

“Because of this, I would say that dogma really lived loudly within St. Thomas More — so loudly that he became a martyr.”

With More personifying the blessings and responsibilities of pursuing liberty and justice through the legal profession, as encouraged in the Red Mass, the Bishop praised the recent establishment of the St. Thomas More Society of South Bend. The group, whose counterpart in Fort Wayne has existed for several years, describes itself as a private association of the Christian faithful supporting each other and affiliated with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Following the Red Mass, the recently formed St. Thomas More Society hosted a lecture by professor Stephen Smith, a Notre Dame graduate who now serves as dean of the faculty and a professor of English at Hillsdale College.

Smith called More an exemplar of the kind of “leading citizen” whose outstanding qualities yielded many years of distinguished service and impact on the England of his time, including blessings for More’s family, the law and the church, as well as the nation.

Today’s society must nurture a critical Mass of “leading citizens” characterized by trustworthiness, steadfastness and “greatness of soul” if it is to enjoy a “renaissance.” Without such citizens, Smith said, society risks declining into meanness and even tyranny.

“The leading citizen needs to see everything as coming from our tender, loving Father.” The preparation needed for such a perspective, according to Smith, must embrace a comprehensive education comprising philosophy, history, law, theology and art.

But such a truly “liberal” education, able to liberate people for a pursuit of the good, must be accompanied by other factors to be nurtured by society, Smith said. These factors include formation in virtue; training for wise deliberation amid complex circumstances; a sense of integrity and on posterity; Smith argued that these factors include a study of tyranny and how the misuse of laws can lead to it, and a willingness to suffer personally for the greater good.

Also, as if to further affirm the Red Mass tradition, invoking the Holy Spirit for an ongoing impact on a whole profession and on posterity, Smith added another factor. He said true, enduring friendships were important to sustain St. Thomas More as a leading citizen. Such friendship is crucial today too, he suggested, noting that a society’s best leaders deserve the strong support of others.
Red Mass invokes gifts of the Holy Spirit

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

The Red Mass, a Mass celebrated annually in the Catholic Church for judges, lawyers, law school professors, law students and government officials, took place Tuesday, Oct. 3, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne. The Mass, celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and attended by scores of legal professionals, requested guidance from the Holy Spirit for all those seeking justice and offered the opportunity to reflect on the God-given power and responsibility of those in that profession.

Originating in Europe during the Middle Ages, the Red Mass gained its name from the red vestments traditionally worn as a symbol of the tongues of fire, or the Holy Spirit, that descended on the apostles at Pentecost. Its focus is on the leadership roles of those present and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, i.e., wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord, which are customarily invoked upon them.

Bishop Rhoades spoke, during his homily, about the recent questioning of Amy Barrett Coney by the Senate Judiciary Committee, saying, “At this Red Mass, we are asking the Holy Spirit to bestow His gifts upon you who serve as lawyers, judges, law professors, law students and civic officials. If our prayer is answered, you know what is going to happen?” He answered that question by saying, “Dogma will live loudly within you! Your faith … will be real and authentic, inspiring you to serve the common good, justice, human life and dignity and peace. It will inspire you to be generous, to care for the weak and the poor and to protect the vulnerable.”

He also reminded his audience of the great saint and jurist St. Thomas More, who refused in conscience to take the Oath of Supremacy, which required recognizing the king of England as head of the church. “Thomas More had a well-formed Christian conscience … he would not take an oath in violation of God’s law, even though it meant imprisonment and death. He died, as he said at the scaffold, as ‘the king’s loyal servant, but God’s servant first.’ He not only had the Holy Spirit’s gift of wisdom, but also the Holy Spirit’s gift of fortitude or courage. Because of this, I would say that dogma really lived loudly within St. Thomas More, so loudly that he became a martyr. When faith is alive in our hearts, when dogma lives loudly within us, when we are open to the Holy Spirit’s gifts, we possess the wisdom and courage to act morally and truthfully according to a well-formed conscience.”

Bishop Rhoades referred once again to Barrett. “In her wonderful speech to the graduates of the Notre Dame School of Law in 2006, Professor Barrett expressed her hope that they would be a different kind of lawyer in the Notre Dame tradition. She explained that this means that they would see their legal career as a means to an end, that being the building of the kingdom of God. It is astonishing to me that some critics found these words objectionable,” he said. Professor Barrett was encouraging the graduates to live their lives according to their ultimate end by reminding them that their fundamental purpose in life is to know, love and serve God.

Following Mass, attendees enjoyed dinner at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, where attorney Robert Muise, co-founder of the American Freedom Law Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, was the keynote speaker. Muise, an expert in constitutional law dedicated to defending religious liberty, the freedom of speech and the right to life in state and federal trial and appellate courts across the country, brought his considerable expertise to bear on his remarks.


In the Griswold case, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that the state of Texas’ ban on contraception violated a married couple’s right to marital privacy. In Eisenstadt v. Baird, the court further ruled that unmarried couples may also possess contraception. In Roe v. Wade, the court famously affirmed the legality of a woman’s right to have an abortion if contraception failed. In order to preserve the health of the mother, abortion was allowed during the entire term of her pregnancy, leaving to the right of the state to set some conditions on second- and third-trimester abortions. The court also declared that a fetus is not a “person” and therefore not afforded the protection of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. In a companion case issued the same year, the Supreme Court ruled in Doe v. Bolton that all factors — physical, emotional, psychological, familial and the woman’s age may be considered in determining whether an abortion is necessary for the mother’s “health.”

Muise referred to Pope Paul VI’s prophesies in his encyclical “Humanae Vitae,” issued in 1968. The pope predicted that the widespread use of contraception would lead to conjugal infidelity and the lowering of morality, especially sexual morality. And the increase in divorces, abortions, out-of-wedlock pregnancies and venereal diseases seem to bear out his words. He predicted that men would lose respect for women and children, treating them only as objects of pleasure. He also said that widespread acceptance of contraception would place dangerous power in the hands of public authorities and family-planning programs in many Third World countries, tear apart that. Finally, Pope Paul VI believed that contraception would lead people to believe they had total control over their own bodies, which has led to the production of test-tube babies, sterilization and euthanasia.
Parish’s dedication to the Blessed Mother yields fruit

BY JEANNIE EWING

The life of devout and dynamic Catholics is varied and vast. Most have at least two things in common, however: a strong faith foundation from their families of origin, and a parish community teeming with people and priests who directly affect their spiritual growth. At Our Lady of Good Hope Catholic Church in Fort Wayne, the priests and parishioners agree that it’s the family life that makes it a thriving parish.

“We have a great family feel to our parish, and the commitment level of our members who want to grow in their faith is inspiring,” said Father Mark Gurtner, who has served as both parochial vicar and is currently the pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope, for a combined 10 years of service. “The biggest strength of our parish is the number of young people striving to grow in their faith.”

Years ago, when Father David Voors was pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope, he consecrated the parish to the Blessed Mother. Now the community is reaping the fruits of this dedication, including faith-filled children’s, teen and adult ministries.

For a combined 10 years of service. “The biggest strength of our parish is the number of young people striving to grow in their faith.”

To a visitor, the Masses might seem distracting, given the intermittent coos, cries and yelps from the littlest Catholics in attendance. But the welcome of the families who bring all their kids to Mass faithfully, week after week, is hard to ignore. “To me, babies are like our little pray-ers,” offered Father Whelan. “It’s like hearing them sing to God, which is a welcomed and refreshing aspect of being a part of this parish.”

Father Whelan accedes that parents should, of course, remove their children from the sanctuary if the noise decibel is too loud or if the behavior is inappropriate. But it should be temporary, he believes. “The cry room should only be used when absolutely necessary. It shouldn’t be a de facto place to immediately go to spend the entire Mass.”

The Masses frequently have over 100 people in attendance, which is a great blessing.”

Father Daniel Whelan, parochial vicar since March at Our Lady of Good Hope, agreed. “I think the greatest asset of the parish is the number of young families. Of course, there are the blessings of the older parishioners and their wisdom. But you get the whole gamut at Our Lady, especially the number of young people striving to grow in their faith.”

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Do not face another cold, dreary winter alone trapped in your home, dining on canned chicken soup while watching TV.
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church has experienced significant growth in recent years, in its spiritual life particularly, and the church community is bullish on the future.

Located on the northwest side for Fort Wayne, St. Vincent is a parish of approximately 5,200 families. Father Daniel Scheidt has presided as pastor since the summer of 2015. What he calls “a parish of doers,” St. Vincent is an active and dynamic parish.

Parish history

The roots of the parish run deep, a point which Father Scheidt does not take lightly. French Catholics migrated to this area in the 1830s. At that time, there was no diocese and few priests. Yet the early parishioners took their faith seriously. From the outset, Mass was said on a regular basis. By 1846, there were 5,400 people.

Some of the early efforts focused on building a church and bringing medical and dental care to the rural community. Schuerman said that mostly was done on a volunteer basis. Father Scheidt said it all goes back to one longstanding priori-
ty: “This parish has had a consistent commitment to grow in the spiritual life,” he said. It’s also multifaceted, which means it serves a wide variety of interests and spiritual needs.

In recent years, the church has grown in physical space over the years, from a small wooden building to the sprawling campus that it occupies today.

The church has grown in physical space over the years, from a small wooden building to the sprawling campus that it occupies today.

St. Vincent’s today and tomorrow

Scheidt does not take lightly.

St. Vincent has a consistent commitment to grow in the spiritual life, he said. It’s also multifaceted, which means it serves a wide variety of interests and spiritual needs. About half of the parish tithe goes toward ministries and other parish organizations and activities, he said.

He cited the parish’s vibrant chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society as one example of its dedication to the work of the Holy Spirit. The organization assists the needy within parish boundaries, regardless of religious affiliation. Members respond with home visits to those who call for help with food, household items or clothing, and work with the township trustee in assisting with basic needs. They tend to the needs of the vulnerable population who may require lodging or food on an emergency basis, and also assist with other special projects throughout the year.

Provided by St. Vincent de Paul Parish

Provided by St. Vincent de Paul Parish
David Zehr, whose family joined Our Lady of Good Hope in 1998, added, “I try to make a point to tell a young parent (mother or father) after Mass, whose kids are screaming and squirming, that there’s grace there.” He feels that the sound and movement of young children is “the renewal of the Church.” It cultivates a strong sense, he added, that the young ones are “the next great Catholics.”

Zehr, who serves as pastoral associate and RCIA director, believes this strong foundation of the domestic church first began years ago when then-pastor Father David Voors consecrated the parish to the Blessed Mother, asking her intercession for the young ones at Our Lady of Good Hope results in the deeper understanding that children are blessings. Even if a family only has one child, “it’s an incredible blessing,” he elucidated. As a result, the parish is benefiting from the fruits of the hard work parents are doing to instill the faith in their children’s hearts. There are several ministries that serve the youngest members all the way through their young adult years. In addition to junior high and high school, we have a youth ministry for younger children, which is pretty unique,” said Father Gurtner. “We also have a very active young adult ministry called the Frassati Society, named after the Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, who shared his Catholic faith with all of his friends.”

The Frassati Society is open to young adults throughout the diocese, not just limited to members at Our Lady of Good Hope. As stated on the website forwaynefrassati.org, “sainthood – Heaven – is worth the fight. We know from experience that we can’t do this alone. And so, we journey together. We encourage each other. Grow with each other. And, God willing, we’ll be saints for eternity.” The group’s ongoing activities include monthly eucharistic adoration, with an opportunity for young people to go to confession and hear a talk for further reflection.

Monica Bodien, co-founder of the Frassati Society, said, “We have found that the Eucharist is the focal point of our parish. This is why we have been centering all our events around the Eucharist.” It’s the sacramental focus at the parish that makes it great, Zehr strongly believes. “The Eucharist is the focal point here. The last couple of priests, including Father Mark, have really helped us to understand more clearly the Real Presence. The parish has always been family-oriented, prayerful and intimate, according to Zehr. “The priests here have always preached about the need to go to confession and instituted weekly adoration on Tuesdays,” he iterated.

As an example of a typical Saturday, Father Mark explained, “Every Time in the liturgical calendar. Zehr shared, “I was making announcements and before Mass, Father Daniel came up to an elderly woman and her son and anointed them because of health difficulties. While that was going on, Father Daniel was in the confessional, and then we celebrated Mass.” He says the sacraments were “very vivid and clear” that night, which isn’t unusual.

The Mass is also integral to the students at the new parish school, only in its second year. Father Gurtner explained, “We started it because I had a number of parents who approached me about the consideration of starting a parish-based school. It turned into a three-year discernment process of planning and preparation.”

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, has produced many vocations in recent years, a blessing that Father Daniel Scheidt attributes to the parish’s pastoral care.
World Mission Sunday

St. Anthony School finds a mission in Ugandan students

BY JENNIFER MILLER

A

Imagining, prayer and fasting are at the heart of living the Christian life, and all three elements are alive in the heart of the students of St. Anthony de Padua School, South Bend.

Two years ago, the students, teachers and staff of St. Anthony learned about three young children living outside of Kampala, Uganda, who had no living family due to the AIDS epidemic and were forced to work or beg for money or food to survive. They were the same age as the St. Anthony students, but were without the basic needs that many of the students were accustomed to.

A relationship between the two groups of students came about through a Franciscan University student named Edward Wamala.

Living on the streets in a dusty hovel with her siblings, a 12-year-old girl, Joan, met Wamala, who was on his way home after adoration in the capital of Kampala. He remembered, “Looking at all the kids begging in the streets, I thought, ‘Why can’t these kids just go back to their villages and plant crops and leave the city?’”

But that night I thought, “Maybe you need to hear the story of one of these kids.”

That conviction turned into a 10-mile walk alongside Andrew, a young boy whose father had died of HIV and whose mother had run away in fear to Sudan, leaving Andrew and his two sisters to live alone in a filthy, canvas tent with no mattress.

The story affected Wamala. Begging friends for help, he started plans to build an orphanage in Kampala.

As he worked, he recalled his own childhood and upbringing. His time with the Lord in prayer at adoration opened his heart to the heart of the Pontifical Mission Society.

Edward Wamala, a Ugandan studying at Franciscan University, was moved to build an orphanage for children in his home country. Students at St. Anthony School, South Bend, have embraced his mission as their own and raised funds for the completion of the orphanage and for uniforms for the students.

Growing up in Uganda, I often heard the family story of my birth,” Wamala explained. “My mother was young and unmarried, and I was ashamed of being born — surrounded by goats.

The emphasis implicitly comes from His Spirit to help these three children and went home to ask his mother if she would take them in, after discovering they had no living relatives.

Currently Andrew, Margaret and Joan are staying with my mother. I thank God for her open heart to have taken on my little ones,” he explained.

For the last four years Wamala has been studying theology and hospitality at Franciscan University of Steubenville, working every summer and sending money home to Uganda to his mother and the three children. His dream, however, was to build the orphanage home where they could be loved and cared for, as well as a school so they might receive an education and an opportunity for their future.

At Franciscan University, he met the daughter of an educator at St. Anthony School, second-grade teacher Betsy Williams.

She heard his story and felt moved to ask him to speak with her students. He came that spring and shared with the entire school the sad realities of the children’s life, the hope of building them a new home and the difference that faith makes.

Wamala spoke with great inspiration and reminded the students how God loves children in a special way and that prayer, even the smallest Hail Mary, makes a difference. The children felt convicted to practice the Christian life they were taught.

With their pennies and dollars saved from allowances, birthdays or work, the students gave Wamala over $6,000 for the orphanage. They also offered small sacrifices and prayers for their fellow children. Some of these included: “We helped with yard work and sweeping.” “I pray that all children can have a family and are loved.” “Piggybank.” “I made the beds and took out the trash.” “God bless you!” “I helped my Mom wash the walls and the cupboards.” “This $5 is from my chores.”

An older student, Katie, donated $100, which she won in a Final Four bracket.

Now graduated, Wamala hopes to complete construction of the orphanage building. This past summer, he and friends from Franciscan University continued to make bricks out of clay mud and build the children’s home. The money to finish the construction came directly from St. Anthony students and staff.

As of this fall, the orphanage is nearly complete.

Another work of mercy by the St. Anthony students was to share their uniforms with the orphans. “Hundreds of uniforms were sent to the children via the suitcases of the Franciscan kids who went to build this summer. We updated our uniform code at St. Anthony’s, so students donated uniforms that were no longer being worn. It is special to know that lots of children in Uganda, who our students are corresponding with, are wearing St. Anthony’s shirts,” Williams explained.

This year, the first-grade through eighth-grade students are pen pals with the children at Birembo Primary School, which is near the orphanage. Through this fun, educational opportunity, the children are taught about the universal love of God and the nature of the church, as well as reality of being one body of Christ.

Williams shared, “It is really touching and uplifting to see the letters that the children are exchanging. Their lives are so very different from one another, but they share a common language of loving and caring for one another. Through letters, they pass along information about their families, classes they are studying, and offer prayers back and forth.

The children from Africa talk about their goats and chickens, while the children from St. Anthony’s tell about their cats and dogs. The latest bundle of letters was met with great excitement.”

Principal Karen Bogol reflected, “We are so blessed to be participating in the cultural exchange between St. Anthony de Padua School and the Birembo Primary School in Uganda. The children of both schools continue to experience a special connection with one another through their letters and pictures. The work of Eddie, Mrs. Williams and all of those involved is a true testament to the universality and beautiful influence of God’s love.”

The pairs implicitly indicates that all children are important, loved and valued. Their sacrifice, their pennies and their prayers truly make a difference.

On World Mission Sunday, this is exactly what the Holy Childhood Association, promulgated by the Pontifical Mission Society desires; that children help other children.

A third-grader, Raha, said of getting to know the children from Uganda, “It is really fun and I’ve learned they do things different than us. We have different experiences. But, we’re the same because Jesus loves us all and we’re all part of the same family. We’re all children of God.”

Notes from a book that the St. Anthony students and staff made for the children in the orphanage. It is a compilation of many of their prayer intentions, of what they offered up, gave or sacrificed for their friends.

Photos provided by St. Anthony de Padua School
Some takeaways from Tolkien

I have to confess, with some embarrassment, that one of my favorite human deficiencies is that while I read quite a lot, I am not much of a fiction reader. So, one of the goals I had set for myself this past summer was to become a lifelong reader, so I decided to slow down and read Tolkien’s “Lord of the Rings.” While I am familiar with snippets from the movies, I must confess I had never read the book(s). But among the semi-narians with whom I live and work it is a very well-loved read, and this is an instigator where they served as role models and an inspiration to me. I will say, it was an easy and most pleasant experience. I had several “conversation partners” during the summer — friends who had read the books already — and so I was blessed with many insights from their reading that enriched my own. In fact, it was such a pleasure I picked up and read “The Hobbit” when I completed the trilogy.

There are any number of books on the sacramentality and symbolism in Tolkien’s Middle-earth, and my own observations neither do justice to the work nor exhaust the innumerable insights one can glean from reading these magnificent books. What I offer is a few musings on elements of our life as believers that were brought into greater relief (in some cases, quite beautifully) by my experience of reading them: Evil is insidious; yet, grace is even more subtle, than what they could see. In addition to the feebleness owing to our own mortal condition and the allurements in the world around us, the enemy employs a quite cunning strategy — and will do his best to use our own strengths against us, dealing in half-truths, false assumptions or influences. One day, while keeping us oblivious to his presence and work. Although grace is even more subtle, God, in his providence, can make use even of our own foolishness and weakness, to our advantage and the salvation of the world. I was struck recently with an insight that, had the reader (and the characters) signaled disaster and defeat became the very means of victory. In short, God will work to save us in ways we often cannot perceive directly, and more often than not in spite of ourselves.

We need each other, boy, do need each other. The very title of one of the volumes invokes the notion of fellowship in the language of the New Testament should be “koinonia” or “commune,” one of the earliest designations of the community that is created not primarily to Kinhich, but by Christ in and through his sacrificial love. We can bristle against one another, misunderestimate each other, separate ourselves from one another, but in the end, life in the church is the only way we can make it. When we seek to make it on our own, when we separate ourselves from fellowship, we impede our own progress. Period. Over-romanticized notions of what a fellowship is, or achievement dominate in our culture, but despite the inherent challenges (“where two or three are gathered, there’ll usually be a problem”), the alternative is much worse. Fidelity — to our friends, our spouse, our fellow-workers — is essential if we are to make it. The fellowship that is forged among the new friends of Middle-earth — a bond that cut across races and nations is an essential element of the story. Despite initial (and at times, recurring) mistrust, misapprehension and failure, the bonds that are forged while sharing a noble task deepen and in fact sustain the characters throughout. Samwise Gamgee, Mr. Frodo’s right-hand man, so to speak, is one of the truest, most unselfish, utterly humble. His acceptance of the task, his keen attitude, his generosity of spirit, his example, his patience, his prayer, his love for Frodo, his desire to look honest for his friend, beloved disciple, and Simon of Cyrene, at one point carrying Frodo to his appointed end. These are books worth reading with friends and talking about with friends: I suspect such studies will only be deepened by the shared venture, a fellowship of sorts, forged by shared reading.

This passage from Philippians 4:12-13 might apply here: “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” God's existence is real, but more often than not, unknown to us. Near the end of “The Hobbit,” when Bilbo’s adventure there and back again had come to an end, he expresses surprise: “I never thought I'd live to see the end of it!” This writing was actually encoded in its most important conditions in the trilogy. It is likely that lost in the daily grind is the mindfulness that continuously prompts the need for kindness, calls out and reinforces the daily examples within family life, models the behavior that puts compassion into action and seeks out opportunities for children to serve in their communities. Mobile devices and other forms of entertainment hijack our children’s time for reading, particularly nonfiction, which research has shown can cultivate empathy and broaden our ability to put ourselves in the shoes of others.

We could also encourage our children to participate in something out of their areas of strength not to compete or win, but just for the fun of it. Busy lives also squeeze out interactions with others, including relatives, neighbors and folks from the community. Such engagements are the grist that builds relationships.

Am I ready to share in the riches the Lord has prepared?

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 22:1-14

The first part of the Book of Isaiah provides this week’s first reading at Mass. Understanding the cultural, social, political and economic context surrounding the composition of biblical texts always helps to capture their meaning. As a general rule, times were not good for the chosen people. Aside from bursts of prosperity and peace under David and Solomon, they usually had to cope with war, invasion and want, or worse.

Also, usually, the prophets saw little in which they could truly rejoice. Invariably the prophets wrote that human sin, not divine revenge or divine indifference, was the cause of trouble in the world. So, frequently, the prophets counseled the people always to be true to God.

This writing was actually written when times were not all that bad, but dark clouds lay on the horizon. The people were lukewarm in honoring God. Isaiah loudly protested that the sluggishness in religious devotion was a cause of the trouble in the world. So, frequently, the prophets counseled the people always to be true to God.

As parent in a highly competitive culture, it is natural to want to do everything possible within our power, from baby Einstein videos to special lessons, so that our children are not left behind. At the same time, most parents know the need not want to trade character for achievements, butm the exercise of compassion for self-improvement, or encourage cruel behavior as a price for success. It is likely that lost in the daily grind is the mindfulness that continuously prompts the need for kindness, calls out and reinforces the daily examples within family life, models the behavior that puts compassion into action and seeks out opportunities for children to serve in their communities.

Am I ready to share in the riches the Lord has prepared?

HEINITZ, page 17

WOO, page 17
The hollow man

What savagery lies in the breast of many? Two recent television epics ask us to contemplate this question. The first is Ken Burns and Lynn Novick’s magnificent documentary, “The Vietnam War.”

The other epic is the massacre in Las Vegas. A lone gunman used his hotel room as a sniper’s nest, ambushing 22,000 concertgoers. In about 10 minutes of automatic weapons fire, he killed at least 58 people and injured more than 500 others.

And in a final act of cowardice, the murderer took his own life, leaving the survivors and us, the spectators, to ponder his mute brutality.

The massacre pushed everything else off the airwaves. It was the worst (for now) mass killing in modern U.S. history, and we all felt a part of it thanks to countless cellphone videos of the pandemonium that took place.

The problem with what is now becoming America’s seasonal rite of human slaughter by terrorists and madmen is that we have transformed it into spectacle. The news media will not allow the oblique stories tell of victims whose lives have been cut short and the heroes who made all the difference. Politicians wring their hands.

Journalistic sidebars list all the other recent mass killings, and we find ourselves surprised at what we had forgotten—Virginia Tech or the Aurora, Colorado, theater slaughter. The public square transformed into a killing field once again.

And the dead? The dead are so often our young. In a gay nightclub or a college campus, at a country music concert, or a Colorado high school. Our killers slay our future, seeking to hurt us by hurting our most vulnerable.

Having watched hundreds of TV crime dramas, we expect some neat explanation at the end of the reel about why the killer did what he did. He was an Islamic terrorist, a right-wing paranoid, a schizophrenic hearing voices or a lonely psychopath.

We may soon learn what led Stephen Paddock to do what he did that terrible Sunday night in Las Vegas, but for now we know of him seems so unspeakably ordinary.

Here was a man living the dream, or at least the dream as packaged and promoted relentlessly in our consumer culture. Paddock was apparently a millionaire, an accountant, a real estate investor, a high-rolling gambler that the casinos doted on. He was comfortably retired at 64. He collected guns. Gun shop owners said he passed their “smell test,” which of course raises questions about the test. Yet as the layers are peeled back, the dream becomes darker. We glimpse a man with little in the way of human connections.

Saint of the Week

Teresa of Avila

1515-1582
Feast October 15

In Castilian Spain, Teresa was born to a wealthy family and educated in an aristocratic convent. Escaping marriage, she entered the Carmelites in 1536. She began to practice contemplative prayer during a long illness, and grew dissatisfied with the bigness and worldly distractions of her convent. After a “second conversion” in 1555, she founded the reform-minded Discalced Carmelites and wrote several books. For her contribution to mystical theology and Christian spirituality, Teresa was named a doctor of the church in 1970.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for October 15, 2017
Matthew 22:1-14

Following is a word search based on the Gospel for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: a lesson about being prepared for the call. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

JESUS WEDDING MURDERERS STREET A MAN JESUS WEDDING MURDERERS STREET A MAN DARKNESS

GUESTS


Greg Erlandson, director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service, can be reached at gerlandson@catholicnews.com.

HEINTZ, from page 16

to Gandalf the Wizard at the realities he had experienced that had been sung of long before in lore. “You really don’t suppose,” Gandalf admonishes Bilbo, “that all your adventures and escapes were managed by mere luck, just for your sole benefit?” As Catholics, we recognize that God is able to make use of freedom in the service of his plan, and while so many things may to us appear fluky or happenstance, nothing happens apart from the will of God. Each of us, as the wizard tells Mr. Baggins, is “only quite a little fellow in a wide world after all.” What benefits us in this overarching providence is never solely or merely for us. We are part of a larger organism comprised of bodies and souls that St. Paul calls Christ’s body, growing by grace to full stature.

As I concluded the “Return of the King” I felt as though I was saying farewell to friends. From late May to late July, many of these characters had become my companions, and I savored the final pages. Being something of a sentimentalist at heart, I read through teary eyes Gandalf’s words to the members of the fellowship as their venture together drew to an end: “Well, here at last, dear friends, on the shores of the Sea comes the end of our fellowship in Middle-earth. Go in peace. I will not say do not weep: for not all tears are an evil.” Good to know.

Mgr. Michael Heintz is on the faculty at Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md.
NEW YORK (CNS) — The proverbial call of the wild sounds more like a roar in “The Mountain Between Us” (Fox), a trapped-in-the-wilderness survival drama based on the 2011 novel by Charles Martin.

At an Idaho airport, Alex Martin (Kate Winslet) is desperate. The high-strung photojournalist is getting married in New York the next day, but her flight has been canceled due to an approaching storm.

She bumps into dashing surgeon Ben Bass (Idris Elba), who’s in the same predicament. He’s not heading to the altar, but scheduled to perform life-saving surgery.

Alex decides to charter a propeller plane to Denver, where a flight connection to New York awaits. Ben has misgivings about the bumbling pilot, Walter (Beau Bridges), but decides to throw caution to the wind and share the ride. Bad move.

With storm clouds looming, the trio sets off, joined by Walter’s dog. There’s barely time to admire the gorgeous mountain scenery before Walter has a stroke and the plane goes down.

Kate Winslet and Idris Elba star in a scene from the movie “The Mountain Between Us.” The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults.

The film contains a scary airplane crash, moments of peril, a non-graphic sex scene and two profane oaths. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults.

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ROCKFORD — Prayer and a rosary procession and benediction at 10 a.m. will be followed by a candlelight vigil at 8:30 p.m. October 13 p.m. will be followed by a candlelight vigil with an hour of Praise and Worship at 5 p.m. Adoration will conclude at 9 p.m. Confessions will be heard beginning Friday, Oct. 13 at 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 14 at 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sign up at the back of the church. Please contact the parish office for more information.

Parishioner: 4508 Vistula Rd., will offer a raffle to benefit the Parishioner Aid Fund. Tickets are $5 and children under 5 free. For more information, contact the parish office.

Amen.

Blessed Yves, Bishop of Mirepoix, France: "If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world on fire." —St. Catherine of Siena

JLOW's October Sale

The annual October sale will feature a variety of items on sale. For more information, contact the parish office.

Announcements

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

PLYMOUTH — The Knights of Columbus will host a pancake breakfast Sunday, Oct. 15, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 901 E. Jefferson St. Breakfasts are served on the third Sunday of every month. Proceeds go to local charities and fundraisers in Marshall County. Tickets are $5 for adults, $2 children 10 and under. Regular and blueberry pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, French toast and beverages.

DAY OF REFLECTION

MISHAWAKA — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent, 1515 W. Dragoon Wednesday, Oct. 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is “Poetry as Prayer.” Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is $20 and includes lunch. Register with Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at 574-259-8427.

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

GARRETT — St. Joseph Catholic School in Garrett will host a Pumpkin Festival on Sunday, Oct. 15, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the school gym, 300 W. Houston St. Events include a children's carnival with hockey, shuffleboard, pop toss, candy lane, book walk, Pinto, Tic Tac Toe, Ring Around the Pumpkins, football toss and more. A homemade chicken and noodle dinner will be served in the lunchroom in Bennett Hall for $10. Children's meals are $5. Carryout and drive-up service will be offered. A hot dog meal for children will also be available. The Home and School Association raffle will offer tickets for $1 each or 6 for $5. Contestants need not be present to win. Unlimited game wristbands will be available for $10. Individual game tickets cost 25 cents each. Come dressed in a costume and get a $1 discount off a wristband. For more information call 260-357-5157 or visit www.stjosephgarrett.org.

Fall harvest luncheon and card party

FORT WAYNE — Queen of Angels will have a fall harvest luncheon and card party Friday, Oct. 20, from noon to 4 p.m. Join the 50+ group in the Msgr. Faber Activity Center, 1600 W. State Blvd., to play cards or just come and socialize. Doors open at 11 a.m. Cost is $8 per person. Attendance and table prizes. Call Barb at 260-483-4553 for information.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter parish-based weekend

Oct. 20-22

BLUFFTON — Worldwide Marriage Encounter, based weekend Oct. 20-22, will be hosted by the parish. For more information, call 260-857-8276.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter parish-based weekend Oct. 20-22

BLEIFFTON — Worldwide Marriage Encounter of Northern Indiana will be hosting a “Parish-Based” weekend at St. Joseph Parish, 1300 N. Main St. Luncheons and dinner are provided. After the events are over for the day, you return to your home to sleep in your own bed. Visit wmei.org or wwwwm.org to apply or learn more. Contact Greg or Jen at 260-422-0805.

Joey plant sale show

SOUTH BEND — Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish will have a Joey Mart craft show Saturday, Oct. 21, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 6358 Old U.S. 11 South. About 25 vendors with all homemade crafts. Luncheon and bake sale too, including tailgate goodies.
Fort Wayne rapid response network launched to fight unjust treatment of immigrants

BY NICK STUMP

Sunday, Oct. 8, at 2 p.m., a crowd gathered on the lawn at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Fort Wayne. There was a podium, an information table, a poster covered by a shroud of red tissue paper. Only a few chairs were available for a few people who needed them the most. Everyone else stood.

As the news conference began, it became clear why everyone was standing. In fact, the crowd was asked to stand even closer together to demonstrate that nobody should stand alone. That is what the Fort Wayne Solidarity Network is about: standing together in solidarity.

After a collaborative effort to provide information about the Fort Wayne Solidarity Network, two individuals gave testimonies about what they have experienced since the Trump administration announced the rescission of the promises and protections contained in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, known as DACA, and why they feel the Solidarity Network is important. Among them was the pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Fort Wayne, Father Evaristo Olvera, and Lorenza Torrez, who shared with the crowd the deep significance felt by families who perform the sign of the cross every time their children leave the house.

“They do it because they are not sure if they will be able to return to their children at night,” Torrez told the crowd. “They (run a) risk because they need to provide for their families, (so they) drive to work without driver’s licenses, to work without Social Security numbers. They are at risk. That’s why we are here, to join the committee with Audrey so that the people don’t have to be afraid.”

Audrey Davis is the head of social justice ministries for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. This fear, and the desire of people like Davis, Torrez and the other volunteers to alleviate it, is what ultimately gave way to the creation of the Rapid Response Hotline, a 24-hour bilingual life preserver for those who feel threatened by police or Immigration and Customs Enforcement and need help. After calling the number, the closest team of trained volunteers will meet the person’s location “hopefully within five minutes,” said Davis. They will document the incident, provide support for families and connect them to other resources.

When the veil of red tissue paper was removed, the phone number for the hotline – 317-759-9474 – was revealed.

CWA volunteers handed out the contact information as well, and Davis asked everyone present to spread the information to anyone who could use it. With that, the Solidarity Network’s hotline was launched.

“They do it because they are not sure if they will be able to return to their children at night,” Torrez told the crowd. “They (run a) risk because they need to provide for their families, (so they) drive to work without driver’s licenses, to work without Social Security numbers. They are at risk. That’s why we are here, to join the committee with Audrey so that the people don’t have to be afraid.”

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“With this step we look forward to becoming one step closer to building a northeast Indiana culture of encounter and inclusion,” Davis said.

The “mothers,” which is what Davis called the trained volunteers, will also track patterns over time that “could lead to real policy change.”

In the lawsuit, the ACLU said that stories of the impact law enforcement abuse and ICE raids have on families could raise awareness and contribute to change. In addition to responding to the hotline, volunteers will visit and monitor ICE raids and congressional offices in support of victims and push for an end to the practice of separating families.

Of the 800,000 young people who were stripped of their DACA status, 11,000 are Hoosiers and many of them live in Fort Wayne. At a time when their futures are uncertain, when they may be treated unfairly or not fairly, and when families feel the impact law enforcement abuse and ICE raids have on them, the Fort Wayne Solidarity Network intends to be there for them. The group will fight for them legally and spiritually, and will push for a policy that recognizes all families as sacred units.

CONTRACEPTIVES, from page 1

Galveston-Houston, USCBC president, and Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the USCBC’s Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, said the new rule “corrects an anomalous failure by federal regulators that should never have occurred and should never be repeated.”

The church leaders also said the decision to provide the religious and moral exemption to the HHS mandate recognizes the “fairly based and well-founded” objections of organizations and those who run them “who have deeply held religious and moral beliefs that the law must respect.”

Cardinal DiNardo and Bishop Lori said the decision was “good news for all Americans,” noting that a “government mandate that coerces people to make an impossible choice between obeying their consciences and obeying the law to serve the poor is harmful not only to Catholics but to the common good.”

“With this step we look forward to building a northeast Indiana culture of encounter and inclusion,” Davis said.

Michael Warsaw, chairman of the board and CEO of the EWTN Global Catholic Network, said the television network’s legal team would “be carefully considering the exemptions announced today and the impact this may have on our legal challenge to the mandate, but we are optimistic that this news will prove to be a step toward victory for the fundamental freedoms of many Americans.”

Mark Rienzi, senior counsel at Becket, told reporters in a telephone news conference an hour after the rule was released that it is a “common sense and balanced rule and a great step forward for religious liberty.”

He said the rule “carves out a narrow exemption” and keeps the contraceptive mandate in place for those without moral or religious objections to it.

He noted that it does not provide immediate relief for those groups who had challenged it, such as the Little Sisters of the Poor, which Becket represents.

They will “still need relief in courts,” he said, but was confident that it would happen.

“We’ve traveled a long way,” he added, of the multiple challenges to the contraceptive mandate in recent years, which he described as an “unnecessary culture war fight.”

Rienzi noted that the HHS rule could have eliminated the contraceptive mandate completely, but it did not do so. He also said the new rule is open for comments for a 90-day period and will likely face legal challenges, which already began in a lawsuit filed Oct. 6 by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of members of the ACLU and Service Employee International Union-United Health Care Workers West who say they are at risk of losing their contraception coverage because of where they work or attend school.

In the lawsuit, the ACLU said the interim rules violate the establishment clause regarding religion in the First Amendment and the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment in the Constitution “by authorizing and promoting religiously motivated and other discrimination against women seeking reproductive health care.”

Julie Asher contributed to this story.