Bishop Rhoades thanks Msgr. Schulte for outstanding service, appoints new Vicar General, Judicial Vicar

FORT WAYNE — In announcing the appointment of Msgr. Robert Schulte as pastor of St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades expressed deep gratitude for Msgr. Schulte's 18 years of “outstanding service to the diocese as Vicar General, and for the invaluable assistance he provided” to him and to Bishop John M. D'Arcy before him.

Bishop Rhoades remarked that the longevity of Msgr. Schulte's ministry as Vicar General is a testament to the high regard in which he and Bishop D'Arcy, priests of the diocese and the faithful have held Msgr. Schulte through the years, and that he also believes Msgr. Schulte deserves a break from diocesan administrative duties to become a full-time pastor again. The bishop has appointed him pastor of St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, effective June 19.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has announced changes in the leadership of two diocesan offices. From left are Father Jacob Runyon, new Judicial Vicar and also Rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception; Father Mark Gurtner, new Vicar General, Chancellor and Moderator of the Curia; Bishop Rhoades; and Msgr. Robert Schulte, new pastor of St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne. Father Gurtner will continue as pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne.

Was the Church right about contraception?

BY LISA EVERETT

A look at “Humanae Vitae” 50 years later

IT is probably safe to say that most people today consider contraception to be an indispensable modern convenience, and have a hard time imagining life without it. More than five decades ago, the proponents of the birth control pill promised that better marriages would result from fewer children and more satisfying sex lives, free from the fear of pregnancy. In stark contrast to this position stood the Catholic Church, whose leader, Pope Paul VI, after serious consultation, reflection and prayer, issued the encyclical “Humanae Vitae” on July 25, 1968.

In this landmark document, Pope Paul VI reaffirmed the moral norm prohibiting contraception and instead recommended natural methods of fertility regulation as the path to happiness and holiness in marriage. Far from being a benefit to married couples, Pope Paul VI predicted that the use of contraception instead would lead to an increase in marital infidelity, a general lowering of morality in society, greater disrespect for women and coercive measures on the part of governments with respect to “population control.”

So which of these competing claims is true? Has contraception facilitated better and happier marriages, or is there strong evidence that it damages the relationship between spouses? And what about the alternative? Does the Church’s teaching somehow strengthen the love between spouses, or has the Church
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TODAY’S CATHOLIC May 20, 2018

TRANSITION, from page 1

Bishop Rhodes also announced that effective the same day, Msgr. Steppes M. Gurtner will succeed Msgr. Schulte as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, while Father Jacob Runyon will be appointed as Father Runyon as Judicial Vicar. Father Gurtner will continue as pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish in Fort Wayne.

The bishop expressed his confidence in making these new appointments, noting both priests are deeply devoted to the Roman Catholic faith and have served in various capacities. “Father Gurtner has served the diocese very well as my Judicial Vicar and has an excellent collaborator on the Bishop’s Cabinet. Father Runyon also has served with great competence as Adjudicator Judicial Vicar. Both priests are not only well-qualified for these positions, but also exhibit the pastoral charity that is an essential part of priestly ministry and is necessary to the bishop in shepherding the diocese.”

Many months ago, Msgr. Schulte said, he spoke with Bishop Rhodes about his desire to return to full-time priestly pastoral ministry in a parish. “Since September 2000 I have served as Vicar General / Chancellor and Moderator of the Curia of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. This has been a joy and a challenge. I chaired some committees, like the Parish-in-Need Grants and St. Mark’s, St. Luke’s and St. Joseph Grants and serve on many others. Questions, observations and complaints come to my office regularly from all over the diocese and beyond. I work with diocesan staff and those with management responsibilities to help our central office run smoothly and all involves a lot of administration and meetings. The workload has been borne also by my longtime secretary, Mari Raatz, who fields and answers so many phone calls and emails.”

As “opera diocesana” of the diocese, I am blessed to have a dedicated and hard-working staff who helps handle all pastoral and administrative tasks. But because of the time, I limited in what past pastoral ministry I am able to give. I often had to find more time to visit those who are ill and home-bound, for instance. I will deeply miss the many members of the parish with whom I have jour- neyed in faith.

“After almost 18 years, I feel the Lord is telling me it is time for a change.”

“I accept responsibility as pastor of St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne. This will provide our own new challenges and opportunities for priestly ministry. I hope my experience over the years will be a blessing and benefit to this strong and vibrant community of St. Jude Church. I pray that the Holy Spirit be my guide and counsel as I move into the future.”

Father Runyon said he is thankful to Bishop Rhodes for the confidence expressed in him, and that he looks forward to his new ministry as Vicar General and Rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. But leaving St. Jude will be tough, he admitted.

“The last five years has been a wonderful experience for me. St. Jude was kind enough to take me in as their pastor, even though I had never been a pastor before. I’ve gotten to know so many people there and I’ve been able to be a part of their lives. I’ll remember countless Masses, weddings, funerals, baptisms. I’ll remember watching young people as they grew in the faith. I’ll remember sharing dinner and laughter with people who have become close friends,” he said.

“From my first days in the seminary, I have always desired to do nothing else but God’s will. So, I’m thankful that I have had the opportunity to live and serve at such a wonderful parish.”

“I’m also excited for the next chapter of my life to be full of new adventures and experiences.”

“As Judicial Vicar, my primary task is to manage and direct the tribunal for the diocese. It will be a job to ensure that, in annulment cases conducted in a professional, pastoral and sensitive manner. There is an excellent staff at the Tribunal and I have been working with them for three years in my role as a judge. I’m very pleased to have the opportunity to continue working with them.”

Father Runyon said it’s hard to describe his excitement for being the Rector of the cathedral.

“On Oct. 31, 2009, I laid on the floor of that cathedral while everyone in the church invoked the Litany of the Saints. On that day, I was ordained as a priest. Every time I visit the cathedral I’m reminded of that amazing day. To become the Rector of the cathedral has always been a dream of mine. I look forward to spending time there in prayer. I look forward to getting to know the parishioners, and I look forward to working with the staff and priests there.”

“I think it is safe to say that times of transition are complicat- ed,” he noted. “I am saddened to be leaving behind St. Jude Parish. I’m excited to continue my work in the Tribunal, and for an opportunity for growth. The existence of these dis- parate emotions can be quite taxing, but, that’s the life of the priest. I ask the people of St. Jude and the cathedral to keep me in prayer during this time of change. May God continue to guide and bless us always.”

Father Gurtner, who began as a judge in the Tribunal in 2003, judged marriage nullity cases, said he is grateful to have served as Judicial Vicar for the diocese.

“I became Adjutant Judicial Vicar in 2009 with the respon- sibility of overseeing the South Bend Tribunal office, and in 2011 Bishop Rhodes appointed me Judicial Vicar with a move back to Fort Wayne to oversee the entirety of the operation of the Tribunal.”

“Tribunal work is rewarding work, while at the same time it can be difficult work. Many people are helped by the work of the Tribunal and those who are bound by invalid marriages. At the same time, the work also implicitly upholds the dignity and indissolubility of marriage, which is by the Lord’s design.”

“I am humbled by my appointment by Bishop Rhodes as Vicar General,” he said. “In this role, I will be directly assist- ing the bishop in the administra- tion of the diocese. Also, this role encompasses support and assistance to all the priests of the diocese. As Moderator of the Curia, I will also serve to give support to and to coordinate the activity of the diocesan Curia — which is the diocesan staff assisting the bishop in his govern- ance of the diocese. I very much look forward to this work.”

At the same time, I will continue to serve as pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope. I would be grateful for many prayers as I begin this new assignment.”

HUMANAE VITAE, from page 1

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With the benefit of 50 years of experience to help us explore these questions, this series will attempt to do just that.

In 1988, 20 years after “Humanae Vitae” was issued, the journal Research in Population Economics published a fascinating article by Robert Michael titled “Why did the U.S. divorce rate double within a decade?” An economist from the University of Chicago, professor Michael noticed in the course of his research that the divorce rate in the U.S. literally doubled from 1965 to 1976. After analyzing multiple factors that might have contributed to such a rise, including changes in state laws that made it easier to obtain a divorce, Michael concluded that the most significant factor by far — accounting for more than 50 percent of this dramatic rise — was the introduction of contraception in American society.

The Food and Drug Administration approved the sale of Enovid as a birth control pill in May 1960, it was the first drug in human history to be given to a healthy person for long-term use — not for a medi- cal, but for a social purpose. By 1965, more than 6.5 million American women were taking oral contraceptive pills. Michael discovered three reasons why the diffusion of contraception affected the divorce rate so dra- matically. First, it is known that the presence of contraception in the home exerts a protective effect on the marriage bond, and couples who used contraception had fewer children and were more likely to divorce. In fact, the total marital fertility rate in the United States fell from 3.42 children per woman in 1964 to 1.65 children in 1974.

Second, women with fewer children entered the workplace in greater numbers, and their increased financial independence made it easier for spouses to go their separate ways. This separation of life-giving dimension from love-life increased to become the Rector of the cathedral.

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Volcano’s lava flow displaces members of one Hawaii parish

BY PATRICK DOWNES

HONOLULU (CNS) — In addition to offering prayers, the Catholic Church is stepping into action on behalf of hundreds of residents displaced from a fierce and unpredictable volcanic eruption.

Members of Sacred Heart Parish in the town of Pahoa in the Puna District of the Island of Hawaii — known colloquially as the Big Island — are opening their hearts, their homes and their parish hall to those forced to flee the lava flowing from cracks in the ground in their neighborhood.

Bishop Larry Silva of Honolulu has visited and offered his assistance.

Local Catholic service agencies are working with victims, coordinating aid efforts, and collecting and distributing funds.

About 1,700 people reside in Leilani Estates, a rural subdivision of acre-sized lots on a grid of about 22 miles of roads, where at least 15 fissures have opened up since May 3 spewing molten rock and poisonous sulfur dioxide gas. A Hawaii County evacuation order sent subdivision residents packing shortly after the eruption began.

According to Hawaii County Civil Defense, 56 structures, including 26 homes, already have been destroyed by lava from the 2.5-mile-long fissure system, the newest outflow from Kilauea Volcano, which has been erupting since 1983. Lava so far has covered more than 115 acres.

During pauses in the volcanic activity, residents have been allowed to return to their homes to retrieve belongings.

Some are staying at two county evacuation centers. Sacred Heart parishioners are being taken in by fellow parish members, according to parish administrator Father Ernesto Juarez.

“Parishioners are opening up their homes,” he told the Hawaii Catholic Herald, Honolulu’s diocesan newspaper.

Bishop Silva was at the parish May 5-6, the weekend the eruption started, for a previously arranged episcopal visitation and to administer the sacrament of confirmation.

With hundreds of small earthquakes predicting volcanic activity, the bishop had offered to reschedule his visit, but Father Juarez, after consulting with some of his parishioners, decided to proceed as planned.

“I was happy to be there with them during that time,” the bishop said.

“I was actually surprised how normal life seemed in Pahoa, despite the eruption that was taking place in the parish boundaries,” the bishop said. “I did not detect any panic or great anxiety.”

He said he could see from the church the plume of smoke from the eruption site.

Several people told him that evacuees who were parish members did not have to use the county-run emergency shelters “because they were offered hospitality by fellow parishioners.”

Bishop Silva said that the diocese’s three social service agencies — Office of Social Ministries, HOPE Services Hawaii and Catholic Charities Hawaii — “have all been involved in the situation.”

“I asked them to keep me informed to see if there was anything I could do or if there were any services of the diocese that needed to be mobilized,” he said.

The bishop was told that immediate needs for shelter, food and clothing were being addressed locally, but that “long-term needs may require help.”
Father Carkenord to enter into retirement

BY JANET PATTERSON

When Father David Carkenord considered what he might do in 2018, he thought about retirement. But a night late in February made that thought a reality.

“I really didn’t think I was having a heart attack,” he said.

The unusual feeling he had for two evenings led him to drive himself from the St. Michael the Archangel rectory in Waterford to the hospital in Auburn “just to get checked out.” After seeing a doctor and having his diagnosis confirmed, Father Carkenord thought he might just drive himself back home. He laughs now at the thought.

Instead of driving home, he underwent quintuple bypass surgery. He has spent the last few months recovering at Presence Sacred Heart Home in Avilla. And while he’s ready to retire from parish ministry, Father Carkenord said he’s hoping to find a new ministry right at Sacred Heart Home, ministering to the residents and families alongside Tom Novy, director of Spiritual Services. “I still have some life left,” he said with the hint of a grin.

The youngest of four children, Father Carkenord grew up in Fort Wayne and attended St. Jude School and then Catholic High School for his freshman year. “My call to the priesthood was probably a little strange,” he admitted. “I went to the seminary because my friend was going.”

His sophomore year of high school, he transferred to Our Lady of the Lake Seminary in Syracuse. The five years he spent there sealed the call to his life’s vocation.

“I joke that I almost got kicked out of CC. I got in trouble with every nun there,” he added. “I was an ornery son of a gun.”

But the seminary seemed to suit him.

“We had everything we needed—education, a place to live, there was the lake and athletic fields and the Crosiers to teach us.” After finishing his studies there, Father Carkenord continued his formation for priesthood in Cincinnati and was ordained in 1962.

His ordination class shares a distinction with this year’s ordination class: “There were five of us ordained for the diocese … we were the largest class until this year.”

He looks back with great fondness on all of his assignments over his 56 years of priesthood. His first two years were spent at St. Henry Parish, followed by nine years at Queen of Angels, and then six at St. Andrew, his first pastorate.

He ministered for 10 years at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Elkhart and finally landed at St. Michael the Archangel in September 1989.

He said he fell in love with every parish he served. “They became so important. You get to know the people and there is no end to the beauty.”

During his nearly 50 years of pastoring at St. Michael, Father Carkenord was also given responsibility for St. Mary of the Angels Oratory, the mission church at Big Long Lake. “It’s the easiest job I ever had,” he joked about being made administrator of the tiny church that is now by volunteers.

His tenure at St. Michael the Archangel included a major renovation in 2010 of the country church that was built in 1921.

“Everything from the baptismal font to the floors and walls to the heating and air conditioning was restored, refinished or replaced. As the oldest priest in active ministry in the diocese, Father Carkenord continued his parish ministry well beyond the usual priestly retirement age of 75.”

He will complete his cardiac rehabilitation in the next couple of weeks and then hopes to stay at Sacred Heart Home in assisted living for a few months to finish his recovery. His years of helping with Masses at the senior community in Avilla are evident as he greets people passing along the hallways.

Never at a loss for visitors, Father and small-group discussions, the agenda for regional gathering will be broken down into the same four “moments” that were termed crucial during the process at the beginning and have been repeated at each stage.

Moment No. 1, “Taking the First Step,” will be an opening Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at 6 p.m. Friday, June 8, in the chapel of Sacred Heart, and to which members of the public are warmly invited. On Saturday, June 9, the diocesan representatives will be addressed on the topics of Moment No. 2 — Becoming Involved; No. 3 — Accompanying; and on Sunday, June 10, No. 4 — Bearing Fruit.

Group discussions will provide delegates with the opportunity to compare opinions and priorities on the opportunities and challenges available for Hispanics in the Church in light of the New Evangelization; establish regional and pastoral priorities for the national discussion; and outline and clarify national recommendations for direction and action.

Each region will also report on the progress made on the opportunity for organizing the regional gathering within the diocese. Region 7 has been discussing the possibilities for organizing the regional gathering within the diocese. Region 7 has been discussing the possibilities for organizing the regional gathering within the diocese.
from outside the community." “We will continue to monitor the situation and will let people in the diocese know if there are any specific ways they can help,” he said.

Father Juarez volunteered the parish hall as a crisis information center. At the center, which is open weekdays, evacuees from the Leilani Estates and the smaller Lanipuna Gardens subdivision connect with personnel from Hawaii County and social service agencies for information or to apply for assistance. Participating organizations include Hawaii Catholic Charities, The Food Basket, Catholic Charities Hawaii and HOPE Services Hawaii.

HOPE Services Hawaii, which deals primarily with homelessness on the Big Island, has deployed several staff members who, with others, are collecting data on evacuated households to determine their needs. As of May 10, the agency had gathered information on nearly 300 households.

“Quite a bit of people need everything,” said Brandee Menino, HOPE Services Hawaii chief executive officer, who is coordinating the data collection. “They are checking all the boxes — food, shelter, permanent housing, transportation.”

Other families have temporarily settled in with family and friends, but will have needs down the road, she said. Some hope to eventually go back home.

“We’re still only days in and it looks like this is going to be a long one,” Menino said. She added some of the agencies involved cover financial assistance, food, shelter, counseling, case management, physical and mental health, clothing, legal assistance and animal care.

HOPE Services Hawaii has already given out some rent assistance. In a message to Big Island parishes, Catholic Charities Hawaii’s Community Director Elizabeth Murph said housing needs are a looming concern, in particular for those with mortgages to pay on houses they no longer have access to.

She said besides stable housing, other immediate needs include counseling, clothing, and gift cards for groceries, household items and gas.

Catholic Charities Hawaii has asked the public for monetary donations to be used for direct housing assistance for the victims of both the Kilauea eruption and April’s historic flooding on Kauai.

Donations will go toward temporary housing subsidies, emergency home repairs and other related needs. “Funds will be immediately available to victims,” Murph said, compared to money from insurance, which is three-and-a-half miles inland.

While this is a very difficult time, it looks like this is going to be a long one,” Menino said. "The eruption is unpredictable."
Catholics get chance to celebrate, think about Mary with new feast day

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Church doesn’t often add new celebrations to its pretty full liturgical calendar, but this year’s new feast day, Mary, Mother of the Church on May 13, has Catholics gearing up to mark the day or at least think a little more about Mary. The new feast day, which will be celebrated annually the day after Pentecost, was announced in a March 3 decree by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments. The decree said the pope approved the celebration because he thought it 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.” That line struck Father Chuck Barthel, pastor of Mary, Mother of the Church Parish in St. Louis, when he first read it and he has continued to go back to it as he considers the feast with particular significance for his parish. Gaining a renewed and deeper understanding of Mary’s nurturing and caring side is something he said the church, especially in today’s climate, could certainly use. His parish is one of a handful of churches in the U.S., along with a Benedictine Abbey in Richmond, Virginia, and one in Mission, Montana, of the Church. For this year’s celebration of the new feast day, the St. Louis church is not planning anything big, but plans to celebrate the actual day when he said parishioners can “enjoy each other’s company” not during Pentecost weekend when there is already a lot going on.

The Church in Cameroon urges prayers for protection

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Catholics run for cover from Israeli fire and tear gas at the Israel-Gaza border during a protest against the U.S. embassy move to Jerusalem May 14. As the new United States embassy was inaugurated, violence broke out between Palestinian protesters and Israeli soldiers. International media reported that in Gaza, at least 55 people were killed, including five under the age of 18, and some 2,000 were injured. Palestinians claim Jerusalem as their capital and now feel that the U.S. cannot be a fair broker in the peace process with Israel. Mary Israelis see opening the embassy as the long-awaited official recognition of Jerusalem as their capital.

Faith in Action urges others to think about immigrant mothers

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Days before the U.S. celebrated Mother’s Day May 13, the national group Faith in Action urged others to think about immigrant mothers who have been separated from their children or run the risk of never seeing them again. During a May 8 conference call, Faith in Action, a grass-roots faith-based network in the United States, featured three women from around the country currently seeking refuge from deportation in various properties affiliated with religious organizations. They also called attention to plans by the Trump administration to separate children from parents if they’re caught trying to cross the border without legal permission. “Few things are as crystal clear in Scripture as the fact that we are to welcome the sojourner, to treat our neighbors as ourselves … and our immigrant neighbors are indeed our neighbors,” said the Rev. Julie Peeples, senior pastor at Congregational United Church of Christ, in Greensboro, North Carolina, during the call. She was one of two faith leaders who helped highlight the stories and plight of immigrant mothers such as Juana Ortega, a mother of four who is originally from Guatemala. Her husband is a U.S. citizen but because of a prior deportation order, she cannot stay in the country. When Immigration and Customs Enforcement gave her a month to leave, she couldn’t handle the thought of leaving her children behind, she said, so she sought sanctuary at a local church, afraid that immigration agents would physically remove her. Ortega is now residing in a church in North Carolina for almost a year. “This situation has affected my family. My husband thinks my youngest son is falling into a depression,” she said in tears.

Caritas migrant shelter in Tijuana under police protection after attacks

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — A Catholic-run shelter for migrants in the border city of Tijuana has been put under police protection after a robbery and arson attack on consecutive days. At least six armed individuals entered the shelter in the early morning hours of May 6 and stole some of the migrants’ meager possessions, including cash, cellphones and ID cards. On May 7, also in the early hours, the door to room where migrants were sleeping was blocked with a mattress and set on fire, said Victoria Zambrano, a secretary for Caritas Tijuana, the archdiocesan charitable agency. Zambrano said staff suspect local individuals, who had previously used the shelter property for illegal activities, were responsible for the attacks. No arrests had been made by May 11. The Caritas shelter came after several hundred members of a caravan of Central American migrants, who launched the disappointing and split-off of U.S. President Donald Trump, arrived in Tijuana after traveling the length of Mexico. Many of the migrants participating in the caravan did not travel all the way to Tijuana; some applied for asylum in Mexico or all the way to Tijuana; some applied for asylum in Mexico or]

Catholic persecution urgently calls churches to seek unity, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Seeking greater unity is more urgent than ever because of the ongoing persecution of Christians, Pope Francis told an Orthodox leader. Meeting with Metropolitan Rastislav, primate of the Orthodox Church in the Czech and Slovak Republics, the pope said the “suffering of many brothers and sisters persecuted because of the Gospel urgently calls us to act in seeking greater unity.” The primate met with the pope at the Vatican May 11 as part of a May 9-12 pilgrimage to Rome; during his visit he also met with Cardinal Kurt Koch, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, and celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the tomb of St. Cyril in Rome’s Basilica of St. Clement. The Cyril and Methodius are honored by European Catholics and Orthodox. Known as the Apostles to the Slavs, the two brothers preached the Gospel throughout Central and Eastern Europe in the late ninth century when the churches of Rome and Constantinople were still united.

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Palestinians run for cover from Israeli fire and tear gas at the Israel-Gaza border during a protest against the U.S. embassy move to Jerusalem May 14. As the new United States embassy was inaugurated, violence broke out between Palestinian protesters and Israeli soldiers. International media reported that in Gaza, at least 55 people were killed, including five under the age of 18, and some 2,000 were injured. Palestinians claim Jerusalem as their capital and now feel that the U.S. cannot be a fair broker in the peace process with Israel. Mary Israelis see opening the embassy as the long-awaited official recognition of Jerusalem as their capital.

**News Briefs**

Dozens killed as U.S. embassy inaugurated in Jerusalem

Jerusalem (CNS) — Palestinians run for cover from Israeli fire and tear gas at the Israel-Gaza border during a protest against the U.S. embassy move to Jerusalem May 14. As the new United States embassy was inaugurated, violence broke out between Palestinian protesters and Israeli soldiers. International media reported that in Gaza, at least 55 people were killed, including five under the age of 18, and some 2,000 were injured. Palestinians claim Jerusalem as their capital and now feel that the U.S. cannot be a fair broker in the peace process with Israel. Mary Israelis see opening the embassy as the long-awaited official recognition of Jerusalem as their capital.
A mission-critical strategy for summer evangelization

BY JANET PATTERSON

Remember the first time you heard a priest say, “Just because it’s summer vacation, don’t take time off from God”? You probably said to yourself, “Sure, I go to Mass.”

But Father Jonathan Norton of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne teamed up with diocesan seminarian Stephen Felicichia last year to take summer to a new level by creating “The Summer Evangelization Kit.”

The idea came out of a project at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, where young men from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are formed for the priesthood. “They have created a sidewalk evangelization ministry,” explained Father Norton, who coordinated the project at the seminary before his ordination in 2015.

During each fall and spring break, seminarians travel to a college or university, where they engage students on walkways and in gathering spaces in conversations about faith and religion. In preparation for the trip, the young men train each other in how to tell their own story of faith and what God has done in each of their lives.

Father Dan Schneider, pastor at St. Vincent de Paul, said Father Norton and Felicichia should pass the knowledge gained from that experience to the parishioners. “There are people who can’t talk about their faith because they’ve never been taught how to do it,” said Father Norton.

Both men have had military training, so they decided to create the three-page “kit” in military style, using military terminology. “Stephen was really the genius behind it,” Father Norton added.

“Evangelization can feel a little like a battle,” he continued. “The kit gives people the tools to not only effectively advertise in such an environment, but also to take the fight to the Enemy—disrupt his plans and bring aid, support and hope to all you encounter.”

The two set up the program in three tiers, just as the U.S. military uses a three-tiered system for occupation of contested territory.

The first tier is the Forward Operating Base, or FOB. “That’s the parish. That’s where resources are kept in aid in moving out into the world,” Father Norton added.

“The second tier is the Combat Outpost, or COP. In the spiritual sense, he continued, this is the home and the family. The COP looks after itself, growing in faith and using the resources available to help care and help for each other physically and spiritually.”

Finally, the Patriot is one’s daily life which includes job, leisure and the everyday activities that take a person out into the world beyond their home.

“This is where we often encounter opportunities to evangelize,” Father Norton said.

Although the Summer Evangelization kit was created in 2017 and appeared last June in the St. Vincent parish bulletin, Father Norton said it will make another appearance this year. In fact, parishioners embraced the idea so much that some actually assembled their own bags and boxes for keeping the more tangible pieces suggested for evangelization readily available. One parishioner, he said, made a bag for him as well.

Among the suggestions available from the FOB (one’s parish church), are websites such as WordOnFire.org, FORMED.org and Catholic Education Resource Center (cathedralschool.org). In the Fort Wayne-South Bend area, the holy Bible made the list, as well as books available at local Catholic bookstores and compact discs such as...
Heritage Jr./Sr. High School: Monroeville

Valedictorian Abram Beard

Catholic school or public school? The choices one makes in life sometimes bring unexpected outcomes, as did one made by Heritage Jr./Sr. High School valedictorian Abram Beard. “When I decided to attend a public school, I was nervous that I might lose touch with my faith to some degree. To my delight, it was quite the opposite. Without having the conventional religion classes I was accustomed to, I decided to learn on my own time,” said Abram, explaining further what he meant. “By holding myself accountable for my faith, I was able to truly grow as an individual. My faith has allowed me to become a person who is confident, generous and willing to make a difference.”

Furthermore, my high school did not prevent me from spreading these beliefs; I was encouraged to share my faith with others and give them that same sense of belonging,” he said. Abram also took part in various clubs while at Heritage. “I was honored to be named a captain of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, a program that was brought to Heritage my sophomore year.” He served as a volunteer for Cornerstone Youth Center and Pack Away Hunger, where he and his family packaged meals for struggling families throughout the community. He played sports as well. “Basketball has always been one of my favorite ways to give praise. Every day at practice and in games, I tried to do my best and put my heart on the line for God and my team,” he said. He was chosen to be a captain of the varsity basketball team for three years.

Other outside interests include spending time with family, swimming and teaching. “I’m interested in mathematics, chemistry, helping others and making a difference in the world.” His most treasured high school memory is taking part in a Special Olympics basketball game. “In this game, students in grades 9-12 were able to form basketball teams that included two or three disabled individuals. The look on the faces of the special needs players was something that I will never forget. It felt amazing to see their pure excitement and joy. The best part was no one stood out; they felt like they were genuinely a part of the team,” said Abram.

He plans to attend Purdue University Fort Wayne, where he will major in chemistry with the intent to go to medical school and become a pediatrician.

Bishop Luers High School: Fort Wayne

Valedictorian Margaret Cicchiello

Attending a Catholic high school offers more than an academic education in Catholic doctrine: just ask the valedictorian of the Class of 2018 from Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne. “Being with people who were also celebrating and living our Catholic or Christian faith at Bishop Luers has helped me to view important aspects of faith from different perspectives. This has challenged me to reflect on different opinions and traditions to better understand the doctrines that I believe,” said Margaret Cicchiello.

Margaret went on to explain that while she and her classmates discussed “challenges such as current events and government policies through a religious lens, I learned that all facets of my life are connected to what I believe.” That faith has helped her appreciate and cope with the ups and downs of her life.

“My faith has definitely helped me keep things in perspective.”

When I earned a good grade or when one of my teams did well, I had to remember that I was working with abilities that had been given to me by God. When I forgot something, or did not score as well as I wanted to, I needed to remember that I am human. I trusted that everything would work out, and it always did.”

The valedictorian was a busy young woman both inside and outside the classroom. She was secretary of the National Honor Society in the 11th and 12th grades, captain of the Academic Super Bowl Team, business manager of the high school newspaper and yearbook and a photographer and writer for the newspaper her junior and senior years.

Margaret was named Outstanding Sodalities Group Leader in 2017. In the role of Student Ambassador, she was selected to represent Luers at diocesan eighth-grade recruitment events from sophomore to senior years. She assisted the school chaplain as a sacristan, altar server and lector and assisted in planning high school Masses and spiritual retreats.

She was a member of Key Club, co-captain of the cross-country team and a member of the track team. At St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, she was a member of the adult choir and an altar server. Margaret also volunteered regularly at Science Central Museum.

Her deepest memories “have to be lunchtime discussions with my friends, competing at the state-level competition for Academic Super Bowl, my last cross country race my senior year, and being able to serve at a school Mass for the first time.”

Margaret will attend Saint Mary’s College to pursue a degree in biology. She plans to attend medical school.
Marian High School: Mishawaka

Attending World Youth Day and hearing the Pope speak in person gave Marian High School valedictorian Alyssa Grzesiowski inspiration for her future and words to live by that she will forever hold in her heart.

“I traveled to World Youth Day in Krakow with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. At the closing ceremony, Pope Francis urged the pilgrims that ‘unless you offer the best of yourselves, the world will never be different.’ These words and the faith instilled in me while at Marian have inspired me to give the best of myself to the world around me, in an effort to transform it into the ‘more human and more fraternal’ world of St. Pope John Paul II’s vision.

For the young woman, faith “has infused and informed every part” of her high school career.

“I’ve been involved in various youth groups since my freshman year. The theology classes at Marian have established a strong foundation by which I can view my education in light of Catholic teaching. As Marian’s head salutatorian, I’ve also been blessed to be able to serve as an integral part of our liturgical celebrations and outreach.”

Frequently serving as an advocate for others, Alyssa believes in providing an accessible education to all children that caters to the types of learning best for each student — part of the reason why she began a chemistry tutoring program at Marian.

She enjoys many activities and hobbies including playing piano, reading Hemingway novels and watching crime shows. She has a passion for Egyptian history, shopping at Bath & Body Works and solving just about any puzzle, be it jigsaw, Sudoku or a mystery novel.

Her most treasured memory of high school is “cutting down the nets when our girls basketball team won the school’s first sectional championship. I will never forget my teammates who pushed through numerous obstacles, including injuries, constant changes in coaching staff and a very small roster, to make history,” she said.

Alyssa also said she enjoyed every time she had been in the student section during Holy War games, “especially given the fact that our football team has beaten Saint Joe every year that I have been at Marian.”

She also thinks that her time spent abroad in Costa Rica constituted “some of the most adventurous and interesting days I’ve had as a Marian student.”

The soon-to-be graduate plans to attend Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York, as a Coronet Scholar, studying chemistry and forensic science and studying abroad in Spain. She hopes to go on to graduate school.

Salutatorian Katherine Henry

High school would not have been the same, said Katherine Henry, Marian High School salutatorian, without the full embracement of her deeply seated religious beliefs.

“My faith has allowed me to embrace everything about high school. I know that I can trust in God and be thankful to Him for everything that I have,” she said, noting how faith works in her life every day. “My faith helps me to look for and see the good in everyone, and that has helped to make some unforgettable relationships.”

Katherine said that at Marian High School, faculty and staff members remind students that their primary purpose in life is to “help each other get to heaven.”

In fact, she said, being afforded opportunities to do selfless acts as a community was one of her favorite things about Marian, where she felt she and others could be “putting our faith into action together” as a group.

She played soccer for four years — two on junior varsity, two on varsity — serving as captain of the JV team her sophomore year. She ran track for three years. Special memories remain from the soccer games and track meets, when she rode home with the team, singing the Marian fight song as they traveled.

Katherine was part of the Right to Life Club, serving as secretary as a junior and president as a senior. She was on the Science Olympiad and served as captain as a senior. In the French Club she was vice president her senior year, and she was inducted in the National Honor Society her junior and senior years and was in Campus Ministry her junior and senior years.

She has been part of the St. Jude youth group since seventh grade, where she helped to create and lead retreats for incoming freshmen. The group also raised money for the Women’s Care Center on Mother’s Day and helped the parish in other ways.

She takes time to play the piano in between practices for soccer and track. When she has spare time, she loves to read, bake, shop and hang out with her friends and family.

Saint Joseph High School: South Bend

Co-salutatorian Martin Kennedy

While one might not want to think about the many terrible, tragic headlines in the news during the past year, Martin Kennedy, Saint Joseph High School co-salutatorian, gave examples of how his education has helped him and others to try to make good come from tragedy.

“In October, we held a prayer vigil for those killed in the mass shooting in Las Vegas. Later that year, we were able to organize a student walkout on March 17 in solidarity with the students of Parkland High School as well as out of respect for human life,” he said.

“In accordance with Pope Francis’ teaching that, ‘Responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation,’ a schoolwide voter registration was conducted to engage the youth in the democratic system of the United States, registering 167 students as a result.” He explained that he felt all these events “were able to be conducted because of their deep tie to Catholic social teaching.”

Martin served as a member of the Vacant Lot Optimization Team, which analyzed and presented the optimal use of vacant lots in South Bend using ArcGIS technology. He was an intern at Bowman Creek Educational Ecosystems for a year and helped create and plan the Bowman Creek Academy, a high school summit campus promoting environmental sustainability and youth empowerment.

He was also a fall/spring writer at Bowman Creek this year. As head writer, he worked on an academic paper to be published in the peer-reviewed journal, “American Society for Engineering Education.”

High school activities he was a part of for multiple years include Student Government, Fed Challenge, Mock Trial and the Indiana Economics Challenge. He was a Youth Senate Program semifinalist in September. The arts also were a part of his high school career as well.

Martin was a part of the South Bend Youth Task Force during his junior and senior years, “a group of high school students who help to fix the issue of youth-on-youth violence in the community.”

A musician, he taught private piano lessons during high school. Athletic involvement included being part of the basketball team. He served as a SOUL Team Leader and a Corpus Christi Parish altar server.

Martin’s hobbies include reading, hiking, meditation, walking, bicycling, playing basketball and over coffee, spending time with friends and thoughtful discussion.

The 4.51 GPA graduate will attend either Brown University or the University of Notre Dame, “somewhere in the field of social sciences.”

Congratulations to the Class of 2018!

It has been an honor and a privilege.

God’s blessings to you!

Once a Saint... Always a Saint!

(260) 496-4700 bishopdwenger.com
Salutatorian Jerome Lechleitner

From Hoagland, Jerome Lechleitner said he felt he "had the privilege of being able to participate in many extracurricular activities" including serving as a staff writer for the student newspaper, The Structure. He served as the editor-in-chief during his junior and senior years. He also played on the junior varsity soccer team during his freshman year and on the varsity team from sophomore to senior years, as well as on the junior varsity baseball team during his freshman year.

"Being raised Catholic has offered me invaluable guidance throughout my high school experience beyond what it may have otherwise been," he said.

"It was incredible to have such an expansive network of peers with whom I could converse and ask for help. It made me feel like I was more deeply connected to the Heritage community and made me feel comfortable and at home in my school. Best of all, I maintained the friendships I had created in middle school with classmates I had at St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel," he said.

Jerome was a member of the History Club as a junior and senior, as well as being a member of Drama Club those same years — starring in two productions. The 4.35 GPA student was a National Honor Society member both junior and senior years and a team member for Heritage's NETIC Tech Fest team during his sophomore and junior years.

"My hobbies include reading, watching movies, writing, playing video games, listening to music, taking photos, and traveling with my family," he said.

While Jerome has "many awesome memories from high school," one of his fondest is from the time his soccer team advanced to regionals during his sophomore year. Another memory he cherishes is from Drama Club, when he played the lead role in "And Then There Were None" with an outstanding cast.

He plans to attend Indiana University as a media major.

BISHOP DWENGER - 4TH IN SENIOR CLASS

BISHOP DWENGER - 3RD IN SENIOR CLASS

BISHOP DWENGER - 2ND IN SENIOR CLASS

BISHOP DWENGER - 1ST IN SENIOR CLASS

co-salutatorian Meagan Luck

Advanced Placement biology was the favorite class of Saint Joseph High School co-salutatorian Meagan Luck because, she said, "I learned not only how the human circulatory system functions, but also I discovered God’s hand in the beauty and precision of this process."

Attending Catholic school allowed Meagan to grow in her faith through learning and service. The integration of faith into the classrooms creates "an atmosphere of respect, love and passion that has made my high school experience integral in shaping the person I am today."

The Saint Joseph High School 4.51 GPA student said that her knowledge of the faith was also greatly broadened through each semester’s theology class.

"These varied classes gave me the opportunity to deepen my understanding of the Church, its beliefs, and Catholic social teaching. Theology at Saint Joe gives you plenty of opportunity to ponder what God has planned for you."

Service to others was encouraged, and helped her learn the value of living out her faith. She took part in the school’s Thanksgiving food drive, Work for St. Joe event and Together for the Long Run.

"All of these promote communitywide service to others and are really fun to participate in with friends. Saint Joe is a place where faith is put into action, where we are taught to see the needs in our community, and where we are encouraged to answer God’s call to reach out and help others."

Meagan acted as a Mock Trial lawyer and was a Euro Challenge presenting member, placing at regional and national competitions. One of her favorite memories is from when her Euro Challenge team won regionals in Chicago and advanced to nationals in New York City. "It was an incredible experience to see the city with my teammates and to make a presentation at the New York Federal Reserve Bank," she said.

She was part of the musical chorus for two years and a member of Helping Other People Endure service club for four. Meagan was a Student Ambassador in 11th and 12th grades, during which time she also served as National Honor Society vice president and was in the Spanish Honors Society.

She helped raise funds and awareness for a local disability center, was a St. Joseph hospital volunteer for two years and a food bank volunteer for four. At church, she served as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion.

Meagan’s hobbies include reading, baking, skiing, dancing, bowling, riding rollercoasters. She plans to attend the University of Notre Dame and is undecided on her major.

BISHOP DWENGER Valedictorian

LIZ ROY

BISHOP DWENGER Salutatorian

RYAN MCARDLE

BISHOP DWENGER - 3rd in Senior Class

NICOLE GLOUDEMANS

BISHOP DWENGER - 4th in Senior Class

BENJAMIN OTTO

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON Catholic Church

is pleased to recognize

Margaret Mary Cicchello

2018 Valedictorian

Bishop Luers High School

We congratulate you and wish you every blessing!

“Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

~Joshua 1:9

Saint Pius X Parish

congratulates all of this year’s high school valedictorians, salutatorians, and graduates!
Bishop Dwenger High School: Fort Wayne

Salutatorian Ryan McArdle

Ryan McArdle, salutatorian of Bishop Dwenger in Fort Wayne, said he is looking forward to college, but he misses his time in high school. He said his favorite memory from high school was the bus ride home. McArdle also said that while he will cherish his time at Bishop Dwenger, he is excited to see what he can learn at college.

Bishop Dwenger High School: Fort Wayne

Valedictorian Elizabeth Roy

Elizabeth Roy, valedictorian of Bishop Dwenger in Fort Wayne, said that her favorite memory from high school was her senior year. She said that she was part of the Science Olympiad team and that it was an “activity that cultivated my love of the sciences.” Roy also said that she is happy to have been able to attend Bishop Dwenger and that she is looking forward to the future.

Westview Jr.-Sr. High School: Topeka

Valedictorian Margaret McCoy

Margaret McCoy, valedictorian of Westview Jr.-Sr. High School in Topeka, said that she is looking forward to college and the new opportunities it will bring. She also said that she is grateful for the support she received from her friends and teachers at Westview.

Offering Congratulations to Abram and Jerome from all of us at Saint Joseph Hessen Cassel.

Best Wishes, Father Kummer

Congratulations! to all the graduates
Saint Joseph High School: South Bend

Valedictorian Anna Staud

Granger resident Anna Staud plans to attend the University of Notre Dame, majoring in economics, possibly with a double major in English or history. “While I’m still open to different careers, I could see myself pursuing a graduate degree and teaching in some form. At Notre Dame, I also want to get involved in research and data analysis for the Lab for Economic Opportunity,” she said.

Anna took part in drama as a sophomore, one of her top school interests – along with art and music. She was a member of Drama Club for four years participating in all of the musical productions and transferring those talents to Christ the King Parish’s liturgical choir and as a cantor.

In soccer, she played for four years with three years on varsity during which time her team advanced to the 2A State Finals her senior season and she was named Academic All-State.

She was part of a Euro Challenge team that won the Midwest competition and qualified for nationals in New York; during her junior and senior years, she was a member of the Fed Challenge team that placed second at the Midwest Regionals her junior year and first the next. She participated in Econ Challenge, sponsored by the Council for Economic Education, when the team placed second at regionals, and acted as a witness on the Mock Trial team.

In addition, she was a class representative for Student Council for three years, and a member of Spanish Honor Society, National Honor Society and Tri-M Music Honor Society. She was named an AP Scholar with Distinction.

“I have been truly blessed with remarkable teachers and inspiring friends at Saint Joe that all challenge me, not just academically, but also spiritually. What I love about Catholic education is that many of the traditions at school are centered on the faith. Yes, we pray before each class and there is a crucifix in every room. But it goes beyond that as well. We have prayers we say in the team huddle before soccer games, and before every performance, the entire cast holds hands in prayer before shouting, ‘Break a leg!’ At Mass, the entire student body sings ‘We Are Called,’ and the choir holds hands during the Our Father,” said Anna. “It is in these moments I am reminded of how truly blessed I am to be a part of such a loving and faithful community.”

Bishop Luers High School: Fort Wayne

SALUTATORIAN ADAM VELDMAN

Adam Veldman

Granger resident Adam Veldman plans to attend the University of Notre Dame, majoring in economics, possibly with a double major in English or history. “While I’m still open to different careers, I could see myself pursuing a graduate degree and teaching in some form. At Notre Dame, I also want to get involved in research and data analysis for the Lab for Economic Opportunity,” he said.

Adam was Student Council service project, Sodalitas,” he said, as well as by the Bishop Luers clubs like Student Council to serve others through different clubs like Student Council and National Honor Society, as well as by the Bishop Luers service project, Sedalitas,” he said.

While at Bishop Luers, Adam was Student Council president, vice president and treasurer, and was also the treasurer for the National Honor Society and World Culture Club. He played sports as well, serving as varsity soccer captain this past year, and was part of the swim team for three years. Adam was on the Student Leadership Board from 2016 to 2018 and was Academic Super Bowl captain from 2015 to 2018.

His hobbies include soccer and swimming as well as reading and studying history. He also enjoys spending time with friends and at the lake with his family.

His most treasured moments in high school are “all the new friends I made, my last swim meet senior year, and my last soccer game senior year.”

At Georgetown Adam plans to major in international relations, which he hopes will be the springboard to a career in the intelligence community.
We rejoice with “DEACON” PATRICK HAKE as he is ordained to the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

He has served us often and well this past year at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Parish, and we are grateful.

Deacon David Huneck’s pastoral ministry was with college students in Campus Ministry at “the Mount,” where he led the RCIA as well as retreats. He also preached on a weekly basis during the campus Masses. A highlight of the year was traveling to the Holy Land over Christmas break with his other seminarian brothers. “We visited every holy site in the mysteries of the rosary, except one.” With a smile, he explained that he was looking forward to the coronation of Mary in heaven one day.

His final year of seminary education focused on many of the upcoming priestly roles he will be offering. He and his fellow deacons studied a variety of sacramental theologies and the celebration of the Mass. One of his favorite classes was “Pastoral Integration” taught at the Mount by Msgr. Michael Heintz of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. A seminar-based course, they discussed many of the important real-life, pastoral issues that a new priest might encounter in his ministry.

Deacon Huneck’s everyday prayer life focuses on Jesus, especially by praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament — “our fuel, so we can be sent back out” to minister, he said. Deacon Huneck attends daily Mass as well, to deepen his relationship with God. The saints for which he has a special devotion are St. Joseph, St. Sylvester and St. Januarius, with whose relics he prayed devoutly one time.

His call to the priesthood began with the positive example of other priests as he was growing up. Especially as they administered the sacraments, he appreciated “the witness of many joyous priests, especially Father Jason Freiburger at Bishop Dwenger High School, Father Mark Gurtner and Msgr. John Kuzmich at St. Vincent. Even though it was a large parish, he knew the families and loved everybody. He was a shepherd for everyone.”

As a senior in high school in 2008-09, Deacon Huneck started first seriously considering the priesthood. He studied broadcast journalism for two years at Ball State University, then chose to answer God’s call and enter the seminary. Laughing, he explained how he didn’t get to always play organized team sports but loved announcing them, something he still enjoys and does once a year at the Cupertino Classic basketball rivalry game played between the seminarians and priests of the diocese.

His greatest love will be found in his future service to God, he said, as he ministers to God’s people. He is looking forward to meeting families and “having dinner at parishioners’ homes and being able to enter into their lives.”

An extrovert by nature, he said he feels refreshed by spending time with his brother seminarians, family and friends. He is open to God’s will and to wherever he is placed, as he learns to love in greater and greater ways every day.

BY JENNIFER MILLER

CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

We rejoice with “DEACON” PATRICK HAKE as he is ordained to the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

Deacon Huneck

Deacon David Huneck

Deacon Jay Horning

Deacon Thomas Zehr

Deacon Patrick Hake

Deacon Nathan Maskal

Saint Matthew Cathedral congratulates Deacon Zehr and all of the newly ordained priests.
God has paved a path for Deacon Jay Horning that is perhaps a little nontraditional or unique. He did not grow up dreaming of becoming a priest, nor did he grow up in an environment that might have cultivated the possibility. What he did have, once he began a relationship with God, was a deep desire to follow where God was leading him.

Deacon Horning grew up in South Bend and graduated from Clay High School before enrolling in the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne. While in South Bend, church was not something he attended. In fact, he was not baptized until he was 22. His involvement with the Church was helpful too. “Father Jim Shafer was a big influence,” he said. “Working with the high school students also made me more aware of a greater calling that God was asking from me.”

“I think I first recognized a call to the priesthood, or at least to go to seminary and discern more, about a year after becoming Catholic — when I was 23,” Deacon Horning said. “Having an opportunity to go to World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain, with the diocese in 2011 was also helpful for me to see and discern the priesthood. Working with the high school students was helpful too.”

Deacon Horning encouraged the age group that has greatly influenced his journey thus far by saying, “If you think God is asking you to do something great with your life, whether that be a call to the priesthood, to married life or to the single life, please, remember that you are first called to holiness. If you don’t know what that means or how to do that, then go to your parish priest and talk to him or to a seminarian, or to someone that you find holy whose life you desire to copy.

“I would also want you to recognize that God calls us to vocations in which we will find total happiness, and that even though the priesthood may be somewhat mysterious, it is an amazing life. I’m really excited about it and looking forward to a long priesthood.

“As you grow in holiness, keep praying and asking questions. Share this with people you trust and ask them to pray for you. I’m praying for you, even if you don’t know who I am and I don’t know who you are. People are praying for you to answer your vocation.”

To the parents of a young adult, he offered: “Your child is called to holiness, and you are the example of that holiness for them. Encourage them to grow their relationship with God. Go to Mass, talk about faith at home, do Bible studies, have them engage and be engaged yourself in the Church and the community. From that relationship, they will better be able to discern if call is being given to them.

“Pray for them, and speak about the good that you see in the priesthood and religious life as well as the good you see in marriage. It is up to them to say ‘yes’ because it is their vocation, but you can greatly encourage them while they are in pursuit of that ‘yes.’”

God has worked very quickly in Deacon Horning’s journey to the priesthood. He said, “How fortunate I have been while saying ‘yes’ to Him. I’ve been very blessed while being in the seminary, and opportunities have been afforded me thanks to the people of our diocese and other generous benefactors.”

He hopes that his priesthood “brings people closer to Jesus Christ, and in the end, brings them to heaven. I hope that they encounter a loving God in the sacraments, the Mass and Eucharist, the confessional, the baptisms of their children, the anointing of the sick for those suffering and marriages of couples, and that they are able to grow closer to God.”

When asked what he hopes his vocation will bring to his own life, Deacon Horning replied, “My vocation is not necessarily about marriage. It is about being a priest, being a priest and serving the people of God. But I know that my priesthood will bring me great joy and fulfillment.”

Deacons David Huneck and Patrick Hake will be ordained to the holy priesthood June 2, 2018

Glory and Praise Forever

With God’s help, you will continue to succeed in your leadership and in your duties, because Our Lord’s work is accomplished not so much by the multitude of workers as by the fidelity of the small number whom He calls.

-St. Vincent de Paul

Two parish sons who have made us proud and for whom we wish a priesthood filled with much joy and peace.

Father Daniel Scheidt
Father Jonathan Norton
Father Polycarp Fernando
and the Entire
St. Vincent de Paul Fort Wayne Parish Family
Deacon Nathan Maskal

BY EMILY DIEHM

The tumultuous years of high school are also when Deacon Nathan Maskal heard a calling to the priesthood. He feels that the older he became, the stronger and more direct the call was. During that time, he began to attend Mass during the week more frequently, and he became more active in both his parish and high school as a server, sacristan, lector and in various other roles.

“I also carefully considered God’s will for me, especially in regard to holiness,” he said. “Through much prayer and discernment, I realized that God’s call for me to be holy corresponded with priestly ministry.”

Although Deacon Maskal does not know the parish he will be assigned, he is confident that he is prepared.

“My seminary formation has done well to form me for priestly ministry. It has given me many, many opportunities to learn and understand different ministries, including health care, visiting residents in nursing homes and the homebound, Catholic education, and prison ministry.”

His classes, this past year especially, have focused on various practicums, including practicing the administration of sacraments. He has been practicing the celebration of Mass every week, in preparation for celebrating Mass every day.

“This has been a special time for me to become more familiar with each of the parts of the Mass in a much different way than before,” he said. “I have attended daily Mass regularly since my junior year of high school, but this year especially has shown me how I always have something to learn.”

He feels that the time he has spent in parishes has been very rewarding, but he knows that more is coming. He is excited to be “in persona Christi,” or more closely imitating the person of Christ, to everyone. He credits this desire to the priests of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the examples they have set.

“I spent a year in a parish with Father Dave Voors. Father Dave was an excellent example to me of compassion and faithfulness,” said Deacon Maskal. “He reminded me of the importance of being solidly rooted in my prayer life and allowing Jesus’ example to guide all my decisions.”

Growing up, there were also three priests who inspired Deacon Maskal at his home parish of St. Charles Borromeo in Fort Wayne.

“Msgr. Ed Hession, founding pastor of St. Charles, had a commitment and fervor that were outstanding to witness. He had a love and strength of the faith. He was never afraid to preach the truth, and people firmly knew that he deeply loved and cared for them.”

Deacon Maskal said that Msgr. Hession asked him if he would ever want to be a priest. Ironically, he answered “no.” Msgr. Hession very much wanted many vocations to come from the St. Charles Parish, and continually asked the question, he remembered.

Msgr. John Suelzer, who followed Msgr. Hession as pastor of St. Charles, provided the firm foundation of Deacon Maskal’s childhood faith. Msgr. Suelzer’s deep love of the liturgy was ultimately the root of Deacon Maskal’s vocation. He felt that Msgr. Suelzer was a continual supporter and encourager.

“Msgr. Suelzer would constantly ask about all the different aspects of priestly formation from their parish priests and to ‘carefully discern God’s will in prayer.’”

Deacon Maskal concluded his homilies with the phrase, “May we continue to pray.” Deacon Maskal now uses this phrase in his own homilies as well.

Another priest he credits for having an impact on his faith is Msgr. Michael Heintz, who was assigned to St. Charles as an associate pastor when Deacon Maskal was a young boy. He has been an encouraging presence for Deacon Maskal at the seminary, and a priest he has always looked up to.

“I have had the privilege of having Msgr. Heintz as one of my professors and formators at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary for the past two years,” he said. “He has also provided lots of practical advice for sacramental ministry and pastoral work.”

Deacon Maskal will be ordained into the priesthood by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Saturday, June 2, at 11 a.m. at the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. He encourages young men to think about the priesthood, learn about all the different aspects of priestly ministry from their parish priests and to “carefully discern God’s will in prayer.”

ATTEND THE ORDINATION
Saturday, June 2 at 11 a.m.
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
1122 South Clinton St., Fort Wayne
Live Streaming will also be offered through social media channels.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

The prayers and joy of everyone at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish are with Deacon Jay Horning and Deacon Thomas Zehr their classmates, Deacon Patrick Hake, Deacon David Huneck, Deacon Nathan Maskal and their families, on the occasion of their ordination to the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

God bless you!

For the flock he is a shepherd... he devotes himself to the mission not fifty or sixty percent, but with all he has. Pope Francis
Deacon Thomas Zehr

By Emily Diehm

On Saturday, June 2, Deacon Thomas Zehr’s title will change to Father Thomas Zehr as he makes his final commitment to the Catholic faith. His ordination signifies a completion to a decision that he feels started when he was a 12-year-old boy attending a grade-school Mass. Deacon Zehr said that his calling to the priesthood became stronger as time passed.

“I started thinking seriously about it my junior year, but I was in my senior year of high school when I decided that I wanted to make the commitment to join the seminary right after graduation,” he said.

This decision was not surprise to those who were closest to him, in fact, his parents said it “made sense” for him.

Deacon Zehr is the second oldest of eight children. His family lives in Fort Wayne and are members of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, although they often attend St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church on days he is giving the sacrament.

Father Zehr will continue serving the parish at Our Lady of Good Hope Church on days he is giving the sacrament. “I’ve been lucky,” he said. “I’m human. I’m normal,” said Deacon Zehr. “I’ll make mistakes, but I pray that I will handle each situation the way God has intended.”

“Being normal is an aspect of life that he wants others to recognize about all priests, deacons, seminarians or anyone who has chosen the religious life. He wants to be approachable. He wants to be invited to dinners, as he feels that eating with people is “the best way to get to know them.”

“When I was younger, my parents always invited priests to our house for dinner. I learned at an early age that priests are joyful guys.”

He credits his parents for creating a strong, loving, Catholic culture for him and his siblings to grow up in.

“We knew to trust in God, and that we were loved very much. My parents encouraged us to make and carry out decisions that would lead us closer to Him.”

Trusting in God is needed for this next step in Deacon Zehr’s journey.

“He wanted me to be a priest. It may not have been my first choice; I had other plans. Having a good, wholesome family would have been nice, it’s just not what God had planned.”

He believes that he will be happiest listening to God’s plan for him, and that he will be a father in a different way.

“It’s important to always be open to His voice,” Deacon Zehr said. “He might be calling you. Just do it: Learn to be better, and pray better.”

Father Thomas Zehr will celebrate his first Mass at Our Lady of Good Hope Church on Sunday, June 3.
Parkinson’s affects 1 million people in North America

Although you can’t describe it to your family or friends, there is a feeling that there is something inside of you that is not quite right. It is a weird sensation of internal shaking. Months later, while you are sitting quietly, you notice a slight tremor in one of your hands. During a visit from a grandson you go outside to watch the football around, and you notice some stiffness in your movement. Uncharacteristically, you are dropping more passes than usual. Then weeks later your spouse tells you that you look a little different and asks if you feel OK. A trip to your family physician leads to a referral to a neurologist. After a thorough neurological exam, she tells you that there are signs of Parkinson’s disease. Your mind races as you try to understand what all this means.

You would not be alone. One million people in North America are affected by Parkinson’s disease, one of the most common neurological diseases that affects mankind. Muhammad Ali died from complications of parkinsonism. Two celebrities currently battling this affliction are Michael J. Fox and Linda Ronstadt.

The pathophysiology is quite complicated. It is well-known that there is a loss of a key player in brain function, dopamine — a complicated. It is well-known what all this means.

As the Father has sent me, so I send you’

As would be the case today, communication among people then was burdened by the differences among the many languages.

Another image is here: In the view of pious Jews, multiple human languages did not just evolve but were the direct result of efforts to avoid God’s justice and to outmaneuver God. But God produced the many human languages to punish the people for their defiance long ago.

Murder and mayhem are inextricably connected. The Lord is with us. He now opens them fully and leads them to turn to Christ. Secondly, the human conclusion, in and of itself, can only be heard by all, and further, the Roman Empire. All nations therefore were eligible to hear the Gospel of Christ.

The reading lists the nationalities represented in Jerusalem on this important Jewish feast day. It actually notes almost every major area of the Roman Empire. All nations therefore were eligible to hear the Gospel of Christ. St. Paul’s First Epistle to the Corinthians supplies the second reading. Paul declared that no human conclusion, in and of itself, can only be heard by all, and further, the Roman Empire. All nations therefore were eligible to hear the Gospel of Christ.

Parkinson’s affects 1 million people in North America

The ‘dark stuff’ of grief

I recently overheard a woman say she had finally aried the ‘dark stuff’ of her grief over losing her best friend to death after childbirth. It made wonder: Do we associate grief with darkness? Is it because grief is a deep-seated sorrow? Is it because we are often rendered vulnerable, which makes us uncomfortable?

In John 11:35 we read that “Jesus wept” after learning of his close friend Lazarus’ death. But something happened that we, as Catholics, cannot forget: The raising of Lazarus from the dead is a certain sign that suffering and death lead to resurrection for the faithful.

Grief feels dark because we don’t always see the beauty or meaning of our suffering when we are in the midst of it. We often don’t like to admit to the negative emotions such as anger, shame, guilt, or fear when we are lamenting loss. Even when we don’t feel joy or hope, we must — by way of obscure fact — trust that God will do something beautiful with our sorrow when we reach the end of our lives.

All of life is bittersweet, I have come to understand. Almost 10 years ago, my grandfather died. I was grateful to be at his bedside during his dying hours. He is the only source of true insight and of strength.

The ‘dark stuff’ of grief

We need nothing else.

As the Father has sent me, so I send you’

The Sunday Gospel

This weekend the Church celebrates the festive season of Pentecost. The Acts of the Apostles provides the first reading, the dramatic story of the first Pentecost. In this passage, the imagery is very important, since these images spoke volumes to those persons in the first century A.D. in Palestine who heard the story.

For example, the story tells that suddenly, as the Apostles and the community of Christians were gathered in a secluded place in Jerusalem, a strong, loud wind was heard and felt. In the Old Testament, God often appeared with, or in the midst of, a strong, loud wind.

God came in the form of fire on several occasions in the Old Testament, as when He spoke to Moses from a burning bush. Small flames, or tongues of fire, appeared and settled above the people. It wasn’t as if the Lord was trying to keep the entire community from hearing His voice.

If we hand it to Him.

Nothing can deny us this access to God, except our own sin.

As the Father has sent me, so I send you’

The reading lists the nationalities represented in Jerusalem on this important Jewish feast day. It actually notes almost every major area of the Roman Empire. All nations therefore were eligible to hear the Gospel of Christ.
Baseball and life

The high school girls ran out the door a few minutes ago, reminding me of their plans to attend the boys baseball game tonight. As often happens, my mind wandered, this time to baseball in general and then to something I once saw on TV. You’ve probably seen something similar to what I am about to describe.

A guy is in an area designated for practicing. An automatic pitching machine is tossing baseballs at various speeds to him. Suddenly, something goes wrong and the machine goes crazy. The guy is pummelled with balls, here, there, curve, straight, fast, slow, all at once. He tries to swing the bat to get as many balls in the air as he can, but it’s impossible. He finally dodges the spray of balls coming at him and gets to the machine to turn it off. He adjusts it, fixes it, to slow it down. Then he picks up the bat to try again.

That reminded me of motherhood.

Sometimes, so many things are coming at us at once. It is that child’s last-minute-because-the-coach-changed-it schedule; that child’s milestone and development affecting him not just physically, but emotionally, too; a doctor or dentist appointment here; a form or fundraiser there; a performance, game, event, move; a note needing attention … a sudden case of the flu; “Oops, sorry Mom, I forgot I had this or that by 3 p.m.,” a sudden injustice that must be adjusted. Slow down. Then take stop is to get to the machine and adjust the master machine, but then your kid wouldn’t learn that that’s life. We can pause momentarily to catch our breath and adjust the master machine, but we have to insert practice or regular coffee drinkers have a cup of joe. Finally, there is the result of our choice to have children.

Mom and Dad have the spiritual, financial and physical responsibility so they also have the privilege and power to direct the family, no matter how old the “kids” become. Once kids understand that, they suddenly become more responsible and accountable, more responsible and accountable for themselves. It’s a great motivator for young adults to spread their own wings and “step up to the plate” in the game of their own lives, knowing they can fully direct their lives when they fully take responsibility. But I digress …

It seems like every day there is another conflict to work out or change to make with. That’s life.

Baseball and life.

Dr. David Kaminoskas is a board member of The Dr. Jerome Lejune Catholic Medical Guild of Northeast Indiana, fortwaynecmc.com.

WHAT HE HEARS

Dr. David Kaminoskas

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 Baseball and life.

Dr. David Kaminoskas is a board member of The Dr. Jerome Lejune Catholic Medical Guild of Northeast Indiana, fortwaynecmc.com.izzle of grief, redemptive suffering.

Grief is not dark when it is seen, only what it knows to be light. It is in the act of transferring our pain to God’s shoulders that we become changed into the yoke of Christ, that is, by His ways are beyond ours and His thoughts are above ours and we see, only what it knows to be light. It is in the act of transferring our pain to God’s shoulders that we become changed into the yoke of Christ, that is, by giving with sorrow is foreign to the Catholic faith, this concept of how old the “kids” become. Once kids understand that, they suddenly become more responsible and accountable, more responsible and accountable for themselves. It’s a great motivator for young adults to spread their own wings and “step up to the plate” in the game of their own lives, knowing they can fully direct their lives when they fully take responsibility. But I digress …

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WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. View more Catholic events and submit new ones at www.todayscatholic.org/event. For additional listings of that event, please call the advertising sales staff at 260-399-1449 to purchase space.

Mother and daughter tea
FORT WAYNE — Young women entering grades 9-12 and their mothers are invited to an afternoon tea Sunday, June 10, from 1:30-4:45 p.m. at St. Charles Parish, 4916 Trier Rd. Featuring guest speaker Dr. Kathleen Heimann, as well as a talk on Theology of the Body and witness talks from young women. The cost of the event is $15 per family. To register, email Kelly Coyle at coyle.kellym@gmail.com by June 1.

Knights host breakfast at Queen of Angels
FORT WAYNE — St. Gaspar del Bufalo Council No. 11043 will be serving breakfast Sunday, May 20, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the activities center at Queen of Angels Parish, 1500 W. State Boulevard. Tickets are $8 for adults, $4 for children 6-12 and $20 per family. $5 carryout packs will also be available. Proceeds this month will benefit the parish.

Career Ministry: job seekers
FORT WAYNE — St. Vincent de Paul Parish's Career Ministry will meet on Monday, May 21 at the St. Vincent's Spiritual Center, 1502 E Wallen Rd. Lisa Mungovan will present Strategic Job Search. Learn how applicant-tracking systems work so you can improve your chances of being selected for an interview. Dress is casual; all are welcome. Please bring a copy of your resume by 6:15 p.m. for 1-on-1 coaching. Presentation at 7 p.m.

Bus trip to Cubs/Reds game
FORT WAYNE — The St. Therese Knights of Columbus Council No. 9460 is sponsoring a bus trip to Cincinnati on Saturday, June 23, for a game between the Chicago Cubs and the Cincinnati Reds. The $80 cost includes game ticket and Excursions Trailways coach bus. Contact Jim Conroy at 260-638-4189 or jconroykofc@yahoo.com for information.

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.

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 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.

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.
The ministry of Servant of God Mother Mary Teresa Tallon

BY DENISE FEDOROW

Servant of God Mother Mary Teresa Tallon once taught and lived in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, before founding a new order, the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate. Today, progress is being made for her cause for sainthood. One of the members of her order, Sister Theresa Marie Moore, spoke at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Elkhart on May 7 about her foundress.

Sister Theresa Marie and Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate superior Sister Mary Catherine, who both spoke to Today’s Catholic by phone, said the “positio,” or collection of documents used to determine if a Servant of God may proceed to the next step of canonization and be called “venerable,” is being rewritten. Plans are to have it completed and sent to Rome this month.

Julia Teresa Tallon was born May 6, 1867, to Irish immigrant parents in upstate New York. She was the seventh of eight children. Even as a child, Tallon had a strong faith and would help catechize the children of the migrant workers who helped pick hops on her family’s farm. She would also assist the priest who came to celebrate Mass and hear confessions. It is said that she was 12 when she decided to enter religious life, “even though she’d never met a sister,” Sister Theresa said, and it was a decision from which her family at first tried to dissuade her.

Tallon told her mother about her decision when she was 16. Her father was deceased, and her mother concurred a plan to distract her. She was sent to live in a larger city with relatives: Her mother bought her expensive clothes — including an ostrich-feather hat — and she was lined up to attend several parties. At the first party, the host’s cat destroyed the hat, which she took as a sign not to care about worldly things. She instead began attending two parish mission talks per day at a nearby parish, where the priest encouraged her to persevere in her calling.

Sister Theresa said that in those days, a girl had to have a dowry to enter a religious community, and Tallon’s mother wasn’t about to offer one. So the young woman took a job — another distraction, her mother hoped — but Tallon was saving the money she earned to have a dowry. Finally, at 19, she convinced her mother and entered religious life as a Daughter of Providence, such as Mother Mary Catherine shared from Mother Mary Teresa Tallon, who once lived and taught in Elkhart.

Provided by Sister Theresa Marie Moore, PVMI

Sister Theresa Marie Moore of the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate order gives a presentation in Elkhart about the life and cause for sainthood of the foundress of her order, Servant of God Mother Mary Teresa Tallon, who once lived and taught in Elkhart.

They’re not attending. Religion must be made very attractive — let Christ be first.”

Father Jansen had a great influence on Sister Mary. He wrote her a note once, telling her he believed she had a special calling for the redemption of fallen-away Catholics and that she should leave the Holy Cross sisters. He didn’t know that Sister Mary felt she had received the same calling, so his note was confirmation and inspiration for her. In 1920, after she had been called back to New York, she founded the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate.

Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate

The order’s main mission is to visit everyone in the parish door to door and to provide religious instruction.

“We go to every door to evangelize and especially to bring people back to the faith,” Mother Mary Catherine said. “We ask if there are any baptized Catholics in the home, but even if there are not we let people know we are there in the name of the parish priest and ask if there is anything we can do for them,” she explained. “If they have no church affiliation we share Jesus with them. If they do but are not practicing we offer what we can do for them.”

There are 60 sisters in the community worldwide — in the Bronx and Monroe, New York, where the motherhouse is; in Arizona, Nigeria and the Philippines. Three sisters will be sent to Philadelphia this summer to start a new mission there.

Mother Mary Catherine shared that the few other sisters had the opportunity to visit Notre Dame awhile back and to visit St. Vincent de Paul andPrime. They were thrilled to be able to walk through the convent where their foundress lived; although no longer a convent, they were excited that it was still much the same as it was when Mother Mary Teresa lived there.

Canonization Process

Mother Mary Catherine is the vice postulator for Mother Mary Teresa’s cause for sainthood, which was opened in the Archdiocese of New York in 2012. Cardinal Timothy Dolan was “enthusiastic” and supportive of the cause, and the diocesan tribunal of inquiry began, she said.

There are two sisters still living who knew Mother Mary Teresa and could give testimony, as well as others who knew her. In January 2015, then-General Superior Mother Caroline Moore and Sister Mary Catherine brought the 8,000 pages of documents to Rome. The Roman Phase of the cause was opened Jan. 22, 2015.

Mother Mary Teresa’s body was exhumed as part of the process and was well-preserved, considering the flooding of their cemetery. Her body needed to have a sarcophagus, not the small box they thought would be needed for her relics. She is now interred in the motherhouse chapel.

Mother Mary Catherine said of the reason for Mother Mary Teresa’s cause for sainthood, “It is important for the Church today to know of Mother’s witness to the Holy Spirit is consistent in His movement in the Church and through the members of the Church ... it is important for all of us in the Church to see God’s marvels at work in humble, obedient souls who trust in His divine providence, such as Mother Mary Teresa.”

Intercession

Sister Theresa Marie suggested when asking for intercession from Mother Mary Teresa Tallon, to think of those who need miracles of healing or have lost faith, those who have serious illnesses or some trial holding them back from answering God’s call.

For more information about Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, visit their website at www.parishvisitorsisters.org.