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# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 92 No. 10

50¢

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org



Ann Unger

St. Patrick is depicted in a stained-glass window at St. Patrick Oratory in Lagro. St. Patrick grew up in Scotland, but at 16 he was captured by raiders and sold as a slave in Ireland. Forced to work as a shepherd, he suffered greatly but also found faith. After six years he escaped, studied to become a priest and became a bishop at the age of 43. He ordained many priests, divided the country into dioceses, held Church councils, founded several monasteries and continually urged the Irish people to greater holiness in Christ. His feast day is celebrated March 17.

## Salvation is gift of God, brings people into community

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Salvation in Christ is a gift of God that cannot be earned by human efforts alone, and it is not simply some kind of interior transformation, but touches the way Christians live in the world and relate to others, said a new document from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

"Both the individualistic and the merely interior visions of salvation contradict the sacramental economy through which God wants to save the human person," said the document "Placuit Deo" ("It Pleas'd God") on "certain aspects of Christian salvation."

Released at the Vatican March 1, the document was the first issued since Archbishop Luis Ladaria became prefect of the doctrinal congregation in July.

The document, approved by Pope Francis in mid-February, focuses on two errors Pope Francis has said seem to underlie the statements and attitudes of a growing number of Christians: neo-Pelagianism, the idea that people can save themselves by being strong and very disciplined; and neo-Gnosticism, in which the focus is so strongly placed on knowledge that it ends up despising the body, the physical needs of others and the creation of a community.

"Salvation cannot be reduced simply to a message, a practice, a gnosis (knowledge) or an interior feeling," Archbishop Ladaria said in his presentation of the document. It flows from a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, which in turn leads to incorporation in the Church and an effort to live as Jesus did, especially in attention to the poor and the suffering, he said.

Responding to reporters' questions, Archbishop Ladaria said it is probably easier to identify traces of neo-Pelagianism than neo-Gnosticism because "we all have a tendency toward self-sufficiency."

The document, he said, "does not want to point fingers," but does want to draw people's atten-

tion to "the tendency of self-sufficiency" and "the tendency of isolation, which does not take into account that salvation is something eminently communitarian."

To respond to "both to the individualist reductionism of Pelagian tendency and to the neo-Gnostic promise of a merely interior salvation," the document said, "we must remember the way in which Jesus is savior."

"He did not limit himself to showing us the way to encounter God, a path we can walk on our own by being obedient to his words and by imitating his example," it said, but He became the way, and a relationship with Him is essential.

"Furthermore, this path is not merely an interior journey at the margins of our relationships with others and with the created world," it said, because Christ "assumed the entirety of our humanity and lived a fully human life in communion with His Father and with others."

Understanding the role of the Church, "the community of those who have been incorporated into this new kind of relationship begun by Christ," is essential for combatting the tendencies of self-sufficiency and isolation, the document said.

"The participation in the new kind of relationships begun by Jesus occurs in the church by means of the sacraments, of which baptism is the door, and the Eucharist is the source and the summit," it said.

Reaffirming age-old Christian teaching, the document insisted "total salvation of the body and of the soul is the final destiny to which God calls all of humanity."

Since the Church is "the universal sacrament of salvation," all Christians are called to share the good news of Christ and invite others to a relationship with Him, it said. But, citing the teaching of the Second Vatican Council, it also said "Christians must also be prepared to establish a sincere and constructive dialogue with believers of other religions, confident that

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# 'Migration is not just a political issue, but a spiritual one'

BY GWEN MCCAIN

How are Catholics called upon to treat the migrant? Hopefully, everyone would open their homes to friends, family and neighbors. Christ, a migrant from the inn at Bethlehem to His 40 days in the desert, compels His followers to go further and seek out the least among them. But an alternative has developed that is being loudly protested by the faithful across the U.S.; legislation and global indifference close U.S. communities and the country's borders to the most vulnerable. In doing so, Catholic obligations are rejected.

Father Dan Groody, CSC, associate professor of theology and global affairs and director of the Global Leadership Program at the University of Notre Dame's Kellogg Institute, said Americans would "deport our own souls" with legislation that denies human dignity to immigrants. He explained:

"Migration is not just a political issue, but a spiritual one. To address the core problems, one has to go to the imagination and connect both our hearts and our heads. They are us. If we don't have the heart to see something of us in them, then, we have deported our souls."

The world is changing. Globalization has increased human migration: Today there are 258 million people who have emigrated from their homelands and 65.6 million forcibly displaced people. In America, the debate ricochets from DACA to refugees, and each day consensus seems harder. But some argue that the appropriate response is as clear as ever. More people must leave their homes to seek a safe and prosperous life, and the most vulnerable people exist on the margins of society as a symptom of social indifference. This is when Christ is most present. Catholics and all people of good will are called to see Christ in the immigrant and reflect His love towards them through inclusive action.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Justice for Immigrants campaign advocates for immigration reform that aligns with Catholic social teaching. In its plea to Congress, the USCCB endorses legislation that has humane and proportionate border security, provides



CNS photo/Jorge Duenes, Reuters

Young people on the Mexico side of the border near the steel fence in Tijuana, Mexico, Dec. 16. The "Dreamers" sign on one woman's blouse shows support for young immigrants trying to better their future.

sanctuary for unaccompanied children and ensures protections and ultimately citizenship for America's 1.8 million "Dreamers." The bishops emphasize the importance of family as the social foundation, as seen in family-based immigration and the diversity visa program, and want legislation that is pursued with integrity and does not bargain one piece of legislation for another, or children for their parents.

Father Groody explained that they theology of migration seeks "to see God Himself as a migrant in Jesus... who calls us to be in solidarity with everyone else on that journey, especially those who are migrating today." Jesus 'migrated' to the broken, human world in poverty, and now calls it to pilgrimage with Him in pursuit of salvation. Catholicism, at its core, is about moving towards communion with God and migrating towards the kingdom of God. Because of this, it is all the more important that special care is provided for vulnerable travelers, who embody the image of Christ.

Despite this moral vision, many people still feel torn between obligations to sovereignty and to their faith. St.

Thomas Aquinas, in his conception of the common good and laws, provides precedent. All laws must promote the common good, he said, and should two laws contradict, the one that does not promote the common good is invalid and should be rejected.

The Catholic bishops' position demonstrates that current U.S. immigration laws and proposals do not promote the common good, and they have called on Catholics in the U.S. to reject such cruelty and to act within the parameters of civil engagement and the Church's charity. "What you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine," Christ said, "you did for me" (Mt 25:40).

Not long ago, Pope Francis called for action in Lampedusa, on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea, where so many refugees have died. He said, "The globalization of indifference has taken from us the ability to weep!" He likened dispassion to that of the priest and Levite as the traveler lay bleeding. The Samaritan violated his cultural norms to care for the vulnerable. People must look beyond borders and see the human suffering caused by indif-

ference to the conditions one's brothers and sisters are forced to live in, he said. Once injustice is clear, action can spring forth and neighbors can be protected, both at the doors of a nation and across the world. Through civic action and the Church, a culture of love and dignity can be promoted.

Dream SB, a campaign group of students from Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College and Holy Cross College, has been advocating on campus and in the South Bend community for legislators Sen. Mark Donnelly, Sen. Todd Young, and Rep. Jackie Walorski, to defend human dignity in upcoming DACA negotiations and future measures on comprehensive immigration reform. Through call-ins, prayer vigils, a march and legislative meetings with representatives, the students have made the voice of compassion and dignity heard. To support their campaign, call your legislators and sign a petition at <http://bit.ly/2BclcMu> in solidarity with the Dreamers.

Gwen McCain is a student at the University of Notre Dame.

## SALVATION, from page 1

God can lead 'all men of good will in whose hearts grace works in an unseen way' toward salvation in Christ."

Archbishop Ladaria said the Catholic Church continues to

affirm Vatican II's teaching that the one Church of Christ "subsists in the Catholic Church, governed by the successor of Peter and the bishops in communion with him."

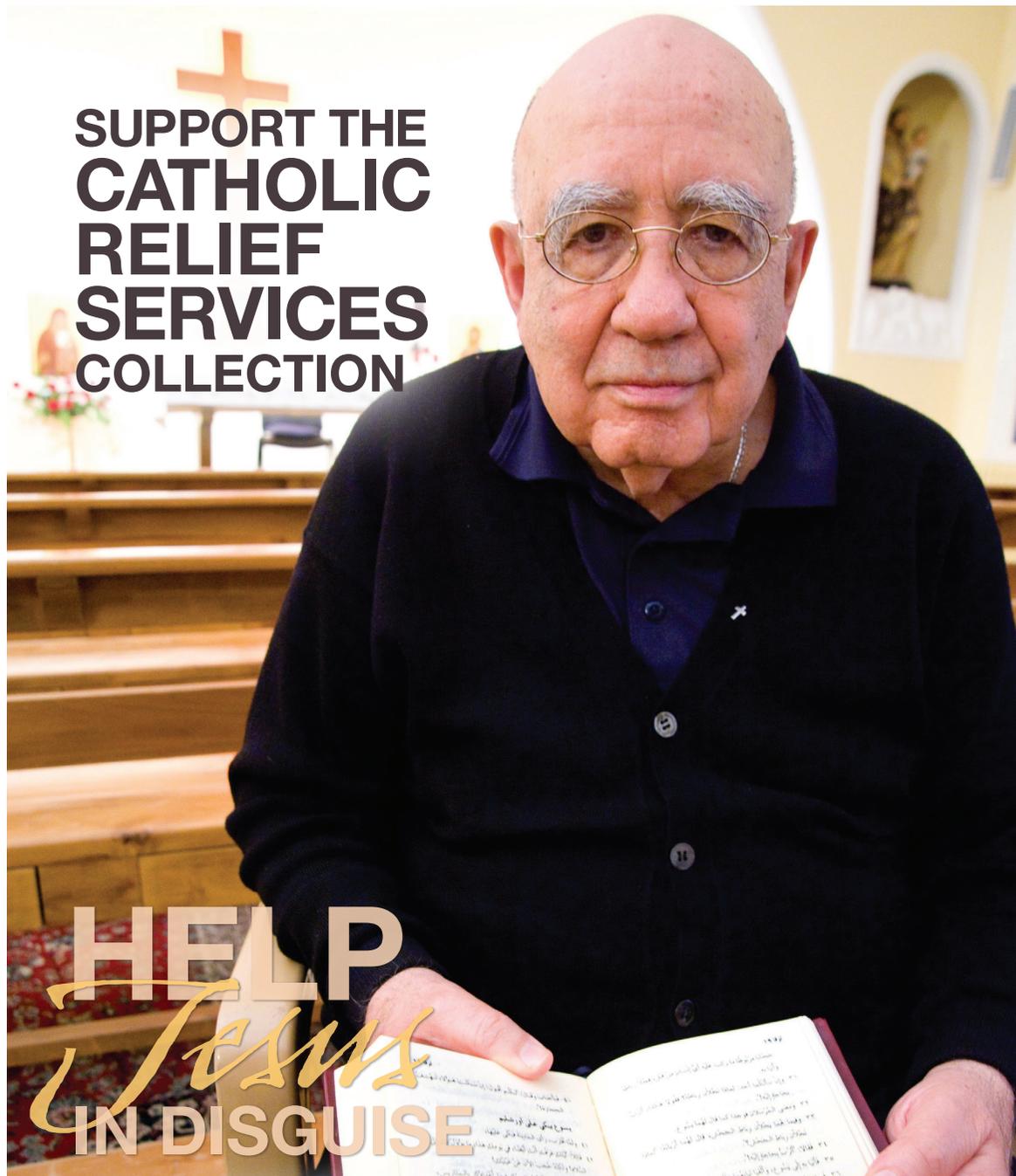
"But it adds immediately," he said, that "many elements of

sanctification and of truth are found outside of its (the Catholic Church's) visible structure."

"It's not that the church has turned back from this definition, this declaration, this affirmation of the Second Vatican Council. No," he said. "Naturally,

the Catholic Church is and will continue to be committed to ecumenism out of this conviction" that God is at work in other Christian communities as well.

"The church recognizes this and does so willingly," Archbishop Ladaria said.



# SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION

## HELP Jesus IN DISGUISE



As an Arab Christian living in Lebanon, Father Makram Kozah has, throughout his life, reached out to Muslims to create interreligious dialogue. Here he holds a copy of the Gospels in Arabic — a translation he and a team of fellow Maronite priests carried out over a six-year period. Father Kozah is now teaching seminarians and encouraging them to live and work in Muslim countries like Egypt and Sudan to experience life through the eyes of Muslims.

## CRS collection supports international relief efforts

WASHINGTON — The annual Catholic Relief Services Collection will be held in many dioceses across the country on Laetare Sunday, March 11.

The Catholic Relief Services Collection supports Catholic organizations that carry out international relief and solidarity efforts. Programs include relief and resettlement for victims of persecution, war and natural disasters; development projects to improve living conditions for the poor; legal and support services for poor immigrants; peace and reconciliation work for people suffering from violence; and advocacy on behalf of the powerless.

“Christ is standing at the door of our hearts, knocking, seeking relief from pain and suffering around the world. He comes to us bearing the disguise of vulnerable immigrants and refugees, the poor and marginalized, the sick and lonely. The Catholic Relief Services Collection is an

opportunity to respond and comfort Christ as we see him in our brothers and sisters,” said Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi of Mobile, Alabama, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on National Collections. “This collection represents our community of faith at work in the world, saving souls and improving lives.”

Entities within the USCCB that receive support include the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church, the Department of Justice Peace and

Human Development, and the Department of Migration and Refugee Services. Other Catholic organizations that receive funds are Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., and the Holy Father’s Relief Fund. The USCCB Administrative Committee is responsible for grant-making from this national collection.

More information about The Catholic Relief Services Collection is available at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).



### Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

- Monday, March 12: 9 a.m. — Meeting of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Doctrine, Washington, D.C.
- Monday, March 12: 2 p.m. — Meeting of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Religious Liberty, Washington, D.C.
- Wednesday, March 14: 3 p.m. — Meeting with Catholic Relief Services US Operations Committee, Baltimore, Maryland
- Thursday, March 15: 8 a.m. — Meeting of Board of Directors of Catholic Relief Services, Baltimore, Maryland
- Saturday, March 17: 5:30 p.m. — Mass at Saint Francis Convent, and Dinner and Auction at Marian High School, Mishawaka

### Spring confirmation Mass schedule

The following is a schedule of the spring Masses at which Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will confer the sacrament of confirmation

PARISH	LOCATION	DATE	TIME
<i>Additional Parishes included</i>			
St. Dominic Church	Bremen	March 18	10:30 a.m.
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church	Fort Wayne	March 24	10 a.m.
St. Patrick Church	Ligonier	April 1	3 p.m.
St. Mary of the Assumption Church	Decatur	April 3	7 p.m.
<i>St. Joseph Parish, Bluffton</i>			
St. Anthony of Padua Church	Angola	April 5	7 p.m.
St. Vincent de Paul Church	Elkhart	April 6	7 p.m.
St. Vincent de Paul Church	Elkhart	April 7	10 a.m.
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church	Warsaw	April 8	10:30 a.m.
Most Precious Blood Church	Fort Wayne	April 11	7 p.m.
<i>St. Joseph Parish, Hessen Cassel</i>			
St. John the Baptist Church	Fort Wayne	April 13	7 p.m.
<i>St. Therese Parish, Fort Wayne</i>			
St. Vincent de Paul Church	Fort Wayne	April 14	10 a.m.
Sacred Heart Church	Warsaw	April 15	2 p.m.
<i>St. Martin de Porres Parish, Syracuse</i>			
<i>St. Francis Xavier Parish, Piercetown</i>			
Sts. Peter and Paul Church	Huntington	April 20	7 p.m.
<i>St. Mary Parish, Huntington</i>			
<i>St. Joseph Parish, Roanoke</i>			
<i>St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish, Columbia City</i>			
<i>St. Bernard Parish, Wabash</i>			
Cathedral Parish	Fort Wayne	April 21	10 a.m.
<i>St. Mary Mother of God Parish, Fort Wayne</i>			
<i>St. Peter Parish, Fort Wayne</i>			
<i>Queen of Angels Parish, Fort Wayne</i>			
<i>Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne</i>			
St. Joseph Church	Fort Wayne	April 22	2 p.m.
St. Thomas the Apostle Church	Elkhart	April 26	7 p.m.
St. Michael Church	Plymouth	April 27	7 p.m.
Culver Memorial Chapel	Culver	April 28	9 a.m.
<i>Culver Academy students</i>			
<i>St. Mary of the Lake Parish, Culver</i>			
Basilica of the Sacred Heart	Notre Dame	April 29	11:45 a.m.
<i>Mass with Sacrament of Confirmation and Rite of Reception into Full Communion</i>			
St. John the Baptist Church	New Haven	May 1	7 p.m.
<i>St. Louis Besancon Parish, New Haven</i>			
<i>St. Rose of Lima Parish, Monroeville</i>			
St. Mary of the Assumption Church	Avilla	May 3	7 p.m.
<i>Immaculate Conception Parish, Kendallville</i>			
Queen of Peace Church	Mishawaka	May 6	11:45 a.m.
St. Paul of the Cross Church	Columbia City	May 9	7 p.m.
<i>St. John Bosco Parish, Churubusco</i>			
<i>Immaculate Conception Parish, Ege</i>			
Our Lady of Hungary Church	South Bend	May 11	7 p.m.
St. Matthew Cathedral Church	South Bend	May 12	10 a.m.
<i>Holy Family Parish, South Bend</i>			
<i>St. John the Baptist Parish, South Bend</i>			
<i>St. Augustine Parish, South Bend</i>			
<i>St. Therese Little Flower Parish, South Bend</i>			
<i>St. Patrick Parish, South Bend</i>			
<i>St. Hedwig Parish, South Bend</i>			
<i>St. Patrick Parish, Walkerton</i>			
<i>St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish, New Carlisle</i>			
St. Pius X Church	Granger	May 13	2 p.m.
St. Adalbert Church	South Bend	May 20	5 p.m.
<i>St. Casimir Parish, South Bend</i>			
Immaculate Conception Church	Auburn	May 22	7 p.m.
<i>St. Joseph Parish, Garrett</i>			
Cathedral Parish <i>Adult confirmations</i>	Fort Wayne	May 26	5 p.m.
St. Matthew Cathedral <i>Adult confirmations</i>	South Bend	May 27	11 a.m.

# Pope adds feast of Mary, Mother of the Church to calendar

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has decreed that Latin-rite Catholics around the world will mark the feast of “the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church” on the Monday after Pentecost each year.

The Gospel reading for the feast, which technically is called a “memorial,” is John 19:25-31, which recounts how from the cross Jesus entrusted Mary to His disciples as their mother and entrusted His disciples to Mary as her children.

The decree announcing the addition to the Church calendar was released March 3 by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

Pope Francis approved the decree after “having attentively considered how greatly the promotion of this devotion might encourage the growth of the maternal sense of the church in the pastors, religious and faithful, as well as a growth of genuine Marian piety,” the decree said.

Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect of the congregation, noted in a brief commentary published the same day, that Blessed Paul VI in 1964 had formally bestowed the title of “mother of the church” on Mary, but that recognition of her maternal care for the Church and for believers had already spanned centuries.

“The feeling of Christian peo-



CNS/Paul Haring

**Pope Francis venerates a Marian image outside the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome in this May 26, 2016, file photo. The pope has instituted a new Marian feast honoring Mary as mother of the Church. It will be celebrated every year on the Monday after Pentecost.**

ple through two millennia of history has cultivated the filial bond which inseparably binds the disciples of Christ to his Blessed Mother in various ways,” the cardinal said.

The Church calendars of Poland, Argentina, St. Peter’s Basilica and some religious orders already set aside the Monday after Pentecost as the feast of Mary, Mother of the Church.

Honoring Mary as mother of the Church on the day after Pentecost also highlights for Catholics that Mary was present with the disciples on Pentecost, praying with them as the Holy

Spirit descended. Cardinal Sarah said that Mary, “from the awaiting of the Spirit at Pentecost, has never ceased to take motherly care of the pilgrim church on earth.”

Along with the decree and his comments, Cardinal Sarah also published in Latin the specific liturgical texts for use on the memorial at Mass and in the Liturgy of the Hours.

Bishops’ conferences “will approve the translation of the texts they need and, after receiving their confirmation, will publish them in the liturgical books for their jurisdiction,” the cardinal said.

## Explosive devices detonated in Mexican border churches

BY DAVID AGREN

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — The bishop of Matamoros, across the border from Brownsville, Texas, has expressed alarm after two church explosions within four days.

“What initially seemed like an isolated incident has taken a new turn, worrying us deeply, as the faithful and citizens in general have the right to a secure environment, both in their homes and in their meeting places,” said a March 4 statement signed by Bishop Eugenio Lira Rugarcia.

“We call on the authorities and society in general to continue working on the construction of a community in which the life, dignity and rights of all are recognized, respected, promoted and defended.

An explosive device, described by the diocese as homemade, was detonated during Mass March 4 inside St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Matamoros, “without causing injuries or material damage.”

The explosion followed a similar incident March 1, when an explosion occurred in the Our Lady of Refuge Cathedral. No injuries or damage were reported at the cathedral, though the diocese initially described the explosion as stemming from a “bottle of acid falling.”

No one has claimed responsibility for making or leaving the devices. Tamaulipas state authorities have identified no suspects in the explosions.

The incidents occurred as Mexico convulses with violence and the state has experienced drug-cartel crimes, including kidnapping and extortion.

## ‘Try Prayer! It Works!’ Contest

EASTON, Mass. —The “Try Prayer! It Works!” Contest has returned for 2018, and students are urged to send in their entries. Deadline for the national competition is May 1.

Sponsored by Family Rosary, the 2018 “Try Prayer! It Works!” Contest encourages children to participate in an inspiring faith experience as they express their beliefs through art, poetry and prose. The competition is open to students in grades K-12 enrolled in a Catholic school, religious education program, parish or other organization, including home school.

This year’s theme, “Mary, the New Eve” helps families reflect on God’s call for their lives and to discuss the importance of

Mary. The contest focuses on family faith enrichment in the home. The goal is to bring the Church’s teachings to life around the dinner table with discussion prompts, reflection question, prayer ideas and creativity.

The first place winner in each category receives while the sponsor of each winner also receives \$100. The “Try Prayer! It Works!” Contest asks entrants to creatively depict their faith through art, poetry and prose. Students in grades K-12 enrolled in a Catholic school, religious education program, parish, home school or other organization are eligible to participate.

For details or to download an application, go to [www.FamilyRosary.org/TryPrayer](http://www.FamilyRosary.org/TryPrayer). All entries must be postmarked by May 1. Call Holy Cross Family Ministries at 800-299-PRAY (7729) for more information.



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**Catholic Charities**  
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

## Catholic Charities calls for volunteers and money to assist local flooding victims

SOUTH BEND — Recent flooding in Elkhart, Marshall and St. Joseph counties has left many homeless, with severe damage to their homes and loss of essential household items. As a result, officials predict a long recovery during which many will need assistance restoring their homes to safe and sanitary conditions.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne — South Bend is requesting volunteers and monetary donations to help with long-term disaster relief and case management.

“We step in after first responders provide immediate aid,” explained CEO Gloria Whitcraft. “Our role is to help disaster victims who face a years-long process of getting their lives back in order.”

To send monetary donations or volunteer, contact Catholic Charities at 260-422-5625 or visit them on the web at [CCFWSB.org](http://CCFWSB.org).

# Bill to regulate Indiana abortion industry passes House

INDIANAPOLIS — A bill aimed at updating regulations to keep up with the abortion industry in Indiana passed the Indiana House of Representatives on Feb. 28 by a 67-26 vote. The Indiana Catholic Conference supports the proposal.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the ICC, said, "The state's compelling interest in public health and safety and the health of the mother clearly justifies these changes and regulations regarding abortion facilities and reporting."

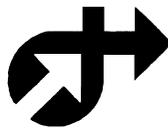
Rep. Peggy Mayfield, R-Martinsville, one of the House sponsors of the bill, explaining the contents of the bill from the House floor, said Senate Bill 340 would bring Indiana code up to date with current health practices. It sets timelines for rulemaking that was passed last year, and adds requirements for applications for abortion clinic licenses.

The bill codifies Federal Drug Administration requirements

regarding the use of abortifacients. It codifies the collection of information on the termination of pregnancy report, and adds five new fields of information to be collected. The new categories to be reported include: 1) parental consent verification for a minor who sought an abortion 2) patients' reported abuse, coercion, harassment or trafficking 3) the name of second doctor present for abortions performed past 20-weeks of gestation 4) that FDA labeling information and warnings were given to a patient 5) requires the patient disclose any pre-existing conditions that may lead to complications from the abortion.

Under the bill abortion facilities will have to be inspected annually, and information about Indiana's Safe Haven law would be added to the informed consent brochure and Indiana State Department of Health website so that women are aware of the ways they can give up their baby anonymously after birth.

## INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



BRIGID CURTIS AYER

The language of the "baby box" bill, Senate Bill 123, was amended into Senate Bill 340. These provisions expand Indiana's Safe Haven law by allowing newborn safety devices, commonly referred to as "baby boxes," to be installed at fire stations that are staffed by emergency medical providers 24/7. The boxes themselves must be located in conspicuous areas visible to the staff and have dual alarm systems that are tested at least monthly.

Rep. Sue Errington, D-Muncie, voiced her opposition to the bill and questioned Mayfield during the floor debate. She asked Mayfield about the safety of a tonsillectomy or a wisdom tooth extraction and compared the safety of these procedures with abortion. Errington referred to a Guttmacher Institute study, a group that supports legal abortion, and said that having an abortion was safer than having a wisdom tooth pulled or having one's tonsils removed. Errington, who retired from Planned Parenthood, calls abortion a "very safe procedure" for a

woman to undergo.

Rep. Matthew Lehman, R-Berne, entered the floor debate and spoke in support of the bill. He said regarding provisions like annual inspections and disclosure if an abortion operator has been convicted of a felony or if the facility has been closed due to legal reasons, "I don't think that is a big ask." He added if abortion-inducing drugs are going to be dispensed to patients, requiring the provider to tell the patients the risks that are on the FDA label — which is done with other drugs — isn't a "big ask" either.

Lehman said it seems "We don't want to lift the veil on this issue." Yet said the House recently discussed a bill requiring consent for students to bring sunscreen to school.

"We regulate health. This is a health regulatory bill. This isn't about wisdom teeth. This is potentially an invasive process. It's a health issue," said Lehman.

Rep. Matt Pierce, D-Bloomington, lectured his colleagues about repeatedly bringing bills forward which place an undue burden on a woman's constitutional right to abortion and cost the state. He said the cycle of doing so ironically results in financial support for the Americans For Civil Liberties Union, which litigates the constitutionality of these type of bills. Pierce urged his fellow lawmakers to put their energy into areas

where they could find common ground, like effective sex education, better contraception, affordable adoption and childcare services to make abortion a less common choice.

In her closing remarks, Mayfield stressed the need for Senate Bill 340, saying, "The medication method [of abortion] is exploding." When the FDA initially approved abortion-inducing drugs, they were only to be used up to 49 days of gestation. The FDA has extended use up to 70 days, but did so with specific restrictions and warnings. "We have identified at least 84 websites where you can get an abortion pill or an imitation abortion pill," said Mayfield. "The FDA website says not to buy this online." Mayfield added, "The state is the only oversight body for the abortion procedure, but just like hospitals, women assume that abortion clinics are meeting established health standards." She said, "The public has a right to expect and the government has a duty and responsibility to provide regulation, and Senate Bill 340 provides this." Senate Bill 340 passed the Senate but was amended in the House. It will go back to the Senate for approval of the House amendments.

**For more information** on the legislative efforts of the Indiana Catholic Conference, go to [www.indianacc.org](http://www.indianacc.org).

# Catholic leaders urge actions to address scourge of gun violence

WASHINGTON — In the aftermath of the tragic attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, Chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Bishop George V. Murry, SJ, of Youngstown, Ohio, chairman of the Committee on Catholic Education, urged national leaders to finally come together and address the crisis of gun violence in a comprehensive way.

The full statement follows: "Once again, we are confronted with grave evil, the murder of our dear children and those who teach them. Our prayers continue for those who have died, and those suffering with injuries and unimaginable grief. We also continue our decades-long advocacy for common-sense gun measures as part of a comprehensive approach to the reduction of violence in society and the protection of life.

"Specifically, this moment calls for an honest and practical dialogue around a series of concrete proposals — not partisanship and overheated rhetoric. The idea of arming teachers seems to raise more concerns than it addresses. Setting a more appropriate minimum age for gun ownership, requiring universal background checks (as the bishops have long advocated), and banning 'bump stocks' are concepts that appear to offer more promise. We must explore

ways to curb violent images and experiences with which we inundate our youth, and ensure that law enforcement have the necessary tools and incentives to identify troubled individuals and get them help.

"Most people with mental illness will never commit a violent act, but mental illness has been a significant factor in some of these horrific attacks. We must look to increase resources and seek earlier interventions. "For many years, the USCCB has supported a federal ban on assault weapons, limitations on civilian access to high-capacity weapons and ammunition magazines, further criminalizing gun trafficking, certain limitations on the purchase of handguns, and safety measures such as locks that prevent children and anyone other than the owner from using guns without permission.

"The advocacy by survivors of the Parkland shooting — and young people throughout our nation — is a stark reminder that guns pose an enormous danger to the innocent when they fall into the wrong hands. The voices of these advocates should ring in our ears as they describe the peaceful future to which they aspire. We must always remember what is at stake as we take actions to safeguard our communities and honor human life. In the words of St. John, 'let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth' (1 Jn. 3:18)."

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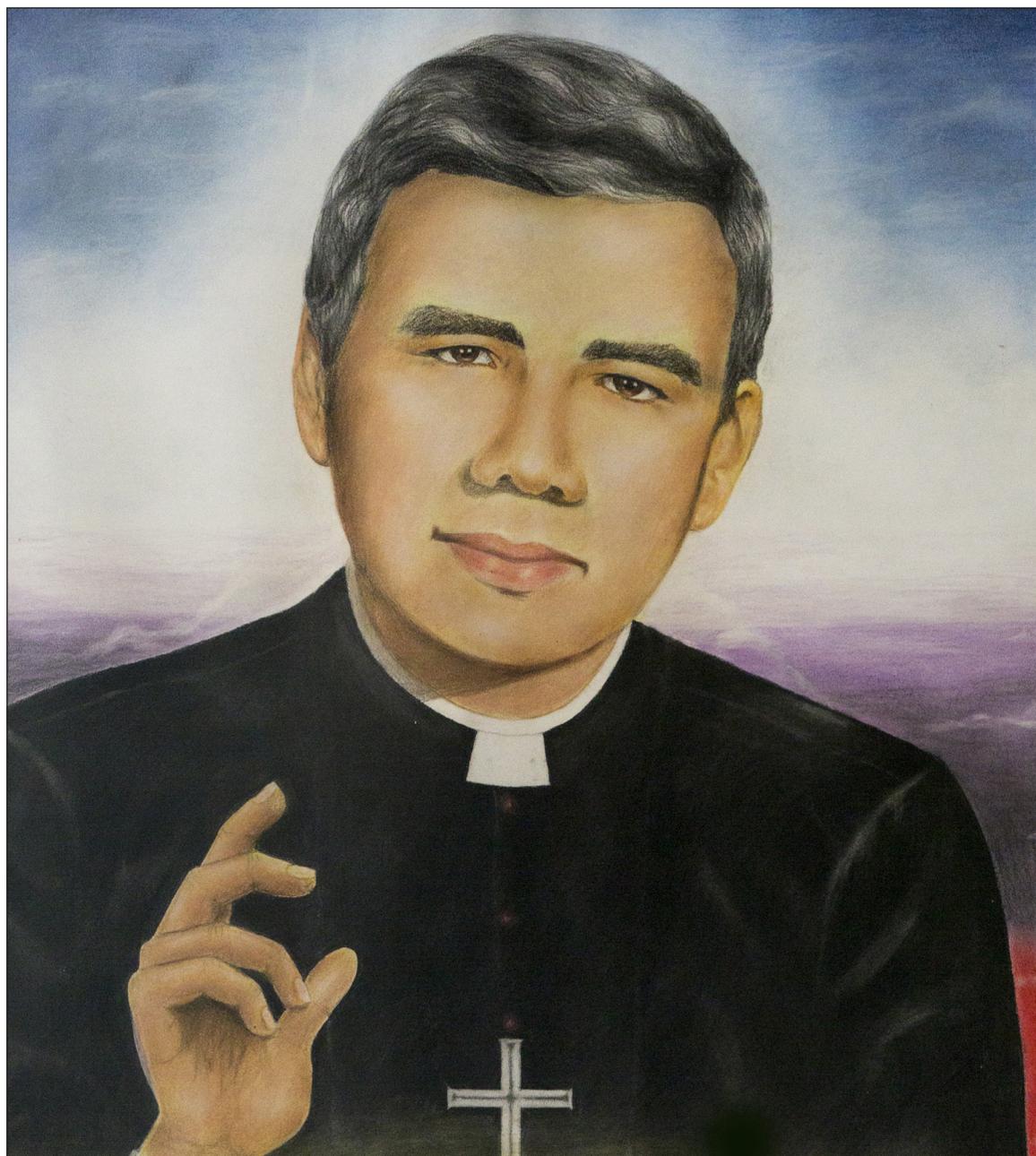
## Jesuit colleges to Congress on gun control: 'Fix this'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a Feb. 28 open letter to President Donald Trump and members of Congress, Jesuit Father Michael Sheeran, president of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, urged U.S. leaders to listen to the teens who survived the Parkland, Florida, school shooting and help them “fix this” plague of gun violence in the country. “We adults have repeatedly failed to fix this singularly American phenomenon,” said the priest on behalf of the 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the U.S. He called the Feb. 14 school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School a national tragedy but also said that since it occurred, there have been signs of hope through the voices of its “poised, articulate young survivors.” Father Sheeran said “ending the horrific mass killings in our schools and streets is a great thing we all are called to do” and he urged the president and members of Congress to “to listen and to fix this indeed.” The Sisters of Bon Secours similarly urged political leaders to take action against gun violence, calling for among other things universal background checks and banning civilian ownership of high-capacity weapons and magazines. On the state level, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago urged Illinois legislators to enact restrictions to curtail gun violence particularly after the Parkland shooting.

## Bishop listens to DACA recipients' stories, says: 'We are with you'

CAMDEN, N.J. (CNS) — Bishop Dennis J. Sullivan of Camden sat at a round table as 16 individuals made their way into the conference room. Once all of his guests arrived, he made his way around the room, asking each individual's name, shaking hands, welcoming them and thanking them for joining. These guests were students, electrical engineers, firefighters, architects, medical assistants, art therapists. They were taxpayers and community leaders, first responders and parish secretaries. All were under age 30 and came to the United States as babies, toddlers or children. Currently, as “Dreamers” — those with DACA status — they all are now subject to deportation because the Trump administration announced the end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and directed Congress to save it. After taking their seats, they turned to Bishop Sullivan, and his voice rang loud and clear as he addressed the room. “As Catholics, we want you to know that we are doing the best we can as a church to accompany you in a bitter and difficult experience — and one that I can't even begin to imagine,” he said at the Feb. 23 gathering. “I want you to know that we are with you.”

## Pope wants canonization of slain Jesuit to move forward



CNS photo/Octavio Duran

A painting of Jesuit Father Rutilio Grande is seen in the rectory of San Jose Church in the town of Aguilares, El Salvador. Father Grande was killed 40 years ago, March 12, 1977, while on his way to a novena. Since the beginning of his pontificate, Pope Francis has expressed strong support for Father Grande's canonization, said Manuel Roberto Lopez, El Salvador's ambassador to the Holy See. When the ambassador asked for help in “accelerating the beatification of Archbishop Oscar Romero” in 2013, Lopez said, “the pope enthusiastically replied, ‘Yes, yes, yes. We will do that soon in my pontificate.’ He paused briefly and said, ‘And right after comes (Father) Rutilio Grande,’” Lopez told Catholic News Service March 2. Father Grande's death at the hands of El Salvador's notorious death squads is believed to have been the inspiration for his friend Archbishop Romero to take up the mantle of defending the country's poor.

## For Shakespeare, the play's the thing; for Caviezel, it's the script

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Actor Jim Caviezel is at a point in his career where he can choose what film and TV projects he wants to pursue. Even though Caviezel might be best known for his portrayal of

Jesus in 2004's “The Passion of the Christ” — six seasons on CBS' “Person of Interest” this decade might have topped that — he decided to take on yet another biblical role as St. Luke in the upcoming movie “Paul, Apostle of Christ.” “You don't go by genre, you go by the script,” Caviezel told Catholic News Service in a Feb. 26 telephone interview to promote the movie. He's not against movie

projects that don't have a biblical grounding: “It didn't matter. You can sit down and read comedies. I haven't found one yet.” But when it came to “Paul,” “Andrew Hyatt wrote a great script. You know the material,” Caviezel said, adding, “Who played Paul was a big part. When they got (James) Faulkner, I knew they'll be calling him Paul in the street just like they called me Jesus in the street” after “The

Passion.” Caviezel liked the script so much, in fact, he became one of the executive producers of “Paul.” He doesn't worry about being typecast as someone wedded to the biblical film genre, although he had turned down “many, many” offers after “The Passion” for similar roles.

## Confessional is a place of forgiveness, not threats, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Priests must be mindful that the confessional is a place where people can find forgiveness and mercy, not threats and condemnation, Pope Francis said. God “does not want to beat us and condemn us,” but rather “he always looks for a way to enter the hearts” of those who are repentant, the pope said in his homily Feb. 27 at morning Mass in the Domus Sanctae Marthae. “When we priests — in the Lord's place — hear confessions, we also must have this attitude of goodness like the Lord, who says, ‘Come, let us talk, there is no problem, there is forgiveness,’ and not with a threat from the beginning,” he said. Reflecting on the day's first reading from the prophet Isaiah, the pope noted God's merciful call to conversion and His willingness to forgive even “though your sins be like scarlet.” The relationship between God and His people, the pope said, is like that of the father of a teenager who has done something foolish and must be reproached.

## Pakistan churches start movement to demand justice for Christians

LAHORE, Pakistan (CNS) — Catholic and Protestant churches in Pakistan have started a movement to demand justice for Christian cousins accused of blasphemy, reported ucanews.com. Sajid Masih, 26, jumped from the fourth floor of the Punjab headquarters of the Federal Investigation Agency in a suicide attempt Feb. 23. He fractured both legs. Sajid was arrested with his cousin, Patras Masih, 18, for allegedly posting an insulting photo of the burial place of the prophet Muhammad on a Facebook account. More than 200 Christians gathered March 2 in front of the Punjab Assembly in Lahore. Teams from Caritas Pakistan, the Catholic Church's charitable agency, and the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace attended the protest. “Justice for Sajid, Justice for Patras,” cried Pastor Riaz Malik as he pointed his finger at a photograph of Sajid. Sajid claims he was being punished for an act allegedly committed by his cousin and that security authorities had ordered the two men to engage in a homosexual act as they attempted to force confessions from them both. Critics say police duress in such cases is common in Pakistan.

## 'Come and See' life as a Sister of Providence

**SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS** — Bring hope to life: Come and see life as a Sister of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana.

All single, Catholic women ages 18-42 are invited to learn more about becoming a Sister of Providence during the "Come and See" weekend retreat April 6-8 at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, located 10 minutes northwest of downtown Terre Haute.

During this free retreat, participants will deepen their prayer life, get an inside look at the life of the Sisters of Providence and spend time discerning where God is calling them.

They will also have the opportunity to meet with the newest members of the Sisters of Providence, get to know the spirituality and mission of the congregation, learn more about the life and legacy of St. Mother Theodore Guerin, meet other women seeking a joy-filled life, spend time renewing their souls and hear stories and share in the wisdom of some of the Sisters of Providence.

"If you are discerning religious life, the beautiful grounds of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods provide a peaceful atmosphere that will allow you to enter into solitude to pray more deeply, listen more attentively, and respond more fully to God's movement within," vocation director Sister Editha Ben said.

"The weekend provides the opportunity to meet the younger members who are in initial formation, while also meeting with other women searching for something more in their lives."

Sister Ben said all attending will reflect on how the Sisters of Providence live a life of hope in a world that is in "need of healing and transformation."

There is no charge to attend the retreat, and meals and housing provided. Those interested in attending are asked to register online at [ComeandSee.SistersofProvidence.org](http://ComeandSee.SistersofProvidence.org) or by calling or texting Sister Ben at 812-230-4771 or emailing [eben@spsmw.org](mailto:eben@spsmw.org).

## Diocesan teacher hiring events

**FORT WAYNE** — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has 39 elementary schools and four high schools that span the distance from South Bend to Fort Wayne in the north and northeastern portions of the state of Indiana. The schools are looking for qualified, licensed teachers to teach and licensed administrators to lead.

Two school employment fairs will take place, one on each end of the diocese. The South Bend fair will be from 5-8 p.m. April 11 at Saint Joseph High School, 453 N. Notre Dame Ave., and the Fort Wayne fair will take place from 5-8 p.m. April 17 at the

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Marriage preparation retreat



Provided by Libby Alberding

Two by Two marriage preparation took place at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Decatur. Engaged couple Brianna Henkenius and Vince Myers, and the married couple they have chosen to mentor them, Larry and Jean Braun, attended a daylong retreat at the parish on Feb. 24 as part of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend's new marriage preparation program being piloted in several parishes.

Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, 915 S. Clinton Street, Fort Wayne.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to sign up at [www.diocese-fwsb.org/Teacher-Recruitment-Fairs](http://www.diocese-fwsb.org/Teacher-Recruitment-Fairs) for a 20-minute time slot with the school or schools with which they would like to interview, and to bring a resume. Walk-ins will be limited.

## Parishes chosen for Young Adult Initiative at Saint Meinrad

**ST. MEINRAD** — Sixteen parishes have been chosen to participate in the Young Adult Initiative of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, St. Meinrad, Indiana, including one in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The program is funded by a \$1.38 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to improve parish outreach to young adults and better engage them with the Catholic Church. Parishes were invited to apply for the program, and Saint Meinrad received 96 applications.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend parish that will participate in the program for the next four years is St. Monica Parish, Mishawaka.

The parishes selected represent five states and 13 dioceses, and range in size from 259 households to 2,578 households.

"We went through a lengthy but thorough selection process and prayerful discernment to find a wide variety of parish settings and situations," said Michal Horace, director of the Young Adult Initiative. "The partner parishes include small, mid-size and large parishes, as well as rural, urban and suburban parishes. Many of the partner parishes have multicultural congregations."

In partnership with Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, parishes will explore the demographics of their communities, learn more about today's young adults ages 23-29, and develop innovative strategies to better meet the spiritual needs of the young adults in their parishes.

"The overwhelming response we received to our call for applications is proof that the Church is paying attention to the needs of young adults," said Tammy Becht, director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Formation at Saint Meinrad. "I think that outreach and ministry to the young Church is going through a time of rediscovery and redefinition.

We're honored to be part of the New Evangelization by creating dialogue and an atmosphere that focuses on the young Church with these 16 congregations."

## High school right to life oratory contest planned

**FORT WAYNE** — Allen County Right to Life will hold an oratory contest on Tuesday, April 17, at 7 p.m. at the ACRL Office, 2126 Inwood Dr., Fort Wayne. All high school students are eligible to participate.

Contestants are to research, write and present an original pro-life speech on abortion, infanticide, stem cell research or euthanasia. The speech is to be five to seven minutes in length. Dramatic presentations are not acceptable. Contestants may use notes, although memorization is encouraged. Judging will be based on introduction, content, presentation and conclusion. The Allen County contest will follow the rules of the Indiana Right to Life contest.

Prize for first place is \$100 cash; second place is \$50 cash.

Applicants should submit an application by April 10 and a

copy of the speech no later than April 16 to [abigail@ichooselife.org](mailto:abigail@ichooselife.org). Applications can be found at [www.ichooselife.org/evnt/oratorycontest/](http://www.ichooselife.org/evnt/oratorycontest/).

While students in all high school grades are eligible to participate in the ACRL Oratory Contest, only the junior or senior with the highest score will be eligible to advance to the Indiana Right to Life Oratory Contest on May 12 in Indianapolis. ACRL will provide reimbursement for travel expenses for the state oratory contest. The first-place orator at the state contest will represent Indiana at the National Oratory Contest.

If anyone interested in competing has a schedule conflict on the 17th, contact [abigail@ichooselife.org](mailto:abigail@ichooselife.org).

## Lindenwood offers retreat on prayer life

**DONALDSON** — Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center will host the 2018 Conference Retreat from June 24-29.

Father Jerry Schweitzer will lead the six-day retreat to deepen one's prayer life. The retreat illuminates the sanctuary of the soul in relationship to prayer life, as exemplified in the prayer life of Jesus and the early community of faith.

Check-in begins at 4 p.m. EDT Sunday, June 24, and the retreat concludes Friday, June 29, at 1 p.m. Options are available for both overnight guests and commuters. Meals and refreshments are included. Registration deadline is June 20.

For more information, email [lindenwood@poorhandmaids.org](mailto:lindenwood@poorhandmaids.org) or call 574-935-1780. A part of The Center at Donaldson, Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center is a ministry of The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

## Whole Family retreat day to prepare for Easter

**ANGOLA** — A Whole Family Parish Workshop and Retreat to prepare for Easter will be held Sunday, March 18, from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 700 W. Maumee St. Theological advisor Dr. Katharine Mahon, University of Notre Dame Dept. of Liturgical Studies, will make the mysteries of Easter come alive for the whole family. Talks, meditations, workshops, movies, rehearsals, meals and prayer will help everyone get ready for the liturgies of Holy Week. Contact [retreat@stanthonyangola.com](mailto:retreat@stanthonyangola.com) or call 260-665-2259 to register.

# Right time for a journey of faith

BY VINCE LABARBERA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a faith journey for those seeking full communion with the Catholic Church. "I always thought about it, but it never seemed to be the right time," said Jessica Leffers. "All of a sudden, one day I felt ready," she exclaimed recently.

Leffers is a catechumen, a non-Christian who is accepting religious instruction at St. Therese Parish, Fort Wayne, in preparation for receiving the sacraments of initiation — baptism, confirmation and Eucharist — and membership in the Catholic Church, at Easter.

"My family did not practice any sort of religion," said Leffers. "I believed in God, but I did not attend church," she related.

Born in Fort Wayne, she was raised by her paternal grandmother, Lucy Davis. "My parents were just young and dumb," she said, "and it was just better for me to live with my grandmother growing up." She has three brothers and a sister, but they did not grow up together.

Leffers said she had a few friends who were Catholic when she was growing up, and she heard their parents talking about the Church from time to time.



Vince LaBarbera

**Jessica Leffers, Fort Wayne, attends RCIA sessions with her husband, Ryan, who is serving as her sponsor. She will receive the sacraments of initiation on March 31 at the Easter Vigil.**

"But I never formed a strong opinion favorably or unfavorably about the Catholic faith. All I

knew of the Catholic Church was what I heard in the news, about the abuse scandals."

She attended South Side High School and graduated from the University of Saint Francis in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in nursing. She now works in labor and delivery at Dupont Hospital in Fort Wayne.

When Jessica began dating Ryan Leffers many years ago, she noticed how strong his parents, Steve and Karen Leffers, were in their Catholic faith. She also talked with Karen frequently, before she died in August 2016. "I know becoming Catholic was something Karen hoped I would choose to do. But I never felt pressured by anyone in Ryan's family to become Catholic," she said emphatically.

When Jessica and Ryan were married at St. Therese, Father David Ruppert, the pastor at the time, suggested she might think about becoming Catholic. "Joining the Church was something I had wanted to do for a while, but the time just was not right," she said, "since I was still in school and then we had youngsters to raise."

The couple has three children: Bryson, age 12, Hazel, 8, and Jules, 6. The family attends Mass every week and the children are enrolled in St. Therese School.

When Jessica decided to begin the RCIA process last year, Bryson's teacher, Pam Lepley, said to her, "I understand you

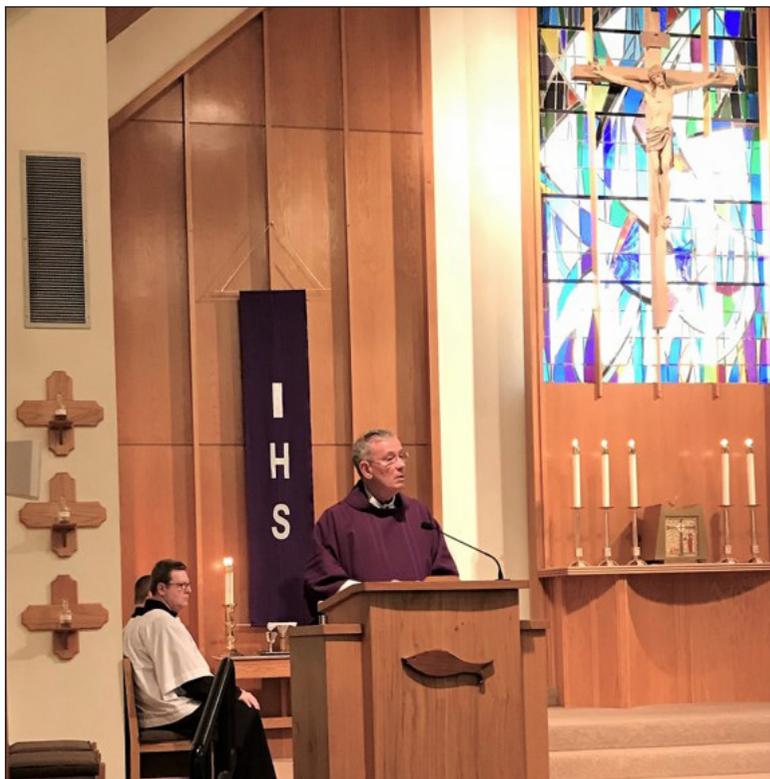
are going to become Catholic." Jessica asked how she knew that already, since she had only made the decision the previous day. Lepley related that Bryson had excitedly told her, because it's something he had been praying about for a long time.

Jessica said one of the things she is learning in the RCIA process is how the Biblical names she's heard about for years tie together and fit with the stories. "Now when I hear our kids talking about what they've learned in religion class, it's nice to finally know a little of what they're talking about," she related.

At the Rite of Acceptance last year, when Jessica made the decision to be baptized and enter the Catholic Church, Bryson served as the master of ceremonies, or MC, standing on the steps in front of the altar with Father Lawrence Teteh, CSSp, pastor of St. Therese. Father Teteh reportedly whispered to Bryson, "Look into your mother's eyes!"

"I'm both a little nervous and excited thinking about the Easter Vigil on March 31," concluded Jessica. Husband Ryan, her sponsor, and all the family are hoping Bryson will be able to serve as MC again on that special night. Jessica's father-in-law, Steve, added: "And Karen surely will be smiling down from heaven."

## Bluffton parish mission



Geoff Frank

Father Steve Colchin offers the opening message March 3 for a parish mission at St. Joseph Parish in Bluffton. Father Colchin, pastor at St. Mary Parish in Huntington, previously served as pastor at St. Joseph from 1991 to 1997. Other speakers scheduled during the week included Father Daniel Scheidt; Lisa and Frederick Everett; Father Jonathan Norton; Steve Higgins, parish director of youth ministry; and others in the community.

## Lenten retreat at St. Mary of the Assumption



Provided by Libby Alberding

Over 100 people from around the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend participated in the Calling Them Back Home Lenten Retreat on Feb. 17 at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Decatur. Guest speaker Gary Michuta presented material on how to have conversations with loved ones about the Catholic faith. It was a Spirit-filled day of learning, fellowship and food.

# Meet Hamidul Hassan — ‘the luckiest man in the world’

BY NYEIN CHAN

After 23 years, four migrations, 12,000 miles and many great hardships, this refugee finally has a home.

Imagine the desperation that would drive a person to risk drowning and starvation in an open boat for 25 days at sea and, once he had reached his destination 1,200 miles later, there was a good chance he would be turned away or even imprisoned. Those were the stakes seven years ago when, at age 17, Hamidul Hassan decided to join his brother in Malaysia, where he would finally have a chance at a job.

“We had no food the last five days. Seven of 116 [on the very overcrowded boat] died,” he said, reflecting on the severe trauma of the journey. “I cried out to God every day.”

Hassan’s appalling experience is typical for the Rohingya, an ethnic minority in eastern Burma. For the past 50 years, they have faced severe persecution by the ruling military junta. The regime declared that the Rohingya were not citizens, even though the group had lived in Burma for centuries and enjoyed citizenship for nearly 20 years after the British left in 1947.

With that declaration, over 800,000 Rohingya effectively became refugees in their own country. They were scapegoated as outsiders and denied education, as well as voting and property rights. They were excluded from government employment and many Rohingya have been killed, solely because of their ethnicity.

Facing such bleak prospects in Burma, Hassan’s family sent him at age 3 to live with a cousin in Bangladesh, a move that was the beginning of a long journey to a place he could finally call home.

Hassan and his fellow

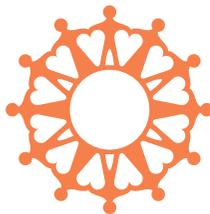


Provided by Catholic Charities

Hamidul Hassan, a U.S. resident who arrived in Fort Wayne following displacement from his native Burma, was the state of Indiana’s representative at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees’ annual Refugee Congress in Washington, D.C., in 2016.

“The future is made of you, it is made of encounters”

POPE FRANCIS



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refugees found life difficult in Bangladesh. There, they were also treated as outsiders. After he completed the equivalent of high school, Hassan wanted to continue his studies, but was denied access for lack of citizen-

ship. He returned to Burma briefly before the long boat journey to Malaysia.

“I had no home. I had no job. I had no future,” said Hassan. “I just wanted a country.”

Once in Malaysia, he tried to pursue his education, but was again denied because he lacked citizenship. Hassan eventu-

ally applied for refugee status, a process that took more than three years of paperwork and vetting. Then one day in 2015, he received a chance to come to the United States as a refugee. At age 23, he flew from Malaysia to Fort Wayne, where he would join other Rohingya. His brother followed him a month later.

Thanks to funding from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Charities met Hassan’s basic needs: It helped him learn English, source ethnically appropriate food, arrange health care-related appointments and learn how to use public transportation. Like all refugees, Hassan was eligible to work right away. With the need to repay the U.S. government for his flight and his daily living expenses, he was eager to get to work.

Catholic Charities assisted him with job training and found him employment in a factory. But because he speaks five languages, the most recent of which is English, Hamidul soon landed a job as a translator for Catholic Charities. He works primarily with other Rohingya, for whom he is virtually the only translator in northern Indiana.

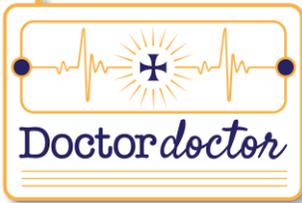
In August, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees hosted their annual Refugee Congress in Washington, D.C. Each state is allowed one representative to attend, and in 2016 Hassan was selected to represent the state of Indiana. There, he shared his remarkable experiences about his long journey to the United States.

Finally having a place to call home, Hamidul wants to pursue the “American Dream” by continuing his education and one day buying his own home. His next steps are growing in proficiency with English and working toward citizenship.

Reflecting on his trials and now living in the United States, he said, “I am the luckiest man in the world.” When asked if he wants anything else, without hesitation he added, “I want to join the Army. I want to defend the country that has given me so much.”

Nyein Chan is supervisor of refugee resettlement at Catholic Charities in Fort Wayne.

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# Victory Noll Center welcomes all for spiritual enrichment

BY DEB WAGNER

**O**ur Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters is a religious order founded in the early 1920s by Father John Joseph Sigstein to catechize those on the margins of the southwest United States. Their benefactor, Archbishop John F. Noll, helped them find a place for their founding and at which they could train new members. Since that time, the sisters have taken their mission to spread the Gospel, train leaders and live and work in solidarity with those in poverty and oppression to all parts of the United States and Bolivia.

Because the median age of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters is older and the community is becoming smaller in number, it was decided to put in place a way to carry out the charism through the Ministry of Victory Noll Center as their legacy. To that end, about a year and a half ago, the Victory Noll Center, managed by the sisters, became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. It was a gradual process that occurred over several months.

When religious communities use the word charism, they mean the particular gift of the Holy Spirit that inspired their founder — a man or woman of bold vision who gathered other people to help turn that vision into action. The Holy Spirit gives different gifts to different groups of people. The charism helps differentiate religious communities and guides decision-making for the future.



Statues, including some of the Lord and His mother, grace the grounds of Victory Noll Center.



The chapel at Victory Noll Center is open to all who would like to pray alone or with the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters.



Photos by John Martin

Center, facing to the back, is Sue Wilhelm, executive director of Victory Noll Center, Huntington. To her left around the table are Ron Norman, Jenna Strick, Sister Beatrice Haines and Margie Pfister, members of the Victory Noll Center Ministerial Planning Task Force.

Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters proclaim the Word of God, foster justice, stand in solidarity with those living in poverty and oppression and promote the development of leaders. Their core values are hospitality, justice, simplicity and adaptability. This also reflects the mission of Victory Noll Center, according to Sue Wilhelm, executive director. Victory Noll Center extends the charism and legacy of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters by inviting all people to discover and develop their capacity for God's mission and offers formation through programs, trainings, retreats and spaces for reflection.

The Victory Noll Center welcomes everyone to participate in programming based on Catholic teaching. Wilhelm said, "A participant in the Victory Noll Center programs will be immersed in the Gospel, participate in times of reflection and contemplative dialogue, be encouraged to live out of the Church's social teachings, practice discernment and often study the teachings and writings of the spiritual giants

such as St. Ignatius, St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, St. Hildegard of Bingen and others." This coming year, the center hopes to offer trainings that will assist the laity in participating in the ministries of their parish, such as pastoral care.

One aspect of the value of hospitality for Victory Noll Center is that while the programming is based on Catholic principles and teaching, it is ecumenical in its welcome. Participants often come from other denominations, recognizing the need to deepen their relationship with Christ and their common call to live the Gospel.

The Victory Noll Center is managed by three full-time employees, one part-time employee and one Our Lady of Victory Missionary sister who volunteers several days a week. People come to the retreat center for spiritual direction and spiritual formation. They are invited to come to pray and deepen their relationship with God so that they might respond to the needs of their community and the world.

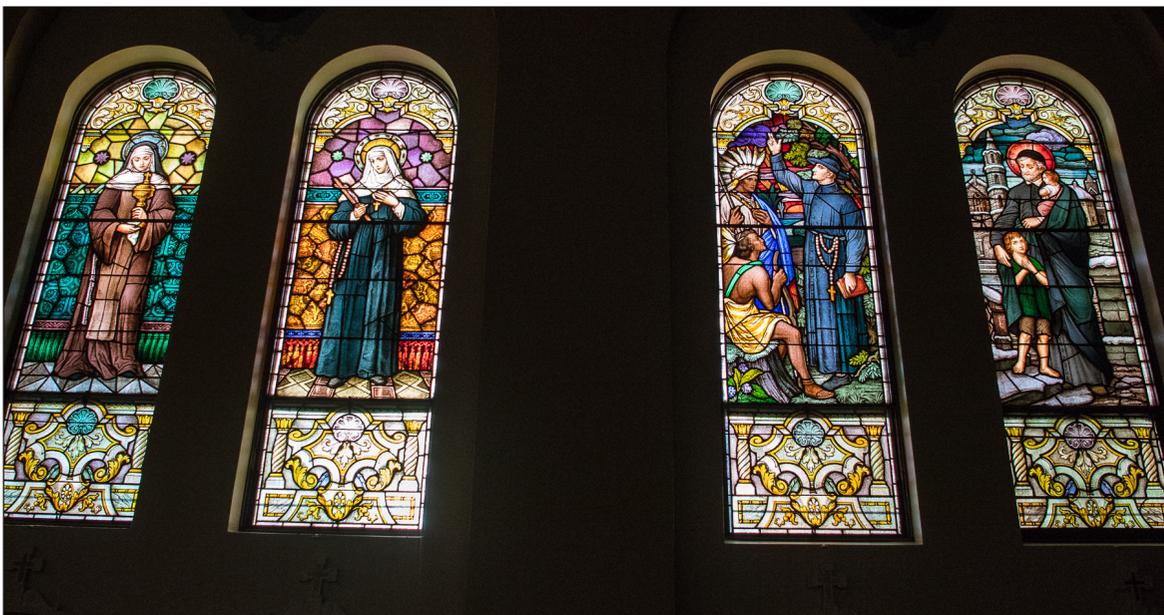
Some come to the center to



A labyrinth on the grounds of Victory Noll Center invites solitary reflection and prayer.



The Victory Noll Center can be seen in the background of the labyrinth. The center is open to Catholics and those of other faiths for classes and retreats.



The stained-glass windows of Our Lady of Victory Chapel were made in Munich, Germany, the home country of Msgr. John Oechtering, pastor of St. Mary Church in Fort Wayne at the time. He chose saints especially devoted to the mother of God and those who were known as outstanding preachers and missionaries, including, from left, St. Clare of Assisi, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a missionary to Native Americans and St. Vincent de Paul.

collaborate on social justice issues. Victory Noll Center collaborates with the Anti-Trafficking Network to offer education days and trainings to groups. The Center also works with the Huntington County Prevention Task Force to offer Community Conversations around issues that touch the lives of many. This year's topic for the quarterly conversations is Addiction.

One group of volunteers, known as Matthew 25, meets at the center weekly. Hats and nose blankets are made for those in need, collaborating with LOVE Inc., the Youth Service Bureau and other service agencies, which distribute them.

Besides programs the center offers, churches and schools are welcome to use the meeting rooms for staff training days and renewal, as well as for retreats.

People are also welcome to visit the newly renovated and wheelchair-accessible Our Lady of Victory Chapel, or walk the

grounds. The outdoor spaces include a labyrinth, the Stations of the Cross, statues of the Sacred Heart, Mary and St. Bernadette, and the gravesite of Archbishop Noll. There is also a Miami Peace Garden dedicated to the Miami people of the area.

Many participants have noted that upon entering the chapel they sense something special. Wilhelm attributes this to the presence of God and the prayers of the sisters in the chapel over the years.

The sisters invite all to join them Wednesday evenings in prayer for the world at 7 p.m. There is also the opportunity for morning prayer Tuesdays and Thursdays each week, led by the Victory Noll Center staff.

Victory Noll Center is located at 1900 W. Park Dr. For more information call 260-200-1740, email [info@victorynollcenter.org](mailto:info@victorynollcenter.org) or visit the website at [www.victorynollcenter.org](http://www.victorynollcenter.org).

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## Ending a culture of violence

A horrific mass shooting at a Florida high school left 17 people dead and placed school violence and gun control at the forefront of public debate.

Proposals include stricter regulations on semi-automatic and automatic weapons, a ban on “bump stocks” that make the former more deadly, better background checks, a higher legal age for gun ownership, making it easier to get restraining orders against gun possession by disturbed people and increased investment in mental health programs.

These should be considered in light of the best evidence on what will save lives without violating our constitutional freedoms. In this area, I am no expert.

One proposal I dislike involves arming teachers, which risks changing the culture of our schools for the worse. I think of the nuns who taught me in middle school, and the Marist brothers and devout laymen who gave me a fine high school education. I struggle in vain to imagine them packing heat. Nor do I want crazed gunmen to avoid heavily armed public schools to target those run by churches.

And gun violence is a larger problem. It takes over 30,000 lives a year. Mass shootings are a tiny percentage of this alarming total. Suicides, a scourge among our young people, make up more than half of it. Days after the Florida shooting, there were reports of a 13-year-old boy who shot himself in a middle school restroom in Ohio and died.

Millions of guns have been in Americans’ hands for a long time. Why these senseless acts of violence by boys and young men now?

Psychologist Warren Farrell, author of “The Boy Crisis,” says the males perpetrating recent mass shootings share one characteristic: “minimal or no father involvement” in their lives. The Florida shooter’s adoptive father died when he was young, and his adoptive mother died from a respiratory illness in November; he was living with foster parents with whom he felt no connection.

Farrell says the presence of a strong male role model shows adolescent boys how to channel their aggressive impulses in positive directions, how to be a man. “Dad-deprived” boys are more likely to turn those impulses into aggression against others and themselves.

Obviously, most boys raised in our growing number of single-parent families do not become violent. Most single mothers do a great job raising their children, and some kinds of male role model are worse than none at all.

But it is important for society to help fill the gap. Teachers, coaches, Big Brothers, scoutmasters, youth ministers and others have traditionally done so. But as Robert Putnam’s book “Bowling Alone” documented 18 years ago, Americans have become more isolated, and the bonds within local communities are stretched thin.

Churches, in particular, have offered a moral code against tak-



### A MORE HUMAN SOCIETY

RICHARD DOERFLINGER

ing human life — a countercultural message, in a nation where abortion and assisted suicide are praised — and a caring community that spans generations. But churches are losing young members.

So what do we do, since we must do something? The policy debate continues, and I hope it includes discussion of the loneliness and alienation of boys in our society.

In the meantime, blogger Rob Myers says each of us personally — including students — could do something: “Notice those around you who seem isolated, and engage them.” One friendly hand, an expression of interest or concern, may help a teen or young man come out of his shell a bit and change direction.

Myers admits most people probably won’t take this leap. I wonder what our excuse will be as Christians for not doing so?

Richard Doerflinger worked in the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He writes from Washington state.

## A woman rich beyond things

International Women’s Day on March 8 recalls that many girls and women in developing countries still face huge barriers to an education, are denied rights to ownership of the land they labor on, have no access to health care, suffer regular beatings from their husbands and are placed in early child marriages resulting in horrendous feminine problems when they give birth.

In my deliberations whether to join Catholic Relief Services, I felt the tug to address these issues. These women’s plight was not just intellectual to me, nor compelling from simply a humanistic standpoint. I felt that I held the memories of these women.

You see, I was cared for and formed by a woman who came from a similarly impoverished background. This month’s column tells her story.

Before Lady Gaga gained great fame, my family had our own Gaga. On Feb. 9 we celebrated the funeral Mass of Fung Yau, who passed away at age 99.

Fung joined our family in 1947 and became a part of our clan ever since. When my sister Maureen hadn’t quite mastered proper words yet, she somehow referred to Fung as “Gaga.” The nickname stuck.

Gaga was born in China to a rural couple who depended on a small plot of land for their living. Upon her father’s untimely death, Gaga was sold as a servant girl at age 9 to support



### OUR GLOBAL FAMILY

CAROLYN WOO

her widowed mother and three younger siblings.

Standing outside the school room to which she carried the books of her employer’s children, she learned how to read. Eventually, Gaga could make sense of a Chinese newspaper even though she never went to school.

As a young woman Gaga was phenomenally beautiful, with a sweet face and dignified composure that caught the breath of everyone who saw her picture. Yet she refused marriage proposals for one major reason: She recognized that her salary would have to go to her husband and she would no longer be able to forward all of her earnings to her mother.

From the beginning, Gaga was much more than a nanny to us. She became the compass and model for how we should live and treat others. For me, Gaga set the examples and standards on five commitments: dedication to family, compassion for those in need, speaking the truth, delivering our best and knowing

WOO, page 13

## We are saved by faith in Christ Jesus



### THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### Fourth Sunday of Lent John 3:14-21

The Second Book of Chronicles provides this Lenten weekend with its first reading. Chronicles was written about 1,000 years before Jesus. The identity of its author is unknown. As the title of this book implies, its purpose is to record the history of God’s people. The most important aspect of their history always was religious.

A constant refrain and source of grief among the prophets and the devout of ancient Israel was the sinfulness of the people, most particularly that of the kings. God caused or willed no

distress or hardship. Rather, by disobeying God the people themselves upset the order of life, bringing trouble upon themselves.

This reading insists that God again and again has sent messengers to call the people to piety. Inevitably, these messengers met rebuke.

As an example of all this, Babylonia overtook the Holy Land because sin had weakened the Hebrew kingdoms. Then the conquerors took many Hebrews to Babylon, where the Hebrews’ lives were miserable.

A pagan king, Cyrus, of Persia, freed these sad people when, in turn, he overcame Babylon. The Hebrews saw Cyrus as an instrument of God’s mercy.

The Epistle to the Ephesians furnishes the second reading. It teaches critical facts about God, the source of all goodness. Salvation is God’s merciful gift. No one deserves it. God lavishly extends it to us as an expression of eternal, divine love.

St. John’s Gospel gives this Liturgy of the Word its final

reading. In this reading Jesus is speaking to Nicodemus, a prominent and pious Jew from Jerusalem. The Lord refers to an event that occurred during the Exodus, when Moses lifted high a serpent. All who looked upon this serpent were rescued from death.

Serpents were important in ancient iconography, although more important among pagans than among Jews. Serpents symbolized eternal life, since they shed their hides and seemingly are reborn to new lives.

Jesus predicts being lifted up, as Moses lifted up the serpent. He was referring to the crucifixion. All who look upon Jesus will have everlasting life.

Even so, Jesus is not a conqueror of people despite their own choices. People must freely choose to follow Jesus by renouncing their sin.

This is important. God “so loved the world.” God desires life for us and therefore sent Jesus to lead us to life, even if we, on occasion, prefer darkness and, indeed, doom ourselves.

### Reflection

This weekend often is called “Laetare Sunday,” taking its name from the Latin word, laetare, to rejoice. This is the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, which in the Roman Rite, for centuries, was in Latin.

In the liturgies of this weekend priests have the option of wearing pink — or to be precise, rose — vestments. Rose is not the toning down of a stricter purple. Rather, it is the subdued purple brightened by the golden light of the Resurrection. Easter lies just a few weeks ahead.

This custom mimics the coming of dawn. Daylight does not initially appear in a burst of gold. Instead, it comes gradually. The first sign of dawn is a rose-colored sky.

Today reminds us that the sunburst of Easter is not far away. So, this weekend, the Church calls us to rejoice, even if we are in the fourth week of Lent, the season of austerity and penance.

The victory of Christ is near. Salvation is near! The Lord won salvation for us on the cross.

Beyond Calvary, Jesus, eternally victorious over death, stands before us, the “Light of the World.” For humanity, the blessed fact is that anyone who turns to Jesus, and in Jesus is obedient to God, will share in His victory over death and sin.

God gave us Jesus so that we might live.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** 2 Chr 36: 14-16, 19-23 Ps 137:1-6 Eph 2:4-10 Jn 3:14-21

**Monday:** Is 65:17-21 Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b Jn 4:43-54

**Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-9, 12 Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 Jn 5:1-16

**Wednesday:** Is 49:8-15 Ps 145:8-9, 13c-14, 17-18 Jn 5:17-30

**Thursday:** Ex 32:7-14 Ps 106:19-23 Jn 5:31-47

**Friday:** Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Ps 34:17-21, 23 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**Saturday:** Jer 11:18-20 Ps 7:2-3, 9b-12 Jn 7:40-53

# Conscience and grace: a Lenten meditation

The Scriptures of Lent in the Church's daily liturgy invite two related reflections. The weeks immediately preceding Easter call us to walk to Jerusalem in imitation of Christ, so that, at Easter, we, too might be blessed with baptismal water and sent into the world on mission. The preceding weeks, those immediately following Ash Wednesday, propose a serious examination of conscience: What is there in me that's broken? What's impeding my being the missionary disciple I was baptized to be?

This Lent, that examination of conscience might well include some serious thinking about what "conscience" means.

That often-contentious subject has returned to the center of the world Catholic conversation, thanks to the forthcoming 50th anniversary of "Humanae Vitae," Blessed Paul VI's prophetic encyclical on the morally appropriate means of family planning, and the ongoing discussion generated by Pope Francis's apostolic exhortation on marriage, "Amoris Laetitia." In that conversation, voices have been heard urging a view of conscience that is curious, even dangerous: Under certain circumstances, conscience may permit or even require that a person choose acts that the Church has consistently taught are intrinsically wrong — such as using artificial means of contraception or receiving holy Communion while living the married life in a union that's not been blessed by the Church.

Those propounding this idea of "conscience" urge us to recognize three things: that the spiritual and moral life is a journey; that when the Church teaches

that some things are just wrong and no combination of intentions and consequences can make them right, the Church is proposing an "ideal" to which the most "generous" response may not always be possible; and that confessors and spiritual directors should be compassionate and discerning guides along the often rocky pathways of the moral life.

No reasonable person will contest the last claim. I'm grateful that I've been the beneficiary of such thoughtful guidance, and more than once. But the other two claims seem problematic, to put it gently.

If, for example, "conscience" can command me to use artificial means of contraception because of my life-circumstances, why couldn't conscience permit, or even require, that I continue to defraud customers if my business is in debt and my family would suffer from its failure, even as I work my way into a better, more honest financial situation? Why couldn't "conscience" permit me, on my journey toward the "ideal," to continue to indulge in extracurricular sex while my spouse and I work out the kinks in our marriage?

Inside the idea that "conscience" can permit or even require us to do something long understood to be wrong, period, where's the circuit-breaker that would stop a couple from "discerning" that an abortion is the best resolution of the difficulties involved in carrying an unborn child to term, although under future circumstances they would embrace the "ideal" and welcome a child into their family?

The further claim being made here — that God can ask me, through my conscience, to do



GEORGE WEIGEL

## THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

things that do not cohere with the teaching of the Church — fractures the bonds between God, the Church's teaching authority, and conscience in perilous ways.

Christ promised to maintain His Church in the truth (John 8.32; John 16.3). Has that promise been broken? The Council of Trent taught that it's always possible, with the help of God's grace, to obey the commandments — that God wills our transformation and helps us along the way to holiness. Has that teaching been rescinded? Replaced by a "paradigm shift" into the radical subjectivism that's emptied most of liberal Protestantism of spiritual and moral ballast? Vatican II taught that within my conscience is "a law inscribed by God?" Is God now telling me that I can violate the truth He has written into my heart?

To suggest that the Church teaches "ideals" that are impossible to live undervalues the power of grace and empties the moral life of the drama built into it by God Himself. Lent does not call us to confess that we've failed to live up to an unachievable "ideal;" Lent does not call us to be self-exculpatory like the Pharisee in Luke 18.10-14, who went away unjustified. Lent calls us to embrace the humility of the Gospel publican and confess that we have sinned, knowing that God's mercy can heal what is broken in us if we cooperate with His grace.

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

*To suggest that the Church teaches "ideals" that are impossible to live undervalues the power of grace and empties the moral life of the drama built into it by God Himself.*

### WOO, from page 12

our blessings.

From the time her father died, Gaga's overriding priority was to support her mother. She kept little for herself and sent everything to China. Her generosity was extended to others as well. A person in the hospital or a child needing tuition were always more important than her needs.

"Never lie" was another common refrain. Even as a servant, Gaga held her truth, which was not bent by power or wealth.

She demanded the highest quality in her work — and actually in mine, too — as excellence was a way to honor others and oneself. No condemnation was more shaming than work that was characterized in Gaga's words, as "ma ma fu fu": Cantonese for "sloppy."

From a person who had so little, you would expect complaints. Yet, Gaga operated in and from deep gratitude. Every morning, her first act was to light a stick of incense, face the window in the kitchen, kneel and bow deeply to thank the heaven

and the earth.

Even before she became a Catholic in her 80s, though she had nothing, she had God. Her highest priority was to love well. For me, Gaga will always be an example of what it means to trust God, and what real wealth is all about.

Carolyn Woo is the distinguished president's fellow for global development at Purdue University and served as the CEO and president of Catholic Relief Services from 2012 to 2016.

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for March 11, 2018

John 3-14-21

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle B: God's plan for the salvation of the world. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

MOSES	LIFTED UP	SERPENT
SON OF MAN	ETERNAL	LIFE
SO LOVED	HE GAVE	IN HIM
PERISH	SEND	CONDEMN
THE NAME	VERDICT	LIGHT
PEOPLE	DARKNESS	EVIL
HATES	EXPOSED	TRUTH

### THE VERDICT

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

### Saint of the Week



### Frances of Rome

1384-1440  
Feast March 9

This laywoman and foundress, born a Roman aristocrat, married Lorenzo Ponziano when she was 13; they had several children. In 1409, their palazzo was pillaged by Neapolitan soldiers and Lorenzo was exiled for five years, returning home a broken man. He died in 1436. Frances, known for her great charity during epidemics and civil war, organized a ladies society dedicated to self-denial and good works. It became the Oblates of Tor de Specchi, which she directed for her last four years. She is the patron saint of motorists, perhaps because she was guarded for 23 years by an archangel visible only to her. Her last words were: "The angel has finished his work. He is beckoning me to follow."

# Life of African-American priest told through play

BY JOYCE DURIGA

CHICAGO (CNS) — The life of Father Augustus Tolton already reads like a novel, and now it is immortalized on stage with the new play “Tolton: From Slave to Priest,” produced by St. Luke Productions from Battle Ground, Washington.

Tolton, a former slave, is the first recognized American diocesan priest of African descent. The Archdiocese of Chicago opened his cause for sainthood in 2011, giving him the title “servant of God.”

Born into slavery, he fled with his mother and siblings through the woods of northern Missouri and across the Mississippi River while being pursued by soldiers when he was only 9 years old. The small family made their home in Quincy, Illinois, a sanctuary for runaway slaves.

The boy's father had died earlier in St. Louis, after escaping slavery to serve in the Union Army.

Growing up in Quincy and serving at Mass, young Augustus felt a call to the priesthood, but, because of rampant racism, no seminary in the United States would accept him. He headed to Rome, convinced he would become a missionary priest serving in Africa. However, after ordination, he was sent back to his hometown to be a missionary to the community there, again facing rampant racism.

He was such a good preacher that many white Catholics joined his black parishioners in the pews for his Masses. This upset white priests in the town, so Father Tolton headed north to Chicago, at the request of Archbishop Patrick Feehan, to minister to the black Catholic community here.

Father Tolton worked to the point of exhaustion for his congregation in Chicago, and on July 9, 1897, he died of heatstroke while returning from a priests' retreat. He was 43.

His journey is now crystallized in a 90-minute, one-person play that premiered Nov. 5 at Chicago's DuSable Museum of African American History. For over 30 years, St. Luke Productions has produced other plays about holy men and women, including St. Faustina, St. Maximilian Kolbe and St. John Vianney.

Leonardo Defilippis, president and founder of St. Luke Productions, first learned of Father Tolton from a priest in the Diocese of Springfield, which includes the town of Quincy where the priest served and is buried.

Defilippis researched Father Tolton's life and hung a photo of him in his office. When deciding which play he would produce next, he noticed the photo again and started praying to Father



CNS photo/Karen Callaway

**Andrae Goodnight portrays Father Augustus Tolton in the production “Tolton: From Slave to Priest” at DuSable Museum of African American History in Chicago Nov. 5.**

Tolton. Defilippis said he felt the Holy Spirit was asking him to make a play of the priest's life.

Once decided, the producer reached out to Cardinal Francis E. George, who as Chicago's archbishop at the time had opened Father Tolton's cause for canonization during the Year of the Priest. The cardinal directed him to Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Joseph N. Perry, postulator of Father Tolton's cause. Defilippis said he and his team worked closely with Bishop Perry on the play.

“It's exciting to do something in complete conjunction with the canonization process. It's a tool that can be used for this,” he told the *Chicago Catholic*, the archdiocesan newspaper. “It's one of the most unique shows right now in theater because it's a multimedia show, which means you have characters on a screen that are interacting with a live actor.”

Defilippis has created a “very unique art form” that makes it easy for groups anywhere to host the play because of the simple setup.

When writing the script, Defilippis, who co-wrote the play with his wife, pulled from themes in Father Tolton's life — perseverance, trust in God, incredible forgiveness and his priesthood.

Defilippis believes the time Father Tolton spent studying for the priesthood in Rome opened him up to the universality of a priest's ministry. He studied with men from all over the world and saw the Church's history in places like the catacombs, the Coliseum and St. Peter's Basilica.

“Once he becomes a priest, he's a priest for all. This is not a segregated situation, it's not a segregated mindset,” Defilippis said.

The play doesn't shy away from the harsh realities Father

Tolton faced, such as severe prejudice against him from fellow priests in Quincy. The post-Reconstruction period was a troubled time for the United States, and tensions and violence were real. Father Tolton himself often spoke of being watched.

Defilippis believes that telling Father Tolton's story through art is a way to bring light into today's seemingly dark world.

“The highest form of art is when you not only entertain and inspire, but bring it to another level, of what we call evangelization of what actually touches hearts in a deep and impactful way that actually changes lives,” he said. “That's what we've seen with these plays.”

*Duriga is editor of the Chicago Catholic, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Chicago.*

*For more about Father Tolton's canonization process, visit [www.toltoncanonization.org](http://www.toltoncanonization.org).*

Performed Live by  
**Jim Coleman**

# Tolton

## From Slave to Priest

**Tuesday, April 24**

**7:00pm**

**Saint Joseph High School**

South Bend, IN

**Thursday, April 26**

**7:00pm**

**Bishop Luers High School**

Fort Wayne, IN

[www.diocesefwsb.org/tolton](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/tolton)

# 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](http://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.

**Lenten retreat for health care workers**  
**FORT WAYNE** — The Catholic Medical Guild of NE Indiana is hosting a Lenten Retreat "Blessed are the Poor in Spirit," on Saturday, March 10, at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1502 E Wallen Rd., from 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., in the Life Center. The retreat is open to anyone in health care. Father Royce Gregerson will give talks on the Beatitudes. The price is \$10, free for students. Visit [www.fortwayne.cathmed.org](http://www.fortwayne.cathmed.org) for information.

**St. Louis announces spring square dance**  
**NEW HAVEN** — St. Louis Academy Home and School Association will have a spring square dance Saturday, March 10, from 8-11 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person and include one drink and free snacks with additional drinks available. No carry-in drink or food is allowed. Music will be provided by Bill Werling and Breakaway.

**Merchant BINGO and silent auction**  
**GARRETT** — St. Joseph School, 301 W. Houston St., will have Merchant Bingo and silent auction, Saturday, March 10, from 6-9 p.m. hosted by HASA. Players must be age 18 and up. All proceeds go to St. Joseph Catholic School. For more information call the school at 260-357-5137.

**Day of reflection**  
**MISHAWAKA** — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent, 1515 W. Dragoon Tr., Wednesday, March 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "Lenten Disciplines." Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is \$20 and includes lunch. Register at 574-259-5427.

**St. Aloysius Knights plan card party**  
**YODER** — St. Aloysius Knights of Columbus will have a card party and euchre tournament Saturday, March 10, from 6:30-9 p.m. in the Activity Center, 14623 Bluffton Rd. Admission is \$5.

## Looking for a Fish Fry?

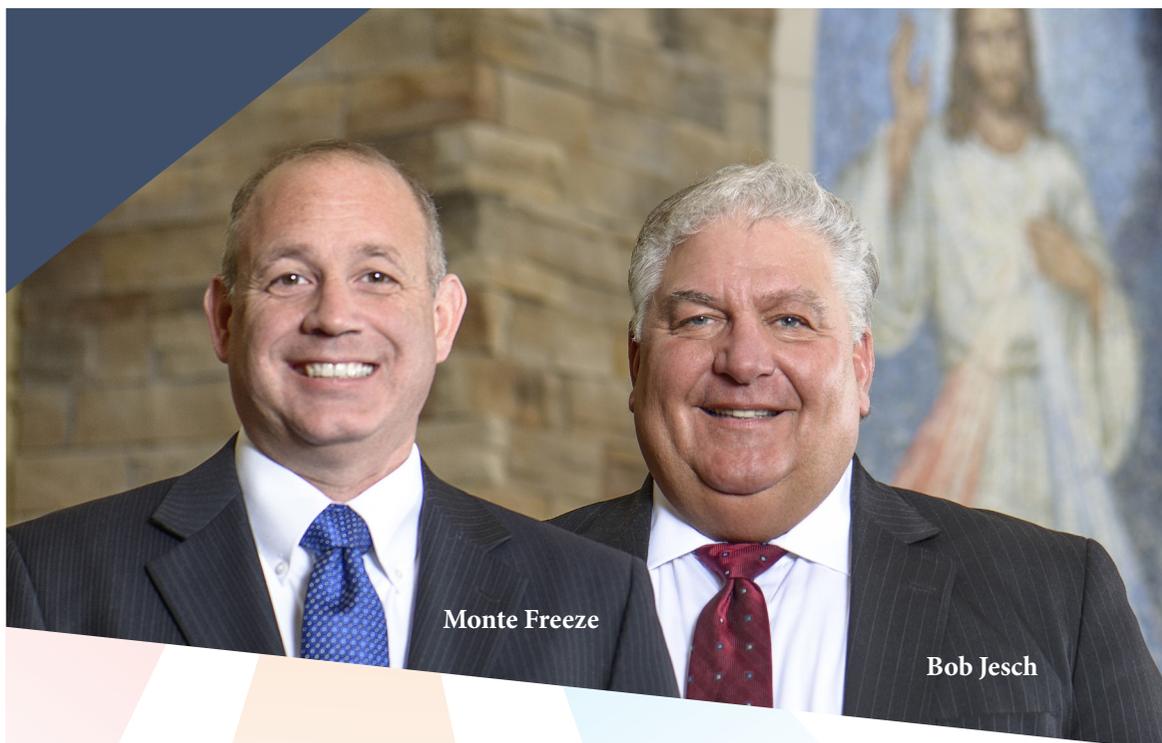
Download the **Today's Catholic App** for easy access to the calendar with local events and fish fries across the diocese.



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 Visit [www.todayscatholic.org](http://www.todayscatholic.org).

## REST IN PEACE

<b>Churubusco</b> Leonard A. Wall, 71, St. John Bosco	Kathleen Ternet, 71, St. Peter	<b>South Bend</b> Boguslaw Kozakiewicz, 44, St. Adalbert
<b>Decatur</b> A. Joyce Martin, 92, St. Mary of the Assumption	<b>Granger</b> Leonard Joseph Jozwiak, 87, St. Pius X	Bernadina Annamarie VandeZande, 89, Christ the King
<b>Fort Wayne</b> Jacqueline Ann Litchfield, 80, St. Vincent de Paul	<b>Huntington</b> Sister John Francis Radler, OLVM, 101, Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel	Caroline F. Knight, 79, Holy Cross
Josephine H. Laguna, 84, Queen of Angels	<b>New Haven</b> Charles Snyder, 75, St. John the Baptist	Stephen Elek, Jr., 84, Sacred Heart
Mercedes Marie Anglemyer, 87, St. Charles Borromeo	Joe Jacquay, 67, St. John the Baptist	<b>Warsaw</b> Ronald Randels, 46, Sacred Heart
Betty Lou Erpelding, 91, St. Jude	<b>Notre Dame</b> Mary Ellen Chwedyk, Ph.D., 58, Basilica of the Sacred Heart	Cesare Vitale, 73, Sacred Heart
Timothy L. Rahrig, 58, St. Vincent de Paul	Dennis William Moran, 75, Basilica of the Sacred Heart	
Ruth Ann Stapleton, 86, St. Vincent de Paul		Submit obituaries to <a href="mailto:mweber@diocesefwsb.org">mweber@diocesefwsb.org</a>



Monte Freeze

Bob Jesch

## Service to others is their calling.

Divine Mercy Funeral Home is honored to introduce our Funeral Directors, Bob Jesch and Monte Freeze. But for many in the Fort Wayne community, Bob and Monte need no introduction.

and respected for their experience, compassion, and dedication to the families they serve. Their patience and understanding puts families at ease. Just when they need it most.

Bob is a Bishop Dwenger graduate and former hockey coach who has served as a Funeral Director for over 35 years. Originally from South Bend, Monte has served as a Funeral Director for over 20 years in Fort Wayne, where he lives with his wife of 17 years and two sons. Bob and Monte are well known

We invite you to call Bob or Monte at 260.426.2044 for an appointment or visit the office at 3500 Lake Ave., 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



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# Blessed Paul VI to be canonized at close of synod, cardinal says

BY CINDY WOODEN

ROME (CNS) — Blessed Paul VI will be declared a saint in late October at the end of the Synod of Bishops on youth and discernment, said Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state.

After mentioning the late pope in a speech to the International Catholic Migration Commission March 6, Cardinal Parolin confirmed to reporters that the canonization will take place at the end of the synod, which is scheduled for Oct. 3-28. Pope Paul revived the synod after the Second Vatican Council.

The cardinals and bishops who are members of the Congregation for Saints' Causes reportedly voted Feb. 6 to recognize as a miracle the healing of an unborn baby and helping her reach full term. The baby's mother, who was told she had a very high risk of miscarrying the baby, had prayed for Blessed Paul's intercession a few days after his beatification by Pope Francis in 2014.

Blessed Paul, who was born Giovanni Battista Montini, was



CNS/L'Osservatore Romano

**Blessed Paul VI is pictured in this undated portrait.**

pope from 1963 to 1978.

Although Pope Francis announced in late February that he expected to canonize Blessed Paul this year, he still has not formally signed the decree recognizing the miracle needed for the celebration to take place nor has he held a consistory — a meeting of cardinals — to set the date for the ceremony.

## Food drive contest feeds local food pantry



Theresa Carroll

St. Bernard School's fifth- and sixth-graders held a food drive Feb. 26 to March 2. The students challenged each classroom to donate the most food items and win an ice cream celebration. In the five days, 81 students donated 1625 food items for the local food pantry. The picture shows the fifth- and sixth-grade students after gathering all the items in one place to be delivered. The first-grade class won, with over 500 food items donated.

# Don't hold grudges; forgiveness comes from forgiving others, pope says

BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians must let go of resentments and forgive those who have wronged them so that they may experience God's forgiveness, Pope Francis.

This can be particularly difficult when "we carry with us a list of things that have been done to us," the pope said in his homily March 6 at morning Mass in the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

"God's forgiveness is felt strongly within us as long as we forgive others. And this isn't easy because grudges make a nest in our heart and there is always that bitterness," he said.

The pope reflected on the day's first reading from the prophet Daniel in which Azariah, one of three young men condemned to death in a fiery furnace, courageously prays for deliverance from God.

"Do not let us be put to shame, but deal with us in your kindness and great mercy. Deliver us by your wonders,

and bring glory to your name, O Lord," Azariah prayed.

Although Azariah is innocent of the crime he is condemned for, the pope explained, his attitude of recognizing his own personal sins is the same attitude Christian men and women should have when approaching the sacrament of penance.

"Accusing ourselves is the first step toward forgiveness," the pope said. "To accuse one's self is part of the Christian wisdom. No, not accusing others; (accuse) ourselves. 'I have sinned.'"

God, he added, "welcomes a contrite heart" and when Christians readily admit their faults, "the Lord covers our mouths like the father did to the prodigal son; he does not let him speak. His love covers it, he forgives all."

"These are the two things that help us understand the path of forgiveness: 'You are great Lord, unfortunately I have sinned' and 'Yes, I forgive you 70 times seven as long as you forgive others,'" Pope Francis said.



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