Trump picks Judge Brett Kavanaugh as Supreme Court nominee

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Donald Trump announced July 9 that his nominee for the Supreme Court is Judge Brett Kavanaugh, a federal appeals court judge in Washington and a Catholic who once clerked for retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy.

“What matters is not a judge’s personal views but whether they can set aside those views to do what the law and the Constitution require,” Trump said in his announcement at the White House, adding: “I am pleased to say I have found, without doubt, such a person.”

He said the nominee has “impeccable credentials” and is “considered a judge’s judge.”

“I am grateful to you and I am humbled by your confidence in me,” said Kavanaugh, who was standing near his wife and two daughters during the announcement.

Kavanaugh spoke about his Catholic faith, saying he tries to live by the motto instilled in him by his Jesuit high school: “Be...”

Poor Handmaids celebrate 150-year history of U.S. ministry that began in Fort Wayne

BY PAT MURPHY AND JULIE DOWD

The year 2018 is a milestone for the sisters of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, who started their U.S. ministry in Fort Wayne 150 years ago and made an indelible mark on the entire Midwest.

The international congregation that now numbers approximately 550 women religious was founded in Germany by Mary Catherine Kasper in 1851. The young community was devoted to caring for the poor, the sick and the children. Because of this, the PHJC became well-known throughout central Europe.

Mother Kasper, her assistant and eight PHJC left Germany via France, on Aug. 28, 1868, in response to an invitation from Bishop John Henry Luers, who asked for them to address the spiritual and educational needs of the many German immigrants who had settled in the area. They settled in the Hessen Cassel area, south of Fort Wayne, and more sisters followed. Within a short time, they had begun teaching as well as nursing in the local homes in the area.

The mission expands

Three of those eight sisters were subsequently sent to Chicago to care for a group of 20 children whose parents had been killed during the Civil War. Their ministries included staffing for more than a century what would eventually become the Angel Guardian Orphanage — one of the largest and most prominent orphanages in the United States.

Several months after their arrival, much to the surprise of the sisters, Bishop Luers requested that they control and manage a hospital, with the right to purchase it in the future. Two sisters moved from Hessen Cassel to Fort Wayne and in 1879 purchased St. Joseph Hospital.

Realizing the speed at which missions were being established in America, Mother Kasper sent even more sisters from Germany. With the arrival of the additional sisters, and with young women joining the American province, the congregation spread throughout Indiana and Illinois.

Over the next 150 years, PHJC sisters helped facilitate or staff about 40 care-providing entities in the South Bend area — including health centers and parish schools — and others in Valparaiso, LaPorte, Gary, Hammond, Michigan City and other Indiana cities. Among their other ministries in the Fort Wayne area the sisters founded Central Catholic, the forerunner of Bishop Luers and Bishop Dwenger high schools. They also helped initiate ministries or served in East St. Louis; Milwaukee; New Ulm, Minnesota; and dozens of other...
POOR HANDMAIDS, from page 1

communities throughout the Midwest. Today, the PHJC charisms extend to Ohio, Georgia and Rhode Island; and the perfect, and the price was right. Glunz charged $35,000, since Christ had lived for 33 years. The sale included the hotel and all its furnishings, 65 acres of land, all the farm equipment and stock, two motor vehicles and the small chapel. Originally the site was to be a retreat center for the sisters, but the bishop suggested that the province build its new motherhouse there instead.

Motherhouse established at Donaldson

For 50 years, St. Joseph Hospital and the PHJC motherhouse were co-located in the building at Main and Broadway in Fort Wayne. But the growing number of patients necessitated change around the start of World War I, according to Julie Dowd, the order’s communications and marketing director. The decision was made after it became a regular occurrence that the sisters would leave their beds in the morning, and when they came back, they’d find a patient in it.

Unknown to the sisters, a Chicago wine merchant, Louis Glunz, had built a resort on a small lake near Donaldson, about 75 miles northwest of Fort Wayne. However, by 1918 as prosperous as the resort was, Glunz became tired of managing both it and his wine shop in Old Town Chicago and decided to sell the resort. The sisters met him in Donaldson on Feb. 25, 1918, to see the property. It was perfect, and the price was right. Glunz charged $35,000, since Christ had lived for 33 years.

Mary Catherine Kasper, known in religious life as Mother Mary, died on Feb. 2, 1898. Her good works and following the life of Christ caused the Catholic Church to name her Blessed Catherine Kasper on April 16, 1978.

Anniversary celebrations

The 150th anniversary year of PHJC presence in America is being celebrated throughout the year by members of the order, and many are open to the community. Events began in December with an opening prayer service. A highlight will be the Coming Home weekend celebration that takes place Aug. 18-19. Tours of the campus, social activities, displays, prayer gatherings and more will take place on Saturday; on Sunday, at 11 a.m., Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate Mass in Ancilla Domini Chapel.

The sisters will also attend the canonization of foudness on Oct. 14 in Rome. A contingent from their motherhouse in Donaldson will go; among them will be Sister Carole Langhauser, who served as vice president of mission integration when she was assigned to St. Joseph Hospital from 2005-13.

“I am so excited because Catherine Kasper will be known more formally in the Church and the world,” she said. “She was a woman of simple means and education but (who) influenced all she met by her example and kindness.”

Another member of PHJC, Sister Connie Bach, admires Blessed Catherine Kasper as a simple, compassionate woman dedicated to serving the poor and needy. With the canonization, the humble, behind-the-scenes woman with her beautiful charisma will be known around the world, Sister Connie said.

On July 21, the story of another PHJC sister who is on track to become the order’s second saint will be presented. Aloisia Lowenfels was part of a Jewish family growing up in Bavaria, Germany, in the 1920s and 1930s. Overlooking her family’s objections, she converted to Catholicism and became a PHJC sister, according to information about her beatification. As persecution of Jews by the Nazis increased, she moved to the Netherlands and continued doing God’s work. She was arrested and imprisoned briefly in Auschwitz in 1942 and murdered on Aug. 9. Her story, “The Life, Spirituality and Beatification Process of St. Aloisia, PHJC,” will be presented from 1 to 4 p.m. on July 21, in Cana Hall at the Center at Donaldson by Sister Christiane Humpert.

Bishop Rhoades will commemorate Mother Kasper’s canonization during another community and eucharistic celebration at 11 a.m. on Nov. 1 in the Ancilla Domini Chapel. A prayer service to close the 150th anniversary year will take place from 2-4 p.m. Dec. 5 in Ancilla Domini Chapel.

For more information on any PHJC event visit www.poorhandmaids.org.
Bishops sought to share journey with migrants, not join political fray

BY RHINA GUIDOS

MCALLEN, Texas (CNS) — The journey for many of the new migrants entering the U.S. near the border town of McAllen involves a mix of hardship and blessings.

“Having made the treacherous trip through the desert landscape and across the border, the lucky ones find themselves welcomed with food, water and human warmth at a Catholic-run humanitarian center in downtown McAllen. But having just conquered an unknown world and future ahead, many of the migrants find themselves immediately facing the life-changing crossing many of the migrants and teens have gotten their first taste of the U.S. — in detention — while temporarily separated from family. The bishops gave them rosaries and Bibles following a Mass they celebrated at one of the centers.

With their actions of charity and faith, they inserted themselves into the heart of the radioactive immigration debate the United States is experiencing, and one in which some Catholics remain aligned with political party ideology rather than with what the Church is saying on the topic.

The way the bishops see it, they were simply answering the call of Pope Francis to “share the journey,” a campaign started in September that called on Catholics and people of goodwill around the world to spend time with migrants, to come face to face with them, perhaps serve them in some fashion and hear their story.

The trip began in early July when Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, called on his fellow bishops at a meeting in Washington, D.C., to listen to the story of the migrants and teens.

Bishop Brennan, along with USC&CB president Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston and Bishop Joseph C. Bambera of Scranton, Pennsylvania, took part in the visit to the center, along with local Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville and Auxiliary Bishop Mario Aviles, also of the Brownsville diocese.

Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of Los Angeles joined the group July 2 and celebrated Mass at one of the facilities with the children and teens.

To explain the situation to Catholics and others opposed to the administration’s zero-tolerance policy, Bishop Brennan said he focuses on the humanity of the situation. But it is important to listen to all sides of the situation, he said.

Even people who would want to be tougher on the “immigrants,” we all share that sense of humanity,” said Bishop Brennan. “I think there is compassion, but we have to acknowledge people’s fears and acknowledge them as valid. We have to start meeting everyone where they are and recognizing those fears and concerns.

There are solutions to bring about security at the border in ways that are humane and that’s what Bishop Brennan said he wants to get across. And those who may be voicing their stance against the migrants, “they’re not heartless,” Bishop Brennan said, but they might be reacting to other factors.

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“You see chaos in the world around you and that worries you and that’s why the bishops have been so strong about comprehensive immigration reform, it’s not just fancy words,” he said. “We have to look at the whole picture and when we look at the whole picture, it’s not as complicated as it seems.”

Seeing the whole picture involves talking to some of the immigrants, he said.

Bishop Bambera said he heard repeatedly from those he met in Texas about the fear they were facing and the urgency to leave to protect their lives or the lives of their children from imminent danger. It was a story repeated, too, to Cardinal DiNardo, when he spoke with the recent arrivals.

His hope, Cardinal DiNardo said in July 2 interview with CNS, was to “let all Catholics in our country know that we welcome immigrants... You cannot look at immigration as an abstraction when you meet the people behind the issue, and the Church stands with those at the margins.

For the bishops, whose actions and words are amplified and often publicly scrutinized, “sharing the journey” when it comes to immigration meant sharing a story that some in their flock resist hearing because of the political rhetoric surrounding the issue. But the prelates tried to direct the attention away from the politics of it and directed it toward its human cost and why the Church cares about it.

“It’s not just a matter of politics, it’s a matter of humanity,” said Archbishop Gomez during a July 2 news conference closing the prelates visit.

The origin of the trip began in early July when Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, called on his fellow bishops at a meeting in Washington, D.C., to organize the trip to the border “as a sign of our pastoral concern and protest against this hardening of the American heart.,” a phrase he has used to refer to the anti-immigrant atmosphere and harsh sentiments toward immigrants in the country.

At that time, the Trump administration had just implemented a policy separating migrant children from parents, if they were caught crossing the border illegally. The Trump administration has since rescinded the policy, but some of those who were separated remain apart and authorities are scrambling to reunite those who were separated. Regardless of the political implications, some, like Kevin Appleby, senior director of international migration policy at the Center for Migration Studies of New York, maintain that the life and death implications and damage to families by the Trump administration’s policies merits the involvement of the Church.

“The visit to the border was an important step, but bishops across the country need to be loud and clear that President Trump and his administration should not prosecute asylum-seekers who are fleeing for their lives, detain them indefinitely, and deny them due process protections,” he said. “This is a moment in which the Catholic community should be united in their opposition to the administration’s zero-tolerance policy, as it undermines family unity, a core principle of Catholic teaching.”
Was the Church right about contraception?

BY LISA Everett

A look at ‘Humanae Vitae’ 50 years later

In stark contrast to the dramatic rise in divorce that followed the diffusion of contraception in American society, the evidence indicates that has emerged in the 50 years since “Humanae Vitae” was issued indicates that couples who practice natural family planning rarely divorce. There may be many reasons for this, there can be no doubt that one significant factor is that NFP fosters the virtuous circle for happy and fulfilling marriages. St. John Paul II made this point in his apostolic exhortation on the family in 1981: “The choice of the natural rhythms involves accepting the cycle of the person, that is, the woman, and thereby accepting dialogue, reciprocal respect, shared responsibility and self-control. ... In this context, the couple comes to experience how conjugal communion is enriched with those values of tenderness and affection which constitute the inner soul of sexuality, in its physical dimension also.”

It is easy to see that the successful practice of NFP requires couples to communicate regularly, not only about the details involved in using the method, but also about the larger and deeper questions regarding what God is calling them to in their marriage. In a sense, the question comes up every cycle: Are we going to use the fertile period this month to try to conceive, or do we have a serious reason to postpone a pregnancy in our present circumstances?

In “Humanae Vitae,” Pope Paul VI laid out the criteria which should guide these conversations and the decisions that flow from them. “It should be recognized that physical, economic, psychological and social conditions, responsible parenthood is exercised by those who prudently and generously decide to have more children, and by those who, for serious reasons and with due respect to moral precepts, decide not to have additional children for either a certain or an indefinite period of time,” he said.

This kind of ongoing, prayerful discernment about God’s plan for the growth of the family, carried out in intimate, honest dialogue with Him and with each other, is at the heart of what married spirituality is supposed to be.

In addition, the periodic abstinence from sexual intimacy that is entailed if a couple is avoiding pregnancy provides them with a monthly “push” to express their love for each other in other ways that can enhance their emotional intimacy and deepen their friendship.

As important and powerful a “love language” as sex is in marriage, it is not the only one, and NFP provides couples with ongoing opportunities to practice speaking their spouse’s primary love language. One husband from Texas confessed that the practice of NFP caused him to realize that his relationship with his wife needed work: “I discovered that I had placed more emphasis on genital intimacy than relational intimacy ... Continence does me a favor. It provides me with a rhythm to make sure that it is love and intimacy, not sex, which binds me to my wife ... The periodic tension that sometimes comes with continence means we frequently examine our relationship, our needs, our communication, and the quality of our intimacy and affection.” NFP also fosters reciprocal respect and shared responsibility in marriage. Couples have to work as real partners to observe, record and interpret the biomarkers of fertility each cycle, to apply the rules of the method, and if they are avoiding a pregnancy, to accept the abstinence that is entailed. Here is how one wife, Martha, experienced the self-sacrificing love of her husband during a difficult cycle in which extreme stress delayed ovulation, resulting in a much longer-than-normal period of abstinence: “He began to understand that God was using this time of abstinence to teach him temperance, self-control, and that charity involves acts of sacrifice, not just emotional affection. He could see from my cycle that I was under great stress and he realized that it was his duty to console me and help me through these difficulties. In other words, the chart spoke to him and told him more about his wife than he understood from her words. We survived this difficult cycle, which both of us remember as the turning point in our relationship. Abstinence does make the heart grow fonder. We were sacrificing something important for each other, and we each knew it.”

There are also many spiritual benefits to periodic abstinence if it is approached in the right way. It gives a couple practice in the virtue of self-control that is always part of authentic love. There is no doubt that refraining from sex periodically as a married couple is usually experienced as a sacrifice, and sometimes an enormous one. But how beautiful it can be to generously unite this suffering with Christ’s suffering on the cross, perhaps offering the period of abstinence in a particular cycle for a special intention. In this way, a couple can be spiritually fruitful in union with Christ at a time in their marriage when it would not be responsible for them to be physically fruitful.

Furthermore, the self-control which is practiced in NFP is not an end in itself; it serves the purpose of helping us to truly give ourselves to each other in the marital embrace, rather than simply react to a sensual urge.

This highlights another dimension of responsible parenthood that Pope Paul VI described in “Humanae Vitae”: our reason and will, rather than our instincts and feelings, are what should ultimately guide us in becoming good stewards of the gift of our mutual fertility in marriage. This corresponds to our dignity as persons created in the image and likeness of God, with a rational intellect and a free will which enable us to discern and to do what is good in a given situation. As one husband, Jake, put it: “As I now reflect back over my 36 years of marriage, I can see that the practice of NFP has been a freeing experience for me. ... Developing self-control in an area of my life that has such strong emotions has encouraged me to strive for self-control in other areas, such as the control of my quick temper and love for eating. ... For me, NFP has helped me to get my intellect, will and emotions all lined up in one direction so that I can strive to give myself totally to Ann Marie in the act of intercourse, and not just be responding to a sensual urge.”

That natural family planning can truly help married couples to lean on God and grow in holiness finds poignant witness in the following words of Katie McGrady, a young wife who, along with her husband, Tommy, blaze a trail marked with the image of Love: “NFP is a practice within our marriage that allows us – forces us – to grow in faith and remain steadfast in our trust of each other and the Lord. NFP is a daily sacrifice, a weekly struggle, and occasionally a monthly toss-up, but no matter how impractical we may feel it can be, NFP has proven to be a remarkably practical way to practice becoming holy, and for that, we are grateful.”

What G.K. Chesterton once said of Christianity is perhaps particularly true of the teaching of “Humanae Vitae”: “It is not that it has been tried and found wanting – rather, it has been found difficult and has not been tried. The Church was right about contraception in 1968, and the past five decades have only served to vindicate the profound moral and religious teaching of soon-to-be-saint Pope Paul VI. On this 50th anniversary, may many more people be inspired to give the life-giving teaching of “Humanae Vitae” a try.”

Read Everett’s complete six-part series at www.todayscatholic.org.

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Teens to tour churches on feast of Transfiguration

BY MEREDITH DIDIER

On the feast of the Transfiguration, Monday, Aug. 6, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Office of Youth Ministry will host a tour of seven churches in the greater Fort Wayne area. High school students will travel by bus to explore the following churches: the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and the Cathedral Museum, Fort Wayne; St. Peter, Fort Wayne; St. Louis, Besancon, New Haven; St. Rose of Lima, Monroeville; St. Mary of the Assumption, Decatur; St. Aloysius, Yoder; and St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel.

While parish youth groups have conducted similar tours, it has never been done on the diocesan level.

Director of Youth Ministry John Pratt is most excited for the teens to encounter the priests, seminarians, religious and lay persons at each parish. One goal of the Transfiguration Tour is to show young people that vocational discernment is not a chore solely focused on the final result. Instead, the process should be recognized as a lifelong discovery of God’s eternal, loving plan for each individual. By interacting with clergy, religious and lay persons, Pratt hopes to “foster a relationship with Christ and the Church beyond their parish boundaries.”

Another aim of the event is to “help build a sense of the Catholic Church that transcends your parish boundaries,” said Pratt. Teens will be visiting churches that have been mainstays of small communities for decades. Seeing the artistry of the church buildings will expose them to the beauty and uniqueness of each church.

Pratt anticipates the teens’ encounters with the faithful of each parish will be made on the feast of the Apostles’ encounter with the transfigured Christ. As recounted in the Synoptic Gospels, Jesus took Peter, James and John up Mount Tabor. Here, Christ’s clothes became dazzling white and his face shone brightly. Moses and Elijah appeared, and God’s voice came down from heaven commanding obedience to Jesus.

Pratt explains the significance of hosting this tour on the feast of the Transfiguration: The three Apostles experienced Jesus in a new way on Mount Tabor, which reoriented their expectations of Him as the Messiah. Likewise, Pratt anticipates the teens’ relationship with Christ and the Church will be transformed.

The Transfiguration Tour also plays a role in the diocese’s preparation for the Synod of Bishops on ‘Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment.’ This synod will be held in Rome in October. Like the diocese’s tour, Pope Francis intends the synod to expand vocational discernment beyond a lone endeavor into an ongoing journey enriched by participation in the Church and society. Pratt hopes the Transfiguration Tour will not only draw attention to the October synod but also celebrate this year dedicated to young people and vocational discernment.

Another aim of the event is to “enrich the ongoing journey of the Synod of Bishops with a youth focus,” said Pratt. The tour also helps young Catholics experience the Church beyond their parish boundaries.

For example, Pratt described the grandeur of St. Peter when the whole church is illuminated. But behind the structure of each physical church is the historical significance each parish holds. This blend of artistry and history highlights “the beauty and universality of the Catholic Church, even in one corner of our diocese.”

The Transfiguration Tour will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. An evening Mass will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m. at St. Joseph – Hessen Cassel. Mass will be followed by dinner at St. Joseph – Hessen Cassel.

The teens’ families are invited to both Mass and dinner. After dinner the teens will be bused back to the cathedral by 8:30 p.m. The tour is open to all high school students and costs $15 per person, which includes transportation, lunch, dinner, games and activities. Registration for the Transfiguration Tour can be completed online at www.fwsbym.com.

The Transfiguration Tour also serves as an opportunity to “emphasize the importance of participating in community,” said Pratt. The tour is open to all high school students that will take place on the feast of the Transfiguration, Aug. 6. The tour aims to help young Catholics experience the Church beyond their parish boundaries.
**News Briefs**

**Bishops, journalists attacked at church in Nicaragua**

COPAN, Honduras (CNS) — Nicaraguan bishops and clergy were attacked by armed groups aligned with the government July 9 as violence in the Central American country escalated and affected the Catholic Church, which has provided humanitarian assistance in its parishes and has tried to diffuse a worsening political crisis through dialogue. Cardinal Leopoldo Brenes Sorondo of Managua and his auxiliary, Bishop Silvio Jose Baez, and Archbishop Waldemar Stanislaw Sommertag, the apostolic nuncio, were among clergy from Managua pummeled as they attempted to protect St. Sebastian Basilica in the city of Diriamba from an incursion by a pro-government mob. Bishop Baez and at least one other priest were injured. Journalists also were attacked and had cameras and other equipment stolen. The bishops and clergy also tried to free anti-government protesters inside the church as masked individuals and mobs outside chanted “murderers” at the prelates. Pro-government media, meanwhile, accused the church of allowing weapons to be stored inside its properties. “I was injured, punched in the stomach, they tore my episcopal ring away from me, and verbally attacked me,” Bishop Baez tweeted, along with a picture of a gash on his arm and blood-stained habit. “I’m OK, thank God. The basilica is free and so are those who were inside. We have felt brutal force against our priests. We had gone to [the parish] to give our support to the government, to accompany them in this suffering and were attacked,” he said. The attack on the bishops occurred as Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega sent police and paramilitaries to counter protesters calling for his ouster.

**CRS launches water project at Vatican meeting on impact investing**

ROME (CNS) — The gap between philanthropic donations and what governments in developing countries can spend on projects to improve the lives of their people is the place where impact investing can make all the difference, said speakers at a Vatican conference. Regular access to clean water is a challenge for some 2.1 billion people around the world, and Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops’ overseas relief and development agency, has launched an investment project designed to help local communities improve their water and sanitation services. CRS launched an investment project at the Vatican Conference on Impact Investing July 10, CRS officially launched Azure, a “blended financial facility” using both investment capital and grants — to bring regularly flowing pipes of clean water to rural areas of El Salvador. “People in developing countries are able and willing to pay for reliable water services,” Paul Hicks, director of water and land restoration for CRS, told the Vatican conference. But loans and grants are needed to dig the wells, create reservoirs, buy storage tanks and lay miles of pipes. That’s where impact investing comes in, Hicks said. Azure Source Capital is a project of CRS and the Inter-American Development Bank’s Multilateral Investment Fund and is managed by Total Impact Capital, an impact investing firm located in Bethesda, Maryland. Azure Technical Services is the operational arm of the project and works with local companies to provide hydraulic engineering, project management and business and financial expertise to local water service providers.

**Pope names lay Italian journalist to head Vatican communications**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has named a lay Italian journalist with decades of experience in print, radio and television broadcasting to head the Vatican’s Secretariat for Communication. Paolo Ruffini, 61, who headed the Italian conference of Catholic bishops’ TV and radio network, was named prefect of the dicastery July 5, making him the first layperson to head such a high-level Vatican dicastery. He succeeds Italian Msgr. Dario Viganò, who resigned as prefect in March after a controversy involving the use and photographing of a letter from retired Pope Benedict XVI. Born in Palermo in 1959, Ruffini received a degree in law at Rome’s La Sapienza University. He worked for a number of major Italian newspapers beginning in 1979, then began working for radio news programs in 1996. He started working in television news in 2002. He served as the head of the Italian Conference of Catholic Bishops’ television and radio stations. He had a “steep learning curve” from 2000 and Radio InBlu, from 2014 to 2018.

**Thai boys soccer team rescued from cave**

Rescue personnel walk in the Tham Luang cave complex during a July 9 mission to evacuate the remaining members of a soccer team trapped inside in Chiang Rai, Thailand. The last remaining members of the Wild Boars soccer team and their coach were pulled out of the flooded cave, bringing an end to a nearly three-week ordeal that prompted a huge international rescue effort.

**Ethiopian cardinal praises his nation’s peace deal with Eritrea**

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — Ethiopia’s Catholic Cardinal Berhaneyesus Souraphiel commended the Ethiopian and Eritrean governments for signing a peace accord. Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki signed the peace pact in the Eritrean capital, Asmara, July 9. Cardinal Souraphiel told Catholic News Service July 10: “This is a historic step taken by the prime minister of Ethiopia within the first 100 days since he took office. The joyful reception of Eritreans to the Ethiopian prime minister and his delegation shows that this has been the prayers of the people. It is very pleasing to the Catholic Church that the prayers of the people of both countries have been answered.” For decades, the two countries have been at loggerheads on issues that include the border. An estimated 60,000 people are believed to have been killed between 1998-2000 over a fierce border conflict. However, after the two countries signed a U.N.-brokered border agreement in 2000, they failed to implement it. Cardinal Souraphiel said the “steps taken so far by both governments prove that Africans have the wisdom to solve their problems themselves. The Catholic Church will continue to pray both for Ethiopia and Eritrea.”

**Catholic organizations playing role in reunification of children**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Some of the migrant children under age 5 separated from their families by the government were reunited with loved ones July 9 with help from Catholic organizations. About two dozen families in all were brought back together through an agreement reached among the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Migration and Refugee Services, Catholic Charities USA and a network of other agencies from around the country. In all, the Catholic agencies will help reunite 55 families by mid-July and provide short-term care, such as food and shelter, said Bill Canny, executive director of MCS. “What we’re trying to do is give people who have had a dose of bad, we’re trying to give them a dose of good,” said Canny in a July 12 interview with Catholic News Service. Protection of families is a foundational element of Catholic social teaching and this moment calls on all people of goodwill to lend a hand to reunite these children with their parents,” the two Catholic organizations involved said in a joint statement issued the same day by MCR and Catholic Charities USA. Canny said the organizations are trying to raise funds for the relocation effort and anyone wanting to help can donate to Catholic Charities USA, www.catholiccharitiesusa.org.
50th jubilee for Father Moreeuw, CPPS

DAYTON, Ohio — The Missionaries of the Precious Blood are pleased to announce the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Father Leroy Moreeuw, CPPS.

Father Moreeuw, 81, a native of Detroit, entered the society in 1965 and was ordained on May 18, 1968. He has been involved in parish ministry, vocation work and teaching during his years as a priest.

After his ordination, Father Moreeuw became an instructor at Brunnerdale, the society’s former high school seminary in Canton, Ohio, from 1968 to 1972. In 1972, he was appointed associate pastor of St. Peter Church in Harper Woods, Michigan. He first came to Our Lady of Good Counsel in Cleveland as an associate pastor in 1975, and served there for seven years.

In 1982, Father Moreeuw was appointed formation director for the Missionaries. He was named pastor of Most Precious Blood Parish in Fort Wayne in 1983. In 1994, he returned to Our Lady of Good Counsel in Cleveland as its pastor. He served there until 2010, when he moved to Old St. Mary’s Church in Detroit, where he is senior priest in residence.

In addition to teaching daily Mass, he gives spiritual direction to priests and seminarians.

Father Moreeuw’s anniversary celebration will include a special Mass for the ordination of Theologians and PhDs in Theology and a farewell Mass to St. Mary’s Church in Detroit, where he has been the is the pastor for 16 years.

Chances of a public celebration in Dayton remain to be determined.

*Sisters elect Provincial Chapter Council*

The Provincial Chapter election of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration was held on June 22 at St. Francis Convent. Sister M. Angela Mellady, OSF, was re-elected provincial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Province of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration. The sisters serve in Fort Wayne at the University of Saint Francis. They also serve at St. Matthew School in South Bend and Marian High School, Mishawaka. The council members elected, pictured from left to right, in front, are Sister Margaret Mary Mitchel, OSF; Sister M. Rose Agnes Pfuttsch, OSF; Sister M. Clare Reuille, OSF; and Sister Lethia Marie Leveille, OSF. In back are Sister M. Lissetta Gettinger, OSF; Sister M. Rachel Dinet, OSF; Sister Magdalena, OSF (General Superior); Sister Angela, OSF; and Sister M. Petra Nielsen, OSF.

For more information visit www.svcelkhart.org or call 574-293-8231.

Bishop from Myanmar makes visit to diocese

Msgr. Felix Lian Khen Thang, center, Bishop of Kalay diocese in Myanmar, recently visited Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Father Peter Dee De at the Fort Wayne chancery.

Sister Mary Ann’s ministry has been dedicated to teaching, religious education, congregational ministries and higher education.

In the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Sister Mary Ann taught at St. Albert the Great, Minneapolis, from 1969-76. In the Diocese of Helena, she served as director of religious education at St. Luke Parish, River Forest, 1981-87, and as an administrator at Dominican University, River Forest, 2006-17.

In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Sister Mary Ann served as rector of the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, 1995-2006. She has also ministered in Minnesota and Montana.

Sister Mary Ann is living in community in Kenosha, Wisconsin. To honor Sister Mary Ann Peter jubilee, go to the Sinsinawa Dominicans’ website, www.sinsinawa.org/jubilee.

St. Felix Catholic Center statue to be blessed

HUNTINGTON — A life-size, bronze statue of Blessed Solanus Casey has been placed on the grounds of St. Felix Catholic Center will be blessed and dedicated at 2 p.m. Monday, July 30, the date of the first memorial of Blessed Casey. It will be celebrated in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Father Anthony Steinacker, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Huntington, will celebrate Mass at 12:30 p.m., prior to the blessing in the center’s St. Felix de Cantalice Oratory. Refreshments will follow. St. Felix Catholic Center is located at 1280 Hitzfeld St., Huntington.

150th anniversary of St. Vincent de Paul Parish

ELKHART — Members of St. Vincent de Paul Parish will observe the 150th anniversary of their parish this year. The highlight of the celebration will be a 3-30 p.m. bilingual Mass with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Sept. 30, with a reception following. It is hoped that former clergy, parishioners and school alumni will attend.

For more information visit www.svcelkhart.org or call 574-293-8231.

Summer Theology on Tap series underway

MISHAWAKA — Young adults in their 20s and 30s, single and married, who live in or are visiting the greater South Bend area, are invited to share in food, fellowship and faith in a relaxed setting during a series of gatherings planned for late summer and early fall.

Each of the gatherings will take place from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Villa Marci Restaurant, 225 Toscana Blvd., Granger, and feature a Catholic speaker who will present his or her thoughts on a topic relevant to the theme of “Navigating Current Culture.” The speakers and specific topics planned are:

- July 24 — Feminism: Women in the Church — Jessica Keating
- July 31 — Bioethics: Are We Playing God? — Teresa Manien
- Aug. 7 — Polarization: How Christ Narrates Unity — Father Kevin Sandberg, CSC
- Aug. 14 — Summer Mass and cookout at St. Pius X Church

The speakers and specific topics of “Navigating Current Culture.”
BY CATHERINE HORVATH
AND NIKI WILKES

FROM June 16-24, 28 young adults from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend took the ultimate trip. El Camino de Santiago (also called the Way of St. James) is one of the Catholic Church’s most participated-in pilgrimages. Pilgrims can start wherever they like along its main routes, but everyone ends up in the Spanish city of Santiago de Compostela, where the remains of St. James the Greater rest in its cathedral.

This diocesan group, whose travel was facilitated by Verso Ministries, decided to take a 118-kilometer route on the French Way, walking for five days and gleaning many life-giving spiritual lessons along the way. They felt that the best way to describe the pilgrimage would be to explain how the journey helped all of them understand the faith.

Lean into suffering

Wilkes: The first thing I learned was, sometimes you have to lean into suffering. Everyone in the group had hurts and aches during the trip. But what many of us soon realized was that if you tried to be timid about it, you only prolonged your walk and therefore your pain. You had to walk into the pain so that you could get where you needed to go. What a fitting analogy for our walk toward God. Life gets you down, and sometimes it is not an option to take time to recover. You have to keep going forward, no matter how much you may want to stop. If you accept this and try to walk as normally as possible, you actually find that God gives you the strength to endure and leads you to a place of repose.

Stop to smell the roses

Horvath: On a pilgrimage like the Camino, it’s easy to focus on forging ahead and getting from one town to the next to beat the heat of the day or that blister on your foot. However, I felt that God wanted us to slow down and take our time, to let go and be on His time. One of the most calming parts of the pilgrimage was resting in God’s presence in natural beauty — stopping to smell fragrant roses on the roadside, admiring the morning mist in the valleys, and watching the sun rise over Spanish hills. The Camino offered us the opportunity to be meditative and reflect in wonder and awe of God’s creation. Stopping to smell the roses allowed me to reflect on putting aside my expectations and agenda and renew my trust that God does indeed fulfill His promises, but in His own time and in His own ways — on the Camino and in the pilgrimage of everyday life.

Be on the journey together

Wilkes: Along the way, we experienced amazing generosity. From getting a knee massage to being offered a banana when you looked out of sorts, there were countless instances where strangers helped us with our discomforts. We were also willing to share our life experiences, our joys, and we took our meals together with ease. It all boiled down to a deeper understanding of what those around you are going through as you experience the same road together. We found that this also applies to our journey to God. Once we realize that everyone is on the same path, we can start looking around us and offering what we have.

Turn group chat into group prayer

Horvath: There are people from all over the world on the Camino. I had a plethora of opportunities to turn my extroverted-self loose and strike up conversations with other pilgrims. It was easy to get lost in interesting and intimate conversations. Many of these connections provided an opportunity for group prayer (our group often prayed the rosary or a chaplet aloud together) and dialogues on faith. We also voiced the prayer requests we carried with us and prayed for each other. This outward exhibit of faith, as well as our conversations with pilgrims outside our group, inspired open dialogue about the Catholic faith with pilgrims who were less familiar with our traditions. The group chat turned toward God, and many times it was inspiring to see the Holy Spirit at work through these dialogues of faith with others. I found sharing my faith also helped me grow a little more in it.

It’s OK to walk at different paces

Wilkes: Whenever you passed someone or were being passed, it was common to exchange the phrase “Buen caminio,” which means “have a good journey.” It was a friendly way to acknowledge the person and encourage them. One thing I gathered from that is that you shouldn’t feel like you’re judged by your pace. In our path towards God, you’ll have people who have been on the road their whole life and some only a few months. You’ll have people who are engaging in an outpouring of God’s grace which makes them speed by and others limping just to get to the next step. But as long as you get to the end, it doesn’t matter how fast you got there or how long you walked.

Take time for peaceful solitude

Horvath: On the Way, I often found myself wishing I had taken more time to grow inwardly. I like to talk so silence is difficult for me, but I’ve also found that it’s a necessity for my faith life. Our group as a whole started each early morning’s walk with 30 minutes of silence. By the third day of walking, those I was walking with felt comfortable enough to walk together in silence while praying on our own. This was such a blessing for all of us: We cherished moments when it was just us and God, and let God make of it through us, what each pilgrim makes of it, or how others limping just to get to the end, it doesn’t matter how fast you got there or how long you walked.

A pilgrimage like the Camino is unexpected. Pilgrims can plan and prepare as much as or as little as possible, and the Camino will still be full of unforeseen blessings and challenges. It is truly a lesson in the old trope “let go and let God.” The Camino is also what each pilgrim makes of it, or allows God to make of it through them individually. There are enlightenment we came home with as well as effects and influences from the Camino that we have yet to discover. All of these have affected our journey on our ultimate pilgrimage towards God, especially as we return to our daily lives.

Buen camino.
Another year of Catholic Youth Summer Camp took place June 24-29 at Camp Lutherwald in Howe. The fourth- through sixth-grade girls and boys celebrated daily Mass and participated in traditional camp activities and zip lining. On Tuesday, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated the holy Mass and stayed for lunch. He is pictured above with the campers.

Indiana abortion doctors accused of violating sexual abuse reporting law

BY NATALIE HOEFER

Sue Swayze Liebel began the press conference on June 20 with sobering words: “I'm sorry that I have to be here today to deliver this news,” said the vice president of public affairs for Indiana Right to Life. “Earlier today, 48 consumer complaints were filed with the Indiana attorney general's office [and the state Department of Health] against nine Indiana abortion doctors who have allegedly failed to follow the legal reporting requirements to protect young children from sexual abuse.”

The press conference, which took place at the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis, was one of five held throughout the state that day by Indiana Right to Life. Four of the conferences took place in cities where the alleged misreporting took place: Bloomington, Indianapolis, Lafayette and Merrillville.

A press conference was also held in South Bend, where one of the accused doctors is promoting the opening of an abortion center.

The alleged violations occurred less than a year after the state law in question went into effect on July 1, 2017. That law requires abortions on girls less than 16 years of age be reported within three days to the Indiana State Department of Health and the Indiana Department of Child Services. The goal of the law is to enable authorities to investigate such cases for potential child sex abuse.

The flawed reporting was discovered by Indiana Right to Life. In an ongoing effort to monitor the abortion industry in Indiana, the organization requested from ISDH all of the public-record Terminated Pregnancy Reports for abortions performed in the state since the law went into effect.

The review revealed that on 48 of the forms for girls ages 12-15, the “date reported to DCS”...
Victory Noll announces jubilarian sisters

HUNTINGTON — Eight members of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters celebrate jubilees this year.

A celebration Mass to honor the sisters took place May 24, and another will take place July 28, in the Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel on the Victory Noll campus in Huntington.

A native of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, Sister Mary Joan Ginsterblum celebrates 80 years as a Victory Noll Sister. She joined OLVM on Jan. 25, 1939. Her ministry work has taken her to California, Colorado, Utah, Oregon, Arizona, Florida and Indiana. She has served as a catechist, a physical therapist and worked in hair care. She also worked as the caretaker of the natural areas on the Victory Noll campus and she cared the wooden peace pole that now stands in the Miami Memorial Peace Garden. In addition, she has cared several smaller items such as birds that she has given away to friends, family and visitors. Many items are still found throughout the campus.

Sister Joan Arnold is celebrating 70 years with OLVM, having joined on Oct. 27, 1948. The native of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, has been missioned in Texas, Indiana, Michigan, California, Ohio, Wisconsin, Utah, New Mexico, Illinois and West Virginia. She has been a catechist and served on the Leadership Team. She spent nine years as the general treasurer. She served on the Resource Sharing Board and has spent many years as the peace and justice coordinator for OLVM.

Sister Monica Haines, a native of Goschen, joined OLVM on Oct. 27, 1948, and celebrates her 70th jubilee. She has served in California, Michigan, Indiana, New Mexico, Texas and Illinois. She has worked as a catechist, a director of religious education, pastoral minister, adult educator and personal needs assistant.

Sister Mary Alice Murphy, from Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, celebrates 70 years since she joined on Oct. 27, 1948. Her ministry work has taken her to California, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Texas and Colorado. She has served as a catechist and a vocation director, and served on the Leadership Team. She has spent nearly 50 years in Colorado as a social worker, including with Catholic Community Services and as director of Care Housing. In 2009, the sister Mary Alice Murphy Center for Hope opened in Fort Collins to serve the homeless and near-homeless.

“The saying I like to use is ‘God is faithful,’” said Sister Mary Alice. “I have loved being a missionary and it has brought so many different people into my life and stretched me to grow. Only God could accomplish what has been done, and like St. Mother Theresa, I have only been a pencil in God’s hand.”

Sister Paula Wellnitz is celebrating her 70th jubilee, joining OLVM on Oct. 27, 1948. A native of Elgin, Illinois, Sister Paula has been missioned in California, Colorado, Tennessee, Washington, South Dakota and Utah. She has been a catechist and a mental health counselor. She worked in family enrichment, social work, pastoral work and with Catholic Charities.

“It was God’s choice, not mine, to become a sister. Although, as I lived it and considered, I could participate in the life and work of the OLVM Sisters, it was the sort of group I think fits me,” said Sister Paula.

Sister Clarita Trujillo, a native of El Rito, New Mexico, celebrates her 60th jubilee. She joined OLVM on Sept. 6, 1958. Her mission history has included work in California, Texas, Colorado, Indiana, New Mexico and in Mexico. She has served as a catechist and worked in campus ministry and pastoral ministry. She has been involved in social work with the Mexican-American Social Justice Movement, and annually traveled with a delegation to Nicaragua to assist with an eye clinic bringing services to the poor population in that country.

“My life as a Victory Noll Sister has been an adventure in the company of so many people who have enriched, fulfilled and perhaps even directed me as I lived and worked among God’s people,” said Sister Clarita. “I tried to be accepting of all who crossed my path. I learned much as I interacted with the young adults, the old and with children. I thank my sisters, my family and friends for the support and love that I always receive. I trust in God’s generosity and boundless blessings.”

Sister Teri Nederhiser, from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, joined OLVM Sept. 5, 1958, and is celebrating 60 years as a Victory Noll Sister. She was missioned in Indiana, Arizona, California, Texas and Iowa. She has worked as a catechist, medical technologist, caregiver, director of religious education and worked with clothing and food banks. She also served on the Leadership Team.

Sister Teresa Aparicio-Cervantes, a native of Zacapu, Michoacan, Mexico, is celebrating her 50th jubilee. She has been missioned in Mexico, Texas and New Mexico. She has worked as a pastoral assistant and in community development as director of Casa de las Comunidades in Albuquerque.

“My immigrant roots have helped me to understand my Christian vocation, and to pass on God’s mission to all,” said Sister Teresa. “This vocational call is a sign to be the communal voice and to walk with solidarity among the suffering of all the immigrants in the world.”

Sister Mary Baird 60 years; and Sister Michelle Dermody, 60 years; Sister Japanese Wilmering, 75 years. In the back row: Sister Esther Dozelal, 50 years; Sister Michelle Dermody, 60 years; Sister Mary Baird 60 years; and Sister Mary Joseph Shingler, 60 years.

Seven Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ celebrate jubilees

DONALSOND — Seven Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ celebrate jubilees this year. Sister Inez Wilmering leads the group, celebrating 50 years in religious life. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Sister Inez served as a nurse and nursing supervisor at St. Joseph Hospital in both Fort Wayne and Mishawaka; and as an instructor of nursing at Ancilla College. She served in the PHJC treasurer and business offices for over 20 years. She has also ministered at the Catherine Kasper Home in Donaldson, where she now resides and volunteers.

Sister Carleen Wrasmann is a 60-year jubilarian. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Sister Carleen was a provincial counselor of the Poor Handmaids. She taught at the Elkhart Adult Basic Education Center in Elkhart and at Ancilla College in Donaldson, where she also served in mission integration and campus ministry. Currently, Sister Carleen volunteers for the PHJC community and resides at Convent Ancilla Domini, Donaldson.

Sister Mary Baird, also a 60-year jubilarian, has ministered in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in numerous capacities. Sister Mary taught at St. Joseph School, now the grades 5-8 campus of Mishawaka Catholic School, in Mishawaka, and has also served in communications and environmental ministries. She founded both the Earthworks and MoonTree Studios ministries of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ and served as the sisters’ first communications director and heritage director. She also ministered as an interpretive naturalist at Potato Creek State Park in North Liberty and at the Marshall County Soil and Water Conservation District in Plymouth. She is the current director of MoonTree Studios, where she resides and teaches.

Sister Mary Joseph Shingler celebrates 60 years as a Poor Handmaid of Jesus Christ sister. In the diocese, she served as a teacher and the principal of St. Joseph School in Mishawaka and as a member of the PHJC elected leadership team, PHJC treasurer and development director. Sister Mary Jo currently resides at Convent Ancilla Domini and coordinates the Heritage and Archive Office of the Poor Handmaids.

Sister Michelle Dermody celebrates 60 years as a Poor Handmaid of Jesus Christ sister. In the diocese, she has taught at St. Monica School in Mishawaka and was the director of religious education at St. Michael School in Plymouth. She also served as youth ministry director at St. Bavo in Mishawaka. She is currently a teaching retreat and conference center in Donaldson and at the Catherine Kasper Home and Catherine’s Cottage, where she’s a resident and an active volunteer.

Sister Esther Dozelal celebrates her 50-year jubilee this year. A registered nurse, she served as the director of long-term residence for the Poor Handmaids in Donaldson before being missioned to Kenya. She has served at Mater Girls Centre, St. Joseph Children’s Home and St. Anne Mission Hospital, all in the Diocese of Meru in Kenya.

Sister Marie Heppeler is also a 50-year jubilarian with the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. She has taught at St. Joseph School and the Penn-Harris-Madison School District in Mishawaka, St. John the Baptist School in South Bend and St. Pius X School in Granger.

Provided by Barbara Allison
Sister Mary Ann Burkhart called to eremitic life

BY SARAH DUSTMAN

A calling from the Lord to a life of solitude is what led Sister Mary Ann Burkhart to the vocation of eremitic life. Sister Mary Ann had been living in a community of religious sisters when she discerned that God was not calling her to community, but rather to solitude. After leaving her community, Sister Mary Ann approached Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades about becoming a hermit.

Hermits discern their vocation for three years before professing their final vows. Sister Mary Ann professed her final vows on Friday, July 6, at St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel in Fort Wayne, where Bishop Rhoades celebrated the Mass. The Church celebrates with solemnity the Rite of Perpetual Profession, by which religious bind themselves permanently to the service of God and the Church.

Bishop Rhoades began his homily by discussing the first reading Sister Mary Ann had selected. In this reading the prophet Isaiah wrote, “Fear not for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.” The bishop explained that this passage reminds all of God’s tender love for all His children, and that “He loves us and is mine.” The bishop explained that for I have redeemed you; I have selected. In this reading the reading Sister Mary Ann had permanently to the service of religious siblings when she discerned that God was not calling her to community, but rather to solitude. After leaving her community, Sister Mary Ann approached Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades about becoming a hermit.

Hermit life is what led Sister Mary Ann to a calling from the Lord to a life of solitude. After discerning that God was not calling her to community, but rather to solitude, she left her community and approached Bishop Rhoades about becoming a hermit.

The bishop noted the example of St. Maria Goretti, whom he referred to as “a model of condition.” The day, St. Maria Goretti, whom he referred to as “a model of condition.” The day, St. Maria Goretti, whom he referred to as “a model of condition.”

Even though Sister Mary Ann lives in solitude, he said she is “part of the praying community of the whole Church.” In addition, her life of prayer and penance is the “constant prayer of the whole Church.” In addition, her life of prayer and penance is the “constant prayer of the whole Church.”

He added that St. Maria Goretti is an example of the patron saint of Church offers to God.” Bishop Rhoades noted the example of the patron saint of Church offers to God.” Bishop Rhoades noted the example of the patron saint of Church offers to God.”

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Another family member influenced by Sister Mary Ann’s vocation is her grandson, Jacob Schneider. Schneider, a second-year pre-theology student at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, referred to her as the spiritual leader of the family. “Her witness to Christ strengthens our faith as well.”

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Sister Mary Ann’s profession of vows is a reminder that “we are called to follow the Lord as His disciples.” Being His disciples means “following Him to death, death to self, in imitation of His example of laying down His life for others.”

As a hermit, Sister Mary Ann has embraced prayer and taken vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Her daily life consists of Mass, a Holy Hour, prayer and fasting. When in her home, Sister Mary Ann lives mostly in silence and does not usually interact with the outside world, except for viewing or listening to the news.

Her silence does not mean that she speaks to others, however. She is not to engage in group activities or gatherings, but is able to spend time with her family or talk with others at church.

Sister Mary Ann said that some people may find such a vocation boring, but she finds gratification in the eremitic life. She knows that this is the life meant for her, and that “just growing deeper with God” is her goal.

Her vocation has influenced the people in her life. Her daughter, Tina Schneider, said that her mother was “always a follower of her faith.” She said that seeing her mother grow in her vocation has made her want to grow in faith as well.

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Deacons’ ministry of presence will be in forefront at upcoming congress

BY PETER FINNEY JR.

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — The 18,000 deacons in the United States exercise a ministry of presence, bringing the healing and hope-filled message of Jesus Christ to people they encounter daily in their parishes, other ministries and workplaces.

That diocesan ministry of presence will be front and center July 22-26 in New Orleans.

About 2,800 people — including about 3,000 deacons and their wives and children — will attend the 2018 National Diaconate Congress, an event so big it will require three hotels to accommodate the attendees.

The theme of the gathering, held only three times since the inaugural congress in New Orleans in 1994, is “Christ the Servant: Yesterday, Today, Forever.”

Notably, with 18,000 deacons across the United States, we thought if we could get 500 (90%) we could make it work,” said Deacon Ray Duplechain, executive director of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate for the Archdiocese of New Orleans and chair of the National Association of Diocesan Directors.

“This is certainly a chance for us to hear what the Church and the bishops have to say about the diaconate, and we will be listening intently to both the affirmation and the challenges,” he told the Clarion Herald, New Orleans’ archdiocesan newspaper.

The congress will hear from several high-profile U.S. bishops, including Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Also making major addresses will be Galveston-Houston Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; New Jersey Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark; New Orleans Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond; Denver Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila and retired Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Arizona.

Other speakers will be Bishop Frederick F. Campbell of Columbus, Ohio, and Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City, Missouri, as well as Deacon Dom Pastore (along with his wife, Teresa Tameo Pastore) of Detroit; Deacon William Ditevig, former executive director of the bishops’ Committee on the Diaconate; Deacon James Keating of the Institute for Priestly Formation at Saint Meinrad Archabbey and University; and Deacon Greg Kandra of Brooklyn, New York, author of “The Deacon’s Bench” blog.

In addition to the major addresses, there will be more than 30 workshops over the three days on various aspects of diaconal ministry, most presented by deacons.

Deacon Duplechain said he expects a large body of deacons to be released during the conference by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, which would be the first update since research was done in 1981 and 1996.

The study is based on surveys of deacon directors and active deacons across the U.S., Deacon Duplechain said.

In addition to hosting the first congress in 1994, the Archdiocese of New Orleans has strong ties to the National Association of Diaconate Directors because of the work of Deacon John Swiler, the longtime diaconate director in New Orleans and the first deacon to serve as chairman of the national group, Deacon Duplechain said.

“Deacon Swiler was one of the pioneer directors,” Deacon Duplechain said. “He was one of the first permanent deacons to direct a permanent diaconate office in the U.S., and he was the first permanent deacon to serve as chairman of the national association. He was a deacon’s deacon.”

To accommodate the large gathering, daily Mass will be celebrated at the New Orleans Marriott, one of the congress hotels, because St. Louis Cathedral can seat only about 900.

Deacon Duplechain said he was excited to learn more about why the Church teaches the sacraments of matrimony and holy orders are considered the only two sacraments “at the service of the Church,” enabling individuals to direct their lives in a sacramental way for the salvation of others, building up the body of Christ and themselves being saved in the process.

“What I hope to see is the deep commitment of men and women in the sacrament of matrimony and the connection of that to the order of deacons,” Deacon Duplechain said. “The diocesan is a restored reality in the Church, and it has provided much fruit in terms of service to the Church.”

There are about 30,000 permanent deacons worldwide.

ABORTION, from page 9

if patient [is] under 16” was not simply past the state-mandated three-day timeframe, it was left blank altogether, according to Indiana Right to Life.

“Given that as many as one in four girls may experience sexual abuse or assault before the age of 18, it’s likely that some of these [94 improperly reported] pregnancies were not the result of consensual sexual activity,” Swazy Liebel stated. “We’re not here to speculate. That’s the point of [state agencies] getting involved.”

And if an investigation does find that “an Indiana physician is not following the law …, then the Indiana attorney general must investigate and must look into whether or not that physician should continue to hold a medical license on a going forward basis,” said state Sen. Mike Delph, R-Carmel, at the Indianapolis press conference. His district includes the capital city.

In addition to the U.S. Senators, Reps. Jim Banks and Todd Rokita submitted a request to the state attorney general’s office to investigate the use of Title X funds for the facility Deseret Women.

“We are concerned that these entities may be recipients of federal Title X grant funds, which require compliance with state laws,” the request reads. “These facilities face allegations of failing to report abortion procedures on minors in violation of state laws,” the request reads. “These facilities face allegations of failing to report abortion procedures on minors in violation of state laws.”

“We adhere to Indiana State Department of Health reporting requirements and follow best public health practices to ensure patients get the help they need. “We cooperate fully with all ISDH inspections, and immediately address any issues that officials share with us. Our most recent routine ISDH inspection, conducted in March of 2018, concluded that we are adhering to state reporting requirements for minors in our health centers.”

In his closing comments at the Bloomington press conference, Indiana Right to Life President and CEO Mike Fichter expressed the intensity of his feelings regarding the alleged violations.

“Frankly, it sickens and angers me that these girls may have been sent right back into an abusive situation because DCS has never been notified and given a chance to do their job,” he said.

Natalie Hefner is a reporter for The Criterion, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.
Navigating the stresses of life

A trick to staying positive and relaxed each day is to build yourself a little mental “pender box.” Imagine a cardboard box that you might buy at a craft store. Decorate it in a way that matches you — with some pretty fabric, perhaps some ric rac, lace or a satin ribbon. Choose a color or pattern you love. Blue checks. Subtle florals. Whatever it is you like. You love. Blue checks. Subtle florals.

The pride you felt as your child played his little tune on the piano at a recital or simply in the living room. The day your husband proposed. How you felt when you sneakily did a kind- ness for someone. The smile on your partner’s face. When your child overcame some challenge. The way the ocean looked as the sun set the last time you were there. The smell of a baby’s bath. The decorated altar at Christmas. The way your cold, fluffy pillow envelops you and smells fresh. The feel of your toes in the sand. The way the glass vase sparkles in the living room. The day your child was born and you realized you were a mother. And so the daughter was born and you realized you were a mother. And so the daughter was born and you realized you were a mother.

...continued

In the first reading, the Apostle Paul explains the importance of relying on one’s own God-given gifts. Righteousness comes from faith, not works. Paul writes, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Rom 12:2)

For the next reading, the Church presents a passage from the Epistle to the Ephesians. This reading recalls that the privilege of the Jews was to know God, whereas other nationalities long were in the dark. Now, with and through Christ, all peoples can know God. The Holy Spirit comes to all who hear God’s truth is exact. It is directly and frankly, the Church takes up the task of articulating its understanding of the truths, its place in history, to be embraced by faithful fathers: “Young people are looking for companions on the journey, to be embraced by faithful men and women who express the truth and allow young people to articulate their understanding of faith and their vocation.”

The Lord appoints prophets to lead His people

The Book of Jeremiah is the source of this week’s first reading. One of the three major prophets of ancient Israel, Jeremiah so firmly saw himself as God’s representative that he wrote as if God were writing through him. So, in Jeremiah’s works, God often speaks in the first person.

Such is the case in today’s reading. The reading reveals the disorder, as well as the turmoil, that existed in Israel at the time. The split was not only political. It also was religious, because various views and different interpretations of the Law of Moses did battle with each other.

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The smoke over medical marijuana

A comprehensive 2015 scientific review found medical marijuana to be useful only for a small number of medical conditions. Writing in the Journal of the American Medical Association, an international team of researchers found scant evidence to support broad claims for the drug’s effectiveness.

Although clinical trials showed that chronic neuropathic pain and cancer-related pain could often be treated, outcomes showed doses of pain, such as those related to rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, HIV and multiple sclerosis did not show statistically significant improvement. Researchers also found inconclusive data for people with insomnia, anxiety disorders, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, psychosis and sleep disorders.

They registered concern about medical marijuana’s significant side effects as well. Yale University researchers, commenting on the review, noted how the approval process for medical marijuana varies from state to state, and how the approval process to assure its efficacy and safety. Yale University researchers, commenting on the review, noted how the approval process for medical marijuana varies from state to state, and how the approval process to assure its efficacy and safety. Yale University researchers, commenting on the review, noted how the approval process for medical marijuana varies from state to state, and how the approval process to assure its efficacy and safety. Yale University researchers, commenting on the review, noted how the approval process for medical marijuana varies from state to state, and how the approval process to assure its efficacy and safety.

Moreover, young Catholics — who see medical marijuana as a “trump card” to grease the wheels of political decision-making — are starved for support. The volunteerism that was once performed by overworked priests has a lot on someone in the pew. This is not something about Christian living: it is how to determine if you want to participate in a particular social or political undertaking. It only requires two people — the mentor and the mentee. The mentor shares wisdom, and profitable, tobacco and marijuana. It is, in the final analysis, neither reasonable for substance abuse, similar to other medications.

The Church would do well to take cues from the corporate world, where employees are assigned mentors to help them hone particular skills, set personal goals and outline a path to achieve them. We can also look to our Protestant brothers and sisters, some of whom routinely pair up an older member of a community with a younger one to teach them how to engage young adults. This is not to cast blame. The reality behind the push for marijuana is that chronic neuropathic pain and cancer-related pain could often be treated, outcomes showed doses of pain, such as those related to rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, HIV and multiple sclerosis did not show statistically significant improvement.

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

IN LIGHT OF FAITH from page 13

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Moreover, young Catholics — if they are active and registered in a parish — can go weeks or months without being greeted by someone in the pew. This is not to cast blame. The reality behind the push for marijuana is that chronic neuropathic pain and cancer-related pain could often be treated, outcomes showed doses of pain, such as those related to rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, HIV and multiple sclerosis did not show statistically significant improvement.

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These groups have used the medical marijuana trump card to grease the skids for the acceptance of recreational marijuana. This pec- ner movement has enabled them to control and reap the windfall from an extensive system of dispensaries that supply and distribute addictive substances. Even if recreational marijuana does not ultimately become legalized in a particular jurisdic- tion, it is well-documented that medical marijuana dispensaries often end up supplying the drug not for rare, valid medical uses, but for substance abuse, similar to the situation with opioid pain medications.

Yet the push for marijuana continues unabated. In May, the New York state comptroller, Scott Stringer, issued a report declaring that chronic neuropathic pain and cancer-related pain could often be treated, outcomes showed doses of pain, such as those related to rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, HIV and multiple sclerosis did not show statistically significant improvement.

Several different cannabinoid medications have been developed in recent years, and these medicines work as well as or better than marijuana, have fewer side effects, and are less likely to be abused. These drugs also tend to be effective in the body for longer periods. Dr. Gogek notes the irony of the loud public outcry that would ensue if the FDA were to approve “a drug that had no advantage over safer alternatives, went mostly to abuse instead of increased teenage drug use, and killed people on the highways.” He concludes, “We should not be sidestepping the FDA approval process that was designed to protect us.”

In sum, the reality behind medical marijuana is far from the rosy view painted by advocates. Marijuana is not “just a plant.” It is an addictive drug abused in epidemic proportions, inflicting a serious individual and societal toll. Its use as a medicine needs to be carefully regulated through standard scientific oversight and the FDA approval process, not handed over to recreational enthusiasts and opportunistic businessmen.

The current practice of encouraging states and municipalities to legalize medical, and then recreational, marijuana, is, in the final analysis, neither reasonable nor ethical.

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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.

Queen of Angels Parish garage sale
FORT WAYNE — Queen of Angels Parish will have a garage sale at the Msgr. Faber Activities Center, 1600 W State Blvd. on Thursday, July 19, from 5-7 p.m.; Friday, July 20, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, July 21, from 8-11 a.m.

St. Joseph School alumni reunion
GARRETT — St. Joseph School will have an alumni reunion Saturday, July 21, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the church in Bennett Hall, 300 W. Houston St. Mass at 4:30 p.m. in the church. All GHS graduates welcome. Classes of 1968 and 1993 will be recognized. Refreshments will be served.

Our Lady of Hungary Parish festival
SOUTH BEND — Our Lady of Hungary Parish, 829 W. Calvert St., will have a parish festival Friday, Aug. 3, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 4, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. $2.50 bag sale on Saturday.

WHAT’S HAPPENING

The CrossWord
July 22 and 26, 2018

ASK ALPHA HAG
PET GARED UNO
DAVID PROPHE

CUTLERY BROWN
ODD GAS TINO
HELLE WELFIL

EGRAT ESAYR
ENE PREN EED

OUR BANDY NICE

Indiana’s Premier Butcher Shop and Deli
CATERING, MEAT BUNDLES, PREPARED FOOD, AND MORE!
4924 S. Calhoun St., Ft Wayne 260-338-0022
2820 Maplecrest Rd., Ft Wayne 260-485-0003
Mon–Fri 9 am – 7 pm
Sat 8 am – 7 pm
Sun 10 am – 5 pm

Divine Mercy Funeral Home is excited to announce the addition of Stephanie Zelt to our staff of experienced funeral directors. Stephanie will join Bob Jesch and Monte Freeze in their calling to serve local families with compassion, understanding and kindness.

With nearly 75 years of experience between them, our funeral directors serve all faiths and will thoughtfully guide you through our traditional and cremation funeral service options, priced affordably to meet your budget. Also, if you’ve already pre-planned through another funeral home, you’ll be pleased to know that you can quickly and easily transfer those arrangements.

Divine Mercy Funeral Home… Serving all faiths.
Catholics and the U.S. Supreme Court

Bratt Kavanaugh
Clarence Thomas
Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Stephen Breyer
John Roberts
Chief Justice
Samuel Alito
Sonia Sotomayor
Elena Kagan
Neil Gorsuch

Kavanaugh, from page 1

Kavanaugh, like Justice Neil Gorsuch, attended Georgetown Prep, a Jesuit boys school in Maryland. He also pointed out that his former pastor, Msgr. John Enzler, was in the audience. Kavanaugh said he used to be an altar boy for the priest and now the two serve the homeless together. The priest is the president and CEO of Catholic Charities of Washington.

Kavanaugh also gave a shout-out to the girls basketball team at his parish which he coaches. He said the team has nicknamed him "Coach K," the name often given to Duke basketball's head coach Mike Krzyzewski.

He told the group gathered in the East Room of the White House that he is "part of the vibrant Catholic community in the D.C. area," and added that "members of that community" disagree about many things, but we are united in our commitment to serve.

Kavanaugh said if he is chosen to be on the Supreme Court, he would "keep an open mind in every case" and "always strive to preserve the Constitution of the United States and the American rule of law."

Immediately after Justice Anthony Kennedy announced his retirement June 27, Trump said he would move quickly to nominate a replacement, saying that he "would review the list of candidates he had to fill the seat now held by Gorsuch after the death of Justice Antonin Scalia."

Kennedy is one of five Catholic justices on the Supreme Court along with Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito and Sonia Sotomayor.

Kavanaugh, 53, is a Yale Law School graduate who currently serves on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, where he has authored more than 280 opinions. He was part of Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's Whitewater investigation, which ultimately led to President Bill Clinton's impeachment by the House and acquittal by the Senate.

His biography on the court website notes that he is a regular lector at his church, the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Washington. He also volunteers for the St. Maria's Meals program at Catholic Charities, has coached Catholic Youth Organization sports, tutors at the Washington Jesuit Academy and belongs to the John Carroll Society, a group of Catholic lawyers and professionals.

He dissented from a recent ruling by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals that a teenager in an immigrant detention center was entitled to seek an abortion. He claimed the decision would give immigrant minors a right to "immediate abortion on demand," but urged the government to transfer her to private custody so she could do "as she wished."

Kavanaugh also dissented from a majority decision of the D.C. Circuit that rejected a request from the Archdiocese of Washington and Priests for Life to have the full court review their challenge to the Affordable Care Act's contraceptive mandate. He said that "the regulations substantially burden the religious organizations' exercise of religion because the regulations require the organizations to take an action contrary to their sincere religious beliefs."

But he also wrote that the government "has a compelling interest in facilitating access to contraception for the employees of these religious organizations and should achieve it in other ways."

Reaction to Kavanaugh's nomination was pretty much divided along party lines.

Sarah Pitlyk, Kavanaugh's former law clerk, praised Trump's selection. She is special counsel for the Thomas More Society, a national nonprofit law firm dedicated to causes related to social conservatives. He has repeatedly taken conservative stands and has fearlessly defended his textualist and originalist philosophy," she said in a July 10 statement.

"He is a good and decent man who will never waver in the face of pressure from any quarters. He is exactly what constitutionally conservative observers expect on the Supreme Court," she added.

The Catholic Democrats organization was not pleased with Trump's selection, saying that if he is confirmed, he would make the court "significantly more conservative."

In a July 10 statement, group members said they had "grave concerns" about Kavanaugh, primarily because he was on a list of 25 judges compiled by the Federalist Society, which the Catholic Democrats describe as a group that "advances a conservative ideology that dovetails with civil rights, labor rights, environmental protection, gun safety, and federalism while advancing business interests."

"No one can predict precisely how Judge Kavanaugh will vote, but the Federalist Society's stance on abortion and his judicial record tell us that he will likely advance a pro-business agenda at the expense of workers and the most vulnerable in our society," said James Roosevelt Jr., a board member of Catholic Democrats.

Initial reactions to Kavanaugh's nomination were somewhat muted from some who felt another top nominee, Barrett, would do more to overturn Roe v. Wade. The Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

The National Right to Life Committee tweeted a note of thanks to Trump after the nominee was announced, and the Susan B. Anthony List, a non-profit group that seeks to end abortion by supporting pro-life candidates, described Kavanaugh as an "outstanding choice."

‘Sterile hypocrisy’ behind mistreatment of migrants, pope says

BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Hearts that are closed to welcoming migrants and refugees are similar to those of the Pharisees, who often would preach sacrifice and follow God’s law without exercising mercy to those in need, Pope Francis said.

Jesus’ rebuke of the Pharisees’ “insidious murmuring” is “a fin... -

According to the Vatican, an estimated 200 migrants, refugees and rescue volunteers attended the Mass, which was celebrated at the altar of St. Peter’s Basilica. Pope Francis greeted each person present after the Mass ended.

In his homily, the pope recalled his visit to Lampedusa and repeated “that timeless appeal to human responsibility. ‘Where is your brother? His blood cries out to me.’"

Sadly, he said, “the response to this appeal, even if at times generous, has not been enough, and we continue to grieve thousands of deaths.”

The pope said that Jesus’ invitation to those “who labor” to find rest in Him is a promise of freedom for all who are oppressed. However, “He needs us to fulfill His promise."

“He needs our eyes to see the needs of our brothers and sisters. He needs our hands to offer them help. He needs our voice to protest the injustices committed recently serves on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, where he has authored more than 280 opinions. He was part of Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr’s Whitewater investigation, which ultimately led to President Bill Clinton’s impeachment by the House and acquittal by the Senate.

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