



'Created male and female'

Four bishops issue letter on 'God-given sexual identity'

Page 2

Countdown to crisis

DACA recipient raises educational funds for others

Page 4

Pope Benedict XVI

Retired pontiff says he is journeying home

Page 6

Rekindle the Fire

Men's conference offers 'encouragement, fulfillment'

Page 11

RCIA: A family affair

South Bend family comes together in the Catholic Church

Page 16

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 92 No. 7

50¢

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

Lent is time to become aware of false prophets, cold hearts, pope says

BY CAROL GLATZ



Jodi Marlin

Ashes are imparted at a Mass March 1, 2017, at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne. Prayer, almsgiving and fasting during Lent are a prescription to combat the sloth, pessimism, isolation, fighting and vanity that distract us from proclaiming the good news of salvation, Pope Francis said on Feb. 6.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholics should use the season of Lent to look for signs and symptoms of being under the spell of false prophets and of living with cold, selfish and hateful hearts, Pope Francis said.

Together with "the often bitter medicine of the truth," the Church — as mother and teacher — offers people "the soothing remedy of prayer, almsgiving and fasting," the pope said in his message for Lent, which began Feb. 14 for Latin-rite Catholics.

The pope also invited all non-Catholics who are disturbed by the increasing injustice, inertia and indifference in the world, to "join us then in raising our plea to God in fasting and in offering whatever you can to our brothers and sisters in need."

The pope's Lenten message, which was released at the Vatican Feb. 6, looked at Jesus' apocalyptic discourse to the disciples on the Mount of Olives, warning them of the many signs and calamities that will signal the end of time and the coming of the son of man.

LENT, page 7

'The Light is ON for you' Feb. 28 at all parishes

FORT WAYNE — The Lord is waiting to embrace those who seek reconciliation with Him, which is why a special invitation is extended for everyone to take advantage of "The Light is ON for You" — a Lenten opportunity to obtain the sacrament of reconciliation, hosted by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The Light is on for You is a diocesanwide initiative that exists in addition to penance services that will be scheduled in individual parishes throughout the period of atonement that is Lent. It takes place from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28, in every parish in the diocese. During these two hours, all Catholic churches will be open and prepared to receive those who

wish to make a confession or just sit in quiet reflection.

Catholics within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are encouraged to renew their relationship with the Lord by going to confession and by reaching out and inviting others to come back home as well.

Guides on how to make a good confession, examinations of conscience and prayers used during reconciliation will be available in the parishes for anyone unsure of how to participate in the sacrament.

For many Catholics, both those brought up in the Church and those formerly of Protestant or

LIGHT IS ON, page 6

Who will you invite?

On February 28th, every parish in the Diocese will offer confessions between 6-8pm.

Help someone come back to the Church.

The Light is ON for You.

Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

diocesefwsb.org/Light



TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Official newspaper of the
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
P.O. Box 11169
Fort Wayne, IN 46856

PUBLISHER: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Editorial Department

PUBLICATIONS MANAGER: Jodi Marlin

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan

BRAND SPECIALIST: Molly Gettinger

NEWS SPECIALIST: Mark Weber

Business Department

BUSINESS MANAGER: Stephanie A. Patka

BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION: Geoff Frank
circulation@diocesefwsb.org

Advertising Sales

Jackie Parker

jparker@diocesefwsb.org

Website: www.todayscatholic.org

260-456-2824

Published weekly except second Sunday of January; and every other week from the third Sunday in June through the second Sunday of September by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, 915 S. Clinton St., P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, IN 46801. Periodicals postage paid at Fort Wayne, IN, and additional mailing office.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856-1169 or email: circulation@diocesefwsb.org

MAIN OFFICE: 915 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Telephone 260-456-2824. Fax: 260-744-1473.

BUREAU OFFICE: 1328 Dagoon Trail, Mishawaka, IN 46544. Telephone 260-456-2824. Fax 260-744-1473.

News deadline is 10 days prior to publication date. Advertising deadline is nine days before publication date.

Today's Catholic may be reached at:
Today's Catholic,
P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN
46856-1169; or email:
editor@diocesefwsb.org

(ISSN 0891-1533)
(USPS 403630)



Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/todayscatholicFWSB

Follow us on Twitter

@diocesefwsb

Follow us on Instagram

@diocesefwsb

Download the app

App Store or Google Play: Today's Catholic



Q-and-A on faith leaders' letter on beauty of 'God-given sexual identity'

BY JULIE ASHER

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In December, Bishop James D. Conley of Lincoln, Nebraska, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage and three other Catholic bishops joined several other religious leaders in signing an open letter titled "Created Male and Female" about the inherent beauty and dignity of God-given sexual identity.

They described as "deeply troubling" the movement today "to enforce the false idea — that a man can be or become a woman or vice versa."

"We acknowledge and affirm that all human beings are created by God and thereby have an inherent dignity," said the letter. "We also believe that God created each person male or female; therefore, sexual difference is not an accident or a flaw — it is a gift from God that helps draw us closer to each other and to God."

In addition to Bishop Conley, the Catholic signatories were: Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth; Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, chairman of the Committee for Religious Liberty; and Bishop Joseph C. Bambera of Scranton, Pennsylvania, chairman of the Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

Lutheran, Anglican, Greek Orthodox, Presbyterian, Southern Baptist, Muslim, Orthodox and other Christian leaders signed the letter. The full text can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/ybrondqb>.

In early February, Catholic News Service interviewed Bishop Conley about what prompted the religious leaders to issue the letter, what its main message is and what response it has received. Here are the questions and his responses:

Q: What prompted the writing of the joint statement "Created Male and Female"? What are the social trends that make it important for religious leaders to speak out on gender and sexual identity issues today?

A: The letter was prompted by the shared concern of these religious leaders that respect for sexual difference is decreasing, as more and more individuals declare themselves to be a gender other than their bodily sex. This false belief of a relatively few individuals has been raised to a heightened level of publicity through social activism and an aggressive push for special recognition and rights. At the center of this activism is a rejection of the truth about human sexuality and our goodness of our bodies: that we are created male and female and ordered toward relationship



CNS photo/Dave Hrbacek, The Catholic Spirit

Bishop James D. Conley of Lincoln, Neb., speaks in 2017 at Catholics at the Capitol in St. Paul, Minn. Bishop Conley is chairman of the U.S. bishops' Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage.

with one another.

Gender ideology is problematic, as Pope Francis has said many times, not only because it is untrue, but because it generates confusion for an entire culture and for many vulnerable persons in it. It is of great pastoral concern. As pastors and leaders, we receive many questions and concerns from our faithful people about these issues and we want to respond with charity and clarity.

Q: How would you sum up the main message of the letter?

A: The main message of the letter is that God has created humanity as male and female, and this is a good thing. Indeed, God said it is very good. Sexual difference is a gift, and teaches us something about who we are and what we are called to. God created every human person with an inherent bodily dignity.

The secondary message of the letter is that those who identify with a gender other than their biological sex, are to be loved and accompanied, all the while helping them to question this idea they have about themselves and the messages they hear from the culture. They are always to be treated with compassion, mercy and honesty.

Q: What was the process that led up to it? How long did it take and how was input gathered among the diverse group of signatories?

A: The signatories are a group of religious leaders who have been meeting on a somewhat regular basis for many years. Our first gatherings centered on the reality of marriage as the union of one man and one woman, and this topic followed naturally from that. The process involved discussion and draft revisions until the signers were all happy with a final version. The process was shared and I'm grateful to have been a part of it. I'm particularly

thankful for the opportunity to meet and grow in friendship with leaders of many other faith traditions.

Q: What has been the reaction to the letter: expressions of support as well as criticism? Do you expect there to be any follow-up?

A: There have only been a few negative reactions, which were, as to be expected, from people with different perspectives. We do not expect there to be any immediate follow-up, but are open to offering further guidance when requested. I can't speak for others, but my main concern is for those who are caught in the middle of these issues, especially children and families who are asking for direction and looking to me and other faith leaders for authentic pastoral care.

Q: Surveys as well as anecdotal evidence suggests that young people, including Catholics, have a harder time understanding the Catholic Church's position. They may see gender fluidity and related issues as more a matter of individual choice or a matter of fairness. The same might be said for young people's attitudes toward same-sex marriage. How would you as a Catholic shepherd respond to a young Catholic person who asks why the Church seems to care about what individuals do on these matters? Is this issue becoming similar to same-sex marriage, where Catholic leaders may feel they are swimming upstream transmitting Church teaching upholding traditional marriage when society at large seems not to have a problem with it?

A: You know, I spend a lot of time talking to young people, and I don't think that surveys and other anecdotes always do them justice. Young people long for the truth about themselves, about their bodies and about the world around them. And they respond when you take the time to go deeper with them on these issues. Many young people have

understood and embraced the Catholic Church's full teaching about the human person, and they want to live in that truth.

The problem is that in our culture, young people are trained to want a soundbite; they are often entrenched in opinions which were formed, in large part, by the media or culture, and not really considered with the full weight and rigor of their reason and intellect. Young people today have been taught to be on guard against exclusion or prejudice, and that's a good thing. Unfortunately, this impulse can lead to a blind acceptance of manipulative slogans that claim to be for equality and inclusion, but in fact are redefining what it means to be human. So, when I talk to young people (or anyone) about why the Catholic Church cares so much about this issue, the bottom line is that Jesus cares about you. Jesus loves you with unconditional love and wants what is truly best and good for you. Understanding who God is and who you are as a human being and a child of God is central.

The struggles surrounding sexual identity are similar to attitudes about redefining marriage. In order to understand what marriage is, we have to understand the nature of the human person what it means to be created male or female. Sexual difference is that which allows man and woman to be united in marriage and to bring about new life. This is clear throughout the Sacred Scriptures and it is written into our very being.

Q: During the run-up to the Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage across the country and afterward, certain segments of society are claiming people who don't agree with same-sex marriage are "bigots." How can the Church respond to that charge?

A: The Supreme Court did what they have no right to do: they redefined a human institution that existed long before our government was ever established. However, one of the justices himself noted that good people in this country would continue to believe that marriage is the union of one man and one woman, and that those people are not motivated by animus or hatred, but rather by a strong conviction about humanity. Therefore, we cannot be considered "bigots." It is ironic to observe how a call for tolerance can lead to such intolerance. The move to use such labels as "bigotry," is deeply hurtful and disrespectful. This is an example of what Pope Emeritus Benedict referred to as the "dictatorship of relativism." If this trend is not addressed adequately, our nation runs the risk of excluding and marginalizing people of faith and forgetting that religious freedom is our first freedom.



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

Regarding Notre Dame decision on contraceptive coverage

"I strongly support the decision of the University of Notre Dame to stop the government-funded provision, through its third-party administrator, of abortion-inducing drugs and sterilization procedures. I am also happy that the University will provide natural family planning services in its insurance plans. At the same time, I strongly disagree with Notre Dame's decision to provide funding for contraception in its health insurance plans, which involves it even more directly in contributing to immoral activity. The Catholic Church clearly teaches that contraception is an immoral action that contradicts the truth of marital love.

As Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the local Church of which Notre Dame is a part, I wish to remind all the faithful of the diocese, including the faithful who are part of the Notre Dame community, of the Church's definitive teaching that "every action which, whether in anticipation of the conjugal act, or in its accomplishment, or in the development of its natural consequences, proposes, whether as an end or as a means, to render procreation impossible is intrinsically evil" (Catechism of the Catholic Church #2370). I encourage all who struggle with this teaching to study prayerfully this teaching of the Church, and I especially recommend the study of the encyclical of Blessed Pope Paul VI, "Humanae Vitae," during this 50th anniversary year of the encyclical, as well as the rich teaching of Pope St. John Paul II in his catecheses on the "theology of the body." Many Catholics have come to a greater understanding and appreciation of the Church's teaching through such study and prayer.

I understand Notre Dame's desire to respect other religious traditions and the conscientious decisions of members of the Notre Dame community on this issue. Members of the community who decide to use contraceptives, however, should not expect the university to act contrary to its Catholic beliefs by funding these contraceptives. Notre Dame bears prophetic witness to the truths of the Catholic faith in its words and actions on many issues of importance for the good of our society. Not providing funding for contraception would not be popular with some, but it would truly be a prophetic witness to the truth about human sexuality and its meaning and purpose. I hope and pray that the University will reconsider its decision."

Objections raised over Notre Dame's new change on contraceptive coverage

SOUTH BEND (CNS) — An Indiana bishop said he supports the University of Notre Dame's Feb. 7 decision to stop coverage of abortion-inducing drugs and add natural family planning services to the school's health plan, but he said coverage of artificial birth control by a Catholic institution is unacceptable.

"The Catholic Church clearly teaches that contraception is an immoral action that contradicts the truth of marital love," said Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, which includes Notre Dame.

"I strongly support the decision of the University of Notre Dame to stop the government-funded provision, through its third-party administrator, of abortion-inducing drugs and sterilization procedures," Bishop Rhoades said in a statement provided to Catholic News Service Feb. 8. "I am also happy that the university will provide natural family planning services in its insurance plans.

"At the same time, I strongly disagree with Notre Dame's decision to provide funding for contraception in its health insurance plans which involves it even more directly in contributing to immoral activity," he added.

Bishop Rhoades made the comments in reaction to the announcement by Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, Notre Dame's president, that the university had once again made changes on coverage of contra-

ceptives in its health plans.

In October, Father Jenkins joined other Catholic leaders in praising a decision by the Trump administration to expand the religious exemption to an Obama-era mandate that all employers cover sterilizations, contraceptives and abortifacients even if an employer was morally opposed to such coverage. The priest in a university email to employees stated that the previously mandated coverage would end Dec. 31.

In reaction to that decision, a small campus protest took place, organized by the Notre Dame Graduate Workers Collective, an independent group of graduate students. The group also had gathered about 500 signatures on a petition calling on university officials to "respect our freedom to make reproductive, family, and religious choices without economic coercion."

The university reversed course Nov. 7, informing employees that third-party health plan administrator Meritain Health and prescription benefit manager OptumRx would continue to provide all those items free of charge. Students also were informed that their coverage would continue.

A statement from Paul Browne, Notre Dame vice president for public affairs and communications, said the reversal came after the university learned the insurers would continue the coverage at no cost, so the university opted not to "interfere."

In late January, some University of Notre Dame students, faculty and alumni voiced strong public criticism over the university administration's decision to continue employee insurance coverage for sterilizations, contraceptives and abortifacients after a federal mandate to do so was amended late last year.

Many also questioned how Notre Dame — alongside other Catholic universities, dioceses and other entities — could have fought in the courts for a lifting of the Obama-era contraceptive mandate and then gone ahead and allowed the third-party coverage of morally objectionable services.

Father Jenkins, in a Feb. 7 letter to the university community, announced his latest decision on the coverage.

He acknowledged he had received emails and letters about the university's policy "on access to contraceptive coverage" and had spoken to faculty staff and students, and after further thought announced "steps based on Catholic principles that nevertheless provide access to some of the coverage that members of our community seek."

He said Notre Dame would stop the government-funded provision of the range of drugs and services through the third-party administrator because that range of drugs and services include abortion-inducing

NOTRE DAME, page 6



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, February 18: 9 a.m. — Mass at St. Patrick Church, Fort Wayne
Sunday, February 18: 2 p.m. — Rite of Election, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
Monday, February 19: 10 a.m. — Meeting of the Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
Tuesday, February 20: 10:30 a.m. — Lenten Day of Recollection for Priests, St. Martin de Porres Church, Syracuse
Thursday, February 22: 12:30 p.m. — Meeting of Diocesan Finance Council, Holiday Inn Express, Warsaw
Thursday, February 22: 7:30 p.m. — Vespers with IPFW Mastodon Catholic Group, St. Charles Borromeo Church, Fort Wayne
Saturday, February 24: 3:10 p.m. — Address, "Rekindle the Fire" Conference, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, with Mass at 4:30 p.m.

CRS Stories of Hope

Finding hope amid violence in Chicago

Editor's Note: Catholic Relief Services is an international organization dedicated to helping the poor across the globe. This year, during the liturgical season of Lent, when many individuals are practicing charity by contributing to CRS Rice Bowl collections, Today's Catholic will present examples of how Rice Bowl funds are also being used to build communities and address individual needs here in the U.S. in the cities of Chicago, Louisville and Honolulu.

CHICAGO — The statistics say it all. The city of Chicago ended 2016 with 786 murders. In 2017, the number was already over 160 as of mid-April. The community is struggling with violence, and even the pope has noticed.

Pope Francis sent a letter to Cardinal Blase Cupich, archbishop of Chicago, offering words of encouragement and telling the city to "never lose hope."

"Please convey to the people of Chicago that they have been on my mind and in my prayers. I know that many families have lost loved ones to violence," he wrote. "I am close to them, I share in their grief, and pray that they may experience healing and reconciliation through God's grace."

Cupich has committed the archdiocese to stepping up efforts to support anti-violence efforts. He has pledged to devote about \$250,000 — half of his discretionary funds — to grassroots parish and neighborhood initiatives to reach young people and those affected by violence.

"If we don't do this as a Church, we might as well pack up," Cupich said in a news conference announcing the prior-

ity. "This is what we should be doing."

Many parishes are already working to bring peace, healing and guidance to the communities they serve. In Little Village, for example, a unique program at St. Agnes of Bohemia helps young people who are vulnerable to gang recruitment find a positive outlet. These teens use positive graffiti to create art that inspires and empowers. Their work has become a community movement that values equity and fairness.

In the Back of the Yards neighborhood, Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation works with over 250 young people and over 70 families who have been affected by violence

and incarceration. Mentoring and building relationships is its chief work. Father Dave Kelly, who works at Precious Blood, explains they create safe places where people can speak their truth.

"You use a talking piece — a sacred object that you pass around — and you start to talk about who you are," Kelly said. "After we have a relationship, have a sense of each other and where we are coming from, what makes us who we are, then you will deal with whatever issue is at hand. If it's a burglary, then let's talk about the burglary, but let's talk about the burglary after you know who I am and not a label of a thief or a thug."

Precious Blood also offers opportunities for young people affected by violence to learn a skill and prepare for a job.

"We have smaller opportunities here in which they could work to get their muscles up,



CRS, page 5

DREAMers: Countdown to crisis

Dreamer says being DACA recipient is her motivation to run, raise money

BY APRILLE HANSON

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (CNS) — Erika Nava will not slow down. Whether she's running for a cause or gathering young adults for Catholic fellowship, her work all goes back to faith.

Raised in Russellville, Nava, 24, came to the United States from Guerrero, Mexico, at the end of 2000. She felt like "a little ghost; it was tough," sitting in an English-speaking classroom, not yet knowing the language. Nava is in her junior year at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, studying early childhood education to become a teacher of English as a Second Language, or ESL.

"I know how hard it is to learn the English language. I'm trying to teach those little kids not to go through the same struggle I did," Nava told the *Arkansas Catholic*, newspaper of the Diocese of Little Rock.

Nava said being a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, recipient is motivation. She was approved recently for two more years under DACA.

"I feel like even though the world is all messed up right now and they don't want us here, we should prove them wrong," she said.

At St. Augustine Church in Dardanelle, she helped start the Hispanic young adult group, River Valley Millennials, this year. Adults from area parishes meet every Friday for dinner and to discuss fundraising.

"All the money we collect is going to go to scholarships for Hispanics to go to school," she said. The group recently won third place and \$250 in a contest organized as part of the U.S.

Catholic Church's fifth national Encuentro, or "V Encuentro." Winners of the contest, the Nuestra Alegria Viral Video Challenge, were announced in July.

Twenty-two groups of young Hispanic/Latino Catholics across the nation submitted entries for the viral video challenge representing 11 of the 14 episcopal regions in the United States and spanning 16 states.

Entrants were invited to create their own movements and gestures to accompany the official youth and young adult song, "Nuestra Alegria," for the national Encuentro, to be held next year in Texas.

Last year, Nava coordinated the Dardanelle parish's annual 5K to raise money for a playground and collected about \$17,000. She has competed in about 30 races, including marathons and 10Ks.

"God gave me the gift of running so I want to use my talents to help others," she said.

Asked her favorite prayer, she said: "I have a morning prayer. I usually just make up my own. I just say, 'Dear God thank You for everything You've given me, protect me from evil, let me love like You love and let me reflect Your love to others, Amen.'"

Hanson is associate editor of the Arkansas Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Little Rock.



CNS photo/Arkansas Catholic

Erika Nava of Russellville, Ark., pictured in an undated photo, is a competitive runner who also organizes runs as fundraisers. She said being a beneficiary of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, is the source of her motivation. Nava, 24, came to the United States from Guerrero, Mexico, at the end of 2000.

CRS, from page 3

their abilities up, and move them into a job, like woodworking, culinary arts and gardening," Father Kelly said. "These are all kind of ways kids can discover career paths and talents, make a little bit of money and learn work ethics. Then you've got to work and get along with folks. When they are ready to move to a job outside of us, we have supportive employers that will take a risk."

A Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl grant partially funds the programs at St. Agnes and Precious Blood. CRS carries out the commitment of the bishops of the United States to assist the poor and vulnerable here and overseas. CRS promotes human development around the world by responding to major emergencies, fighting disease and poverty, and nurturing peaceful and just societies.

Peace and a culture of non-violence, Pope Francis wrote, are both needed and attainable in Chicago.

"The consistent practice of nonviolence has broken barriers, bound wounds, healed nations — and it can heal Chicago," the pope wrote. "I pray that the people of your beautiful city never lose hope — that they work together to become builders of peace, showing future generations the true power of love."

Article provided by Catholic Relief Services.



Tired of your for-profit bank? Partner with Notre Dame FCU!

Catholic Nonprofits Checklist

Business Checking Pays YOU Interest

Cash Back on Corporate Credit Cards

Convenient ATMs & Shared Branches

Free Check Scanner

Embodies Catholic Social Teachings

Member-Owned

Supports Pro-Life, Immigrants & the Poor

Notre Dame FCU

For-Profit Banks

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

?

?

?

?

?

?

?

For more info, please contact Matt Kaiser at
(574) 400-4919 or **MKaiser@NotreDameFCU.com**

Fertility & Midwifery Care Center

- Creighton Model FertilityCare™/NaProTECHNOLOGY
- Comprehensive infertility care
- Recurrent miscarriages
- Routine and high risk pregnancy care
- VBAC
- Routine gynecology care
- daVinci® Robotic surgery

Our Providers

Christopher Stroud, M.D.
Angela Beale Martin, M.D.
Marianne Stroud, CNM
Lindsay Davidson, CNM
Rebecca Cronin, CNM



www.fertilityandmidwifery.com

260-222-7401



NOTRE DAME
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Federally insured by the NCUA.



CCUA
CATHOLIC CREDIT UNIONS OF AMERICA

Bill to expand IVF eggs source across state lines clears House

INDIANAPOLIS – A bill to expand the source of eggs for in vitro fertilization cleared the House by a vote of 88-8, Jan. 23, and moves to the Senate. The Indiana Catholic Conference opposes the bill and expanding the IVF industry.

House Bill 1203 would allow the sale and purchase of human eggs across state lines, thus expanding the source of eggs used in the IVF process.

According to the Mayo Clinic, in vitro fertilization, commonly referred to as IVF, is defined as a complex series of procedures used to treat fertility or genetic problems and assist with the conception of a child. During IVF, mature eggs are collected from the woman's ovaries and fertilized by sperm in a lab. The human embryos created in the lab which are not implanted in the woman seeking pregnancy, are either frozen for possible future use or discarded.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director for the Indiana Catholic Conference testified in opposition to the bill. "While the bill does not specifically discuss the in vitro process, its purpose is to further the IVF process and birth of a child.

"The Catholic Church considers in vitro fertilization immoral and cannot support any attempt to promote or expand its use," said Tebbe. "The process of IVF promotes the commodification of human beings. The Catholic Church opposes the commodification, manufacture, or sale of human beings and, consequently, any legal measure that expands or eases the abilities of private or public entities to engage in such socially damaging activities. This bill greatly increases the practice and sources for commodifying human beings."

Rep. Sean Eberhart, R-Shelbyville, author of the bill, asserts the legislation is needed to correct an unintended consequence of a 2012 law passed by the Indiana General Assembly regulating egg sale. Eberhart said the bill specifically addresses the inability of fertility clinics from accessing frozen eggs outside of the state for use by Indiana recipients. The bill would allow residents to purchase, import and export, human unfertilized eggs. Eberhart further said the Indiana egg banks are limited and lack diversity, and that the current practice, which limits

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BRIGID CURTIS AYER

interstate commerce for human eggs from females but permits interstate commerce for sperm, is an example of "gender discrimination." While couples could travel out of state to get the eggs from another state, Eberhart said it causes unnecessary hardships.

Dr. Bradford Bopp, a physician at Midwest Fertility Clinic in Indianapolis, testified in support of the measure, saying one in five couples experience infertility. Half of those are a result of the woman's infertility, the other half represents the man's infertility. He said if a male has an infertility problem, a man can call a sperm bank in California and easily get sperm shipped to him, but if the female has a problem with her eggs it is a felony for her to contact an egg bank out of state to acquire an egg. Bopp said he has Indian and

Asian couples who cannot find a match from the Indiana egg bank.

Elliott Bedford, Ph.D., director, Ethics Integration St. Vincent / Ascension Indiana and adjunct professor at the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Marian University, asks if the bill is about "health or economics." Bedford said, "If this were truly about health, infertility, choice and the best interests of patients, it would be focused on treating its root causes: the reproductive health of men and women." Bedford said the best way to improve people's choice is to improve their reproductive health by better access to medical techniques like Natural Procreative Technology surgeries, medications, behavior and lifestyle changes. "This bill does nothing in that regard," said Bedford.

"It will, however, increase commerce for IVF providers at the expense of reinforcing the objectification and commodification of women, especially those who are socio-economically vulnerable," said Bedford. "Healthy couples don't need to leave the state to achieve pregnancy if they can do it themselves. It's a straw man argument to say that

the infertility problem in Indiana is lack of 'home-grown quality or diversity'; the real issue should be helping the Indiana community becoming healthier." Bedford went on to say that if people are concerned with equality and gender discrimination, they are going the wrong direction. "They should put the same protections in place against commodifying males' [sperm] that women's [eggs] currently enjoy."

Tebbe said, "House Bill 1203 increases the remuneration that 'egg banks' can legally receive. Current law limits women and third parties, now egg banks, to travel, hospital, medical expenses. HB 1203 expands remuneration to include the retrieval, preservation and transportation of human ova as well as a broad catch-all of services related to IVF."

House Bill 1203 has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee and awaits a hearing.

For more information on the legislative efforts of the Indiana Catholic Conference, go to www.indianacc.org.

Catholic bioethics institute:

Kids could be harmed if Scotland changes gender law

BY SIMON CALDWELL

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — A Catholic bioethics institute warned the Scottish government that children will be at increased risk of harm under proposed changes to the law on gender recognition.

The Anscombe Centre for Bioethics said proposed reforms to allow people to change gender by "self-declaration" will encourage vulnerable children to make life-changing decisions they may regret.

In a seven-page briefing paper on the Scottish Review of the Gender Recognition Act 2004, the center said children, in particular, "should not be encouraged or assisted to make life-changing and potentially permanent legal changes of status or medical changes to their bodies."

At present, people may obtain certificates of new gender recognition under the act if they are diagnosed as having "gender dysphoria" and have "transitioned" into a gender of their choice for at least two years.

A Feb. 9 briefing paper from the Anscombe Centre said there was evidence that, "with the onset of puberty, most children with gender dysphoria come to identify as the gender congruent with their birth sex."

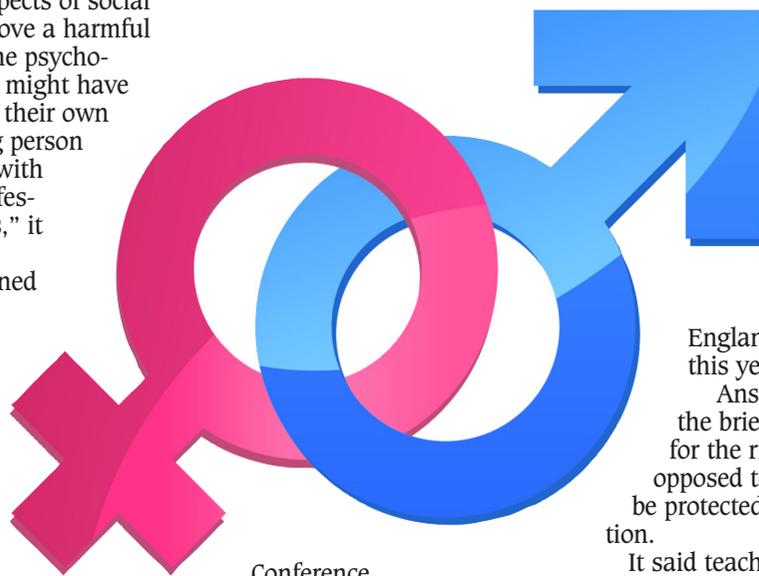
"Legal transition for a teen-

ager, like other aspects of social transition, may prove a harmful distraction from the psychological issues that might have been addressed in their own right by the young person working together with mental health professionals and others," it said.

"We are concerned that young people under 18 and even under 16 might be invited to make a permanent change to their legal status via a mere self-declaration on a question as fundamental as gender identity," the document continued.

The center said that while the government consultation was "not directly concerned with medical or surgical interventions, but only legal gender status, if a 16-year-old were granted permanent legal recognition in the opposite gender, then it would surely be more likely that he or she would be offered irreversible surgery, or at any rate, still-experimental interventions whose long-term effects are unclear."

Anthony Horan, director of the Catholic Parliamentary Office, an agency of the Bishops'



Conference of Scotland, said the Catholic Church opposed the philosophy underpinning the proposed reforms because it presented gender not as a biological fact but as "a mere construct of society that is fluid and changeable."

"Gender dysphoria continues to be recognized as a genuine, troubling medical condition," Horan said in a Feb. 11 email to CNS. "By moving to a self-declaratory model and de-medicalizing the wish to transition legally, we may fail to provide the necessary support for those affected by gender dysphoria in the form of contact with health professionals."

The Anscombe Centre serves Catholics in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Proposals similar to the Scottish proposal are expected in

England and Wales later this year.

Anscombe also used the briefing paper to call for the rights of people opposed to the ideology to be protected from discrimination.

It said teachers should not face disciplinary action if they use unpreferred personal pronouns when describing transgender pupils, nor should registrars be compelled to marry two people if one of the spouses was born into a different sex, it said.

The center also objected to the suggestion that a spouse might be free to change gender without the consent of the married partner and argued that such behavior represents a justification for divorce. The authorities should not have the power to re-register such marriages as between people of the same-sex, the briefing paper said.

It also defended the right of the churches to reject transgender applicants to the priesthood

or religious life.

At present, teachers, including those at Catholic schools, are already dealing with increasing numbers of students who "self-declare" into one or more of a proliferating range of genders. Those who have resisted such self-declarations are increasingly finding themselves at odds with their employers.

They include Christian teacher Joshua Sutcliffe, who is suing his former employers after he was fired from a school for allegedly "misgendering" a girl student who had self-declared as a boy.

Sutcliffe said that he had simply addressed a group, which included the transgender student, with the words: "Well done, girls."

But the school accused him of "demonstrating discriminatory behaviors" and found that he had contravened its equality policy.

Pilgrim pope: Benedict says he's journeying toward God

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — “I am on a pilgrimage toward Home,” retired Pope Benedict XVI wrote, capitalizing the Italian word “casa” or “home.”

Almost exactly five years after announcing his intention to be the first pope in nearly 600 years to resign, Pope Benedict wrote the letter to a journalist from the Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera*.

“I am touched to know how many of the readers of your newspaper want to know how I am experiencing this last period of my life,” the 90-year-old retired pope wrote. “In that regard, I can only say that, with the slow diminishing of my physical strength, inwardly I am on a pilgrimage toward Home.”

“It is a great grace in this last, sometimes tiring stage of my journey, to be surrounded by a love and kindness that I never could have imagined,” said the letter, written on stationery with the heading “Benedictus XVI, Papa emeritus.”

Massimo Franco, the journalist, said the letter, dated Feb. 5, was hand-delivered; the newspaper posted it online Feb. 6 and published it on the front page of the print edition Feb. 7.

During a meeting with cardinals Feb. 11, 2013, Pope Benedict stunned the cardinals and the world by saying, in Latin, “After having repeatedly examined my conscience before God, I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry.”



CNS/Paul Haring

Pope Benedict XVI waves as he leaves his final general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican in this Feb. 27, 2013, file photo. In a Feb. 5, 2018, letter to a journalist from an Italian newspaper, the retired pope said he has diminished physical strength and inwardly is on a “pilgrimage to Home.”

He set the date for his retirement as Feb. 28, 2013. And, seen off by dozens of weeping Vatican employees, he flew by helicopter to the papal villa at Castel Gandolfo, where he remained until after Pope Francis was elected.

The day before he left was a Wednesday and the overflowing crowd in St. Peter's Square made it clear that it was anything but a normal Wednesday general audience.

He told an estimated 150,000 people that his pontificate, which had lasted almost eight years,

was a time of “joy and light, but also difficult moments.”

“The Lord has given us so many days of sun and light breeze, days in which the catch of fish has been abundant,” he said, likening himself to St. Peter on the Sea of Galilee.

“There have also been moments in which the waters were turbulent and the wind contrary, as throughout the history of the church, and the Lord seemed to be asleep,” he said.

“But I have always known that the Lord is in that boat and that the boat of the church is not

mine, it is not ours, but it is his and he does not let it sink.”

A monastery in the Vatican Gardens was remodeled for Pope Benedict, and that is where he has lived for five years, reading, praying, listening to music and welcoming visitors.

Until 2016, the retired pope occasionally would join Pope Francis at important public liturgies, including the Mass for the canonization of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II in 2014 and for the opening of the 2015-16 Year of Mercy.

Pope Benedict also attended

the ceremonies for the creation of new cardinals in 2014 and 2015. But as it became more and more difficult for Pope Benedict to walk, Pope Francis and the new cardinals would get in vans and drive the short distance to the Mater Ecclesiae monastery to pay their respects.

The retired pope's letter to *Corriere della Sera* echoed remarks he had made the afternoon of his retirement when he arrived in Castel Gandolfo and greeted crowds there before the very dramatic, globally televised scene of Swiss Guards closing the massive doors to the villa and hanging up their halberds.

“I am a simple pilgrim who begins the last stage of his pilgrimage on this earth,” he told the people. “But with all my heart, with all my love, with my prayers, with my reflection, with all my interior strength, I still want to work for the common good and the good of the church and humanity.”

In “Last Testament,” a book-length interview with journalist Peter Seewald published in 2016, Pope Benedict insisted he was not pressured by anyone or any particular event to resign, and he did not feel he was running away from any problem. However, he acknowledged “practical governance was not my forte, and this certainly was a weakness.”

Insisting “my hour had passed and I had given all I could,” Pope Benedict said he never regretted resigning, but he did regret hurting friends and faithful who were “really distressed and felt forsaken” by his stepping down.

NOTRE DAME, from page 3

drugs and sterilization, which is against church teaching.

“Stopping any access to contraceptives through our health care plan would allow the university to be free of involvement with drugs that are morally objectionable in Catholic teaching,” Father Jenkins said, however that decision “would burden those who have made conscientious decisions about the use of such drugs and rely on the university for health care benefits.”

Therefore, he said the university “will provide coverage under the university insurance plans for simple contraceptives (i.e., drugs designed to prevent conception). The university will also provide in its plans funding for natural family planning options — options that do not use artificial contraceptives but employ natural methods for preventing conception.”

“The situation is one that demands discernment — something to which Pope Francis has called the church in his various writings and addresses,” Father Jenkins said. “Discernment, which has a long history in the

Catholic spiritual tradition, is, of course, a process of weighing thoughtfully considerations for and against various courses of action. Yet it also demands prayerful attention to God's guidance through the prompting of the Holy Spirit.”

In his statement, Bishop Rhoades said, “I hope and pray that the university will reconsider its decision.”

As the bishop of the diocese of which Notre Dame is a part, “I wish to remind all the faithful of the diocese, including the faithful who are part of the Notre Dame community,” he said, “of the church's definitive teaching that ‘every action which, whether in anticipation of the conjugal act, or in its accomplishment, or in the development of its natural consequences, proposes, whether as an end or as a means, to render procreation impossible is intrinsically evil.’ (Catechism of the Catholic Church No. 2370).”

He encouraged “all who struggle with this teaching to study prayerfully this teaching of the Church,” especially Blessed Paul VI's 1968 encyclical, “*Humanae Vitae*,” (“Of

Human Life”), which affirmed Catholic teaching against artificial contraception, and “the rich teaching” of St. John Paul II's “theology of the body.”

“Many Catholics have come to a greater understanding and appreciation of the church's teaching through such study and prayer,” Bishop Rhoades said.

“I understand Notre Dame's desire to respect other religious traditions and the conscientious decisions of members of the Notre Dame community on this issue,” he said. “Members of the community who decide to use contraceptives, however, should not expect the university to act contrary to its Catholic beliefs by funding these contraceptives.”

“Notre Dame bears prophetic witness to the truths of the Catholic faith in its words and actions on many issues of importance for the good of our society,” Bishop Rhoades said. “Not providing funding for contraception would not be popular with some, but it would truly be a prophetic witness to the truth about human sexuality and its meaning and purpose.”

Ann Carey contributed to this story.

LIGHT IS ON, from page 1

non-Christian faiths, the sacrament of reconciliation can seem frightening. For some, it may have been a long time since they have made a confession. Perhaps they struggle with disbelief, despair, human weakness, addictions or lingering resentment or grief. Jesus tells us, “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest” (Mt 11:28) — which is the very essence of the Good News. Within the sacrament, Jesus, the most merciful, loving, forgiving God will be waiting.

Five tips for inviting someone else to attend

Extending an invitation to The Light is on for You to a friend or family member is encouraged, and *Today's Catholic* writer Jeannie Ewing offers several suggestions on how to do that.

1. Pray. Pray for the individual. Pray that God's grace may work through your invitation. Pray with confidence that God is

listening and will act in His time.

2. The setting matters. Extend the invitation when the individual is not stressed, not feeling rushed and is in a position to consider the invitation.

3. Make it easy. Could you provide a ride? Even easier: Invite the person to go to any parish in the diocese on Feb. 28 between 6-8 p.m. as part of The Light is on for You.

4. Just do it. God's grace is far more powerful than our fears and hesitations.

5. Explain the sacrament if it has been a while since the person has received God's forgiveness through the sacrament of reconciliation, he or she will likely have questions. Visit www.diocesefwsb.org/Light for information regarding what the sacrament is and how to make a good confession.

LENT, from page 1

Titled, "Because of the increase of evildoing, the love of many will grow cold" (Mt. 24:12), the papal message echoes Jesus' caution against the external enemies of false prophets and deceit, and the internal dangers of selfishness, greed and a lack of love.

Today's false prophets, the pope wrote, "can appear as 'snake charmers,' who manipulate human emotions in order to enslave others and lead them where they would have them go."

So many of God's children, he wrote, are: "mesmerized by momentary pleasures, mistaking them for true happiness"; enchanted by money's illusion, "which only makes them slaves to profit and petty interests"; and convinced they are autonomous and "sufficient unto themselves, and end up entrapped by loneliness!"

"False prophets can also be 'charlatans,' who offer easy and immediate solutions to suffering that soon prove utterly useless," he wrote. People can be trapped by the allure of drugs, "disposable relationships," easy, but dishonest gains as well as "virtual," but ultimately meaningless relationships, he wrote.

"These swindlers, in peddling things that have no real value, rob people of all that is most precious: dignity, freedom and the ability to love," the message said.

The pope asked people to examine their hearts to see "if we are falling prey to the lies of these false prophets" and to learn to look at things more closely, "beneath the surface," and recognize that what comes from God is life-giving and leaves "a good and lasting mark on our hearts."

Christians also need to look for any signs that their love for God and others has started to dim or grow cold, the pope said.

Greed for money is a major red flag, he wrote, because it is the "root of all evil" and soon leads to a rejection of God and his peace.

"All this leads to violence against anyone we think is a threat to our own 'certainties': the unborn child, the elderly and

infirm, the migrant, the foreigner among us, or our neighbor who does not live up to our expectations," the pope wrote.

Another sign of love turned cold is the problem of pollution, he said, which causes creation to become poisoned by waste, "discarded out of carelessness or selfishness."

The polluted oceans unfortunately also become a burial ground for countless victims of forced migration and "the heavens, which in God's plan, were created to sing his praises," are slashed by machinery that rain down instruments of death, he wrote.

Whole communities, he said, also can show signs of a cold lack of love wherever there is selfish sloth, sterile pessimism, the temptation to become isolated, constant internal fighting and a "worldly mentality that makes us concerned only for appearances, and thus lessens our missionary zeal."

The remedy for these ills can be strengthened during Lent with prayer, almsgiving and fasting, he wrote.

Praying more enables "our hearts to root out our secret lies and forms of self-deception, and then to find the consolation God offers," he said in his message.

"Almsgiving sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbor as a brother or sister," it said.

Urging people to make charitable giving and assistance a genuine part of their everyday life, he asked that people look at every request for help as a request from God himself. Look at almsgiving as being part of God's generous and providential plan, and helping his children in need.

Finally, "fasting weakens our tendency to violence; it disarms us and becomes an important opportunity for growth," he said, while also letting people feel what it must be like for those who struggle to survive.

It also "expresses our own spiritual hunger and thirst for life in God. Fasting wakes us up. It makes us more attentive to God and our neighbor," he wrote, and "revives our desire to obey God, who alone is capable of satisfying our hunger."

Nun's recovery recognized as 70th official miraculous healing at Lourdes

BY CINDY WOODEN

ROME (CNS) — As the Catholic Church celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, a French bishop announced the 70th officially recognized miraculous cure of a pilgrim to the Lourdes grotto where Mary appeared 160 years ago.

Bishop Jacques Benoit-Gonnin of Beauvais formally declared Feb. 11 "the prodigious, miraculous character" of the healing of Sister Bernadette Moriau, a French member of the Franciscan Oblates of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, who had been partially paralyzed for more than 20 years despite repeated surgeries to relieve pressure on the nerve roots of her lower back.

In November 2016, the International Medical Committee of Lourdes confirmed the nun's "unexplained healing, in the current state of scientific knowledge." But it is up to the bishop, not the physicians, to declare a healing miraculous.

Lourdes, close to the Pyrenees in southern France, attracts millions of visitors each year and has been a place of pilgrimage since St. Bernadette Soubirous reported the first of 18 visions of the Virgin Mary while gathering firewood in February 1858.

To be declared miraculous, cures must be "found complete and lasting," involving a "serious illness which is incurable," and must involve a sudden "indisputable change from a



CNS photo/Jose Navarro, EPA

In this 2010 file photo, pilgrims visit the grotto where Mary appeared in Lourdes, France.

precise medical diagnosis of a known illness to a situation of restored health."

Sister Moriau, now 78, made her pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2008, the 150th anniversary of the apparitions. She had experienced lower back pain, the first symptom of her disease, in 1966 at the age of 27. Four surgeries did not stop the progressive worsening of her neurological deficits.

"This pilgrimage was for me a source of grace," she said in a statement posted on the website of the Diocese of Beauvais. In the cave where St. Bernadette reported seeing Mary, "I felt the mysterious presence of Mary and little Bernadette."

She said she went to confession and received the anointing of the sick during the pilgrimage.

"In no case did I ask for healing, but only for the conversion of heart and the strength to continue my journey as an invalid."

A few days after returning to her convent, she said she felt unusually relaxed and she experienced warmth throughout her body. Sister Moriau said an inner voice asked her to remove the rigid corset that helped hold her erect, the splint that kept her foot straight and the neurostimulator she used for pain control. She began walking unaided and without pain.

Before her case went to the International Medical Committee of Lourdes, she underwent batteries of tests and examinations, which were studied by committees of the Lourdes Medical Bureau in 2009, 2013 and 2016.

SAGE BLUFF

Premier Center for Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing



Beautiful State of the Art Home
Caring and Friendly Staff
Committed To Your Personal Needs



Welcome To Our Facility
Medical Director, Dr. Thomas Kintanar
Director of Orthopedic Rehabilitation
Dr. Adam Hall MD Orthopedic Surgeon
We Take Most Insurances Including Medicaid

SAGE BLUFF
Health and Rehabilitation Center
4180 Sage Bluff Crossing | Fort Wayne, IN 46804
Corner of Aboite Center and Jefferson Blvd.
24 Hour Skilled Nursing
PT OT SP and Wound Care
Private Rooms and Private Baths Available
Short Term and Long Term Options
www.saberhealth.com | 260.443.7300

Parishioner, St. Aloysius




Sam Haiflich
260-824-3982
260-740-7299



1085 N. Main St., Bluffton
bkmrealestate.com
bkmauction.com

Let my 18 years of experience work for you!
Realtor | Appraisals | Auctioneer
sam@bkmauction.com

Residential Farm Commercial



Get more at
Today'sCatholic.org

Two Mexican priests killed in ambush

MEXICO CITY — Two priests were gunned down as they returned from Candlemas celebrations in a corner of Mexico rife with drug cartel violence and increasingly lethal for prelates. Fathers Ivan Anorve Jaimes and Germain Muniz Garcia were killed early Feb. 5 as they drove between the cities of Taxco and Iguala in Guerrero state, some 100 miles south of Mexico City. Guerrero state officials said later that day that an armed group blocked the priests' vehicle and opened fire. The priests were traveling with four other passengers, all of whom were injured. A local bishop disputed an account by State Prosecutor Xavier Olea, who said Feb. 6 that a photo of Father Muniz, holding an assault rifle and posing with masked individuals at the Candlemas celebrations, triggered the attack, as the gunmen suspected the vehicle was carrying enemies from a rival cartel. Olea also said the priests were "drinking" at a celebration attended by armed narcotics traffickers from three states — an explanation Bishop Salvador Rangel Mendoza of Chilpancingo-Chilapa called "fictional."

People need to recognize ways they tolerate human trafficking, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Few people have considered how communities and nations actually tolerate and encourage human trafficking, particularly as it relates to prostitution, Pope Francis said. Modern forms of slavery "are far more widespread than previously imagined, even — to our scandal and shame — within the most prosperous of our societies," the pope said Feb. 9 during a meeting with an international group of law enforcement and Church workers. "God's cry to Cain, found in the first pages of the Bible — 'Where is your brother?' — challenges us to examine seriously the various forms of complicity by which society tolerates, and encourages, particularly with regard to the sex trade, the exploitation of vulnerable men, women and children," the pope told the Santa Marta Group. The Santa Marta Group is an anti-trafficking initiative organized by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to bring together representatives of bishops' conferences and top national and international law enforcement officials to promote cooperation, particularly in identifying victims of trafficking and caring for them once they are rescued. British Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster, introducing the group to the pope, described human trafficking as "the darkest face of globalization."

NEWS BRIEFS

California African-American Celebration



CNS photo/David Maung

A young woman prays on the second evening of an African-American Catholic revival celebration Feb. 6 at St. Rita's Catholic Church in San Diego. The revival was organized by San Diego's Diocesan Commission for African-American Catholics as part of Black History Month, observed every February.

Pope sends condolences to Taiwan after earthquakes

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis expressed his solidarity with the people of Taiwan after two high-magnitude earthquakes devastated the island nation, killing at least nine people and injuring hundreds more. The pope "offers the assurance of his prayers for those who have lost their lives and for those who have been injured," read a telegram sent by the Vatican following the earthquakes Feb. 6 and 7. "As he encourages the civil authorities and emergency personnel engaged in the rescue efforts, His Holiness willingly invokes upon all the Taiwanese people the divine blessings of strength and peace," said the telegram, signed by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state. A magnitude 6.4 earthquake rocked the east coast of Taiwan late Feb. 6. This initial earthquake caused immense destruction in Hualien, a coastal city, destroying smaller buildings and walls. It even left some skyscrapers and larger buildings leaning at sharp angles. But almost before anything could be done, a second earthquake slammed the region. The mag-

nitude 5.7 quake was centered in roughly the same area. The Associated Press reported Feb. 8 that more than 260 people were injured and 10 people remained unaccounted for in Hualien County.

Grisez called 'remarkable man' whose work was 'utterly true to the faith'

EMMITSBURG, Md. (CNS) — The late Germain Grisez, an influential Catholic philosopher, ethicist and moral theologian, was "a remarkable man" and a "very firm believer" whose faith "was unswervingly orthodox," Jesuit Father Peter Ryan said Feb. 6. "He defended it with great lucidity," the priest said about the faith of a man he considered "a great mentor and collaborator." Father Ryan made the comments in a phone interview with Catholic News Service shortly before celebrating the funeral Mass for Grisez at St. Anthony Shrine Catholic Church in Emmitsburg, which was followed by interment in St. Anthony Cemetery. Grisez, who died Feb. 1 at age 88, was a retired professor of Christian ethics at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg. He was on the faculty there from 1979 until

his retirement in 2009. Grisez was "profoundly influential," said Father Ryan, former executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Doctrine and Canonical Affairs, who is now on the faculty of Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. "His work is utterly true to the faith and strikingly creative."

Conference examines challenges facing Catholic higher education in U.S.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An emphasis on online learning, increasingly stressed endowments and questions over how to best connect with students' wants and needs are among challenges facing Catholic higher education. These were some of the lessons of the annual meeting of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities Feb. 3-5 in Washington. The theme of the meeting was "Rethinking Catholic Higher Education in a Transformed Landscape." Other takeaways were that the number of Catholic institutions in America is likely to decline and that an effective way to maintain a Catholic identity on campuses is to have chapels in dormitories

and priests in residence halls. On top of the financial and faith challenges, all higher education institutions must struggle with a growing public perception questioning the value of college. A recent New America Foundation poll on higher education showed that 51 percent of adults "agree that there are lots of well-paying jobs that do not require college attendance," although 75 percent thought it "is easier to be successful with a degree than without."

Therapy, Retrouvaille and the sacraments offer hope to failing marriages

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — The marriage appeared severed. It was a mess of miscommunication, heartbreak and a broken vow. They'd contacted divorce lawyers and he'd moved out. Her friends encouraged her to dump him. "Our marriage was in a crisis that we couldn't overcome ourselves," said Carol McMenamin, 63. Twenty years later, Carol and her husband sit side by side holding hands in their living room. Kevin McMenamin, 66, looks tenderly at Carol. She laughs and smiles. The couple, members of All Saints Parish in Northeast Portland, will celebrate their 42nd wedding anniversary in April. "I didn't think it was possible," said Kevin of avoiding divorce. Figures vary, but the chance that a marriage in the United States will end in divorce is likely somewhere between 42 and 45 percent based on a 2017 assessment of research published in *Psychology Today*. The divorce rate for American Catholic adults is an estimated 28 percent, according to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University.

4.5 million displaced in Congo 'struggling to survive,' says aid worker

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Just as people are "struggling to survive" in Congo, aid agencies are struggling to meet their needs, said one aid worker. Political unrest in and around the capital, Kinshasa, is just the latest malady to afflict the Congolese citizens, said Chiara Nava, an adviser to the AVSI Foundation, an aid agency focusing on education and child protection and inspired by Catholic social teaching. She worked in the country for two-and-a-half years before taking on an advisory role. Still, the difference between the country she worked in and the country she visited in January is noticeable to Nava. "The political situation is not good at all," she told Catholic News Service in a Feb. 9 telephone interview from her home in Raleigh, North Carolina. "There are lots of public demonstrations, especially in the capital."

University of Saint Francis Spring Lecture Series announced

FORT WAYNE — The speakers and topics for the University of Saint Francis Philosophy/Theology Spring Lecture Series have been announced by the university. The series will begin at 7 p.m. Feb. 20 and continue at 12:15 p.m. March 1, at 3 p.m. April 15 and conclude at 7 p.m. April 24.

On Feb. 20, Dr. Nicholas Denysenko, Orthodox liturgical theologian and Jochum Chair at Valparaiso University, will address the question "Confirmation: A Sacrament Out of Time and Place?" On March 1, Dr. Lewis Pearson will speak on "Truth, Consumerism and Democracy." On April 15, professor of theology Dr. Adam DeVille, German historian Dr. Barry Jackisch, Catholic economist Douglas Meador and professor of philosophy Dr. Lance Richey will present "Karl Marx at 200: Who Cares?" And on April 24, "An Introduction to Social Ontology" will be presented by Dr. Vincent Wargo.

The series will take place at the USF Downtown Business Center, the former Fort Wayne Woman's Club. For additional information contact Angie Springer at 260-399-7700, ext. 8100 or aspringer@sf.edu, or visit philosophy.sf.edu/lecture-series.

Class of '67, Hall families present gift to Bishop Luers

FORT WAYNE — The Class of 1967, which celebrated its 50th class reunion this past year, and members of the Hall families presented a \$25,000 gift to Bishop Luers High School at the Winter Homecoming game on Friday, Jan. 26.

During half-time festivities, the Class of '67 and the Hall families presented a \$25,000 donation to Bishop Luers High School earmarked for the cafeteria. The combined gift is in memory of Sam Hall, a member of the Class of '67 and Fort Wayne restaurateur. A plaque will hang in the school cafeteria, which reads, "The Sam Hall Cafe: A memorial gift from the Class of '67 and the Hall families."

Bishop Luers High School cafeteria manager Terri Dossen said, "Bishop Luers High School, especially the ladies in the cafeteria, wishes to express our sincerest heartfelt gratitude for the very generous monetary donation for much-needed kitchen equipment. The current equipment has been in the kitchen since 1996 so this is truly an answer to prayers." She added, "You have shown through your generosity what Luers Spirit is all about."

A tradition is unfolding at Bishop Luers whereby classes celebrating their 50th anniversaries make a donation to the school. Other 50-year reunion

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Students visit U.S. capital, meet cardinal



Provided by Mark Weber

WASHINGTON — Purdue University students from Fort Wayne represented St. Thomas of Aquinas Parish at the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington D.C. recently to talk to their representatives regarding a swift solution on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals legislation. Katherine Meinzen is second from left; Julia Kuhn, third from left; and Alex Steffen, third from right. Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, archbishop of Galveston-Houston stands in the center. The CMSG is an advocacy group dedicated to the protection and dignity of every single human being, particularly the young and vulnerable.

donation gifts included: '62, the kneeling knight on the front of the building; '63, the installment of gym railings in the permanent bleachers; '64, total renovation and tables in the science lab; '65, combined with the class of '64 for the science lab tables; and '66, new chapel pews in the Chapel of Saint Francis of Assisi, and furniture in the media center.

Bishop Luers student wins district level of oratorical competition

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School senior Adam Veldman competed and won the district level of the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship competition on Jan. 27. Veldman will compete at the Zone Level in Kokomo on Feb. 18.

The main purpose of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is for high school students to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States. Other objec-

tives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

For more information on the program, visit www.legion.org/oratorical. Students can begin competing during their freshman year.

Theologian John Cavadini receives award for Catholic intellectual life

NOTRE DAME — John Cavadini, McGrath-Cavadini Director of the McGrath Institute for Church Life, professor of theology and past chair of the Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame, has been named the 2018 recipient of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities' Monika K. Hellwig Award, which recognizes

an individual who has significantly advanced Catholic intellectual life.

"At the heart of the mission of a Catholic university is service to the Church," said Rev. John I. Jenkins, CSC, president of Notre Dame. "John Cavadini, whether through his leadership of the McGrath Institute for Church Life or his work as a theologian, has been tireless in seeking ways in which Notre Dame can better serve the Church."

Monika Hellwig was a distinguished theologian at Georgetown University from 1967 to 1995. She served as president and executive director of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities from 1996 until shortly before her death in 2005.

"I have given my life to Catholic higher education because I so deeply believe in what it has to offer our culture," said Cavadini. "It is intrinsically satisfying to work in this field because you are bringing to bear on your own life and students' lives something which gives them a sense of the meaning of life, and that the

meaning of life is something gorgeous and alluring."

Calling Them Back Home Lenten retreat

DECATUR — St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Decatur, will host a retreat designed to help facilitate conversations between Catholics and loved ones who have stepped away from the Church on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at The Knights of Columbus Hall, 1703 High St. This free event includes a continental breakfast and light lunch. Guest speaker Gary Michuta is a nationally known Catholic speaker, author and apologist who will guide participants through four sessions. Talk No. 1: You're Not Alone: Why People Leave the Church. Talk No. 2: Cleaning House: Preparing to Meet Your Loved One's Needs. Talk No. 3: Putting Out the Welcome Mat — Strategies for Opening Up Meaningful Conversations. Talk No. 4: How to Answer Difficult Questions.

Register at <https://www.stmarysdecatur.org/> For information on Michuta, visit his website at: www.GaryMichuta.com.

St. John Bosco Parish Mission

CHURUBUSCO — "You Too Shall Be My Witness" will be the theme of a parish mission at St. John Bosco Parish, 216 N. Main St., taking place Feb. 25-March 1.

Beginning at 7 p.m. each evening, an invited guest will speak. The guests and topics will be: Feb. 25, Don Quaglia, "What is Witnessing: Lessons from the Scripture;"

Feb. 26, Colleen Mitchell, "Experiencing and Knowing the Lord: The Foundation of Effective Witness;" Feb. 27, Rev. Collins U. Okeke, "We and the New Evangelization: Ministry to Self, Adults and Youths" (with opportunity for confession); Feb. 28, Cindy Black, "Practical Christianity: Witnessing in Line with the Blessed Virgin Mary;" and March 1, a closing Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Kevin C. Rhoades, followed by a reception in the basement.

St. Joseph School 'Jar Wars'

DECATUR — St. Joseph School sixth-eighth graders conducted their annual Jar Wars competition during Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 29-Feb. 2. Each class decorated a jar for their room; pennies counted as a positive number and dollars or silver counted as negative numbers. Student put pennies in their own classroom jar, while "bombing" other classes with silver or dollars. The 100 students raised \$1,085 in five days. A seventh-grade class won the competition by \$.25. Proceeds will go to Catholic Relief Services' Lenten Rice Bowl fund and to help cover insurance for the Franciscan Friars' van.

Imagining a world with papal wish of nonviolence as a style of politics

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When Pope Francis said, in the title of his 2017 World Day of Peace message, that he wanted to see nonviolence as “a style of politics for peace,” it made peace teachers happy, but it also prompted them to consider what such a world would look like in practical terms.

“There’s no one country that has put it all together and become a model for these others,” acknowledged William Barbieri, who is director of the peace and justice studies program in the School of Theology and Religious Studies at The Catholic University of America, Washington. He noted, though, there are many encouraging signs of international cooperation that dovetail with peacebuilding.

Marie Dennis, co-president of Pax Christi International, is keenly interested in the moral and ethical undergirding that can support nations and societies in their embrace of nonviolence.

“What would a new moral framework look like?” Dennis asked. “What now can we add to that that we can move beyond looking at the question of ‘just war’ all the time and how can we engage in the world using powerful nonviolent strategies?”

Barbieri and Dennis, who jointly led a policy workshop

during the Feb. 3-6 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering on nonviolence as a style of politics, were interviewed by telephone separately by Catholic News Service following the conference.

In his World Day of Peace message, Pope Francis said: “When victims of violence are able to resist the temptation to retaliate, they become the most credible promoters of nonviolent peacemaking.”

This is a critical point Dennis told CNS she wants to see explored. “What would a systematic theology of nonviolence look like?” she asked. “What would be the best scriptural exegesis that scholars could produce that would really help us understand nonviolence in response to deep injustice?”

Another issue for Dennis is how the Catholic Church can cultivate a culture of peacebuilding. She pointed to an often-forgotten pastoral letter by the U.S. bishops, “The Harvest of Justice Is Sown in Peace,” approved in November 1993 and now approaching its 25th anniversary.

The pastoral, she noted, was written after the fall of communism and the Berlin Wall, and the “people power” revolution in the Philippines that nonviolently toppled Ferdinand Marcos’ autocracy. “The bishops said we need to invest a lot more thought and energy” in nonviolence, Dennis said. “It’s clearly more beneficial than we thought.”

Barbieri said that while no government embodies an ethic of peacebuilding in and of itself, there are still signs of it taking hold across the globe in different forms.

“The United Nations has kind of picked up on this idea, and they’ve pushed it through processes like the Sustainable Development Goals, which they’ve adopted, which incorporate some ideas about peacebuilding,” he told CNS.

Further, nonprofits and civil-society organizations assist in this work, “but the Church is really a big one,” Barbieri added. “In the U.S., we have a group called the Catholic Peacebuilding Network, an umbrella organization that involves the bishops, Catholic Charities, Catholic Relief Services, universities like Catholic University or (the University of) Notre Dame. ... The idea is to sort of coordinate, be a clearinghouse, provide information on this goal of not just responding to conflicts when they break out but preventing them as much as possible and working very hard at avoiding conflicts. Some of it is very cutting-edge work.”

He cited instances in Colombia, India and Congo where this “style of politics” has taken hold.

Nor is peacebuilding strictly a Catholic issue. Pope Francis’ World Day of Peace message cited Abdul Ghaffar Khan, a Pashtun independence activist

and Muslim who was a close friend of Mahatma Gandhi and embraced nonviolence, and Leymah Gbowee, a Lutheran- and Mennonite-trained Liberian who led a women’s movement to stop a civil war in her homeland in 2003, and whose postwar efforts won her a share of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize.

Dating back to the pope’s 2015 encyclical, “Laudato Si’,” Barbieri said, “you can find a continuation of this pattern of wanting to reach out to other religious communities, how he talks about how religious do not demand violence or terror. He’s trying to argue in a way and includes Islam and other religions that religions are not predisposed to violence.”

Barbieri also was impressed by Pope Francis’ use of the beatitudes in amplifying his World Day of Peace message. “Jesus himself offers a ‘manual’ for this strategy of peacemaking in the Sermon on the Mount,” he said, “The Eight Beatitudes provide a portrait of the person we could describe as blessed, good and authentic.”

“He’s not going into talking about councils or bishops’ statements, the kind of things that people in the pews don’t hear about or ignore,” Barbieri said. “He’s talking about something that’s right in the core of liturgy and well-known to all but the most casual Christians.”

Dennis recalled being at a 2016 Vatican forum on nonvio-

lence. It was not a large conference; about 80 or so attended. But one of the things conferees asked for was a World Day of Peace message focusing on nonviolence; by the end of the year, they had gotten what they wanted -- and on the 50th anniversary of the annual message.

They also asked for a papal encyclical on nonviolence. Based on the response to their World Day of Peace message request, could it be possible?

“There’s no commitment that there would be an encyclical; the Vatican has not said that’s possible,” Dennis told CNS. “Only Pope Francis decides when an encyclical would be written.”

But that hasn’t stopped Catholic peace activists from gathering theologians, scholars and on-the-ground activists to do deeper thinking on an ethic of nonviolence. Some meetings are face-to-face, but due to the expense of travel and lodging, she said, more meetings are held via Skype. They expect their work to conclude in about a year.

“We think the work that we are doing now would make a contribution to Catholic social thinking on nonviolence and peace, but we hope it will be truly useful in developing Catholic understanding of it,” Dennis said, “and (lead) to non-violent alternatives.”

Saint Joseph High School helps Xavier



Provided by Lisa Kochanowski

On Dec. 15, Saint Joseph High School held a dress-down day for John Adams High School student Xavier Winston, who is battling osteosarcoma. At the Saint Joe vs. Adams boys varsity basketball game in early February, SJHS student government representatives had the honor of presenting him with a check for \$2392.10. The students said they will continue to pray for Xavier Winston and his family.

Pictured, from left, are seniors Marty Kennedy, Kira Pratico and Cara McCormick; Erica DeLeon, Xavier’s mother; Xavier Winston; and SJHS teacher and student government advisor A.J. Reynolds.

Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion



Brian MacMichael

The elect and candidates for full communion in the Catholic Church from the University of Notre Dame gather with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades after the Rite of Election Feb. 11 at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend. The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion will take place on the Fort Wayne end of the diocese at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Rekindle the Fire set to spark male spirituality

BY WILLIAM SCHMITT

“The glory of God is man fully alive.” While that quote from the second-century Father of the Church, St. Irenaeus, can be understood to apply to both sexes, the upcoming Rekindle the Fire conference is citing it to particularly challenge men of the diocese and attract them to a lively day of spiritual growth.

This year’s Rekindle the Fire gathering, titled “Fully Alive,” will take place Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne. Guest speakers for the eighth annual event include Christopher West, a leading expert on human sexuality and the Theology of the Body; Joe Farris, a witty storyteller who inspires heroic service; and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who will celebrate Mass at the day’s end and also present a “teaching Mass” with insights designed to deepen attendees’ understanding of the liturgy.

That agenda, plus exhibits of various Catholic organizations inviting new participants and a corps of priests offering the sacrament of reconciliation to hundreds over a span of hours, affirm the customary RTF focus on learning, reflection and action. Some conference attendees report their opportunity for reconciliation, after being away from the sacrament for decades, to have been life-changing.

“Throng of men from across the diocese come to RTF conferences and local chapters for mutual support of their fuller involvement in family and parish life,” said Phil Seng, a longtime member of the conference’s planning committee. Between 900 and 1,200 registrants respond every year, and the location rotates between Fort Wayne and South Bend — an expanded outreach encouraged by Bishop Rhoades. Registration and information are available online at rekindlethefire.net.

Seng, a South Bend resident, said conference attendees tend to be split fairly evenly between repeat customers and newbies. “The men find assistance, encouragement and fulfillment in accepting their responsibilities at a time when modern society discourages constructive male instincts for ‘building and battle.’

“I think the world is in greater need of men of God today than ever before,” he added. Jesus modeled a life of self-donation and a willingness to sacrifice for key values, but “that’s absolutely countercultural.” Inspirational speakers, the camaraderie of the annual conferences and year-round participation in parish chapters aim to support following Jesus Christ and standing one’s ground against exclusively secular or self-centered pressures.

The conference has proven



Provided by Christopher West

Catholic speaker Christopher West will join Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Dynamic Catholic’s Joe Farris as presenters at Rekindle the Fire Men’s Conference on Feb. 24 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne. Rekindle the Fire is an annual men’s retreat that seeks to provide spiritual support, edification and assistance to men from across the diocese. West is pictured above.

valuable for Seng, since he got involved in the early days and helped the committee of about two dozen volunteers debut the event in South Bend in 2013. RTF has a central core team that manages all RTF business and includes men from across the diocese, and a separate committee to coordinate the annual gathering.

“It’s a real labor of love for these men on the committee,” said Seng. This year’s conference chairman Mike Savieo and his

crew have invested hundreds of hours. The team of RTF volunteers that assembles on the day of the conference swells to 50 or more — mostly members of local chapters or former attendees. More volunteers are always welcome, Seng pointed out.

For the past few years, the planners have stepped up efforts to attract men of ages 18-35 and to cultivate more parish-based chapters, based on survey results showing participants’ appreciation of the solidarity.

“That’s really my story,” the father of three said. “When I had my second son, the Holy Spirit put on my heart the phrase ‘man of God,’” emphasizing the need to shape his sons as men of God and provide a model of authentic manhood.

When Seng saw one of the early RTF conferences in Fort Wayne advertised, he knew that was for him — and he’s been attending ever since. “It helps to know there are other men facing similar challenges and struggles. Spending time and sharing the faith with them has made me a better man.”

New ideas and top-tier speakers emerge every year. On Feb. 24, Christopher West will address the assembly. He is an internationally respected author, motivator and teacher of the Theology of the Body — the groundbreaking approach to human sexuality developed by St. John Paul II. West has established a new initiative called The Cor Project, taking those liberating and empowering insights to a new level.

Rekindle the Fire runs from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Registration fees are \$45 per person, \$25 for students from middle school through college; but Seng said no one is turned away due to inability to pay. Advance registrations are requested so that box lunches can be ordered, but sign-up at the door is available.

The placebo effect

Thomas Jefferson once said: "One of the most successful physicians I have ever known has assured me that he used more bread pills, drops of colored water, powder of hickory ashes, than of all other medicines put together. It was certainly a pious fraud." He did not know it at the time, but he was describing the placebo effect. The term "placebo" is of Latin origin and means "I shall please." The placebo effect is an amazing phenomenon.

Anybody that quotes results of a scientific study to me knows that if it is not offered, I will immediately ask them if it was a double-blind, placebo-controlled study. If it was not, I will likely not take the study results very seriously. Medical studies that are trying to prove that a new medicine is effective must prove they are statistically better than a placebo (if the medicine is in pill form, then the placebo is usually a sugar pill). Study after study show that there is almost always a positive effect with placebo that can be upward of 40 percent improvement. Therefore, to obtain approval from the FDA and get on the market as a successful new medicine, you have to be able to beat placebo. Be aware that makers of vitamins and supplements, which reap billions of dollars of profits each year, are not regulated by the FDA and need not prove anything scientifically.

Is the placebo effect just the result of positive thinking? Absolutely not. It is so much more, especially if you are in a controlled trial. The doctor-

patient relationship and the patient encounters play a role. The suggestion by the doctor or nurse that this pill is going to make you feel better is very important. The treatment ritual of seeing the doctor and getting various tests can somehow ultimately result in benefit.

The placebo effect can go the other way too. In a placebo-controlled trial you don't know if you are getting the medicine or just a sugar pill. The investigators have to tell all the participants about the potential side effects of the new medicine. They may be told, for example that this medicine can cause nausea, headache and diarrhea. But, only half the patients are actually getting the medicine. Inevitably, a significant percentage of people on placebos get side effects based on the suggestion that they may. I have seen studies where the placebo had more reported side effects than the study medicine!

Sometimes new pain relief medicines have a difficult time beating placebos. Pain relief occurs through a complex neurobiological reaction. The opioid drugs, typified by morphine, work by binding to specific brain receptors. You might think that pain relief, then, should be tied to how much morphine one actually receives. Not necessarily. A brilliantly designed study in post-surgery patients put half the patients on a morphine drip that was titrated to control their pain. They did not know when or how much morphine they were getting. The other group of patients had the nurses come into the

THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

DR. DAVID KAMINSKAS

room as needed to control their pain. They would announce their arrival, show some empathy, and make sure the patients watched them push the morphine solution through the IV. This latter group used only half of the amount of morphine that the infusion pump group did, and yet had superior pain relief. The placebo effect is not only tied to expectations but also the human caring involved.

Changes in body chemistry have scientifically been measured with the use of placebos. One study showed that naturally occurring endorphins that we all generate in our brains increase and bind to neuroreceptors to relieve pain when a placebo-saline injection is given. This proved that it is more than a suggestion but an actual biochemical reaction that occurs in the brain to help relieve pain with placebo use. Using placebos to treat patients is deemed to be unethical in this age of informed consent. More research is needed in this area to learn how to harness the positive effects of placebo.

I learned in the early years of my practice that it is of utmost importance to give my patients hope. There must be optimism by

KAMINSKAS, page 13

Racial healing and God's mercy

In 1961, there was a best-selling book called "Black Like Me." It was the story of a journalist named John Howard Griffin, who changed his skin color from white to black and traveled through the South so that he could learn, as the book's subtitle said, "what it is like to live the life of a Negro by becoming one!"

It was a rare glimpse through white eyes of an "other America" of segregation and racial hostility, and the book contributed to the nation's growing awareness of the poisonous fruits of racism.

At the same time, a young African-American boy named Larry Oney was growing up in a Louisiana sharecropper's family. The family was so poor they ate mustard greens for Thanksgiving, and at 7 years of age, Larry went to work in the cotton fields. If he and his family did not experience slavery, then it was a suffocating racial and economic servitude that was meant to keep such workers in their place.

Against great odds, and thanks to an immensely courageous mother who dared to dream bigger dreams, Larry escaped from the fields to the city. Racism was just as pervasive there, but eventually Larry went to college and became a successful businessman who today is a Catholic deacon in the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Yet he would tell you the real miracle of his life was that he



AMID THE FRAY

GREG ERLANDSON

came to forgive. What he and his family experienced in the 1960s and 1970s left him filled with anger and racial hatred that could have led him down a much darker path, if not for the grace of God.

The story of his conversion, his baptism and a deepening Catholic faith that eventually led him to become a deacon is told in a new book titled "Amazed by God's Grace: Overcoming Racial Divides by the Power of the Holy Spirit."

To meet Deacon Larry Oney today, one might never guess what he had endured as a boy. He seems to have a perpetual twinkle in his eye and gentleness of spirit. He is passionate about his faith and has a determined optimism about God's ability to change lives.

Yet he is matter of fact about the racial divisions that still haunt our country. Unfortunately, for many of his fellow Americans, it still remains difficult to address these divisions honestly. Perhaps we need a second John Howard Griffin, whose profound

ERLANDSON, page 13

God establishes His covenant with us through baptism



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

First Sunday of Lent Mark 1:12-15

The first reading, from the Book of Genesis, presents the familiar story of Noah. It is a story of contrast and of the consequences of this contrast. Noah was faithful, whereas the world almost universally was not faithful. God protected Noah from doom, to which the sinful world succumbed.

Warned by God, Noah took his family, and couples of the various animals, onto the ark, or ship, that Noah had constructed. As the floodwaters ebbed, the ark settled on dry land. By God's help, all aboard Noah's ark survived.

God assures Noah, and all

people, that never again would a flood destroy the earth. God promises a Covenant with Noah's people. Under this Covenant, or solemn agreement, the people would obey God's law. In turn, God would protect them from peril.

It is the foundational story of all that would be revealed in the long history of salvation. Sin destroys, but God protects the truly faithful.

The second reading is from the Second Epistle of Peter. The letter states that it was composed in Babylon, surely a symbol of Rome, the mighty, magnificent-to-behold imperial capital, and also the center of paganism and of the impious culture of the time.

Roman Christians at the time required encouragement. This epistle provided such encouragement by recalling the faithfulness of Noah. God protects and saves the faithful, who in baptism and in holiness identify themselves with Jesus.

St. Mark's Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is very brief, only a few verses, but its brevity

gives it drama and directness in its message.

Use of the number "forty" is revealing, suggesting as it does the 40 days spent by Moses in the desert before God gave him the law on Sinai. Jesus is the bearer of God's holy word, as was Moses. "Forty" was code for the perfectly fulfilled.

Jesus was ready to undertake the mission of redemption and reconciliation.

Wild beasts were everywhere, then and still today, in the Judean wilderness. Yet, angels protected Jesus. By the way, Mark does not lose the chance again to assert that Jesus is the Son of God.

At last, indicated by John's arrest and removal from the role of prophet, the culmination of salvation awaits, in Jesus. Jesus steps forward, proclaiming that God's majesty will be seen. The Lord calls upon the people to repent. "The time of fulfillment" is at hand. God will be vindicated. Jesus has come to set everything in balance. The sinful will be laid low. The good will endure.

Reflection

The Church has begun Lent, the most intense period in its year of calling people to union with God. While Ash Wednesday was the first day of Lent, many Catholics will begin the Lenten process with this weekend's Mass.

The readings call people to face the facts of life as humans, bearers of good or evil, always affected by good and evil.

Regardless of the exact details of the flood described in Genesis, so often discussed and indeed questioned on scientific grounds, the religious message of Noah and his ark is clear. It supplies a fitting beginning to reflection for Lent. Sin, the willful rejection of God, leads necessarily and always to destruction.

The message of Christ, in the end, is never filled with woe and despair. God offers eternal life and peace to us now. For those who fail, God is forgiving and merciful, so long as the wayward see their faults and ask for mercy.

Essential to asking for

forgiveness is to acknowledge personal sin. We must delve deeply into our hearts and minds and scrutinize what we have done.

We must be humble and strong enough to be frank with ourselves. So, we now begin our 40 days of concentrating upon our salvation.

READINGS

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15 Ps 25:4-9 1 Pt 3:18-22 Mk 1:12-15

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 Ps 19:8-10, 15 Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11 Ps 34:4-7, 16-19 Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10 Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: 1 Pt 5:1-4 Ps 23:1-6 Mt 16:13-19

Friday: Ez 18:21-28 Ps 130:1-8 Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19 Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 Mt 5:43-48

Pork Roll, Lent, and Catholic identity

A few weeks before Ash Wednesday, an Associated Press squib with Lenten implications appeared in the Washington Post sports section: “* YANKEES: New York’s Class AA affiliate in Trenton, N.J., will change its name from the Thunder to the Pork Roll on Fridays this season. The pork roll is a New Jersey staple, served on breakfast sandwiches and as a burger topping.”

For those unfortunates who didn’t grow up in the I-95 corridor between the Holland Tunnel and the southern outskirts of Baltimore, I venture to explain. “Taylor Pork Roll,” also known as “Taylor Ham” south and west of the Delaware River, is a compound of the ground-up and sugar-cured bits of a pig of which the pig has no cause to be proud, tightly encased in a canvas wrapper. Fried or grilled, it’s salty and greasy and a lot of other wonderful things frowned on by the food police. In my wild adolescence, I used to cut a half-inch slab off the loaf, impale it on a fork, and roast it over an electronic burner in my parents’ kitchen: the ideal post-school snack before wrestling with Cicero’s Latin syntax and the mysteries of Algebra II. I still indulge in it occasionally, to my wife’s olfactory displeasure, and I always order it in a diner when breakfasting in the Garden State.

But only the perfidious Yankees — “the Yanqui enemy of mankind,” as the Sandinista national anthem in 1980s Nicaragua neatly put it — would have a farm team that changed its name to “Trenton Pork Roll” on, specifically, Fridays.

Ad primum, pork roll was always consumed as a post-Mass treat on Sundays, and rigor-

ously avoided on Fridays. Ad secundum, flaunting pork roll in the face of devout Catholics by emblazoning it on jerseys at Arm & Hammer Park on Fridays is an invitation to the divine wrath, to which the Thunder/Pork Roll is already vulnerable because of its major-league affiliation.

So, in solidarity with fellow Catholics in the Diocese of Trenton, I propose that we all continue the Lenten practice of Friday abstinence from meat, which commences on Feb. 16 this year, until such time as the Thunder/Pork Roll’s management acknowledges its miscue and switches the name-switch to Sundays. (If the Thunder wish to become the Trenton Fish Fry on Fridays, fine by me, although as a marketing tool that would likely work better in Wisconsin.)

Friday abstinence was once a defining mark of the practicing Catholic, and Lenten pork roll raillery aside, it ought to be again. The Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales is not renowned for its traditionalism, but some years ago the bishops mandated a year-round return to Friday abstinence south of Hadrian’s Wall, and good for them for doing so. If our baptisms really set us apart for Christ, then we should live a different temporal rhythm than the rest of the world: not to advertise our righteousness but to remind ourselves, each other, and those who might be curious about these Catholics and their ways that we’re, well, different. And at a moment in Western cultural history in which the tsunami of the Culture of Me threatens to overwhelm everything, putting down behavioral markers of difference is no small thing. From Friday abstinence, who knows



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

what might grow?

Lent is the perfect time, or as Isaiah 49:8 puts it, the “acceptable time,” to begin a journey of Christian difference. As I explain in my book on a venerable Lenten tradition, “Roman Pilgrimage: The Station Churches, the Forty Days” should be an annual re-catechumenate for the entire Church: six and a half weeks in which the already-baptized join the catechumens who will enter the Church at Easter in walking the road to Calvary with the Lord, in order to be empowered for missionary discipleship in the Easter waters of baptism with which we are all blessed. Little things count along that pilgrim way, including small self-denials like eating differently on Fridays (and almsgiving, and intensified prayer, the other two great Lenten disciplines). Try it.

And, of course, Lent, which coincides with that other season of new disciplines known as “spring training,” is the acceptable time for the Trenton Thunder to get with the program, do a mea maxima culpa, and agree to become the Trenton Pork Roll on Sundays.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

pulled over.

Deacon Larry knows these stories too, but what drives him is an experience of God’s love and mercy that transcended race and stilled his anger. His hope is that our Church can become a leader in word and deed of true racial reconciliation in this country.

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

KAMINSKAS from, page 12

the physician that a certain treatment plan will work. Not false hope, mind you, but hope that certain goals of treatment may be accomplished. The goal may be to live longer, to feel better, to relieve pain or maybe attend a special family event.

I am fully confident that when you visit the sick, hold their hand and tell them you care, you are helping to relieve their pain and suffering. When you do nothing more than sit in a room with a friend who is struggling with a physical or mental illness, and thereby show compassion, you are helping them heal.

Now, imagine being with a loved one and praying for them, or better yet, praying with them. How can this not be more powerful than any placebo effect could ever be?

Dr. David Kaminskas is a board certified cardiologist and member of The Dr. Jerome Lejeune Catholic Medical Guild of Northeast Indiana, www.fortwaynecma.com.

ERLANDSON, from, page 12

racial empathy led him to walk in another man’s shoes for even a little while.

In Washington, D.C., the new National Museum of African American History and Culture tells the stories — good and bad — about the black experience in this country. But the anecdotal impression is that there are many more African-Americans than whites who are visiting that museum.

To let God’s healing mercy in, we need to start listening to each other’s stories. For me, the moment came when I heard a middle-aged professional describe what it was like to drive every day past a garage door with a huge Confederate flag on it.

He told me what it is like to be stopped by the police in a largely white county. He told me about “the talk” that black fathers have to have with their sons. This is not about the birds and the bees, but about how to behave when, not if, they are

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for February 18, 2018

1 Peter 3:18-22 / Mark 1:12-15

Following is a word search based on the Gospel and Second Reading for First Sunday of Lent, Cycle B: times in the wilderness. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

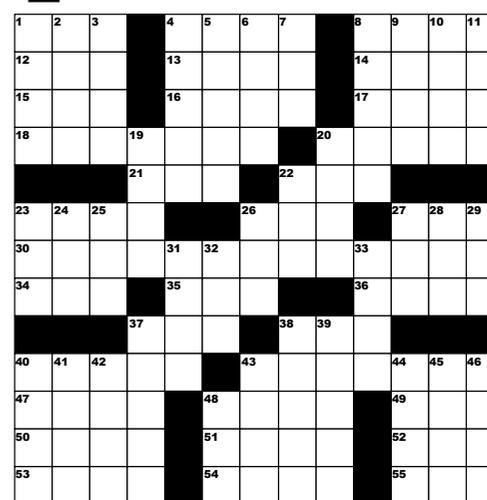
CHRIST TO DEATH WAITED THE ARK BAPTISM FORTY DAYS ANGELS	SUFFERED FLESH DAYS OF NOAH EIGHT HEAVEN SATAN JOHN	ONCE PRISON BUILDING WATER SUBJECT TO HIM WILD BELIEVE
--	---	--

JESUS MISSION

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

The Cross Word

February 18 and 25, 2018



© 2018 www.tri-a-publications.com

Readings: Gn 9:8-15; 1Peter 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15 and Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

ACROSS

- 1 Relief
- 4 Wound mark
- 8 Vegetable
- 12 ___ Lanka
- 13 ___ matter
- 14 French for "peacock"
- 15 Peter cut one off
- 16 Weaving tool
- 17 Take the wrinkles out
- 18 National songs
- 20 Abraham had for sacrifice
- 21 Sports official
- 22 Jesus came to, for our sins
- 23 " ___ as a bug in a rug"

26 Symbol for the Father

- 27 Poisonous snake
- 30 Magnitude of a real number
- 34 Communication Workers in U.S. (abbr.)
- 35 Joan of ___
- 36 40-day season
- 37 "This is my beloved ___"
- 38 Flightless bird
- 40 Old palms for Mass
- 43 Covenant
- 47 Honk
- 48 Time periods
- 49 ___ v. Wade court case
- 50 Next to Kauai

- 51 Flower jar
- 52 Peter's mother-in-law was
- 53 Support
- 54 Lamps of the body
- 55 Distress call

DOWN

- 1 Afloat
- 2 Persia
- 3 Removal of this from body
- 4 Melchizedek was king of
- 5 Walk noisily
- 6 Minor Bible prophet
- 7 Took Isaac's place
- 8 State
- 9 Curry
- 10 Protective covering
- 11 Mary's mother
- 19 Author, Victor ___
- 20 Capital of Ukraine
- 22 Tint
- 23 Pouch
- 24 North by west
- 25 N. American nation
- 26 And so forth
- 27 Monastery drink
- 28 Our star
- 29 Ferret
- 31 Country in SE Asia
- 32 Cremains holder
- 33 Graduate
- 37 Establish throne
- 38 Rub out
- 39 Appeared with Elijah
- 40 Spinning toy (2 wds.)
- 41 Eagles do
- 42 Santa call (2 wds.)
- 43 Ask God
- 44 Sword flower
- 45 Fly alone
- 46 Snaky fish
- 48 Adam's spouse

Answer Key can be found on page 15

Fire on ice: Wojtek Wolski's faith helps keep Olympic dream alive

BY TIM WARNSBY

TORONTO (CNS) — Wojtek Wolski has gone from being a can't-miss prospect from St. Michael's College to a disillusioned young man who wanted to quit hockey, to a hospital patient facing a long comeback after shattering injury, and now to a man who has a shot at Olympic glory.

Every stage has been a physical and emotional trial for the 31-year-old left wing from Etobicoke, Ontario, and he credits his hard-working parents, Zofia and Wes, as well as his Catholic faith for his perseverance.

"The only time you really fail at something is when you quit," said Wolski, who joins Team Canada in its gold-medal quest starting Feb. 15 against Switzerland in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

"Some of the most successful people in the world ... were people who were persistent and kept going. I believe my family, and my faith is what has kept me going."

Wolski likes to read about successful people and what makes them tick. He reads a little every evening. Then, he says his prayers before bed and enters dreamland.

Sixteen months ago, however, he went through a real-life nightmare. He broke his neck in two places and suffered a concussion in the 19th game of his season in Russia.

Wolski had played for five different NHL teams in three years after being traded four times — from the Colorado Avalanche to the Arizona Coyotes to the New York Rangers to the Florida



CBNS photo/courtesy Martin Cloutier

Wojtek Wolski, pictured in an undated photo, will play for Team Canada in the Olympics. He credits his faith and his parents for helping him persevere after a neck injury in 2016.

Panthers — and signing with the Washington Capitals for his final stop in the league.

"I had scored 23 goals (in 2009-10) in a season split between Colorado and the Coyotes," Wolski said. "I was excited. It was my best season. But the next year I started to suffer from groin problems and a bad back.

"I was engaged, but that fell apart, too. When I bounced around with all the trades, I wanted to quit. I was depressed. I started seeing a psychiatrist.

"My father talked me out of quitting. He said, 'Why would you give up something you love doing?'"

Wolski rediscovered his love for the game in Russia.

He signed a two-year contract to play for Torpedo Nizhny Novgorod of the Kontinental Hockey League in 2013. He thought it would be his last contract in hockey.

But he found his game again. He played so well, one of the better teams in Russia, Metallurg Magnitogorsk, lured Wolski away, and he helped the team win the 2015-16 Gagarin Cup.

"Somehow, I started playing well, liking the game again," said Wolski.

He started a family while playing in Russia and now has two children, 2-year-old Weston and 11-month-old Lennon, with his Canadian wife, Jesse.

"I think it was because I had

so much alone time in Russia that I started to work on myself as a person on my own, and it just seemed to agree with me. I found happiness," he said.

Wolski was born in Zabrze, Poland, in 1986. When he was 1, his parents fled the communist country with him and his brother Kordian, then 6. They landed in West Germany in a refugee camp, and the Catholic Church helped the Wolskis find their way to Canada, where they had relatives.

Wolski used to follow his brother to an outdoor rink in their Toronto neighborhood, but got fed up having to wear Kordian's hand-me-down skates. So, with money received for his first Communion, he went to a second-hand sporting goods store to buy a pair of used skates.

"Those skates are still hanging on a wall in my parent's house," Wolski said.

He developed quickly and played junior B level hockey at St. Michael's College in Toronto.

"We had a 15-minute Mass at lunchtime at St. Mike's," he said. "On game days, I would go with a teammate and say a prayer.

In Russia, in the fall of 2016, life was good for Wolski, on and off the ice. But on Oct. 16, a "bizarre" turn of events threatened it all.

His team was on the power play in the third period. Wolski slid to poke the puck back to his teammate Chris Lee, who is also part of Canada's Olympic team.

"It was such a bizarre play because he was going sideways," Lee recalled.

"An opponent fell on him and they slid into the boards," Lee said.

Wolski remembers everything about that incident. He remembers thinking he had been paralyzed, but then after "30 to 40 seconds" being able to move his arms and legs.

He remembers joking with the trainer in the ambulance ride to the hospital. He remembers not being strapped in properly and feeling every bump along the way, especially driving over train tracks.

Wolski's season was over. With the help of Toronto-based trainer Matt Nichol, Wolski worked himself back into shape and earned a spot on the Canadian Olympic roster.

"Wojtek is a great person," said Mike Pelino, Metallurg Magnitogorsk assistant coach. "He's really deserving of representing Canada, and he will make the Canadian fans proud with his efforts and with the passion he plays with.

"I am very happy for him to have earned this opportunity, and more so to have been able to come back after such a horrific incident," he said. "I must admit I had a real sick feeling in my stomach because you knew that it was something serious.

"From that very moment though, Wojtek had such a positive and upbeat attitude and I was confident that, God willing, he would return better than ever."

Wolski says perseverance is the key for Team Canada.

"We're a bunch of guys who never gave up. We've all found a way to keep our careers going, because we haven't given up on ourselves," he said.

Warnsby is a writer in Toronto, contributing to the

SERVICE DIRECTORY

PNC Bank Building
LEONARD J. Andorfer
 & Co., LLP
 110 W. Berry Street, STE 2202
 Fort Wayne 46802
 (260) 423-9405
 Fax: (260) 422-9206
 CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

• Tax Planning and Preparation
 Corporations, Individuals and Partnerships
 • Estates and Trusts • Auditing Services
 Visit us at www.ljandorfer.com

CHUCK'S FOOT SUPPORT
 Shoes - Pedorthics - Repair

Chuck is the only Silver Cup Award winning, shoe repairman and Silver Cup Judge in the Fort Wayne area. Let a **Master Craftsman** repair your shoes and boots.

4546 Maplecrest Road • 492-1752
 Tuesday-Friday 8-6. Saturday 8-2
 CLOSED SUNDAY & MONDAY

www.chucksfootsupport.com



THINK GREEN
 Repair it!

SHAWNEE
 Construction & Engineering

COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

7701 Opportunity Drive, Fort Wayne 46825

489-1234

Jobs in Fort Wayne with
PART TIME **CIOCCA** **FULL TIME**
 Cleaning & Restoration

Openings on 1st, 2nd & 3rd shifts
RETIRES WELCOME

Apply online at cioccas.com

Expertise you can rely on.

Michael Kendzicky
 Glen Lothary
 James Lothary
 Michael Marien

Private Wealth Management
 4220 Edison Lakes Parkway, Suite 100
 Mishawaka, IN 46545
 574-247-6830 • 800-866-9022
rwbaird.com

BAIRD

©2015 Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated. MC-46527.

Helping buyers and sellers find the home of their dreams! Call... we're here to help.



RE/MAX Results



Caitlin Berghoff
 Cell: 260-403-9898
caitlinberghoff@remax.net
www.cberghoffhomes.com

Andy Hall
 Cell: 260-417-5093
andyhall@remax.com
www.andyhallhomes.com

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send announcements at least two weeks prior to the event. View more Catholic events and submit new ones at www.todayscatholic.org/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.

Holy Name Society plans fish fry
NEW HAVEN — The St. John the Baptist Holy Name Society, 943 Powers St., will have four fish fries starting Friday, Feb. 16, from 4-7 p.m. Takeout is \$9 with two sides. Dine-in is \$9 for adults, \$5 for kids with three sides. Desserts are also available.

Fish fry planned at St. Patrick
WALKERTON — A fish fry prepared by Tyner 100F Lodge, will be Friday, Feb. 16, at St. Patrick Church, 811 Tyler St., from 4-7 p.m. Drive-through carryouts are available at \$9 each. No all-fish carryouts. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$4 for Children 6-10 years and free for children 6 and under.

Knights of Columbus Lenten fish fry
SOUTH BEND — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521 will have Lenten fish fries at the South Bend Francis Club, 61533 Ironwood Rd., starting Friday, Feb. 16 and continuing on all Fridays during Lent, includ-

ing Good Friday, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$9, children 5-12 \$4, children under 5 free. Shrimp is also available for \$9.50, and cheese pizza for \$1 per slice.

Knights drive-through fish fry
FORT WAYNE — The St. Joseph Hessen-Cassel Knights of Columbus, 11521 Old Decatur Rd., will be hosting a drive-through fish fry on Friday, Feb. 16, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the school hall.

Not your grandma's family planning
HUNTINGTON — Discover how natural methods of family planning compare with artificial methods of contraception and fertilization in a free, 2-hour presentation Saturday, Feb. 17, from 6-8 p.m. at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, 860 Cherry St. Food and childcare provided by Sts. Peter and Paul parishioners. RSVP to Stephanie Hamilton at 260-610-3777 or stephaniehamilton-crms@outlook.com.

The Crossword

February 18 and 25, 2018

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

REST IN PEACE

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Bremen
Mark E. Wagner, 67,
St. Dominic | Granger
Mildred T. Armentrout,
91, St. Pius X | South Bend
John Joseph Connell,
83, St. Matthew
Cathedral |
| Elkhart
Alice Craven, 90,
St. Thomas the
Apostle | William A. Wieger, 84,
St. Pius X | John T. Norton, 78,
Christ the King |
| Fort Wayne
Gregory S. Schmitt,
M.D., 63, St. Elizabeth
Ann Seton | New Haven
Eleanor C. Ehinger, 96,
St. John the Baptist | Joseph Nelson Hulben,
84, Christ the King |
| Richard E. Ostman, 93,
St. Jude | Notre Dame
Judith Cummins, 73,
Basilica of the Sacred
Heart | Sharon Kaye Lynch, 78,
Christ the King |
| Sharon L. Raabe, 61,
St. Jude | Ervin A. Derda, 93,
Our Lady of Holy Cross
Chapel | Philip Shafer, 90,
St. Joseph |
| Dennis Joseph
Hatfield, 84,
St. Charles Borromeo | Dorothy Morre, 83,
Sanctuary at St. Paul's | |
| Garrett
Michael Molargik, 100,
St. Joseph | Plymouth
Cindy L. Sherwood, 55,
St. Michael | |

Submit obituaries to
mweber@diocesefwsb.org

McElhaney-Hart FUNERAL HOME



715 North Jefferson
Huntington

(260) 356-3320

www.mcelhaneyhartfuneralhome.com



Sisters of the Holy Cross

Director of Pastoral / Spiritual Care

The Sisters of the Holy Cross, Inc. a Roman Catholic congregation of women religious is seeking to fill a full-time Director of Pastoral / Spiritual Care position.

Responsibilities include responding to Sister's requests for spiritual care, participating in resident care conferences, planning and implementation of reflections related to liturgical seasons and the annual retreat for sisters and associate, oversee committees to promote and evaluate all pastoral / spiritual care programs. This position will have budget oversight responsibility for the Pastoral Care Department.

This position requires a woman of deep faith with an understanding of Catholicism and knowledge of religious life. Three to five years of pastoral care experience and chaplain certification are required. Master's degree is preferred.

For immediate consideration send resume to:
 Sisters of the Holy Cross, Inc., Attn: Human Resources Director
 100 Lourdes Hall-Saint Mary's, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556
 Or email to: jszekendi@cscsisters.org





*Blessed are those who
mourn, for they shall
be comforted.*

Matthew 5:4

The Divine Mercy Funeral Home and Catholic Cemetery are committed to comforting those who mourn while assisting them with planning the funeral rites in accordance with Catholic teaching and practice.

We invite you to consider your funeral service and burial needs now, before the time arises, saving your loved ones from making those difficult decisions. If you have already made pre-planning arrangements through another funeral home, you may transfer those arrangements to Divine Mercy if that is your wish.

To schedule an appointment call 260.426.2044

Divine Mercy Office
 3500 Lake Avenue
 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 Monday through Friday.

www.divinemercuryfuneralhome.com

Looking back: Jones family joins the Catholic Church

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

Gabriel Jones began asking to receive the sacraments of initiation after his fifth-grade classmates became altar servers. He and his younger sister, Katherine, were enrolled in a parish school, but the family soon changed parishes to St. Joseph in South Bend. At St. Joseph, for the first time, Gabriel's non-Catholic father Bruce began going forward during Communion to receive a blessing.

Gabriel began preparing for baptism, confirmation and first Eucharist with other youths at St. Joseph. At first Bruce wanted to let the Easter Vigil be Gabriel's special moment, but he soon decided to join RCIA himself.

Growing up, Bruce's family had occasionally attended Baptist services, but he hadn't been baptized until he and Mary, a cradle Catholic, were planning their wedding.

Bruce had never looked seriously at organized religion, he said. Later, Mary Butiste-Jones, Gabriel's mother, had also fallen away from actively practicing her Catholic faith during her years in college, law school and at work. Making a Christ Renews His Parish retreat at St. Joseph in October 2008 became important to her, though, and the family became regulars at Sunday Mass.

Katherine was right on the edge of the "age of reason." She had the option of participating in the children's RCIA program with Gabriel, but decided she'd rather be baptized under the infant rite so she could later receive the sacraments of reconciliation, Eucharist and confirmation with her classmates. She was baptized in February 2009.

Bruce has very positive memories of RCIA. "When I looked around at the first session, I realized how diverse we were. But we grew very close over the course of that year. Most of us are still good friends."

He made his profession of



Provided by the Jones family

From left are Gabriel Jones, Mary Butiste-Jones, Katherine Jones and Bruce Jones. Mary, a lifelong Catholic, saw Bruce and her children received into the Catholic Church 10 years ago, and they have grown in their faith together since then.

faith at the Easter Vigil in 2009, when Gabriel was baptized, when they were both confirmed and received their first Eucharist. The experience was so powerful that the family has never missed the Easter Vigil at St. Joseph in subsequent years.

Easter last year was especially powerful for Gabriel. His freshman year at Butler University was not going well academically or personally. A close relative and a "second mother" to him had recently died. He was so upset with God that he stopped going to Mass. But at the Easter Vigil, as he watched three young

men receive the sacraments of initiation just as he had eight years earlier, his faith was revitalized. "I needed that," he said. "The vigil opened me back up." He eventually went to confession, and the priest "helped me get my head screwed back on right."

After they entered the Church, the Jones' became very active in St. Joseph Parish. Bruce used his computer expertise on the school board and parish council, facilitating the transition to electronic record-keeping. Mary served on the stewardship committee, and they both helped determine

whether the parish could support a capital campaign to build the new gymnasium. They also gave a talk on stewardship at the end of Sunday Mass. In that talk, Bruce explained that one of the reasons he didn't join a church earlier was his impression that "preachers always had their hands in your pocket." But once he got his priorities straight and gave his life to the Lord, things fell into better order. They were able to be very generous with

their time and talent as well as their treasure. "We really believe in giving," said Bruce. "It's so true that the more you give, the more you get."

When Gabriel was composing essays for college applications, he decided to write about the service he had done at Hope Ministries homeless shelter, the food bank and Our Lady of the Road, a breakfast ministry of the Catholic Worker community. Admissions officers at more than one Catholic college were so impressed that they responded with hand-written notes. Bruce and Mary couldn't figure out why Gabriel had such a big grin one Easter, when he spotted one of the men who was being received into the Church. It turned out that the man was a resident of the homeless center, where Gabriel had struck up a friendship with him.

Bruce and Gabriel both had health crises a few months ago. Bruce needed extensive heart surgery, and Gabriel, who has a heart valve issue, had an abscess that necessitated removal of his tonsils and adenoids. During this time, the family felt buoyed up by their faith and the prayer support of the Christian community. "I had pain," Bruce recalled, "but absolutely no fear. I knew everything was going to be OK, regardless of what happened."

All four members of the Jones family have also served in liturgical ministries. Katherine's first assignment was being an altar server for a visit by the Congregation of Holy Cross provincial. Gabriel also got his chance to fulfill his original desire to be an altar server, serving funerals and Sunday liturgies well into his years at Saint Joseph High School. During one three-month stretch, he served Mass every single weekend.

"Looking back," said Mary, "it's clear that the Holy Spirit guided us."

CAMINO PILGRIMAGE

in Spain | June 16-24, 2018



A walking pilgrimage for young adults in northern Spain
Learn more at: www.diocesefwsb.org/yam-pilgrimages

DIocese OF
FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

VERSO MINISTRIES

NEW PROGRAM



Friday &
Saturday
at 1 pm

RedeemerRadio.com/Doctor

 **Redeemer Radio**
106.3 FM | 95.7 FM

Listen worldwide at RedeemerRadio.com

Contact or provide financial support at info@redeemerradio.com
4618 E. State Blvd., Suite 200 • Fort Wayne, IN 46815 • 260.436.9598