All Saints Day, a Holy Day of Obligation
Check your local parish for Nov. 1 Mass times

Father Solanus Casey
Beatification imminent for Capuchin priest with local ties
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Preparing for National Vocation Awareness Week
Offer friendship to priests, pope says
Pages 8-9

Catholic Charities responds to a need for counseling
Last in a series
Page 11

Marriage: an icon of God’s love
BY JENNIFER MILLER

Whether one has been married for a single year or for 70, the essential components of a Catholic marriage are the same, timeless virtues. St. Paul articulated those five virtues in a letter to the Corinthians, which constituted the second reading on Sunday, Oct. 22, and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades expounded on them in his homily as he celebrated Mass that morning at St. Matthew Cathedral for couples on the South Bend side of the diocese. Twenty-six couples attended the Mass and were observing their special 25th, 50th, 60th or 70th wedding anniversaries this year.

Bishop Rhoades congratulated the couples, saying, “In joys and in sorrows, you have persevered in love, and so we thank you today for your perseverance, for your witness in the Church to the love of Christ, a love that is permanent and indissoluble. How much our society and culture needs your witness today! You continue to strive, in the words of St. Paul, to “put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.”

“St. Paul invites us to put on a quartet of virtues, five virtues that culminate in his plea to “put on love, … the bond of perfection.” These five virtues are heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience,” he continued, describing the virtues in action and what they could look like in the marital relationship. He offered the example of Mary and Joseph of the Holy Family as an icon of marriage, “with the help of the Lord’s grace.” Also, Bishop Rhoades stated, “He (the Lord) gives us the Eucharist, the sacrament of love, which nourishes us and gives us the strength we need to persevere in love and to...

‘A Catholic Bishop’s Reflection on the Reformation’
BY JODI MARLIN

In light of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation this year, Protestant denominations worldwide have been reflecting on the events, architects and dogmas of their faith. As part of its own observance, Trinity Lutheran Church in Elkhart welcomed Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades to its campus Oct. 23 to present his reflection on the pivotal event in Christian history.

Dialogue between Trinity, which is a Missouri Synod Lutheran church, and the Catholic Church did not begin, but rather continued, with the bishop’s discourse. In 2016, Trinity and St. Pius X Parish in Granger initiated a reciprocal series of Spirit-led discussions, presentations and tours which, the clergy of both entities hoped, would forge fellowship and open communication between the two faith communities and increase understanding among their members.

Trinity’s pastoral team also began to give thought last year to how it would commemorate the anniversary of the Reformation. “We felt strongly that, while we wanted to rejoice in the gifts of our Lutheran tradition, a ‘celebration’ was not quite in order,” Associate Pastor Spencer Mielke recalled. “How does one ‘celebrate’ the division of Christ’s...

All Souls Day Mass
with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades
Thursday, Nov. 2 • Noon to 1 p.m.
Catholic Cemetery
3500 Lake Ave., Fort Wayne

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Signs of the Spirit: App teaches blessings, how to pray in ASL

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When Sister Kathleen Schipani found out she was usually the very first person to teach deaf children to pray, she decided there had to be an app to fix that.

Learning to pray usually happens in the family, when a parent or relative recites the words for grace before meals, asks for blessings or requests guidance or protection, the Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary told Catholic News Service in Rome.

But when a child is born deaf into a hearing family, those kids shouldn’t have to miss out on learning Catholic prayers or religious terms as they learn American Sign Language, she said Oct. 20.

Sister Schipani, who is director of the office for persons with disabilities and the deaf apostolate at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, was in Rome as part of a conference sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization. The gathering Oct. 20-22 was dedicated to sharing best practices in engaging and catechizing persons living with disabilities.

Lots of apps exist for learning ASL, she said, but there is nothing dedicated to religious terms, daily devotions or prayers of blessing, love, thanks and praise. The app meant to fill that gap is called “Religious Signs for Families” and is to be available from the App Store and Google Play in early November.

“The locus of learning your faith starts in the family, so this app is really to provide families with the ability” to foster prayer in the home and bond with each other and with God as they pray in ASL, she said. It also will help teachers who want to teach elementary school students how to pray using sign language.

“Deaf people have deep experiences of prayer,” she said, particularly because it involves praying with “their whole body” with signing and visualization.

“Deaf people have never heard the language that we speak so they are not hearing the little voice in their head like we are,” she said. Instead some people say they pray visually with beautiful imagery or with seeing hands signing in their head.

While sacred music does not have the same ability to draw deaf individuals to prayer, sacred or beautiful art does, she said. “A lot of deaf people have not been catechized because there was no one to sign to them, and that really is what the sad thing is — when there is no opportunity for deaf people to know religious language and have an experience of someone teaching them,” she said.

Sister Schipani said the beautiful thing about sign language is the signs are often “iconic,” reflecting what the thing is and, therefore, they can convey the theology behind the concept.

For example, she said, the sign for “heaven” in the Jewish faith is moving both hands in a way that suggests a semi-circular dome — the heavens — overhead.

In the Christian faith, she said, the sign conveys the canopy of heaven, but with the other hand going through and up, “because we believe that Jesus, our savior, has come and we’re saved so we can have the possibility of entering heaven.”

Note: The app has captions and voiceover in English and Spanish. More information can be found at http://deafcatholicphilly.org/religious-sign-app/.

Relics of St. Padre Pio coming to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

On All Saints’ Day, Nov. 1, Father Joseph Tuscan, a Capuchin Franciscan priest, will celebrate the 5 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. Father Tuscan will use the chalice used by St. Padre Pio. After the Mass, Father Tuscan will give a presentation at 6 p.m. on Padre Pio and will show several of his relics, which the faithful can see and venerate. Besides Padre Pio’s chalice, there will be a relicary with blood from Padre Pio’s stigmata, a pair of his gloves and his altar cross.

As we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints, we are blessed to have the relics of one of the saints of God whose life of holy virtue inspires us in our journey of faith and whose intercession helps us to live holy lives.
Father Solanus Casey beatification will resonate in Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

BY WILLIAM SCHMITT

The Nov. 18 beatification ceremony of Franciscan Father Solanus Casey (1870-1957) in Ford Field in Detroit will convene the faithful from around the world, including many who encountered the holiness of this beloved friar not so long ago, and not so far away.

A contingent from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, along with numerous other individuals, will travel to the Mass, spurred on by the powerful compassion Father Casey exhibited during 10 years of residence in Huntington. The humble Capuchin’s legacy endures today at the city’s St. Felix Catholic Center, reflected in people’s memories of healing and hope, and in organized efforts to spread the word about his lifetime of gratitude to God and urgent concern for the poor and the sick.

“I try to inspire people to seek that knowledge [about Father Casey] so they can love him more and carry on his mission here in our diocese,” said Jan Scher, who directs the Father Solanus Guild-Huntington Extension and provides personal remembrance and prayer support to activities at the St. Felix center. Scher works closely with the guild’s headquarters, the Solanus Casey Center at St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit, encouraging education and various forms of support to advance the day when Father Casey, who now will be called “Blessed,” may be canonized as a saint of the church.

A basic education about Father Casey includes several points. Mediocre grades throughout his years of schooling and formation prompted the Capuchin Franciscans to welcome him as a “simplicex priest” — validly ordained but not permitted to preach or hear confessions. He celebrated his First Mass on July 31, 1904, at St. Joseph Parish in Appleton, Wisconsin.

First assigned to monasteries in the New York area and limited to certain assignments, he embraced the task of doorkeeper. He welcomed and prayed with visitors; he became known as a caring listener who valued each person and offered simple and candid comfort. People sought him out to discuss their sufferings, and many began to report cures of ailments. Regardless of his career prospects, Father Casey became known for his deep devotion to God’s goodness. He is identified with the maxim “Thank God ahead of time” and “Blessed be God in all His designs.”

His reputation — and the quantity of visitors and healings ahead of time” and “Blessed be God in all His designs.”

The portrait of Father Solanus Casey at one of the doors of the St. Felix Friary now hangs inside the former friary.

...continued to grow after he moved to the Detroit monastery in 1924. Father Solanus then became burdened with illness himself, including a painful and debilitating skin disease. To allow him rest from long, difficult days, the Capuchins placed him at St. Felix Friary, the 30-acre Huntington site used as a novitiate, from 1946 to 1954. Then, with his illness worsening, he returned to Detroit. He died on July 31, 1957.

Scher, who was born in Huntington in 1947, pointed to an encounter with Father Casey at St. Felix Friary as the cause for her ongoing zeal. Medical problems threatened Scher’s survival from her infancy, so her faith-filled Catholic parents took her to the friary. Father Casey was still receiving numerous visitors at that time — and corresponding with many others — despite the mandate for his recuperation.

“Father Solanus blessed me, and he said I was going to be fine,” Scher said in a recent interview. She was a baby, so she knows this story from her parents. But a pattern of stories has emerged in her life to prove the point. Despite a range of medical emergencies that could have been fatal, given her weakened condition, Scher said she has survived each trial and has left doctors puzzled.

She pursued a teaching career and has remained a parishioner at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, which was administered by the Capuchins until recently. With profound gratitude to her parents and to Father Casey, she became a strong proponent for the cause of his canonization.

Scher professed as a member of the Secular Franciscan Order, following in her parents’ footsteps. But it wasn’t until 2012 that she was able to follow up with roles at the novitiate site, including the establishment of a Father Solanus Guild extension.

The novitiate had closed in 1978 amid declining vocations. Before long, the site was sold to a Christian denomination that operated it for about three decades. Around 2009, with the aging structure increasing unlikely to survive intact, Father Ron Rieder, the Capuchin Franciscan pastor at the time, of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, showed the site and told the backstory to John Tippmann, a Fort Wayne philanthropist who founded the Mary Cross Tippmann Foundation, named for his mother. The foundation purchased the property and reopened it after extensive renovations spanning a couple of years. The site is now called the St. Felix Catholic Center.

“It was a tremendous blessing from God,” Father Rieder said of the Tippmann Foundations’ investment in the friary. That investment continues today, as the foundation employs a general manager to ensure the site’s upkeep.

The center’s operations have evolved since 2012, and the entire grounds, including the chapel which anchors the large residential structure, are now used frequently for weekend retreats, tours for students, Father Solanus Guild meetings and special days of prayer.

Groups from the diocese reserve weekends far in advance, according to retreat coordinator Gabriela Mayo. Individuals and groups from across the United States and other countries have come to visit the Indiana enclave, drawn largely by the fact that the room Father Casey once occupied has been carefully preserved.

“I’m sure Solanus would be very pleased with the use of [the center] today, knowing there are times of retreat and people stopping in the chapel to pray,” said Brother Richard Merling, national director of the guild and the Detroit-based postulator working with the Vatican on the friar’s steps toward sainthood.

Father Casey did not find at Huntington the physical rest his superiors expected him to receive, because busloads of visitors continued to come; but the former doorkeeper did not complain or turn anyone away. “He loved it down there,” Merling said.

Father Rieder said his time in Huntington allowed him to hear many stories from people whose lives had been touched powerfully by Solanus. The pastor himself, who has retired to Appleton, was also personally touched by witnessing the self-donation and humility that rose above Father Casey’s struggle with disease. The brother Capuchin Franciscans had also both lived at St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit in 1956.

“I was privileged to play the organ at our High Masses in the public chapel, and Solanus would stand next to me every morning, singing,” Father Rieder recalled from his days as a young friar.

He added one of his own stories to the many that can be heard among current and former members of the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocesan family: “I’ll never forget, one day I was on my hands and knees cleaning toilet bowls, and Solanus walked into the bathroom and he said, ‘Oh, are you ever a lucky young man to be able to clean toilets for your brothers.’ That left a great impression on me.”

This iconic photo of Father Solanus Casey at one of the doors of the St. Felix Friary now hangs inside the former friary.

Photos by Gabriela Mayo
Pope names Bishop Joseph M. Siegel to lead Diocese of Evansville

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Francis named Auxiliary Bishop Joseph M. Siegel of Joliet, Illinois, to head the Diocese of Evansville, Indiana.

He succeeds Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, who was appointed in June to lead the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

The appointment was announced in Washington Oct. 18 by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Bishop Siegel, 54, has been vicar general of the Joliet Diocese since 2011. He will be installed as the sixth bishop of Evansville Dec. 15.

"Over the past six years, I have come to appreciate Bishop Siegel’s many gifts and talents," Joliet Bishop R. Daniel Conlon said in a statement. "It has been a blessing to work with him. He has been a great asset to the church of Joliet, both as a priest and a bishop," he said. "I am confident that he will prove to be an effective and loving pastor in Evansville. May God bless him and the people he has been called to serve."

Born July 18, 1963, in Lockport Township, Illinois, Bishop Siegel is the youngest of nine children. He attended Rome’s Pontifical Gregorian University and the Pontifical University of St. Thomas, also known as the Angelicum. He received his license in systematic theology at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois.

He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Joliet in 1988 and served in a number of parishes before being named an auxiliary bishop for the diocese by Pope Benedict XVI Oct. 28, 2009. He was ordained a bishop Jan. 19, 2010, by then-Bishop J. Peter Sartain of Joliet, who is now Seattle’s archbishop.

Bishop Siegel has served as a member and chairman of the priests’ council and was appointed to the diocesan board of directors. He also served as director of continuing formation for priests and as a member of the diocesan vocation board and the priest personnel board.

At the Catholic Conference of Illinois, the public policy arm of the state’s Catholic bishops, he served on the executive committee and was chairman of the Catholics for Life Department.

He chaired the steering committee for the Joliet diocesan Year of the Eucharist and eucharistic congress and has been a member of the Bishops’ Respect Life Advisory Board. He is a fourth-degree Knight of Columbus and a member of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

The Diocese of Evansville covers more than 5,000 square miles. It has a total population of about 513,000; Catholics number just over 76,200, or 15 percent of the population.

Auxiliary Bishop Joseph M. Siegel of Joliet, Ill., has been named by Pope Francis to head the Diocese of Evansville, Ind. He is pictured celebrating Mass at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome in this 2012 file photo.

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception offers thanks

Your Excellency,

Thank you for the generous contribution of $35,625.96 provided by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend toward the Trinity Dome project at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. These proceeds will immediately support the completion of our nation’s preeminent Marian shrine and patronal church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception.

The Trinity Dome will be the crowning jewel and capstone achievement of Mary’s Shrine in preparation for the one hundredth anniversary of the placing of its foundation stone in 2020. Your diocese’s generosity to this historic project at America’s Catholic Church is a testament to a lasting legacy of our faith and heritage for untold generations to come.

With the installation of the mosaic currently on schedule, the dedication of the Trinity Dome is planned for noon on December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast day of our nation and the National Shrine. It is my hope that you will be able to join me in the Great Upper Church of the Basilica on this momentous and historic occasion.

With my deep appreciation for your continued support of Mary’s Shrine and wishing you every blessing in your ministry, I am

Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl
Archbishop of Washington

MARRIAGE, from page 1

our anniversary couples and their families with joy today, the joy of love, the joy of the Gospel, which is the joy of the Church!” Bishop Rhoades said when he offered couples a blessing, which they received. It spoke of the marriage of a man and a woman as a true image of God’s own love.

Giles and Suzanne Horban, of Corpus Christi Parish, found the reminder of God’s presence in the sacrament of marriage especially important. Celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary, they said: “You’re not just married; it is holy matrimony!”

Giles and Suzanne both attended 8 a.m. Mass every day for years, they said, and prayed to meet a couple. Giles went to Rochester while Suzanne resided in South Bend. They met after he put an advertisement in the Peninsular, which Suzanne read and felt in her heart. “There is just something about it — and he said he was Catholic!” They now have seven children, ages 8 to 23, four of whom joined them for the special wedding anniversary Mass.

The Horbans found Bishop Rhoades’ homily to be true in their own life experience. “He has a short memory for what I do wrong, and I sit back and listen when he talks. I don’t need to bring up old, other stuff. We remember. ‘We are going to make this work.’

Giles surprised his wife this June with a special vow renewal and party at their parish, with their friends and family in attendance, as well as a beautiful afternoon in the mother’s yard with birthday cakes of each of their children and a diamond in the middle.
Groups settle in lawsuit against HHS contraceptive mandate

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Dozens of Catholic groups that challenged the federal contraceptive mandate of the Affordable Care Act have reached a settlement with the U.S. Justice Department, they announced late Oct. 16. The groups, including the Archdiocese of Washington and the Pennsylvania dioceses of Greensburg, Pittsburgh and Erie, were represented by the Cleveland-based law firm Jones Day.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend was among those filing suit, accompanied by Catholic Charities of Fort Wayne-South Bend, St. Anne Home & Retirement Community of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Franciscan Alliance Inc., University of Saint Francis and Our Sunday Visitor Inc.

Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl wrote an Oct. 16 letter to archdiocesan priests saying the “binding agreement” ends the litigation challenging the Health and Human Services’ mandate and provides a “level of assurance as we move into the future.”

The mandate went to the Supreme Court last year in the consolidated case of Zubik v. Burwell. Although it was most often described as the Little Sisters of the Poor fighting against the federal government, the case before the court involved seven plaintiffs and each of these combined cases represented a group of schools, churches or church-sponsored organizations.

Pittsburgh Bishop David A. Zubik, whom the case is named for, said he was grateful for the settlement, which he described as an “agreement with the government that secures and reaffirms the constitutional right of religious freedom.”

In an Oct. 17 statement, the bishop said the diocese’s five-year-long challenge to the mandate “has been resolved successfully” allowing Catholic Charities in the diocese and other religious organizations of different denominations to be exempt from “insurance coverage or practices that are morally unacceptable.”

He said the settlement follows the recent release of new federal regulations that provide religious organizations with a full exemption from covering items that violate their core beliefs.

On Oct. 6, the Trump administration issued interim rules expanding the exemption to the contraceptive mandate to include religious employers who object on moral grounds to covering contraceptive and abortion-inducing drugs and devices in their employee health insurance. The same day, the U.S. Department of Justice issued guidance to all administrative agencies and executive departments regarding religious liberty protections in federal law.

Cardinal Wuerl said in his letter to priests that the new guidelines and regulations were “extremely helpful,” but that the settlement of the Zubik litigation adds a “levelling of certainty moving forward. It removes doubt where it might otherwise exist as it closes those cases.”

“The settlement adds additional assurances,” he added, “that we will not be subject to enforcement or imposition of similar regulations imposing such morally unacceptable mandates moving forward.”

The cardinal thanked the Jones Day law firm for its legal representation in the case and thanked Catholics for their prayers and support for the petitioners in the long legal fight.

Thomas Aquinas College of Santa Paula, California, one of the groups that fell under the Washington archdiocese’s challenge of the HHS mandate to the Supreme Court, similarly thanked the law firm Jones Day for representing the school pro bono.

The school’s president, Michael McLean, said in an Oct. 16 statement that as part of the settlement, the government will pay a portion of the legal costs and fees incurred by the law firm.

He said the college welcomed the broadening of the exemption from the HHS mandate by the Trump administration in early October but he similarly said the settlement of the case provides “something even better: a permanent exemption from an onerous federal directive — and any similar future directive — that would require us to compromise our fundamental beliefs.”

“This is an extraordinary outcome for Thomas Aquinas College and for the cause of religious freedom,” he added.

The school’s statement said according to the terms of the settlement, the government concedes that the contraceptive mandate “imposes a substantial burden” on the plaintiffs’ exercise of religion and “cannot be legally enforced” under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

The contraceptive mandate, in place since 2012, required all employers to provide contraceptive coverage in their employer insurance. Last year when opposition to this mandate came to the Supreme Court, the justices 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.

Erie Bishop Lawrence T. Persico, representing one of the groups that challenged the mandate, said in an Oct. 17 statement that it has been “difficult for people to understand that this lawsuit was not just about contraceptives.

“The real issue,” he said, “was the government attempting to narrow the definition of freedom of religion, using the HHS mandate to exempt only a small subset of religious employers. Churches were declared exempt, but their hospitals, Catholic Charities agencies, schools, and universities were not.”

The bishop said he was pleased with the settlement particularly because the church continues to assert that all of its ministries “are inextricably tied to the practice of our faith.”

This report was amended to include information about the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend’s participation in the suit.

Mark Zimmermann, editor of the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington, contributed to this report.

Please join us as we celebrate the Blessing and Official Opening of the Divine Mercy Funeral Home, beginning with...

All Soul’s Day Mass
Thursday, November 2, Noon
The Catholic Cemetery’s Outdoor Altar
Officiated by The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Divine Mercy Funeral Home Blessing and Official Opening
Thursday, November 2
Following the All Soul’s Day Mass.

Public Open House
Saturday, November 4, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Join us for a public Open House to celebrate the opening of the Divine Mercy Funeral Home. Tours will be conducted throughout the day and a small momento will be offered to attendees while supplies last. All are welcome.

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Divine Mercy Catholic Cemetery

Blessing and Official Opening of Divine Mercy Cemetery
Thursday, November 2
All are welcome.

www.divinemercyfuneralhome.org
Senate confirms Callista Gingrich as U.S. ambassador to the Holy See

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Senate confirmed Callista Gingrich as the new U.S. ambassador to the Holy See. Voting late Oct. 16, senators approved her nomination 70-23. More than 20 Democrats joined Republicans in supporting Gingrich, the wife of former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a vocal ally of President Donald Trump. Gingrich, 51, a lifelong Catholic and a former congressional aide, has been president of Gingrich Productions, a multimedia production and consulting company in Arlington, Virginia, since 2007. She was expected to present her credentials at the Vatican in the coming weeks. Gingrich's associates welcomed the vote. Among them was Msgr. Walter R. Rossi, rector of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, where Gingrich has been a longtime member of the choir. "Callista has been part of our shrine family for two decades and so, as any family rejoices when good news arrives, we rejoice with Callista," Msgr. Rossi said in an Oct. 17 statement. "Both Callista and Speaker Gingrich are wonderful supporters of our ministry here ata Monsignor's, most especially our music program."

Pope condemns deadly terrorist attack in Somalia

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis prayed for the victims of a terrorist attack in Mogadishu, Somalia, that left hundreds dead and countless wounded in one of the deadliest attacks in the country's history. Before concluding his weekly general audience Oct. 18, the pope expressed his sorrow and condemned the "massacre which caused more than 300 deaths, including several children. This terrorist act deserves the fiercest condemnation, especially because it victimizes people that are already so tried," the pope said. Mogadishu entered chaos Oct. 14 when a minivan and a truck carrying military grade explosives exploded near a security checkpoint. Investigators believe the attackers were targeting a heavily guarded compound that housed many embassies, United Nations' offices and African Union peacekeeping forces.

Italian priest kidnapped in Nigeria freed

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Italian Father Maurizio Pallu, who was kidnapped by several gunmen in Nigeria and held captive for nearly a week, was freed Oct. 17. Father Pallu, a 65-year-old missionary affiliated with the Neocatechumenal Way, and a group of pilgrims were on their way to Mass in Benin City Oct. 12 when they were ambushed. The priest told the Italian website Vatican Insider that contrary to initial reports, two members of the group were taken hostage. "We were very scared, especially the two young people who were with me—a young man employed by the parish and a female student, both from Nigeria, both very young," Father Pallu told Vatican Insider Oct. 18. Under guard, "we walked for several hours, hoping that someone would notice us," he said. "Instead, we were taken to an isolated place."

Bishops' migration chairman asks for extension of immigration status

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The head of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration said some migrants from Honduras and El Salvador cannot safely return to their home countries in the near future and should have a special immigration permit extended. The U.S. government will consider in early November whether to extend, for some migrants hailing from the two countries, what's known as Temporary Protected Status, or TPS. The designation is for those who come to the U.S. from certain countries because of a natural disaster, continuing armed conflict or other extraordinary conditions. The status for Honduras and El Salvador is set to expire in early 2018. "There is ample evidence to suggest that current TPS recipients from Honduras and El Salvador cannot return safely to their home country at this time," said Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration. He cited a report issued by bishops' Office of Migration and Refugee Services titled "Temporary Protected Status: A Vital Piece of the Central American Protection and Prosperity Puzzle." The report recommends that the U.S. government extend TPS for some 257,000 people from El Salvador and Honduras in the U.S., who currently have a work permit and reprieve from deportation.

Pope urges Christians to think about what they say in the Our Father

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To pray the Lord's Prayer and believe what one is reciting takes real courage, Pope Francis said. One must be bold — to truly believe that God is the father who accompanies me, forgives me, gives me bread, is attentive to everything I ask," Pope Francis said in a filmed conversation about the Our Father. The Italian bishops' television station, TV2000, was to begin airing a nine-part series Oct. 28 featuring Pope Francis' conversation with Father Marco Pozza, an Italian prison chaplain and theologian. A long trailer for the program was released Oct. 18.

New shrine enables Catholics to renew devotion to Fatima, says bishop

CHARLES TOWN, W.Va. (CNS) — A new shrine to Our Lady of Fatima in West Virginia invites Catholics "to live the Fatima message with renewed commitment and gives us the means to do so," said Bishop Michael J. Bransfield of Wheeling-Charleston. The new shrine next to St. James Church in Charles Town will enable Catholics "to pray the rosary with greater devotion and to be renewed in our dedication to the Immaculate Heart of Mary," the bishop said at the congregation at Mass Oct. 14. Following the liturgy, he dedicated the new shrine. Hundreds gathered for a moment long anticipated by the parish community including many from the surrounding area and Virginia, who began the day by gathering in the new shrine to pray the rosary that morning. They then proceeded to the church, where Bishop Bransfield celebrated the special Mass with area priests concelebrating.

Martyred Spanish Claretians offered culture of peace, says cardinal

BARCELONA, Spain (CNS) — More than a hundred Spanish Claretian missionaries were beatified as Catholic martyrs, eight decades after they were killed during their country's 1936-39 civil war. "During the last century, Spanish religious persecution became a virulent epidemic of death and destruction, leaving thousands and thousands of defenseless, innocent victims behind," said Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Vatican’s Congregation for Saints’ Causes, at an Oct. 21 beatification Mass at Sagrada Familia basilica. "Faced by this devastating tsunami, these 109 Claretian religious reacted with the effective weapon of charity and forgiveness. To those wishing to annihilate the Christian presence in Spain, the martyrs responded by forgiving, praying and calling, "We are not afraid."

October 29, 2017
Ancilla College
Changing Lives Scholarship Dinner

DONALDSON — The fifth annual Changing Lives Scholarship Dinner will be at 6 p.m. Nov. 10 at Swan Lake Resort. A variety of silent and live auction items will be available to bid on during the evening, including two trips, a chef-prepared meal for 10 in the winner’s home and tickets to a variety of athletic events.

The evening will include presentation of two of the college’s highest honors — the Ancilla Award and the Sister Mary Dolores Outstanding Alumni Award. The Oliver Ford family will receive the Ancilla Award. The family has been a generous supporter of Ancilla College for many years and continues to be a big part of the Ancilla and Plymouth communities.

The Sister Mary Dolores Outstanding Alumni Award will be presented to Jill Neidlinger (AC’89). She graduated from Ancilla in 1989, received her bachelor’s degree in 1992 from Indiana University and became a full-time faculty member at Ancilla in 2005, after receiving her master’s degree in education from Olivet Nazarene.

Current students will be seated with attendees and will share how scholarships have impacted their education at Ancilla College. Two students will offer testimonials about their experiences.

Music for the evening will be provided by pianist Andrew Jennings. The silent auction will be held until 7:45 p.m., with the live scholarship auction starting at 8:30 p.m.

Holy hour for Our Lady of Fatima

The staff and students of St. Mary of the Assumption School, Avilla, participated in the Worldwide Children’s Holy Hour on Oct. 13 to honor the 100th anniversary of Fatima. The school family gathered and held a prayer service that included a rosary, led by members of the student council, and benediction. Three students depicted, from left, St. Francisco, St. Jacinta and Lucia, the three children with whom Our Lady shared her message.

Serran support for seminarians

The Serra Club of South Bend sold Father’s Day cards in June at seven South Bend parishes to raise money to support the Seminarian Educational Fund of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. A few members of the club were able to meet with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in August to present him with a check for $2,650, generated by the sales. Pictured, from left, are Ray and Susan Vales, Bishop Rhoades, Frances Sain and Ted Niezer.

'Neigh'bors visit St. John School

Students at St. John School in New Haven were greeted by a couple of horseback riders one morning in October during the school’s annual book fair. The live props played right into the Wild West theme of this year’s fair. Zachary Coyle, principal, along with Maggie Tippmann, seventh grade teacher, were responsible for rounding-up the equestrian excitement, which was graciously provided by the Tim and Amy Tippmann family.
‘Siempre Adelante’: The courage of vocation

VATICAN CITY — On June 23, Pope Francis spoke on the subject of vocations before participants of the 75th Convention of Serra International, who were received in an audience. The organization is devoted to fostering and supporting vocations to the priesthood. Following is the content of the pope’s address.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am pleased to greet all of you. From throughout the world you have gathered for this International Convention, which has as its theme: “Siempre adelante! The courage of vocation.”

The joy of the Gospel, and with that boldness typical of the Christian mission, you have gathered here to discover anew, at the school of the Master, the meaning of every Christian vocation: to offer our lives as a gift, “anointing” our brothers and sisters with the tenderness and mercy of God. I thank Mr. Dante Vannini, the President of Serra International, for his kind words. I would like to reflect on something he said which, I believe, is central to the experience of faith: to be friends.

To be friends to priests, sustaining their vocation and accompanying them in their ministry: with this great gift you enrich the Church! This is, above all else, what a Serra is — a “special friend” whom the Lord has brought into the lives of seminarians and priests.

Today the word “friend” has become a bit overused. In our daily lives, we run into various people whom we call “friends,” but that is just a word. Within virtual communications, “friend” is one of the most frequently found words. Yet we know that one who has knowledge has little to do with that experience of encounter or closeness evoked by the word “friend.”

When Jesus speaks of his “friends,” He points to a hard truth: true friendship involves an encounter that draws me so near to the other person that I give something of my very self. Jesus says to His disciples: “No longer do I call you servants… but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you” (Jn 15:15). He thus establishes a new relationship between man and God, one that transcends the law and is grounded in trust and love.

At the same time, Jesus frees friendship from sentimentalism and presents it to us as a responsibility that embraces our entire life: “Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (Jn 15:13).

We become friends, then, only if our encounter is more than something outward or formal, and becomes instead a way of sharing in the life of another person, an experience of compassion, a relationship that involves giving ourselves for others.

It is good for us to reflect on what friends do. They stand at our side, gently and tenderly, along our journey; they listen to us closely, and can see beyond mere words; they are merciful when faced with our faults; they are non-judgmental. They are able to walk with us, helping us to feel joy in knowing that we are not alone. They do not always indulge us but, precisely because they love us, they honestly tell us when they disagree. They are there to pick us up whenever we fall.

This is the also the kind of friendship that you seek to offer to priests. The Serra Club helps foster this beautiful vocation of being lily who are friends to priests. Friends who know how to accompany and sustain them in faith, in fidelity to prayer and apostolic commitment. Friends who share the wonder of vocation, the courage of an definitive decision, the joy and fatigue of ministry. Friends who can offer priests support and regard for their various efforts and human failings with understanding and tender love. In this way, you are to priests like the home of Bethany, where Jesus entrusted his weariness to Martha and Mary, and, thanks to their care, was able to find rest and energy.

There is another phrase that describes you. You chose it for the theme of this convention: “Siempre adelante!” Keep moving forward! Like you, I believe that this is a synonym for the Christian vocation. For the life of every missionary disciple bears the impress of his or her vocation. The voice of the Lord invites his disciples to leave the safety of their homeland and to begin the “holy journey” towards the promised land of encounter with him and with our brothers and sisters. Vocation is an invitation to look to oneself, to rejoice in our relationship with the Lord, and to journey along the ways that he opens up before us.

Of course, we cannot make progress unless we take a risk. We do not advance toward the goal if, as the Gospel says, we are afraid to lose our lives (cf. Mt 16:25-26). No ship would ever set out into the deep if it feared leaving the safety of the harbour. So too, Christians cannot enter into the transforming experience of God’s love unless they are open to new possibilities, and not tied to their own plans and cherished ways of doing things. Pastoral structure. It is better to go forward limping, and even at times to...
Every vocation changes our plans, disclosing a new one, and it is astonishing to see how much inner help God gives us.

**ST. POPE JOHN PAUL II**

A vocation is a calling received from another. It entails letting go of ourselves, setting out and placing ourselves at the service of a greater cause. In humility, we become co-workers in the Lord’s vineyard, renouncing every spirit of possession and vainglory. How sad it is to see that at times we, men and women of the Church, do not know how to cede our place. We do not let go of our responsibilities serenely, but find it hard to hand over to others the works that the Lord had entrusted to us!

So you too, siempre adelante! With courage, creativity and boldness, do not be afraid to renew your structures. Do not rest on your laurels, but be ever ready to try new things. As in the Olympic Games, may you always be ready to “pass the torch,” above all to future generations, knowing that the flame is lit from on high, precedes our response and exceeds our efforts. Such is the Christian mission: “One sows and another reaps” (Jn 4:37).

Dear brothers and sisters, I encourage you to be true friends to seminarians and priests, showing your love for them by promoting vocations and through prayer and pastoral cooperation. Please, keep pressing forward. Forward in hope, forward with your mission, ever looking beyond, opening new horizons, making room for the young and preparing the future. The Church and priestly vocations need you. May Mary Most Holy, Mother of the Church and Mother of priests, be with you every step of the way. And I ask you, please, to pray for me!

So you too, siempre adelante! With courage, creativity and boldness. Do not be afraid to renew your structures. Do not rest on your laurels, but be ever ready to try new things. As in the Olympic Games, may you always be ready to “pass the torch,” above all to future generations, knowing that the flame is lit from on high, precedes our response and exceeds our efforts. Such is the Christian mission: “One sows and another reaps” (Jn 4:37).

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Every vocation changes our plans, disclosing a new one, and it is astonishing to see how much inner help God gives us.

**ST. POPE JOHN PAUL II**

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA
St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel
with Fr. Jonathan Norton

Please, come and pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.
Listening to God in the stillness: a vocation story

BY SISTER FAUSTINA MARIA PIA BIANCHI, SV

CNS — A few years ago I came across a paper I wrote in high school. The topic was, “If you were a pilgrim in ‘The Canterbury Tales,’ what would be said of you?”

As a 15-year-old girl, I did not write about career aspirations or goals. I simply wrote that I had fallen madly in love with the man of my dreams and that was who I was. How telling.

I grew up the youngest in a large Catholic family who in the midst of joys and difficulties prayed together and planted deep seeds of faith in my heart. Yet, in the midst of the secular culture, I struggled to know if the living of my faith would rob me in some way of my own happiness. I had to give God every one of my desires for marriage and children, to be this kind of nurse, to travel, to have this kind of car, etc.

As I finished giving him each one, I experienced in my heart a stillness that I had never experienced before. I heard a voice within me say, “I want you for myself.” I felt his love for me, that he was choosing me. And I thought, if you love me like this, you love me. I said yes to him that night, and I started to see beauty that I had never seen before. I heard a voice with me, clear in my heart like the beauty of my travels.

Over time, however, my life became increasingly about uncertainty, he mentioned to me, “We’re all sick and dying.” It hit me. My heart was made to be a vessel of his life and love to all I encounter. And in that moment I knew that so captivating Creator who sees in me the beauty that I wanted to experience the gift of consecrated life. Spending time with Jesus in silent prayer, adoration, daily Mass and frequent confession turns up the volume to his voice within our hearts and more clearly reveals his love and plan.

I’m still a pilgrim on the way. Every day I am taken deeper and am happy to lose myself in this love, where I know I’ve been found.

Sister Faustina Maria Pia is a Sister of Life. Visit www.sistersoflife.org. Faith Alive! is a monthly column provided by Catholic News Service.
Catholic Charities’ place in the philanthropic community

Providing local, Catholic solutions to complex human problems

BY GLORIA WHITCRAFT

Editor’s Note: This is the last in a series of articles about Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and its role as the social-service arm of the Catholic Church.

Many ask, what sets Catholic Charities apart from other philanthropic organizations in our community? This is the question addressed in this series.

First, it is important to know that Catholic Charities is guided by Catholic social teaching, which instructs it to view those it serves in their full humanity — that is, as people who have both great needs and great potential.

As a result, Catholic Charities strives to be a model of God’s love and mercy, offering true compassion to those in need while empowering them physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually to live as full a life as their capabilities will allow.

Many Catholic Charities clients are facing some short-term crisis in meeting basic needs, such as adequate food, clothing or shelter. The organization refers to this initial intervention as a Phase 1 Service (see the Service Pyramid), which typically lasts less than one year.

However, the real focus of its work is why someone comes to Catholic Charities under such circumstances. Those unmet basic needs are often symptomatic of more complex, long-term issues that prevent them from moving ahead in their lives. These secondary interventions are described as Phase 2 Services, which often require years of professional support to address successfully.

Failure to confront long-term issues can have dire social and personal consequences. Consider those who are in need of professional counseling for emotional, psychological or mental health reasons. Without these vital services, a marriage might end in divorce or a student might face expulsion from school.

Many parish priests in the diocese tell Catholic Charities that their greatest need is for trustworthy, professional counselors to whom they can refer parishioners, school children and families. To address this need, it has recently added clinical liaison Jess Adams, whose job is to work directly with the parish priest or his designee to secure counseling services for the individual or family involved. It is important to note that Adams only works directly with the priest.

So many of the vulnerable in communities within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend still have complex needs beyond food, clothing and shelter. It is Catholic Charities’ mission to address the long-term issues they face, so they can live up to their God-given potential.

Professional counseling is one more way they strengthen families and alleviate poverty.

Meet Jess Adams, clinical liaison

Jess Adams is the newest addition to the Catholic Charities staff. She serves in a brand-new role deemed vital by many priests: clinical liaison. When it was discovered from surveys, interviews and research that mental health services were a great need, the clinical liaison position was created. Adams’ position serves as the first step in responding to the many counseling needs identified in local parishes and Catholic schools.

Every week parish priests and school staff encounter many families, some of whom desperately need more help than they can give. As a result, they see a great demand for professional counselors. Many of the families have complex, ongoing problems, such as marital and parenting issues.

The most important thing is that the priest can trust the counselor,” said Adams. “So, my job is to connect people with those counselors who will always approach a case from a Catholic point of view.”

To understand how this works, consider the fictional Mr. and Mrs. Smith. They go to their pastor seeking help with their marriage. He observes that the two are struggling with communication and would like to refer them to a qualified professional. Most importantly, he wants to make certain this counselor understands and honors the Catholic point of view of marriage as a sacrament.

After receiving the referral from the priest or his designee, Adams will contact the party to discuss their needs. She may ask if they have a preference for a male or female counselor, or perhaps one who speaks Spanish.

With this information, she will seek out the right fit for their circumstances.

“People want someone they can open up to with the most personal details of their lives,” said Adams. “It’s my job to match them with a professional who is both competent and trustworthy.”

The clinical liaison position provides the diocese’s priests with ongoing support when they need assistance accessing community mental health resources for their parish or school families. Catholic Charities sees this as a vital service so that the church can better respond to the emotional, psychological and spiritual needs of Catholics in the diocese. Long term, the agency hopes to develop a broader array of counseling.

Gloria Whitcraft is CEO of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.
Making and renewing vows

L ast week a friend invited my wife and me to join them in celebrating the 50th anniversary of her perpetual vows. It was a simple but moving ceremony. There was a Mass with guests and a number of members of her religious community. At the offertory, she renewed her vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and hospitality.

I found my mind wandering back to 1967 when she first made them. The world around us was in turmoil. That turmoil, our friend had set her life on a path that led straight from that day to this.

Taking these vows must have seemed at the time like Coré’s scuttling his ships at Veracruz. She was staking everything on a cause, with no possibility of turning back.

Religious vocations are a rarer thing today than they were then. The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate reports that the number of religious sisters in the United States peaked in 1965 at 181,421. Today there are fewer than 50,000.

I think one reason for this is that we have a hard time comprehending the possibility of perpetual vows. They seem to be at odds with the modern understanding of human nature.

“The heart wants what it wants,” Woody Allen once said. “There’s no logic to those things. You meet someone and you fall in love and that’s that.”

In this view of things, desire is the engine that moves us.

We don’t control it by an exercise of will. We might, through reason and effort, choose the means of getting what we want. But as for what that is, that’s for the heart to say.

There is no point in renewing vows, because we can’t maintain them against a wayward heart. Better to recognize that psychological fact and leave ourselves some space to change.

Vows are ill-suited to the modern dispensation. The second reason. They are promises we make to God. They are not like oaths, which call on God to witness to the truth of what we say. That is a practice we lawyers are familiar with.

Vows, though, are like prayers or acts of adoration. What we offer up is our perseverance.

And the point of the offering is not to concentrate the mind or to devote fuller attention to the projects of the order (for those who take them upon joining a religious community). It is to acknowledge that God owns us, body and soul, and that we want to give him all we have as an act of worship.

We are extending vows these days for the same reason we don’t pray. When Pope Benedict XVI visited Catholic University in 2008, he spoke with the bishops of the United States and answered some questions. One of them was about the decline in religious vocations.

He said that the solution to that problem was prayer. Not prayer for vocations, as we might think, but rather teaching young people to pray. It’s a short step from prayer to vows.

The wonderful thing about our friend’s celebration was not just that she had made her vows, but that she had kept them. No doubt there were times during the last half-century when she wobbled or wondered about her commitment. Taking vows seriously, as she no doubt did, does stiffen one’s resolve.

But the odd and wonderful thing about offering God our perseverance is that he will answer our prayers by helping us live up to our promises.

John Garvey is the president of The Catholic University of America.

How one young activist thinks about social justice

A s a college student, I spent much of my time deliberating the great questions of our day, not least among them: the limp salad or the pizza?

Shredded carrots and dressing could spruce up the former, the latter’s grease I could dab off.

But increasingly, the minimal effort required to render the inedible appealing is daunting enough that I choose not to eat at all. It’s a pathetic defeat. I’m not blind to the privilege of a cafeteria at my disposal, but I know that neither will satisfy my hunger.

Young Catholics today find themselves in a similar type of political cafeteria of options ranging from unsavory to utterly unfit for consumption. The preparatory groundwork for the current national youth discussion on the despairs that arises from this situation, naming young people’s “resignation of faith in their will to desire” in the face of the causes they wish to champion. In my experience, this fatigue is traced to the fear that embracing one movement means abandoning others.

Our current political atmosphere forces us to choose which demographic plights we find most compelling: Will we vote to support the unborn, people of color, women, people experiencing poverty or immigrants and refugees?

Suffering does not discriminate. But neither does the love of the cross. Poor options in the voting booth highlight the line between the issues we feel passion about and the people we feel compassion toward.

My peers and I reject this equivocation. We are too sensitive to hypocrisy. Social media has afforded us interconnectedness and access to information. False dilemmas threaten our desire for consistency and truth.

Thankfully, there is an antidote: the whole-life perspective. Also known as the “consistent-life ethic” or the “seamless-garment approach,” it is the unavowed belief that life is inherently valuable and worthy of protection. Many consider it the natural progression of the pro-life movement because it points beyond the symptomatic issues of the culture of death to their causes: poverty, forced migration, and lack of education and health care.

When my peers and I look at the issue of abortion, we look to the whole-life perspective, the one that might drive a woman to conclude that she has no other choice. What societal structures require reform (maternity leave, child care, etc.)?

Love others the way you love the Lord

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 22:34-40

T he Book of Exodus provides this weekend with its first reading. In ancient Jewish tradition, Exodus came from Moses. Therefore, in a most special way, it is the very word of God, since Moses represented God and was the link between God and the chosen people. Through Moses, God gave to the Hebrews directions for every aspect of their lives. This weekend’s reading from Exodus addresses certain very specific realities in life, such as the handing of money.

Primary in the Hebrew religion, from the beginning, was a respect for each person; a respect founded on the notion of God as creator and final governor of human lives. Every person has the right to be respected and treated justly. No one can be exploited or mistreated, not even strangers, not even enemies. Of course, the details are important, but even more important is total human obedience to God and to God’s law.

For the second reading, the church presents a reading from St. Paul’s First Epistle to the Thessalonians. In this epistle, the apostle Paul’s advice is firm. He urges obedience to God, without exception, compromise or qualification.

Paul offers his own devotion to the Lord as an example. For Paul, all his joys bring him to the Apostle insists. Bearing witness to Christ — evangelization, to use a theological term often applied in modern times — is an opportunity for Christians.

Paul urged the Christian Thessalonians to be a model for the people of Macedonia and Achaia. He tells the Thessalonians that their faith, their turning away from idols, was an inspiration to many. St. Matthew’s Gospel provides the last reading. It is a familiar and beloved text.

Often seen as an effort to trick Jesus, the question of the Pharisees in this story may have had a more pragmatic purpose. The Pharisees were teachers, constantly instructing others about the law of Moses and constantly calling others to obey this law. Reducing any teaching to a summary is always a good educational technique.

Even so, good will cannot be assumed without any other possibility. After all, many Pharisees disliked Jesus and would have liked to discredit the Lord’s message if at all possible.

And the Lord’s reply is obvious. It certainly is no departure from or belittlement of Jewish religious tradition, since it echoes ancient and fundamental Jewish belief.

More broadly, the Lord’s lesson is directly to point to the Supreme. God is supreme. The true disciple must reach every decision with wisdom.

We don’t make vows these days for the same reason we don’t pray. When Pope Benedict XVI visited Catholic University in 2008, he spoke with the bishops of the United States and answered some questions. One of them was about the decline in religious vocations.

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But the odd and wonderful thing about offering God our perseverance is that he will answer our prayers by helping us live up to our promises.
George Weigel’s ‘Lessons in Hope’

George Weigel’s latest book, “Lessons in Hope: My Unexpected Life with St. John Paul II,” is the third panel in a great triptych he has composed in honor of the most consequential Catholic figure of the second half of the 20th century. While the first two books — “Witness to Hope: My Life Story” and “The End and the Beginning” — are marked by careful analysis and thousands of footnotes, this last volume is more personal, filled with anecdotes and stories about the author’s many encounters with John Paul over the years. Taken as a whole, it is a magnum opus, a reflection on the saintly pope’s observation that, in the final analysis, there are no coincidences, but rather only features of the divine providence over which we have not yet fully understood.

Weigel shows the intertwining of his own life and John Paul’s as an operation of grace that he has served — as is always the case when grace is in play — to benefit both men.

His distant preparation for the encounter with John Paul commenced with his studies in philosophy as a young man. The introduction to the great Western philosophical tradition enabled him, many years later, to understand the work of a pope whose mind was formed in the same way by Thomist metaphysics and the phenomenological method of Edmund Husserl. The apprenticeship continued with Weigel’s immersion in the Sturm und Drang of the post-conciliar scene in both America and Canada. Many intellectuals at the time were convinced that Vatican II represented, at best, a promising first step toward the full modernization of the church. Their program, as it were, proposed radical accommodation to the current scene, not so much a “reading of the signs of the times” as a surrender to them. The deficiencies of the liberal theology of the 1970s caused Weigel to take a deeper look at the thought of Henri de Lubac, Hans Urs von Balthasar, and Joseph Ratzinger, three men who felt that the post-conciliar conversation had gone off the rails and who would play a pivotal role in the papacy of John Paul II.

A final and crucial propaedeutic to telling the story of John Paul was Weigel’s deep immersion in the political and intellectual culture of Poland in the years following the victory of 1989. Interviewing eclesiastics, politicians, labor union leaders, artists and ordinary folks, Weigel heard, over and again, that the key to understanding the transformation of life in Poland was the visit of John Paul to his home country in 1979. Speaking in public of God, of human rights, of sin and redemption, of the Incarnation and eternal life, John Paul, during that historic pilgrimage, awakened the Polish people to their own desire for that most fundamental of freedoms: religious liberty. The cry, “We want God! We want God! We want God!” echoing for 15 minutes in the central square of Warsaw during John Paul’s homily gave expression to the aspirations of oppressed people throughout Eastern Europe and proved to be the beginning of the end of Soviet Communism.

The combination of these experiences was preparing Weigel for the fateful dinner that he would share in 1995 with Richard John Neuhaus, papal secretary Stanislaw Dziwisz, and John Paul II himself. Having read Weigel’s treatment of the Polish revolution of 1989, the pope was convinced that the youngish American scholar was the right person to compose the definitive biography. With some gentle prompting and encouragement from Neuhaus, the pope, as it were, popped the question, and Weigel knew that his life would never be the same. One might think that the account of the composition of this enormous study would be a tad dry. On the contrary, Weigel’s anecdotes of interviews with some of the most significant figures in the Vatican are fascinating, and his stories of conversations with many of the pope’s Polish colleagues, especially the members of his original youth group in Kraków, are deeply moving and often quite funny. Though he explored this theme in the previous two books on John Paul, Weigel brings out with particular clarity in this volume how the pope’s original vision of saving the world was the most striking example.

In the second half of “Lessons in Hope,” Weigel several times described the stories and dinners that he shared with John Paul and his inner circle. Marked by prayer, good food and wine, the speaking of a variety of languages, lots of laughter, a rich exchange of ideas and vibrant discussion of the latest cultural trends, these meals served, it seems to me, as a symbol of John Paul’s vibrant papacy. Precisely because he was an ardent disciple of Jesus Christ, John Paul was a passionate humanist. His favorite passage from the Vatican II document “Gaudium et Spes,” cited again and again in his papal writings, is “The truth is that only in the mystery of the Incarnate Word does the mystery of man take on light.” It was the pope’s Christian faith that enabled him, at a crucial moment in modern history, to propose to the world a correct and liberating anthropology. Through the grace of God, George Weigel was uniquely positioned to tell that story.

Scripture Search

Gospel for October 29, 2017

Matthew 22:34-40

Following is a word search based on the Gospel for 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: the teaching on the great commandments. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

Bishop Robert Barron

Leagues, especially the members of his original youth group in Kraków, are deeply moving and often quite funny. Though he explored this theme in the previous two books on John Paul, Weigel brings out with particular clarity in this volume how the pope’s original vision of saving the world was the most striking example.

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Bishop Robert Barron is an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries.

Saint of the Week

Simon and Jude

First Century

Feast October 28

Listed among the Twelve Apostles in the New Testament, Simon is the Cananite to Matthew and Mark and “the Zealot” to Luke; Jude is “Thaddeus” to Matthew and Mark, “Judas of James” to Luke, and “Judas, not Iscariot” to John. After Pentecost, they disappear. However, according to Eastern tradition, Simon died peacefully in Edessa, while Western tradition has him evangelizing in Egypt, then teaming up with Jude, who had been in Mesopotamia, on a mission to Persia, where they were martyred on the same day. Simon is the patron saint of tanners and lumberjacks; Jude is the patron of desperate causes, possibly because early Christians would pray to him, with a name evoking Judas Iscariot, only when all else failed.

Jeanne Marie Hathaway is a student at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. She is a guest columnist for the Catholic News Service column “In Light of Faith.”
Catholic groups actively working on Puerto Rico’s recovery

BY WALLACE J. DE LA VEGA

QUEBRADILLAS, Puerto Rico (CNS) — A month after Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, Catholic organizations, groups and individuals were still among the most prominent responders to the needs of a suffering people.

Despite early logistical obstacles, as of Oct. 20, the local Caritas chapter had disbursed over $1.1 million in aid to an estimated 50,000 people — including food, clothing, first aid supplies, potable water and sanitaries. At its San Juan office, hot lunches also were being distributed daily to members of the community.

“We had to blindly design a response plan,” Father Enrique “Kike” Camacho, executive director of Caritas Puerto Rico, told Catholic News Service Oct. 19. “But after communications opened somewhat, we began improving the plan based on diocesan reports. Today, we have a well-coordinated relief system at Puerto Rico’s 500 parishes in all six dioceses.”

Caritas has been closely working with Catholic Charities USA on Puerto Rico’s recovery since Hurricane Irma brushed the island’s northern coast two weeks before Maria followed Sept. 20.

“kim Burgo, senior director of disaster operations for Catholic Charities, told CNS: “One of our biggest challenges is money because there were two other hurricanes before … but then Maria comes along, which in many ways was worse than Harvey and Irma, and people have donor fatigue and it is very difficult to get donations for Puerto Rico. The need here is so much greater, yet the financial resources are so much less.”

Puerto Rico’s post-hurricane recovery efforts have been largely a grass-roots impulse, mainly spearheaded by newly formed young adult movements and religious groups that have become an alternative to slow, complex and bureaucratic government procedures. Most of these groups, local and coming from the U.S., include Catholics.

Katherine Riolio, a Catholic volunteer with the Canadian relief foundation Impact Nations, came to Quebradillas, a town of 25,000 residents in northwest Puerto Rico, with a team of four to help distribute 500 portable water filters around isolated homes deep in the mountains. Riolio is a retired schoolteacher and a 30-year missionary veteran who is a member of the Sangre de Cristo Parish in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This was her first disaster-related mission.

“All the devastation … when you see this, no electricity, families living with no water to bathe in, it’s hard and they are traumatized,” Riolio told CNS while distributing the water filters around Quebradilla’s Guajataca sector Oct. 21. “When you come into someone’s house, they don’t forget that, and when you tell them, God thinks about you so much that he sent us there and there’s a whole lot of people in my town thinking about you, they don’t forget that.”

Asked about what drives her to do missionary work, Riolio simply answered: “We are the hands and feet of Jesus.”

Bishop Raul Fernandez of Arecibo touched on that exact sentiment from Riolio at a Mass at St. Raphael the Archangel Church in Quebradillas Oct. 22, World Mission Sunday.

“The Father sent his son into the world — mission means to send, then Jesus was the first missionary,” Fernandez told CNS while distributing its 59 parishes. His diocese and the Diocese of Mayaguez are the most damaged of the dioceses. The island had one archdiocese, San Juan, and five dioceses.

“I’m perceiving much unity and even calm within the faithful,” said Bishop Fernandez.

“However, the priests and I are attentive because we know that as time passes and, if the situation doesn’t improve at an adequate pace, tolerance levels might diminish as the physical exhaustion rises.”

Recovery after Hurricane Maria has been the most destructive in Puerto Rico’s history, has been slow. Official reliable statistics about hurricane damage, including an accurate toll, have been scarce and widely debated by experts.

The latest government timetable for recovery announced Oct. 19 says 90 percent of the island will have its electric power normalized by Dec. 15. That recovery plan is said to yield a totally new and diversified power grid that would bring back hydroelectric systems and add solar power components.

Traditionally a Catholic people, Puerto Ricans feel the church tends to be the most trustworthy source of relief in disaster conditions. For Father Kike, that represents one of the church’s most important challenges.

Parishes in the inner mountain regions of Puerto Rico have fared the worst after Hurricane Maria. Not only have their congregations’ financial support diminished due to massive unemployment, but also federal and local government support is not being received in their towns. Many parishes, like St. Raphael the Archangel, are holding ongoing relief collections for them.

Before Mass, Bishop Fernandez told CNS the Diocese of Arecibo is distributing all aid coming from Caritas directly to its 59 parishes. His diocese and the Diocese of Mayaguez are the most damaged of the dioceses. The island had one archdiocese, San Juan, and five dioceses.

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WHAT’S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send announcements at least two weeks prior to the event. View more Catholic events and submit new ones at www.todayscatholic.org/event. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call the Today’s Catholic advertising sales staff at 260-399-1449 to purchase space.

Holiday Craft BOOZAAR
MISHAWAKA — St. Joseph School, 217 W. 3rd St., will host a craft BOOZAAR Saturday, Oct. 28, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. of over 70 booths of handmade crafts by local artisans, plus commercial vendors, baked goods and hot lunch. Children may trick-or-treat in a safe environment. Large and mini-raffle tickets. Bring a non-perishable food item for the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry and receive a free entry into the mini-raffle.

St. Therese Masquerade Ball
FORT WAYNE — St. Therese Parish will hold a Masquerade Ball on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 7 to 11 p.m. in the Parish Hall, 2504 Lower Huntington Rd. The event is for anyone ages 18 and up. The cost is a freewill offering and a snack to share. There will be a cash bar for all beverages. Costumes are encouraged but not required, but there will be a prize awarded for the best costume. RSVP to Pat Espinosa, 260-410-7791, or Jim Jur at 260-403-4134. Fancy Fair craft bazaar and cookie bar
ROME CITY — St. Gaspar Parish, 10871 N. State Road 9, will host Fancy Fair Saturday, Oct. 28, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., with hundreds of craft items, huge cookie bar with many varieties, homemade lunch of soups and sandwiches all at a low cost. This annual event supports charities funded by the Altar and Rosary Sodality.

Knights of Columbus to host euchre tournament
FORT WAYNE — The Knights of Columbus Council No. 11276 will have a euchre tournament on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 6:10 to 10 P.M. in the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton school cafeteria, 10700 Aboite Center Rd. You must be 21 to attend. Cost is $20 per person, and you will need a partner. For information contact Michael Shano at 260-444-4301.

St. Mary’s ministries to host dance
FORT WAYNE — The St. Mary’s Soup Kitchen Ministries fundraising event will be held at the St. Mary Mother of God Church parish hall, Saturday, Oct. 28, from 7 to 11 p.m., in the hall, 1101 S. Lafayette St. The St. Mary’s Soup Kitchen Ministries include the soup kitchen, Ave Maria House, St. Vincent de Paul Society, and St. Martin de Porres Society. Tickets are $10.

Stacie A. Kreiger, M.A., LMHC
Parishioner, St. Joseph de Paul

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church? We, at Trinity, believe that the Reformation was originally intended to be a reform movement in the church and not become a separate church. History, unfortunately, did not play out this way.

"Thankfully in recent times, much progress has been made and more conversation has happened between Catholics and Lutherans in the last 50 years than the rest of the 500 years. In these ever-darkening times, we believe, Christians, and especially those of us in the great Catholic tradition, need each other. What we share in common belief is vastly more than where we differ," he noted. "We must speak and work together as Christians — especially for the unborn, for marriage and family."

In his opening remarks, Bishop Rhoades referenced the fraternal exchanges between Trinity and St. Pius X, expressing joy and gratitude for them. "I am very happy to see this friendship, a local expression of the holy quest for Christian unity that marks our commitment as Catholics and Lutherans to the restoration of full communion between us," he said. "Together we believe that Christ calls all His disciples to unity. We know that this is a great challenge, especially after 500 years of separation. It is a difficult path in many ways, yet we can give thanks to God for the progress that has been made in this journey the past 50 years.

"On the eve of His sacrifice on the cross, Our Lord prayed to the Father for His disciples that ‘they might be one,’ he continued. "Our division contradicts the will of Our Lord. The Second Vatican Council stated that our division ‘openly contradicts the will of Christ, provides a stumbling block to the world, and inflicts damage on the most holy cause of proclaiming the Good News to every creature’" (UR 1). When he was younger, the bishop said, he observed differences, but also a growing respect and love between members of his own Catholic, Lutheran and Greek Orthodox extended family. "So, though I speak from the perspective of a Catholic bishop, I am a Christian with a living and personal family ecumenical experience. One thing I have learned from this experience is that we hold in common, what we believe in common. We are more than our differences. Too often, we focus on the differences and disagreements, which can cloud the truth.

“I think it is important as I share with you my reflections on the Reformation, and this is very important in ecumenical relations, that we keep in mind the beliefs we share," Bishop Rhoades emphasized. "They are core beliefs. ... There is a common mission among us that already exists, though it is imperfect. In the Catholic Church, we speak a hierarchy of truths. There is an order of the truths in Catholic doctrine, insofar as they vary in their relation to the central mystery and foundation of Christian faith. The central mystery of Christian faith and life is the mystery of the Holy Trinity. We share this Trinitarian faith. We share faith in the Incarnate Son of God, in Jesus as Our Lord and Redeemer. We both honor Sacred Scripture as the inspired Word of God. We share faith in all the articles of the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds. The common faith that we already share should not be taken for granted nor considered unimportant, especially given the increasingly post-Christian society in which we live at this time," he encouraged.

“What happened 500 years ago next week was not a declaration of separation from the Catholic Church. On Oct. 31, 1517, Martin Luther sent his 95 Theses to the Archbishop of Mainz. In that letter with the 95 Theses, Luther expressed his serious concerns about the preaching and the practice of indulgences. His desire was to have an academic discussion, a disputation, on this issue. Luther felt that the practice of indulgences was damaging to Christian spirituality. I wonder sometimes what would have happened if the pope or bishops at the time had been more open to Luther’s call to reform, rather than react as they did. Or if Martin Luther had been more patient in his reform efforts, appreciated more the Church’s earlier unsuccessful efforts at reform as well as the positive aspects of late medieval theology and piety," he said. ‘Could the split have been averted if both sides acted more in conformity with the charity of Christ? There was certainly corruption in the Church that needed to be rooted out. More rigorous reforms were needed.

“You may remember the historic visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the ancient Augustinian convent in Erfurt, Germany on Sept. 25, 2011. It was in that convent that Luther studied theology and where he celebrated his first Mass. On that occasion, Pope Benedict said the following: ‘What constantly exercised Luther was the question of God, the deep passion and driving force of his whole life’s journey. ‘How do I receive the grace of God?’: this question struck him in the heart and lay at the foundation of all his theological searching and inner struggle. …’ Pope Benedict said that the fact that this question (‘How do I receive the grace of God?’) was the driving force of Luther’s whole life never ceased to make a deep impression on him.

“We can’t change the past," the bishop continued. "History is history. But we can move forward learning from the past. Together, we reject the hatred and violence of the Reformation period. We must set aside conflict as we strive for the restoration of our full communion. It is a difficult path, certainly not our work but a gift of the Holy Spirit.

That note of hope summed up a desire held by Leona Wilson-Mann, for unity between the two churches. Fellow Trinity parishioner Ron Stallman walked away mulling another point. "This question posed by Bishop Rhoades sticks with me: ‘I wonder what would have happened if the pope and archbishops would have been more open and Luther had been more patient?’" As our dialogue as Catholics and Lutherans continues, may we now be open and patient. May we overcome prejudices and misunderstandings and remember that Christ would have his church exemplify his love and his desire that we may be one. As I left the gathering, I was smiling, and I believe Christ was too.”

Father Bill Schooler, pastor of St. Pius X, echoed the call to unity. "With the animosity of several hundred years gone, I hope that we can come to a better understanding of our theological issues both on which we agree and on which we disagree, and explore ways of being a brighter light as Christ’s body in this community.”

“I appreciated that he, a Catholic bishop, would say that he no longer just laments the Reformation, but is even-full for his gifts,” reflected Pastor Mielke. “He also stressed that the task of ecumenism is not an option but a work that we must do. And following John Paul II and Benedict XVI, it is ultimately not our work but a gift of the Holy Spirit. For this gift we must be open in prayer, humility and forgiveness.”

St. Pius X will host Rev. Rick Stuckwisch, pastor and theologian of Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, at 7 p.m. Nov. 13, to continue the local Catholic-Lutheran dialogue. All are welcome to attend.