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# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 92 No. 29

50¢

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

## Clear response to abuse crisis is urgently needed, cardinal says

BY CAROL GLATZ



CNS photo/Paul Haring

**Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston, president of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, is pictured before a consistory in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican June 28. A U.S. priest, Father Boniface Ramsey, wrote to Cardinal O'Malley in 2015 regarding the alleged sexual abuse of seminarians by Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick. Cardinal O'Malley said he did not "personally receive" the letter but that a reply was made at the staff level that it "did not fall under the purview of the Commission or the Archdiocese of Boston."**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Responding quickly and appropriately to the problem of abuse must be a priority for the Catholic Church, said Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley, president of the Vatican's Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.

"Recent events in the Church have us all focused on the urgent need for a clear response on the part of the Church for the sexual abuse of minors" and vulnerable adults, he told *Vatican News* Sept. 9.

"Bringing the voice of survivors to leadership of the Church is crucial if people are going to have an understanding of how important it is for the Church to respond quickly and correctly anytime a situation of abuse may arise," he said.

The cardinal, who is the archbishop of Boston, spoke at the end of the papal commission's plenary assembly in Rome Sept. 7-9. Afterward, Cardinal O'Malley remained in Rome for the meeting Sept. 10-12 of Pope Francis' international Council of Cardinals.

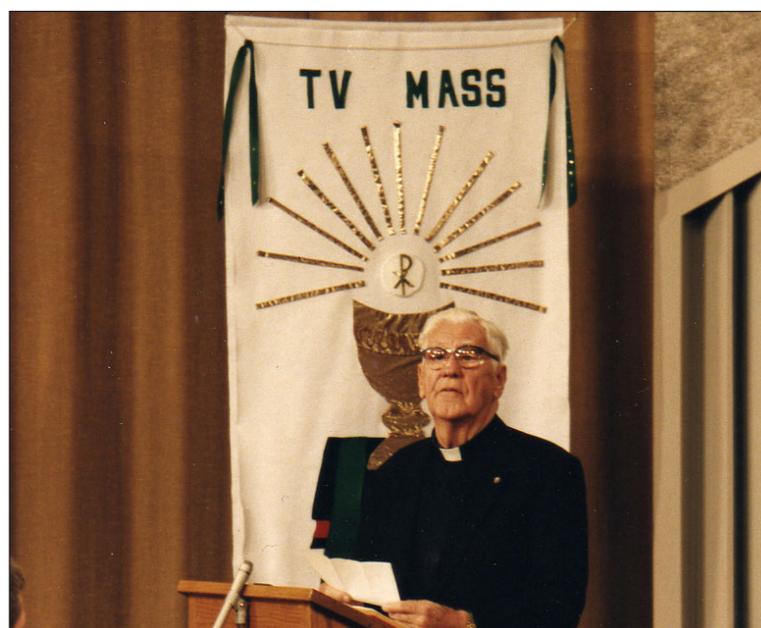
**RESPONSE, page 3**

## Diocese announces changes to TV Mass

FORT WAYNE — Since 1986, the sick and homebound of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend have been blessed by the locally produced diocesan TV Mass. It was a ministry started not as a replacement for Mass at one's parish, but rather to reach those in hospitals or nursing homes, and those who live alone or are unable to travel.

In recent years, with the increasing demands on priests at local parishes on Sunday mornings, scheduling celebrants for the local production has become increasingly difficult. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades is dedicated to continuing this ministry for those who depend on it, while at the same time relieving priests of the scheduling conflicts.

To accomplish these goals,



File photo

**Msgr. Edward Hession hosted and presided at the TV Mass in Fort Wayne from its inception in 1986 until he retired in 2000.**

Bishop Rhoades has made the decision to continue broadcasting a TV Mass on local channels in both Fort Wayne (WFFT-55) and South Bend (WNDU-16) at 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning, but to out-source its production. Beginning Sept. 23, the diocese will utilize a feed of the Mass from Saint Francis de Sales Seminary in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, called "Heart of the Nation Catholic Mass." This Mass also will be available online for those viewers who are accustomed to watching the livestream from the diocesan

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## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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# Why do we celebrate Catechetical Sunday?

The ministry of the word is a fundamental element of evangelization through all its stages, because it involves the proclamation of Jesus Christ, the eternal word of God. According to the National Directory for Catechesis, "The word of God nourishes both evangelizers and those who are being evangelized so that each one may continue to grow in his or her Christian life."

In 1935, the Vatican published "On the Better Care and Promotion of Catechetical Education," a document that asks every country to acknowledge the importance of the Church's teaching ministry and to honor those who serve the Christian community as catechists. For the first few years after Catechetical Sunday was established, national catechetical congresses were held in conjunction with the celebration. Beginning in 1971, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Department of Education began producing materials to help parishes celebrate the event at the local level. When the Committee on Catechesis, now named the Committee of Evangelization and Catechesis, was named by the conference as a standing committee, it continued to publish Catechetical Sunday materials each year.

The USCCB has designated the third Sunday in September as Catechetical Sunday. Those whom the community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel.

Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

**What does the word 'catechetical' mean?**

The word might be more familiar than you think. Many Catholics have used the word "catechism" for years, and they know it has something to do with the compendium of the Church's teachings. The root word, "catechesis," is from a Greek word meaning "to echo, or resound." Catechesis is the act of resounding or bringing the Church's teachings to the world. A catechist is one who teaches in the name of the Church.

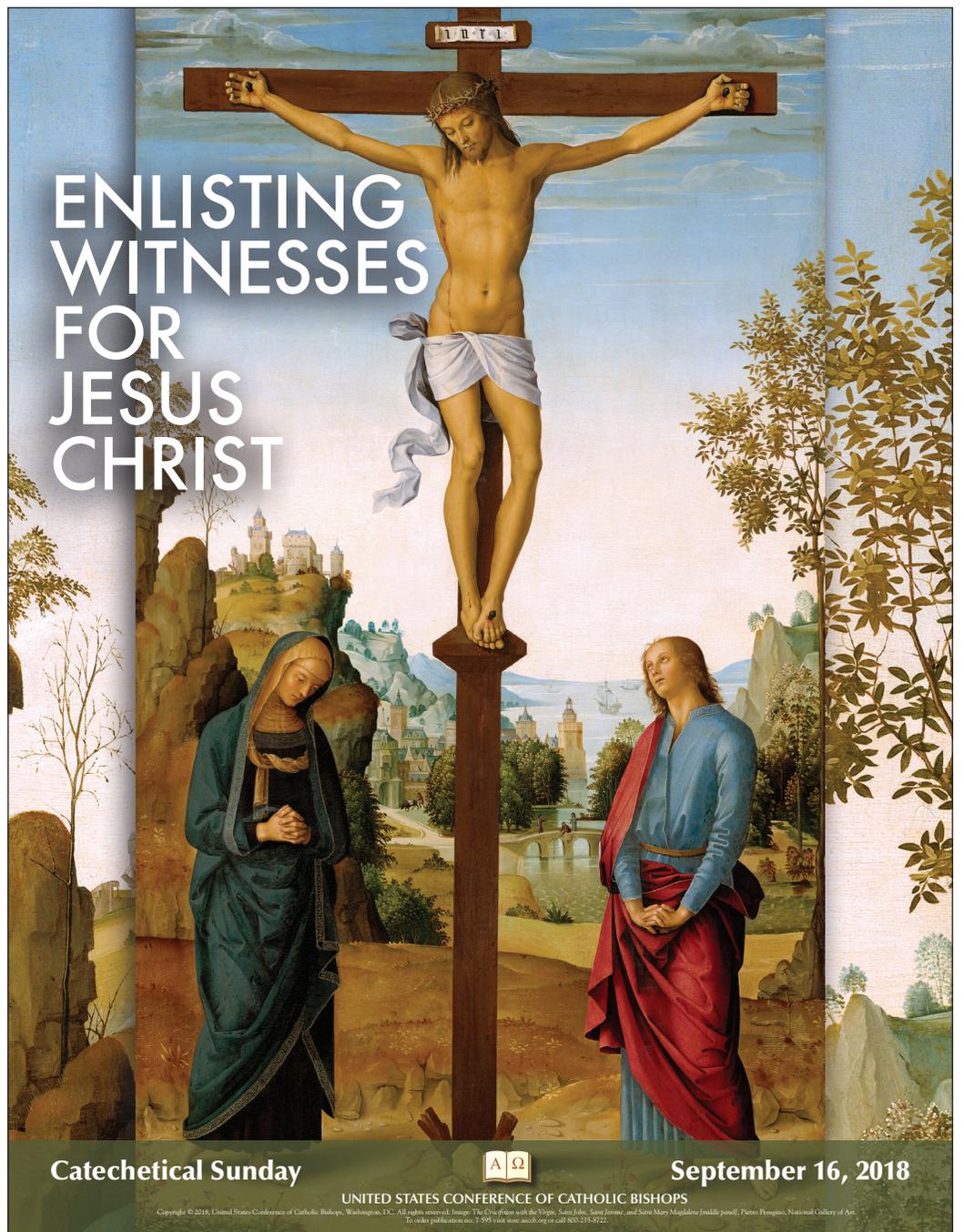
**Why is there a special day to commission catechists?**

Catechesis is a distinct and special ministry in the Church. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church makes clear, "Catechesis is intimately bound up with the whole of the Church's life ... her inner growth and correspondence with God's plan depend essentially on catechesis." This ministry of teaching in the name of the Church has a profound dignity, which is why catechists are formally commissioned by the Church. It is only fitting that a day be set aside a day to highlight this ministry and invite the entire Church community to think about our responsibility to share our faith with others.

**How are parents recognized on Catechetical Sunday?**

Parents are truly the primary catechists of their children. They prepare the soil and plant the first seeds of faith. On Catechetical Sunday, the Church not only highlights the work of catechists in parishes and schools, but also commends parents and guardians and encourages them to take seriously their role of making their Catholic households a place where faith is passed on to the next generation. This is why the rite of blessing of catechists used on Catechetical Sunday includes an optional blessing of parents and guardians.

— Information provided by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops



## A Catechist's Prayer

Father of all families, you have called me to serve the family in truth and love as a catechist. May I be faithful to this call, rooted in your Word, and open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

May I use these gifts, especially the gifts of faith, hope, and love, to serve the family as a witness to you, who are love and life and the source and destiny of all families.

Let your Spirit enlighten my mind and strengthen my heart so that I can be a path of Christ's love to families, especially those in need, the homebound and aged, the disabled and disheartened.

Through the intercession of Mary and Joseph, I pray for the Church, the Bride of Christ, whose mission to build a civilization of love passes through the family.

Amen.

# As abuse crisis continues, pope to meet with USCCB officers

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis was to meet Sept. 13 with Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and with Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston, president of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, the Vatican press office announced.

Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, vice president of the USCCB, and Msgr. J. Brian Bransfield, general secretary of the conference, also will participate in the meeting, said Greg Burke, director of the Vatican press office.

Cardinal DiNardo had said in a statement Aug. 16 that he was requesting a meeting at the Vatican following the release of the Pennsylvania grand jury report on the mishandling of hundreds of cases of sexual abuse in six dioceses and after news was released that allegations of child sexual abuse committed by Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick, the former cardinal-archbishop of Washington, were found credible.

The USCCB Executive Committee, Cardinal DiNardo had said, met recently and estab-



CNS/L'Osservatore Romano

**Pope Francis greets Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, during a private meeting in 2017 at the Vatican. Pope Francis agreed to meet Sept. 13 with Cardinal DiNardo and with Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston, president of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, the Vatican press office announced Sept. 11.**

lished three goals: "an investigation into the questions surrounding Archbishop McCarrick; an opening of new and confidential channels for reporting complaints against bishops; and advocacy for more effective resolution of future complaints."

Achieving the goals, he had said, would involve "consultation with experts, laity and clergy, as well as the Vatican. We will present this plan to the full body of bishops in our November meeting. In addition, I will travel to Rome to present these goals and criteria to the Holy See, and to urge further concrete steps based on them."

"The overarching goal in all of this," he had said, "is stronger protections against predators in the church and anyone who would conceal them, protections that will hold bishops to the highest standards of transparency and accountability."

## RESPONSE, from page 1

Cardinal O'Malley told *Vatican News* that in cases of abuse "if the Church is unable to respond wholeheartedly and make this a priority, all of our other activities of evangelization, works of mercy, education are all going to suffer. This must be the priority that we concentrate on right now."

The pontifical commission, he explained, is an advisory body set up to make recommendations to the pope and to develop and offer guidelines, best practices and formation to Church leaders throughout the world, including bishops' conferences, religious orders and offices in the Roman Curia.

The commission is not an investigative body and does not deal with past abuses or current allegations, but its expert-members try, through education, leadership training and advocacy, to "change the future so that it will not be a repeat of the sad history" the Church has experienced, he said.

"There are other dicasteries of the Holy See that have the responsibility for dealing with the cases and dealing with individual circumstances of abuse or

negligence on the part of authority, and our commission cannot be held accountable for their activities," he said.

Most allegations of clerical sexual abuse are handled through the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Commission members, however, have spoken with officials at various Vatican offices, including the doctrinal congregation. For those meetings, Cardinal O'Malley said he always brings a survivor with him "to talk to them about the Church's mission of safeguarding, and I think those (moments) have been very

successful."

Safeguarding training for bishops, priests and religious around the world is meant to help them become "aware of the seriousness" of abuse and negligence, "to be equipped to be able to respond" and to be able "to put the safeguarding of children and the pastoral care of victims as their priority," said the cardinal.

A critical part of building awareness, he said, has been making the voice of survivors be heard directly by leadership. Every year when new bishops attend a course in Rome, the

commission also addresses the group.

Cardinal O'Malley said he usually invites former commission member, Marie Collins — a survivor of Irish clerical sex abuse — to speak to the new bishops "so that they can hear directly from someone who has experienced this horror in their own life, to explain to them the consequences and repercussions for the individual, their family and the whole community."

Even though Collins was unable to attend this year, she made "a wonderful video" that the cardinal shared with the approximately 200 bishops appointed in the past year, he said.

Year after year, the cardinal said, "so many bishops have come up to me and told me that Marie Collins' testimony was the most important conference that they had heard during their entire week of conferences for the new bishops." That is why, he said, it is so crucial for the voices of survivors to be heard by leaders if they are ever to understand the importance of responding quickly and appropriately.

The cardinal also mentioned a number of new initiatives and resources the commission has been working on, such as special auditing instruments for bishops' conferences to measure the implementation and compliance of safeguarding policies as well as the idea of setting up "survivor advisory panels" in different countries to advise local bishops and the papal commission.

*A critical part of building awareness, he said, has been making the voice of survivors be heard directly by leadership.*

## Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades to celebrate Masses for married couples celebrating their 25th, 50th or 60th Wedding Jubilees

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate anniversary Masses at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, on Oct. 7 at 11 a.m. and at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, on Oct. 21 at 11:30 a.m.

Ticketed receptions will follow both Masses. The Fort Wayne reception will take place at St. Mary Parish — only a couple of blocks from the cathedral. In South Bend, it will be at the St. Matthew School gym. Anniversary couples will receive two free tickets to the reception. Additional tickets for family members may be purchased before the registration deadline, for \$10 each. Register online at [www.diocesefwsb.org/family](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/family) or by calling TheaMarie at (574) 234-0687.

When registering, please include both spouses' names, a mailing address, phone number, wedding date, the Mass you plan to attend and any family members or friends who plan to attend for the reception. South Bend registrations must be made by Friday, Sept. 28. Fort Wayne registrations must be made by Friday, Oct. 12.



# Buildings, operating expenses top list of uses for ABA overages

BY JANET PATTERSON

Sometimes a financial windfall means a grand construction project can begin; sometimes it just means being able to pay bills without stress. It's the same for parishes that go over their Annual Bishop's Appeal goal.

Every year, each of the 81 parishes in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is assigned an appeal goal based on its annual offertory collection and previous giving to the appeal, said Jeff Boetticher, head of the Secretariat for Stewardship and Development. "If a parish gets behind the appeal and exceeds its goal, both the diocese and the parish benefit," he continued.

All ABA funds collected above and beyond the set goal are then returned to the parish for use as its members and leadership see fit. In 2017, the appeal returned a total of \$1.6 million to parishes that had collected more than their goals.

The 10 parishes exceeding their goals by the largest amount included large parishes like St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Fort Wayne and St. Pius X in Granger, as well as smaller parishes like St. Gaspar del Bufalo in Rome City and St. Louis, Besancon in New Haven.

According to Father Benjamin Muhlenkamp, pastor at St. Louis, Besancon, the nearly \$69,000 that the parish collected over its 2017 goal went toward a \$1.7 million building project.

"Rather than a capital campaign, we planned to use our



Provided by Ann Britzke

All money raised above a parish's yearly Annual Bishop's Appeal goal is returned directly to that parish to fund self-determined priorities. At Elkhart's St. Thomas the Apostle Parish last year, that priority was to relieve some of the cost of operating St. Thomas the Apostle School. Above, older and younger students at the school work together to plant a garden.

coverage for the project," he said. Five new classrooms and meeting space are the result of the parish's enthusiasm for the Annual Bishop's Appeal.

"Anything over our 2018 goal will again go toward paying off the debt for the project," Father Muhlenkamp added.

At St. Thomas the Apostle in Elkhart, a \$47,065 overage helped with operational costs of the parish school, which edu-

cates more than 200 students.

The \$50,463 above goal raised at St. John the Baptist in New Haven helped the parish expand its commitment to youth ministry, as well as to put something in reserve for unexpected expenses, explained Father Bill Sullivan, the pastor.

"The people in the parish believe in this very much. They want to help the parish and the diocese.

"We've made a commitment

to youth ministry. We started with high school and have added middle school to that ministry."

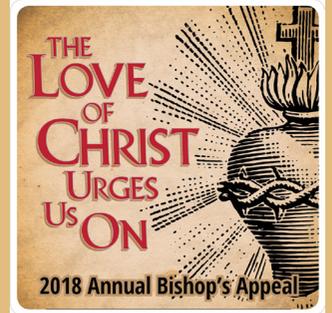
He said he someday hopes that the parish's continued enthusiastic support of the Annual Bishop's Appeal will mean making youth ministry a full-time position on the parish staff.

"We also put aside money for repairs since things can come up that are unexpected."

Father Sullivan said the parish of approximately 650 registered families is consistently supportive of the annual appeal.

"I'm grateful that whether we reach our goal or not, the people of the parish want to do something to support the diocese."

Also included in the top parishes to exceed last year's goals



**New Annual Bishop's Appeal website**

Watch this year's Annual Bishop's Appeal Video to find out

- What the appeal funds benefit
- How to donate

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

were St. Charles Borromeo, Our Lady of Good Hope and St. Vincent de Paul, all in Fort Wayne, as well as St. Joseph in South Bend.

The 2018 goal for Annual Bishop's Appeal is \$5,436,859 to support ministries and programs throughout the diocese. Money from the Annual Bishop's Appeal supports programs that benefit diocesanwide programs in the areas of charity and pastoral ministry, evangelization, education and formation as well as clergy support.

Before the creation of the Annual Bishop's Appeal in 1987, parishes were assessed a 13 percent tax on all parish income. That tax was used to fund the work of the diocese. With the creation of the appeal, the tax was reduced to 6 percent on a parish's Sunday collections.

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# Parish program models the call to be missionary disciples

BY MEGAN GETTINGER

The Lord often plants desires in the hearts of those He calls that do not bloom immediately but come to fruition at the time and place ordained in His perfect will. The Parish Missionary Program at St. Thérèse, Little Flower Parish, South Bend, is the fruit of such desires.

While serving on the National Evangelization Team in 2011 Abby Kyle, now the director of evangelization at Little Flower, was drawn to a model used for ministering to parishes. Discipleship teams were sent to parishes for three-year terms, during which time they built up youth ministry programming and, more importantly, sought out the youth of the parish, inviting them to grow in love with Christ and to engage in the life of the Church.

The missionaries' witness of wholeheartedly living and serving the Gospel is essential for the transmission of the faith, since it is one that all baptized Christians are meant to embrace in their own lives. In the apostolic exhortation, "Evangelii Gaudium," Pope Francis writes: "In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. Mt 28:19). All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization ... Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are 'disciples' and 'missionaries', but rather that we are always 'missionary disciples.'"

Inspired by the NET model and Pope Francis' call to missionary discipleship, Kyle's desire to form a missionary program grew deeper and she discerned how to adapt the discipleship



Megan Gettinger

Jessica Kline is the first participant in a parish missionary program at St. Thérèse, Little Flower, South Bend.

team model to best serve the community at Little Flower. From her background both as a NET missionary and as a youth minister, Kyle knew that peer-to-peer ministry can be very fruitful and effective, and that having a team of missionaries dedicated to personal discipleship with the youth would bless not only the teens but the entire parish as well. Little by little, the missionary program began to take shape.

Meanwhile in Milan, Indiana, Jessica Kline was discerning how God was asking her to put her desire to serve as a missionary to use for His glory. Kline was preparing to participate in a year of missionary service immediately following her high school graduation, but the plan fell through. She understood this to be God's way of saying, "Not just yet."

Kline attended Ball State University, where she studied elementary education with a focus in psychology. At Ball State

she became actively involved in the Newman Center, serving on the retreat planning team and growing more deeply in her faith.

In August 2017, at the beginning of her senior year of college, Kline traveled to Mishawaka for a friend's formal entrance into the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration. Afterward she met Kyle, who was personally inviting the Ball State students present to consider serving as parish missionaries. Kline's desire to do mission work was confirmed by Kyle's invitation, "No real effort was required

on my part," said Kline. "God dropped the opportunity right in my lap and all I did was say 'thank you!'"

After five weeks of training and formation, Kline was officially commissioned by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades during the 9:30 a.m. Mass at Little Flower on Sunday, Sept. 2.

The bishop began the rite by praying a blessing over her: "Lord, bless your servant Jessica ... make her words the echo of Christ's voice so that those who hear them may be drawn to obey the Gospel. Fill the heart of your missionary

with the Holy Spirit ..." Next, he blessed a crucifix which he then presented to Kline to venerate. "Jessica, receive this sign of Christ's love and of our faith, preach Christ crucified, who is the power and wisdom of God."

Kline will keep the crucifix as a reminder of her ultimate purpose during this year of service: to boldly radiate Christ's love to all the members of Little Flower Parish.

She is excited to serve the youth of Little Flower, and especially to share with them her love for the liturgy. "If we can get them invested in Jesus Himself, present in the Eucharist, then a life of prayer and service will naturally flow from that." She is also looking forward to learning as much as she can about the role of a youth minister and the day-to-day operations of a parish.

The 22-year-old wants to encourage any young people who feel that they are being called to missionary work. "Be courageous!" she said. "Listen to the Lord, be still and hear what He has to say to you." Following this pilot year, which Father Terrence Coonan Jr., pastor of Little Flower, has called "our mustard seed year," there will be opportunities for up to four young adults to volunteer as yearlong missionaries.

The program is a witness to all the baptized members of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, reminding everyone to embrace their call to be missionary disciples.

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# NEWS BRIEFS

## Prelates in Austria, Germany offer support to Pope Francis

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Prelates in Germany and Austria have united to support Pope Francis in response to a former papal nuncio's demand for his resignation. In Austria, Cardinal Christoph Schönborn of Vienna published a column Sept. 7 in the weekly newspaper *Heute* with a strong message backing the pope, calling the pontiff a "fighter against injustice and exploitation" who "stands against sexual abuse in the church with great determination. This criticism comes from circles in the Church who want to get rid of this pope as soon as possible," said Cardinal Schönborn, leveling criticism at unnamed Vatican officials. He said the pontiff's opponents are exploiting the opportunity to criticize him during a time when he is experiencing difficult days. "I thank God for such a compelling shepherd," the Austrian cardinal concluded. "Thank you, Papa Francesco!" The cardinal's comments follow a call by Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, former papal nuncio to the United States, for Pope Francis to resign for allegedly ignoring sanctions Pope Benedict XVI had placed on then-Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick for sexual misconduct.

## New York latest to launch probe of Church sex abuse records

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The New York State Office of the Attorney General is the latest to announce that it is launching an investigation of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic Church clergy, sending out subpoenas on Sept. 6 seeking documents from the state's eight dioceses. In a press release, the agency said it was seeking "a civil investigation into how the dioceses and other church entities — which are nonprofit institutions — reviewed and potentially covered up allegations of extensive sexual abuse of minors." Of New York's eight dioceses, which include Albany, Buffalo, New York, Brooklyn, Ogdensburg, Rochester, Rockville Centre and Syracuse, four have confirmed to Catholic News Service they received subpoenas. In conjunction, the state's Attorney General, Barbara D. Underwood, announced a hotline, specifically for those who may have been abused by clergy in New York. Joseph Zwilling, director of communications for the Archdiocese of New York, said in a Sept. 6 email to Catholic News Service that "while we have just received a subpoena, it is not a surprise to us that the Attorney General would look to begin a civil investigation, and she will find the Archdiocese of New York, and the other seven dioceses in the state, ready and eager to work together with her in the investigation."

## Pope: Teachers need parents' trust, appreciation



CNS photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis greets people during an audience with members and guests of the Italian Parents' Association in Paul VI hall at the Vatican Sept. 7. Speaking to hundreds of parents, he said that without respectfully collaborating with teachers and schools, parents will risk being on their own when it comes to educating their children and be at a greater disadvantage for facing the challenges emerging from today's culture, mass media and technology.

## Letter confirms Vatican officials knew of McCarrick allegations in 2000

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A top official from the Vatican Secretariat of State acknowledged allegations made by a New York priest in 2000 concerning Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick, according to a letter obtained by Catholic News Service. Father Boniface Ramsey, pastor of St. Joseph's Church Yorkville in New York City, told CNS Sept. 7 that he received the letter dated Oct. 11, 2006, from then-Archbishop Leonardo Sandri, the former Vatican substitute for general affairs, asking for information regarding a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark who studied at Immaculate Conception Seminary and was being vetted for a post at a Vatican office. He made the letter available to CNS. Then-Archbishop Sandri wrote to Father Ramsey, "I ask with particular reference to the serious matters involving some of the students of the Immaculate Conception Seminary, which in

November 2000 you were good enough to bring confidentially to the attention of the then Apostolic Nuncio in the United States, the late Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo." Father Ramsey had been on the faculty of the seminary from 1986 to 1996 and had sent a letter in 2000 to Archbishop Montalvo informing him of complaints he heard from seminarians studying at the seminary, located in South Orange, New Jersey. In the letter, Father Ramsey told CNS, "I complained about McCarrick's relationships with seminarians and the whole business with sleeping with seminarians and all of that; the whole business that everyone knows about," Father Ramsey said.

## Cardinal Tobin addresses immigration, abuse scandal at Notre Dame lecture

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (CNS) — The Catholic Church in the United States is living through two storms, a U.S. cardinal observed. He said there is the policy of "zero

tolerance" toward undocumented immigrants, which has plunged communities into fear, and the Holy Spirit working "like a hurricane" to smash structures of clericalism through the current clergy sexual abuse crisis. Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, devoted his remarks in the Aug. 30 lecture at the University of Notre Dame to immigration, discussing the impacts of a corrosive political discourse and secularism and drawing on Pope Francis' teaching on the dangers of societies driven by money and social exclusion. But the question-and-answer period following his remarks focused heavily on the abuse crisis in the Church. On both issues, Cardinal Tobin said Catholics are asking how we got to this point. Anti-immigrant sentiment, he said in his remarks, "is but one highly visible manifestation of the overall harsh, merciless edge we are so quick to apply to our discourse." He added that this harshness has animated the Trump administration's hardline immigration policies, which he said sadly fit "the current zero-sum nature of our politics."

## Indian Church displeased with ruling legalizing same-sex relationships

NEW DELHI (CNS) — India's Supreme Court ruled in a landmark judgment that homosexual acts between consenting adults are no longer a crime, but Church officials said that legal validity does not make such practices morally acceptable. The court on Sept. 6 struck down a section of the Indian Penal Code that said homosexual acts in public or private were a crime punishable with a jail term of up to 10 years, ucanews.com reported. The colonial-era law criminalizing consensual unnatural sex was irrational, indefensible and manifestly arbitrary, the court said. But sexual activity with animals and non-adults remains a punishable offense under the ruling. In a statement, a Catholic Bishops' Conference of India representative said that although homosexual acts are now legalized, they are not morally acceptable or justified. "What is legal is not equal to moral acceptability," said the statement issued by Father Stephen Fernandes, secretary to the bishops' justice, peace and development office.

## Attorney General asks Nebraska dioceses for sex abuse records

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Archdiocese of Omaha said it intends to cooperate with a request from the Nebraska Attorney General's office to review its "investigative records" as state officials pursue information concerning sex abuse in the state's three Catholic dioceses. State officials made similar requests of the Diocese of Lincoln and Grand Island. A Sept. 5 press release from the Diocese of Omaha says the request was made for records going back 40 years, to Jan. 1, 1978. "We welcome accountability in our community," said Archbishop George J. Lucas of Omaha. "The truth is good for everyone. I see this as a real moment of grace." The *Omaha World-Herald* newspaper reported on Sept. 5 that Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson had asked for documents relating to "diocesan investigations of claims of sexual exploitation, including incidents of child pornography or 'sexual communication with another person given authority by the diocese to carry out church functions.'" In a Sept. 5 phone interview with Catholic News Service, Suzanne Gage, director of communications for the Nebraska Attorney General, said the office doesn't comment on ongoing investigations but because of the office's history of investigating and prosecuting child abuse and child sexual assault, "this current matter is consistent with that responsibility."

## Confraternity of Penitents retreat

HUNTINGTON — “The Spirituality of Padre Pio” is the theme for the annual Confraternity of Penitents-sponsored retreat, held at St. Felix Catholic Retreat Center, 1280 Hitzfield St., Huntington, from Oct. 4-8.

The retreat master, Father Pio Mandato, FMHSJ, is a Franciscan hermit from the Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania. He is also a distant relative of St. Padre Pio and he knew Padre Pio personally as a child. Father Pio's mother was one of Padre Pio's spiritual daughters. Father Pio will share both personal memories and his own insights into Padre Pio's spirituality. Cost for those staying overnight is \$195 plus \$15 worth of food to share or \$15 toward food costs. This includes all meals and overnight accommodations. Commuter cost is \$60 plus \$15 of food or paper goods, or \$15 toward costs of food and paper goods.

The retreat includes daily Mass, conferences, full Divine Office and time for private prayer and reflection. Sunday includes participation in the national rosary rally and talk by a Poor Clare nun.

To reserve a spot, please contact Madeline Nugent, CFP, at 260-739-6882 or bspenance@hotmail.com. A \$50 deposit is requested, which will be applied to the total fee.

## USF Philosophy/Theology Fall Lecture Series

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis presents its 2018-19 fall lecture series sponsored by the Department of Philosophy and Theology and the USF School of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The opening lecture on Thursday, Sept. 13, “How to Read Plato,” will be presented by Dr. Lewis Pearson at 12:30 p.m. Pearson will provide some general principles of approach and interpretation to help readers understand Plato's dialogues and dispel common misconceptions about the ancient philosopher.

The second lecture, on Oct. 4 at 7 p.m., will be presented by Father David Meinzen, who will speak on the topic: “Visual Pilgrimage to the Heart of Assisi at the Heart of Our Campus: The Theology Behind the Art and Architecture of the New Oratory of Saint Francis.” The presentation will take place inside the new oratory, where Father Meinzen will conduct a walk-through as he shares the multifaceted significance of its location, historic architecture and iconic imagery, and gives some sneak previews of visual treasures yet to come.

Robert Grosseteste used poetry and castle imagery to promote Church reform. From his “Castle of Love” poem, Sister Felicity Dorsett, OSF, assistant professor

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Learning with Dr. Seuss



Provided by Marcy Balderas

Students in the third grade at St. Matthew Cathedral School in South Bend began the new school year with a lesson from Dr. Seuss. The students read and discussed “Horton Hears a Who!” and made a craft based on an illustration from the book.

of theology, will discuss the role of Mary and the “four daughters of God” from Psalm 85 — Kindness, Truth, Justice and Peace — on Nov. 11 at 3 p.m.

“When Does Eternity Begin?” is a question that will be discussed by Dr. Earl Kumfer at 3 p.m. on Dec. 16. Christians believe that Jesus' resurrection is more than proof of His teaching being true, or of His divinity. When does resurrection occur? What is it that is resurrected?

Unless otherwise noted, all lectures will take place in the Brookside Ballroom on the main campus of the University of Saint Francis, 2701 Spring St., Fort Wayne. They are free and open to the public. For additional information, contact Angie Springer at 260-399-7700 ext. 8100 or aspringer@sf.edu, or visit philosophy.sf.edu/lecture-series.

## Ancilla College inaugurates 10th president

DONALDSON — On Aug. 22, along with the opening convocation that is traditionally held during the first week of classes, Ancilla College students witnessed the inauguration of Dr. Michele Dvorak, PHJC, as the college's 10th president. In addition to the

students, faculty and staff, as well as the sisters of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, special guests included Mayor Mark Senter of Plymouth; Sister Elise Kriss, OSF, of the University of Saint Francis; Dr. Daniel Lowery and Mary Severa of Calumet College of St. Joseph; Dr. David Wantz of Independent Colleges of Indiana; and several former presidents of Ancilla College.

In her address, Dvorak introduced a pilot program being offered this semester. “We have begun an ‘Earn and Learn’ initiative wherein 10 students receive a scholarship for \$1,000 per semester in exchange for work here on the campus.” Not only will they receive the money toward tuition, but students also will receive three credit hours as the work they will be doing will align with the degrees they are working toward. The success of this program will then be evaluated in order to grow it in the future.

Dvorak also introduced a new vision for the college. “Ancilla College in the past has transformed itself in many ways,” she said. “In spending time thinking and studying, it appears that Ancilla and this entire campus are already on a path that moves us forward.” She pointed out initiatives that the ministries at The Center at Donaldson have undertaken in the past, including a geo-

thermal climate control system, wind turbines, solar panels, and 30 acres of organic farm fields. “There appears to be a tilt and a drift toward protecting the environment and for reducing our carbon footprint,” she said. “Ancilla College can collaborate on this existing direction. We can engage in research projects, develop academic programs that engage students in integral ecology. This is consistent with Catholic social teaching ... care of the environment.”

Ancilla College, founded in 1937, is a small, private, liberal arts school offering associate degrees in over two dozen academic programs and intercollegiate athletics at its campus near Plymouth. It is a sponsored ministry of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, part of The Center at Donaldson.

## Wedding anniversary Masses Oct. 7, Oct. 21

FORT WAYNE — Couples observing their 25th, 50th or 60th wedding anniversary in 2018 are invited to affirm and celebrate their commitment during one of two jubilee Masses that will be celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades this fall. Family members and friends also are encouraged to accompany their loved

ones in attendance.

The first anniversary Mass will take place Sunday, Oct. 7, at 11 a.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral, 1701 Miami St., South Bend. A ticketed reception will follow at the school gym. The second anniversary Mass will take place Sunday, Oct. 21, at 11:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 1122 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne. A ticketed reception will follow at St. Mary, Mother of God Parish, 1101 S. Lafayette St., Fort Wayne.

To register for either Mass and reception, visit [www.diocesefwsb.org/Family-And-Pro-Life](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/Family-And-Pro-Life).

For questions, or to register by phone, contact TheaMarie Burns at (574) 234-0687 or [tmburns@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:tmburns@diocesefwsb.org).

## ‘Come and See’ the Sisters of Providence

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS, Ind. — “It was a great way to get to know people and prayerfully explore where I was at that point in my life,” Sister Emily TeKolste said.

Sister Emily took part in her first Come and See Weekend Retreat with the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, two years before entering the congregation. She said the experience was well worth it.

“I felt like I connected really well with the sisters even though I came away from the retreat thinking it wasn't right at the time,” she said. “But to be honest, I walked in and was immediately overcome with awkwardness. I wondered what I had gotten myself into.”

Sister Emily said she had two memorable experiences with other sisters during the weekend that left a lasting impression on her. The two sisters made her feel like she was part of the community.

“I'm grateful for those experiences because they helped me to realize both gradually and through moments of clarity what my next steps needed to be,” she said, “and I was able to build the relationships that formed the foundation for when I finally did enter community.”

The Sisters of Providence Come and See Weekend Retreat will take place Oct. 26-28 at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Spend time with sisters in prayer, ask the younger sisters questions and get to know about the order's founder, St. Mother Theodore Guerin, all while exploring where God may be calling you.

The retreat is free and is for single, Catholic women, ages 18-42. Learn more or register at [ComeandSee.SistersofProvidence.org](http://ComeandSee.SistersofProvidence.org).

# Diocesan seminarian to be ordained to the diaconate in Rome

BY MEGAN GETTINGER

Spenser St. Louis, along with as many as 45 other seminarians from dioceses across the United States and Australia, will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacon in Rome on Sept. 27. "I am really excited," St. Louis commented fervently. "After so many years of seminary, this is the last culminating step before priestly ordination. As a deacon I will get to serve the Church in a new way and come to know Christ in a deeper way by serving Him, especially through the sacraments that I will be participating in more intimately."

While the faith has always been a central part of his life, St. Louis identifies his freshman year in high school as a pivotal point in his discernment process. At the Eucharistic Congress held in 2007, St. Louis attended a talk entitled "Surviving the Dating Game" by Father Daniel Scheidt. After speaking about how many of the teens present would be called to the vocation of marriage, Father Scheidt singled out one young woman and one young man, asking them if they had ever considered religious life or the priesthood; St. Louis was that young man.

This experience led St. Louis to seriously consider the possibility that he could, in fact, be called to the priesthood. He began the process of prayerful,



SPENSER ST. LOUIS

intentional discernment, often echoing the favorite prayer of Bishop John M. D'Arcy, "Lord, what is your will for me?"

St. Louis understood the peace that he experienced throughout his discernment to mean that it was God's will for him to enter seminary. As he concluded his collegiate studies, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades invited him to complete the remainder of his priestly formation at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. St. Louis eagerly accepted.

"It has been exciting to be studying in the heart of the Church with the history of the Church surrounding me," he reflected, about his time spent studying and serving in Rome thus far.

While first-year deacons are traditionally assigned to assist



File photo

**Spenser St. Louis is pictured shortly after arriving at Pontifical North American College, Rome, in 2015 for seminary studies. He will be ordained to the diaconate on Sept. 27.**

at parishes during the academic year, St. Louis's current assignment is to minister to the students who are in Rome as part of the University of Notre Dame's study-abroad program. He has enjoyed interacting with them and hopes that their shared experiences of God, country and Notre Dame will provide opportunities for ministry and connec-

tion. "The hardest part for me is definitely being away from home," St. Louis commented. "I have been blessed with so much support in my home diocese: my family, and the priests I look to as role models."

When asked how the lay faithful of the diocese can best support seminarians, St. Louis

decisively replied, "Remember us in prayer!"

He recalled an email from a previous rector to all the seminarians in which "he urged us to remember, in our lowest moments, in the most difficult struggles, the prayers of those at home; (and) call on them as a wellspring of support and grace." St. Louis said he especially takes great comfort in knowing that each seminarian has been assigned a day of the month by the diocese on which the faithful are invited to pray in a particular way for one individual and his vocation to the priesthood. "It can be so encouraging to receive an email or a note from someone saying they remembered me in prayer," St. Louis commented appreciatively.

Studying and serving alongside his class of 60 at the Pontifical North American College has afforded St. Louis the opportunity to see firsthand how God is working through priestly vocations in the United States. "God is truly alive in His Church," he said.

At the heart of St. Louis's discernment, study and ministry is a desire to one day return and serve the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, which has continually supported his vocation. St. Louis also hopes to encourage all young Catholic men to be open to the possibility of a priestly vocation, to learn to listen for God's call and to boldly take action if they hear a similar call.

# Mexican mothers of the disappeared to receive Notre Dame Award

NOTRE DAME — The University of Notre Dame will give the 2018 Notre Dame Award to the Colectivo Solecito de Veracruz, a group of mothers in Mexico's gulf state of Veracruz organized to search for their missing loved ones in the face of criminal violence and state inactivity.

In announcing the award, Notre Dame's president, Rev. John I. Jenkins, CSC, said the university is recognizing the group's "tireless efforts on behalf of the families of victims, its heroic witness to human dignity and its service to the noble cause of justice itself."

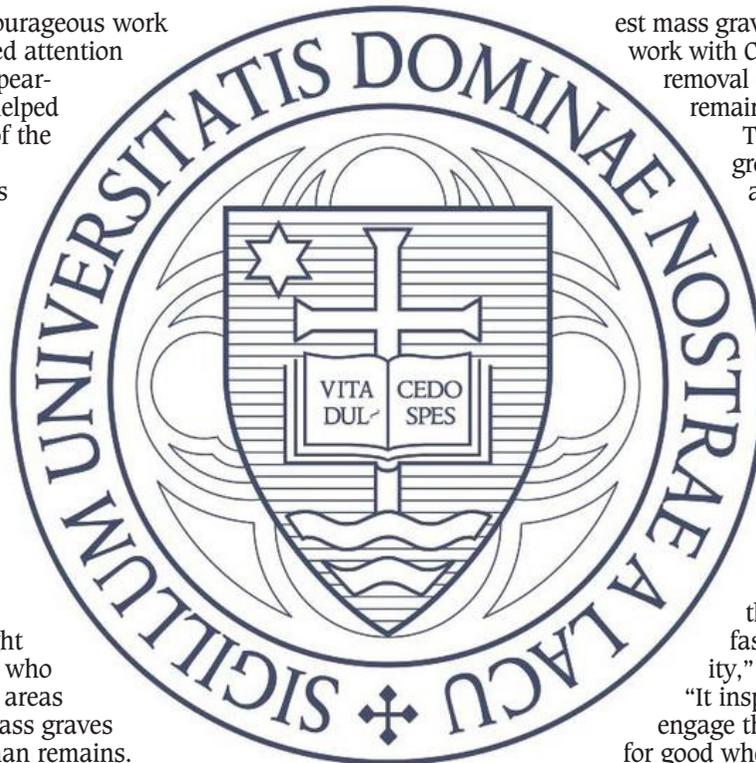
Previous recipients of the Notre Dame Award have included President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter, Mother Theresa, John Hume of Northern Ireland, Vinko Cardinal Puljic, Archbishop of Sarajevo, and most recently, Judge Sergio Moro of Brazil. This is the first time the award will be presented to a Mexican individual or group.

"The previous recipients, each in their own way, have been pillars of conscience and integrity," said Father Jenkins, who will present the award Oct. 16 in Mexico City. "The University of Notre Dame recognizes that

the Colectivo's courageous work has drawn needed attention to victims' disappearances, and has helped to relieve some of the suffering visited upon the families of the victims of such intolerable violence. The Colectivo has made a marked difference for all Mexicans and for humankind at-large in our universal thirst for justice."

Colectivo Solecito de Veracruz started as a group of eight mothers in 2014 who decided to dig in areas rumored to be mass graves in search of human remains. They raised the funds needed to pay for the searches and initially received no help or recognition from the state government or justice system in Veracruz.

Then in 2016, the group received a huge tip from an organized crime source: a map depicting the exact locations of more



than 120 clandestine graves in an area of Veracruz city known as Colinas de Santa Fe. The group's search so far has led to some 300 bodies and thousands of fragments of remains. With the discovery of one of Mexico's larg-

est mass graves, authorities now work with Colectivo Solecito in removal once they encounter remains.

There are many such groups of families around the country searching for their loved ones. Colectivo Solecito right now is emblematic of this national plight because of the magnitude of the graves in Veracruz, and the group's demand that state authorities respond.

"We recognize the Colectivo's steadfast faith and tenacity," Father Jenkins said. "It inspires our students to engage the world as forces for good when confronted with injustice and suffering."

The award will be presented during a one-day conference on The Challenges of Transitional Justice in Mexico organized by the University of Notre Dame in Mexico City. Convening a group of Notre Dame faculty, international practitioners, members

from the incoming Mexican government, groups of victims and their families, international and Mexican scholars and members of Mexican civil society, the conference will explore how a process of truth, justice and reconciliation for the victims of the country's 12-year drug war may be implemented.

Casualties include over 130,000 homicides related to criminal conflicts, more than 30,000 disappearances, some forced, and more than 320,000 displaced people to date. Authorities in general have turned a blind eye to these abuses, and in some cases have been perpetrators. As a result, the push for Mexico to deal with its human rights abuses has come from civil society and groups like Colectivo Solecito, which have decided to take the search for the missing into their own hands.

The Notre Dame Award was first given in 1992 and recently was revived to honor the "women and men whose life and deeds have shown exemplary dedication to the ideals for which the University stands: faith, inquiry, education, justice, public service, peace and care for the most vulnerable."

# Women's retreat offers chance to 'rest with the Lord'

BY BETHANY BEEBE

Before the holiday rush attempts to steal attention from the season, an opportunity for healing and hope will be offered for women at the fourth annual Rejoice Women's Retreat Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 at the Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center, Donaldson. Potential attendees have an invitation to come deepen their prayer and open their lives more fully to the action of the Holy Spirit.

Adoration, reconciliation, prayer, music, fellowship and a speaker are among the means to the desired end.

This year's keynote speaker, Dr. Mary Healy, professor of sacred Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit, will speak throughout the weekend on the theme "Nothing Will Be Impossible for God." Serving as general editor of the "Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture" and author of the volumes "The Gospel of Mark" and "Hebrews," Healy said faith is a personal matter to her.

"The Holy Spirit and His gifts are far more than an academic matter for me," she said. "They are what I have experienced and witnessed in operation. I have seen how they can dramatically change people's lives, so I seek every day to walk more according to the Spirit and to use His gifts."

A career of bringing together that personal nature of faith and the academic world of analysis



DR. MARY HEALY

led to Healy's appointment as chairman of the Doctrinal Commission of International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services in Rome. As a member of the Pentecostal-Catholic International Dialogue, she works with the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. The year 2014 saw her appointment to the Pontifical Biblical Commission — making her one of the first three women to ever operate in this capacity. Healy describes the role as "an honor, but certainly more than that, it is hard work!"

The commission is a group of 20 scholars who scour the sacred text regarding certain topics, mostly through an academic lens. In the last 25 years, only four documents have been released.

While maintaining clear respect for the magisterium, Healy said, "If you are Catholic, you have to be ecumenical."

Healy was invited to the Rejoice retreat by St. Jude, South Bend, parishioner Jan Torma. Torma has been the primary organizer of the retreat since its inception, working with a committee. The Holy Spirit was the impetus of the idea, though, she said, "I felt in prayer that He wanted a women's retreat in this diocese."

Torma met Healy at a book table while attending a Renewal Ministries Gathering in Michigan. Based in Ann Arbor, Renewal Ministries fosters renewal and evangelization in the Catholic Church. With mission work in over 25 counties, multimedia publications and conferences, the organization's webpage cites that its "aim is to strengthen and equip Catholics for evangelization and ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit."

When they met, Torma had just finished reading a book with her in-home prayer group on healing — written by Healy — and wanted to thank the author. "It was one of the most balanced books on healing I have ever read," she commented.

Obligations kept Healy from the 2017 retreat, but "we are grateful that she was able to accept the invitation for this year," Torma said.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades encourages the experience. "The annual Rejoice retreat is a wonderful opportunity for the women of our diocese to get away from the busy and often hectic routine ... to rest with the Lord," he said. "It is a weekend of spiritual refreshment and a time to experi-

ence anew the love of Christ and the joy of discipleship."

Marianne Dunne, parishioner at Our Lady of Good Hope, Fort Wayne, said the two Rejoice retreats she has attended fit that description. "This seems to be a perfect time to pull away and empty yourself of all the distractions of Christmas preparation," she said. "You come home filled with a renewed spirit and able to more focus on the true meaning of the Christmas season." She particularly enjoyed the music, and a visit by St. Nicholas to each woman who left her shoe outside the door. Dunne called registering for the retreat "an Advent gift" to oneself.

Beginning Sept. 17, all women of the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese are welcome to register for \$130 — with the exception of college women, who pay \$95. The fee includes everything but the cost of lodging. After Oct. 20, women from outside the diocese are invited to register, space permitting. A total of 160 par-

ticipants can be accommodated. Nursing babies are welcome at the event.

Commuting during the retreat is possible; for those who would like lodging, however, the Lindenwood center has space for 100 attendees. For both nights of the retreat, a double room is \$86 and a single room is \$136 per person. Two ADA-compliant rooms are available. A block of hotel rooms also is being held at the Plymouth Holiday Inn for one to four occupants per room. For registration, more information on the retreat center's rooms, the Holiday Inn and a group of women from nearby St. Michael Parish who are opening their homes to lodgers, please visit the event web site, [www.diocesefwsb.org/rejoice](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/rejoice).

In addition to one's Bible, rosary and a journal, Torma said that attendees need bring very little to the retreat, just "themselves, and especially their hearts."

# Pope advises teachers that they need parents' trust, appreciation

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Without respectfully collaborating with teachers and schools, parents will risk being on their own when it comes to educating their children and be at a greater disadvantage for facing the challenges emerging from today's culture, mass media and technology, Pope Francis said.

Speaking to hundreds of parents, the pope told them that "teachers are like you — dedicated each day in the educational service of your children."

His comments came to some 1,400 members and guests of the Italian Parents' Association during an audience at the Vatican's Paul VI hall Sept. 7.

Praising the group's efforts promoting the family and education as guided by Christian principles, the pope invited them to always foster and build trust with teachers and schools. If it is all right to "complain about limitations" or defects when it comes to schools and teachers, it is also

"imperative to treasure them as the most invaluable allies in the task of education, which you together carry forward," said the pope, who taught high school students as a young Jesuit in Argentina.

Today, "families no longer appreciate like before the job teachers have and (teachers) — who are often badly paid — feel the parents' presence in the school as being an uncomfortable intrusion," which all ends in a situation, he said, where the parents are kept at bay or considered "adversaries."

"To change this situation, someone has to take the first step, overcoming any fear of the other and generously holding out one's hand," he said.

"That is why I invite you to always cultivate and foster trust toward schools and teachers; without them, you risk remaining on your own in your educational efforts and being increasingly unable to confront new educational challenges that emerge from today's culture, society, mass media and new

technologies," the pope said.

Everyone has their role to play and no one entity can substitute the other, he added, which is why education demands collaboration, frequent communication and mutual trust.

"Dear parents, your children are the most precious gift you have received. Remember how to take care of it with commitment and generosity, giving children the freedom necessary to grow and mature into people who will one day be able to be open to the gift of life," he said.

However, he told them, do not let their "vigilance over the dangers that threaten the lives" of children prevent them from being able to look at the world with confidence or from showing kids the best ways to grow as people, citizens and Christians.

The pope said both parents and teachers need to teach kids the difference between good, not so good and bad, and help kids learn to make such moral and ethical distinctions on their own.

## Rejoice!

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Dr. Mary Healy  
Professor of Sacred Scripture  
Sacred Heart Major Seminary

**November 30th  
through  
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# Catechizing educators: Catholic School Mission Day

BY JENNIFER MILLER

In both Mishawaka and Fort Wayne on separate Catholic School Mission days, Dr. Timothy O'Malley, managing director of the McGrath Institute for Church Life and professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame, enthusiastically addressed diocesan schoolteachers and administrators. His keynote talk, "Worshipful Wisdom: The Liturgical Vocation of Catholic School" offered a fresh view of how a Catholic school might serve and operate through a eucharistic mission.

From the teachers' own spiritual lives to a curriculum paradigm shift, O'Malley suggested: "Education is always a gift. A Catholic education finds its center in the gift of the Eucharist; the total, self-giving love of God. We as educators create a milieu where our students receive this gift of love. Thus, we need the Eucharist, to go to Mass as often as we can, so that we can receive this love. Having received this love, we offer it to our students."

O'Malley clearly and humorously articulated the foundation behind Catholic education. "We don't provide education with Catholic sprinkles on top. Catholicism is the transformation of a worldview. ... (It) should transform all we do. Our God is the god of math, science, literature, art. ... How do we place this God in the center of all we do?"

He challenged the teachers present to reflect on the pur-



Jennifer Miller

**Dr. Timothy O'Malley, managing director of the McGrath Institute for Church Life and professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame, addresses diocesan schoolteachers during Catholic School Mission Day on the topic of educating with a eucharistic imagination.**

pose of education with first and fundamental questions such as "What am I doing? Why am I doing it?" He reminded them that education forms humans: that babies are not born ready to run, like a horse or other animal.

Quoting the Vatican II document "Gaudium et Spes" (19), he recalled how humans are first called to communion with God. This essential quality of human beings cannot be denied. "God is not a 'little extra,'" O'Malley explained, but rather an intrinsic part of their students' lives. In education, "to exclude God from this is irrational!"

With spirited, relatable and yet pointed examples, O'Malley offered an educational model with which schools and educators could fully engage themselves and their students in the life of Christ, following their baptismal call. By living and engaging in the Eucharist, "the source and summit of our faith," they themselves can share that same love of God with their students, he said.

An academic and educator himself, O'Malley's words hit the essential points of life. "You go to Mass yourself," he directed. "Jesus Christ is the risen Lord. Not just a past event, no: Christ is alive. ... He acts here and now."

Quoting Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, he explained, "Christians, in all their actions, are called to offer true worship to God. Here the intrinsically eucharistic nature of Christian life begins to take shape. The Eucharist, since it embraces the

concrete, everyday existence of the believer, makes possible, day by day, the progressive transfiguration of all those called by grace to reflect the image of the Son of God (cf. Rom 8:29ff). There is nothing authentically human — our thoughts and affections, our words and deeds — that does not find in the sacrament of the Eucharist the form it needs to be lived to the full" (*Sacramentum caritatis*, no. 71).

"Catholicism is an economy of gift," O'Malley continued. "Creation is gift. Love is gift. God created the world out of love, redeems us out of love. In the gift of self, (we) return the gift that matters. In the celebration of the total gift of love, we offer back to God what God first gave us. This eucharistic gift changes everything."

This paradigm shift, away from "We have Mass, therefore we're a Catholic school" to "Our belonging to Christ changes everything" offers a student authentic, Catholic education, he added. "Education is the forming of being. Allow students to wonder, ponder; creating a classroom environment that offers awe, wonder, the intellectual life. Assess your own teaching. Publically admit when (you're) wrong ... We can't know everything. We are sojourners with them, to the full reception of truth."

As a father with his own son in a Catholic school, O'Malley offered: "Learn to give yourself, in love, away — a gift of love and a return of love. All education is meant to be eucharistic."

## Grandparents have special role in families — evangelizing

BY DAN RUSSO

WAVERLY, Iowa (CNS) — Now more than ever, grandparents have an essential role in their families, particularly when it comes to passing on the faith to future generations.

"We had to realize that while society doesn't value grandparents, God does," said Crystal Crocker, to a group of about 120 people at St. Mary Church in Waverly. "You're needed. You still have a job to do."

Crocker, director of the Office of Evangelization for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, was the keynote speaker at a daylong conference Aug. 25 called "Grandparenting: Leaving a Legacy of Faith" — the first event of its kind in the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

Crocker is known for spearheading one of the first diocesan ministries in the nation focused on grandparents. She realized it was necessary to reach out to the elder members of the Church because of the unique wisdom they can provide their families.

"You have to be a spiritual

grandparent," urged Crocker. "Our goal is to get our children and grandchildren to heaven."

She spoke to the conference participants in the morning and afternoon on God's call to grandparents and on passing on a legacy of faith. The day also featured Mass with Dubuque Archbishop Michael O. Jackels and three breakout sessions that focused on tough questions facing grandparents such as: What do you do if your adult children have stopped practicing their faith?

Deacon Gary and Kay Aitchison, two pioneers in grandparenting ministry in the archdiocese, were joined by other archdiocesan church leaders: Mary Pedersen, director of Adult Faith Formation, and Matt Selby, director of the Office of Marriage and Family Life, in leading breakout sessions. The Aitchisons have written a six-session small group program for grandparents called "The Grand Adventure: A New Call to Grandparenting," based on their



CNS photo/Dan Russo, The Witness

**Deacon Gary Aitchison and his wife, Kay, pose Aug. 25 with a photo of their grandchildren. The couple spoke about a ministry for grandparents they started at St. Cecilia Parish in Ames, Iowa, during a conference called "Grandparenting: Leaving a Legacy of Faith," at St. Mary Church in Waverly.**

**GRANDPARENTS, from page 10**

experience with the Christian Family Movement.

"Fifty-four percent of Americans over 50 are grandparents," said Deacon Aitchison.

"We like to think that grandparents are blessings and anchors to our grandchildren," his wife added.

In his homily, Archbishop Jackels shared some of his own experiences with family members who are not practicing the faith, saying that he could identify with many at the conference as one of six children who were raised Catholic.

"I'm the only one who still goes to church," he said.

He encouraged people to show people the truth and power of Jesus' love by their own actions.

"The wagging finger doesn't

work so well with adult children," said the archbishop. "The most effective thing is the example, the imitation of Christ."

Some of the attendees, like Jill and Dean Rowell of St. Isidore Parish in Springville, were brand new grandparents.

"We have a 3-month-old grandson," said Jill. "Our son did have his baby baptized, but they aren't actively attending Mass, so we're hoping to hear some ideas on how to encourage him and our grandson in faith and knowing God."

During his session, Selby, a convert to Catholicism from evangelical Protestantism, offered guidance on reaching out to adult children and other family members.

"Don't blame yourself," said Selby. "There's free will involved.

You've got to recognize their free will and don't beat yourself up."

He and Crocker offered several practical "do's and don'ts," when reaching out to adult children and other family members who are not practicing their faith.

Both speakers emphasized the importance of prayer, fasting and sacrificing for children and grandchildren. They also offered this tip: Let parents be parents.

"Let the parents discipline, and you can come in and be the consoler," said Crocker. "Understand that it's tough to be a parent. You can continue to influence, but you no longer have control. We can't change people. God can change them."

*Dan Russo is editor of The Witness, archdiocesan newspaper of Dubuque.*

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10:00 am	Our Sunday Visitor	<del>Double Your Dollar</del> Tippmann Hour	St. Jude Fort Wayne	Christ the King South Bend	St. Vincent Elkhart
11:00 am	Most Precious Blood Fort Wayne	St. Joseph—Hessen Cassel Fort Wayne	Our Lady of Good Hope Fort Wayne	St. Thérèse, Little Flower South Bend	
Noon	St. Vincent de Paul Fort Wayne	St. Charles Borromeo Fort Wayne	Bishop Luers High School	Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades	Holy Family & St. John the Baptist South Bend
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3:00 pm	St. Louis New Haven	Bishop Dwenger High School		St. Pius X Granger	Serra Club
4:00 pm	Saint Anne Communities	St. Robert Bellarmine North Manchester	Huntington Catholic High School		
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## Vocation equals accompaniment

The approaching synod on “Young people, faith and vocational discernment” next month in Rome is of huge importance to the Church. If you had told me the role I would be playing in this task a year ago, I would not have believed you.

In December 2017, I was notified that I would be selected to be one of three U.S. delegates for the March presynod gathering in Rome.

I am a De La Salle Christian Brother currently ministering in El Paso, Texas. Our congregation is dedicated to the apostolate of Christian education. Serving the youth is a quintessential part of our ministry to the Church.

Through my vocation, I am impassioned to work with young people, but this experience last spring has inspired me with new vigor. It has motivated me to reach out to my students and other young people in this diocese to find out why they continue to believe in God and go to church. Maybe in this way we can better prevent them from drifting away from religion.

We were told that we were selected not only because we were young but also because we work with young people on a daily basis. I believe I was also selected to give a voice to young people in vocational discernment to religious life.

My hope as a high school teacher in an all-boys school is that some of my students are inspired to become religious brothers, but I also have a huge aspiration that many of them

become good fathers and husbands.

We should all want young people devoted to discerning their vocation, but as the preparatory document for the synod states, making a mature choice requires mentors, and these mentors should familiarize themselves with the happenings of young people.

One of the highlights of my experience in Rome, outside of shaking hands with the pope, was when a moderator of the presynod meeting reminded us that in the Church’s long history, never had it called together so many young people to receive their direct input in Church matters. This was done because the Church recognizes the unique gifts that young people bring to the table.

The preparatory document recognized young people from the Bible who were key figures: Samuel, Jeremiah and Mary. Although wisdom does, indeed, come with age, the contributions of youth should not be entirely discarded. In the past, the contributions young people could offer the Church have been underutilized.

In the document that we composed at the presynod meeting and gave to Pope Francis, we recommended that young people be consulted at all levels of Church governance. Some of my acquaintances in Rome were saying to each other that we would hate for this gathering to be a one-time thing. One suggestion I offered is that each diocese host



### IN LIGHT OF FAITH

BROTHER JAVIER HANSEN, FSC

a synod of young people to discuss the themes of the October world synod.

In closing, a question that I have been pondering is how to motivate young people to make mature life choices in the faith. I know from my own personal experience it was not until I took ownership of my own faith that I began to appreciate the faith.

The preparatory document offers us this wisdom: For young people to take ownership of their faith, young people will need mentors who will offer them empathy, support and encouragement — which will also help them acknowledge their limits without making them feel judged.

Who is a young person you can begin accompanying today?

De La Salle Christian Brother Javier Hansen teaches at Cathedral High School in El Paso, Texas.

## Can we pay others to donate a kidney?

Often, we envision donating our organs after we are dead, but we can also choose to become an organ donor while we are alive if we share part of our liver or donate one of our kidneys. The proposal to give one of our two kidneys away, though, does raise some ethical and safety concerns.

There can be long-term risks for the donor. Donating a kidney, moreover, would not be therapeutic for us — only for someone else — and in fact might slightly increase our own risk for experiencing renal failure in the future.

Clearly, we have a general duty to respect the integrity of our body. This means we shouldn’t cause injury to it, or damage it, for example, through surgeries or treatments that are not necessary to preserve our health or save our life. In light of these considerations, donating one of our kidneys would seem to run counter to our responsibility to maintain bodily integrity.

Yet the notion of integrity can also be understood in a broader sense, namely, as functional integrity, so that if one of our kidneys were removed without imposing undue risk, and without a significant loss of blood filtering function, then we could say that the functional integrity of our renal system was preserved. In that case, the removal of one of our kidneys, as a sacrificial act and for a proportionate reason, such as saving or improving another person’s life,



### MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

could be justified. This is what the Church affirms.

A further ethical concern, however, centers on the fact that the decision to donate must be made freely by the donor, and consent should be given without any undue pressure. This means that offering payments for organs is fundamentally coercive and unethical.

We face a serious shortage of available kidneys for transplant in the U.S. Average wait times for a kidney are approaching five years, and about 15-20 people die each day while waiting for an organ — the majority for a kidney. In August, I participated in a conversation with some of the health policy team at the White House as they considered possible strategies for increasing the supply of live donor kidneys. We discussed the ethical, legal, economic and health implications of some proposed solutions, including the proposal to reward organ donation by providing various noncash benefits.

During the White House meet-

BIOETHICS, page 13

## Discipleship means denying ourselves, following the Lord



### THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mark 8:27-35

The last and third section of the Book of Isaiah provides the first reading for this weekend in ordinary time.

This passage is one of several similar sections in Trito-Isaiah — a collection of oracles by unknown prophets, in the years immediately after the return from Babylon, which constitute the last several chapters of the Book of Isaiah.

These sections together are called the Songs of the Suffering Servant. Poetic and expressive, they figure in the liturgies of Holy Week and Good Friday because Christians historically have applied them to Christ, the

Lamb of God.

Who was in the mind of the author of Trito-Isaiah as these songs were written? Was the author thinking of himself? Was he thinking of another loyal and devoted follower of the covenant who faced many difficulties? Was he thinking collectively of the Chosen People?

In any case, the picture of the servant is complete. The servant is steadfast. Hardships and obstacles abound in the servant’s path to fidelity. But God unflinchingly provides strength and guidance.

Assured of God’s help, and resolute in faith, the servant is undaunted in obeying God.

For its second reading, the Church this weekend gives us a passage from the Epistle of James. At the time of the Reformation, the differing opinions regarding texts such as this reading literally caused wars. It affirms the classic Roman Catholic interpretation of Revelation. God gives us the healing and empowering grace so that we can believe.

However, we must ratify our belief in our worthy Christian

conduct. It is not a question simply of following rules and regulations. Rather, it is to conduct ourselves so that in everything we replicate Christ.

St. Mark’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. In this story, Jesus and the Apostles have gone to the region of Caesarea Philippi. This region has been the scene of much violence in the past 30 years. In general, it is the region now called the Golan Heights, territory claimed by Syria but taken militarily by Israel about 40 years ago. It is part of the modern, turbulent Middle East, although the overall conflict in Syria recently has eclipsed strife in the Golan. At the origin of the Jordan River, however, it is picturesque and placid.

Such was it at the time of the Lord. Jesus questions the Apostles about His identity. They respond by reporting the various answers people put forward as to the Lord’s identity. “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, others one of the prophets.”

Then Jesus bluntly asks the Apostles about their thoughts about the Master. Note that Peter

speaks for the group. Also note Peter’s firm answer: “You are the Messiah!”

Jesus then gives the Twelve a special lesson. It is one of many occasions within the New Testament in which the Apostles appear as special students. They heard from Jesus lessons not given to the rank and file. They were special.

When Peter interjects his own, human thinking into the discussion, Jesus reprimands him. The Lord’s message is divine. Then Jesus tells the crowd that discipleship means carrying personal crosses. To follow Christ means the willingness to sacrifice everything, even earthly life itself.

### Reflection

Living the Christian life by acts of genuine love and deep faith, all in reflection of Jesus, always has been challenging. Certainly the martyrs, from those who died in ancient Rome to those dying today, know very well this aspect of discipleship.

Blessedly, Americans do not face this test of discipleship, but,

they face the mighty attacks to the Gospel from our culture. Therefore, we too must sacrifice and be strong if we wish to follow the Lord.

However the challenges come, overcoming opposition and being loyal to Christ results in peace in this life and joy in the life eternal.

Our example is Jesus, the crucified, the risen, so beautifully depicted as the suffering servant. His story is of victory, not defeat; life, not death.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Is 50:5-9a Ps 116:1-6, 8-9 Jas 2:14-18 Mk 8:27-35

**Monday:** 1 Cor 11:17-26, 33 Ps 40:7-10, 17 Lk 7:1-10

**Tuesday:** 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a Ps 100:1-5 Lk 7:11-17

**Wednesday:** 1 Cor 12:31—13:13 Ps 33:2-5, 12, 22 Lk 7:31-35

**Thursday:** 1 Cor 15:1-11 Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28 Lk 7:36-50

**Friday:** Eph 4:1-7, 11-13 Ps 19:2-5 Mt 9:9-13

**Saturday:** 1 Cor 15:33-37, 42-49 Ps 56:10-14 Lk 8:4-15

# Why we stay, and the Vigano Testimony

The Sunday Mass Scriptures during this summer of horrors have often been eerily appropriate, beginning with Jeremiah's polemic against malfeasant shepherds who mislead the Lord's flock (July 25) and continuing through the story of many disciples' defection after the "hard words" of the Bread of Life discourse (Aug. 26). And it's entirely understandable that more than a few Catholics have choked on the word "holy" these past few months, when asked to affirm it of the Church during the creed and the offertory. But while understandable, that still bespeaks a misunderstanding. The reason why is given immediately after the defection story in John 6: 60-66, when the Lord asks the Twelve if they, too, are going to bail on him and Peter answers, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

Everlasting life is offered to us sacramentally at every Mass. That is what we believe; that is why we remain in the Church; and that is why we must all bend every effort, from our distinct states of life in the Mystical Body of Christ, to reform what must be reformed so that others may know and love the Lord Jesus and experience the life-giving fruits of friendship with Him. The Church's current crisis is a crisis of fidelity and a crisis of holiness, a crisis of infidelity and a crisis of sin. It is also a crisis of evangelization, for shepherds without credibility impede the proclamation of the Gospel — which, as the other headlines of the day suggest, the world badly needs.

In the immediate aftermath of Archbishop Carlo-Maria Vigano's "Testimony," and its statement that Pope Francis knew

of the dereliction of Theodore McCarrick, former archbishop of Washington and lifted the sanctions against McCarrick that had been imposed (but never seriously enforced) by Pope Benedict XVI, the polemics within the Church immediately intensified and ricocheted through the media. In this febrile atmosphere, it is virtually impossible for anyone to say anything without arousing suspicions and accusations. But as I knew Archbishop Vigano well during his service as papal representative in Washington, I feel obliged to speak about him, which I hope will help others consider his very, very serious claims thoughtfully.

First, Archbishop Vigano is a courageous reformer, who was moved out of the Vatican by his immediate superiors because he was determined to confront financial corruption in the "Governatorato," the administration of Vatican City State.

Second, Archbishop Vigano is, in my experience, an honest man. We spoke often about many things, large and small, and I never had the impression that I was being given anything other than what he believed in his conscience to be the truth. That does not mean that he got everything right; a man of humility and prayer, he would be the first to concede that. But it does suggest that attempts to portray him as someone deliberately making false accusations, someone other than an honest witness to what he believes to be the truth, are unpersuasive. When he writes in his Testimony that he is "... ready to affirm [these allegations] on oath calling on God as my witness," he means it. And he means it absolutely. Archbishop Vigano knows that, in swearing such an oath, he



GEORGE WEIGEL

## THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

would be taking his soul into his hands; which means he knows that if he were to speak falsely, he would be unlikely to find his soul again.

Third, Archbishop Vigano is a loyal churchman of a certain generation and formation, bred to a genuine piety about the papacy. His training in the papal diplomatic service would instinctively lead him to make the defense of the pope his first, second, third and hundredth priority. If he believes that what he has now said is true, and that the Church needs to learn that truth in order to cleanse itself of what is impeding its evangelical mission, then he is overriding his engrained instincts for the gravest of reasons.

What Archbishop Vigano testifies to knowing on the basis of direct, personal, and in many cases documentable experiences in Rome and Washington deserves to be taken seriously, not peremptorily dismissed or ignored. Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, the U.S. bishops' conference president, evidently agrees, as his Aug. 27 statement makes clear. That is another step toward the purification and reform we need.

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

addressed. This law prohibits the purchase of organs or any exchange of "valuable consideration." This same law, however, clearly permits reimbursement of various expenses associated with the transplant, such as travel costs to get to the hospital in order to have the kidney removed, temporary housing at the time of surgery, lost wages incurred in connection with the donation of the organ, etc.

Providing reimbursement of expenses should not be viewed as encouraging or incentivizing the donation itself, but rather as "eliminating disincentives," or "removing hindrances or roadblocks." An organ donor should not have to assume extra personal expense or take on other heavy burdens to be able freely to help out another patient who would benefit from receiving his or her kidney.

From the ethical point of view, our ultimate goal should be not so much to "incentivize

donation," as to "support or encourage personal generosity" on the part of those individuals who may desire to donate freely one of their kidneys. The distinction is an important one. At the end of the day, we want people to become organ donors, not organ vendors. Human organs and tissues, because of their close proximity and connection to our human identity, cannot be reduced to commodities to be acquired or sold on an open market. We must do what we can, legally and otherwise, to safeguard the generosity of the organ donor's freely chosen act and prevent others, especially the poor and disadvantaged, from being exploited because they need money, health care or other "incentives."

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for September 16, 2018

Mark 8:27-35

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: Who the Christ really is. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

VILLAGES	CAESAREA	THAT I AM
BAPTIST	ELIJAH	PROPHETS
CHRIST	HE BEGAN	TEACH
SUFFER	KILLED	RISE
BEHIND ME	SATAN	AFTER ME
TAKE UP	CROSS	LOSE IT
MY SAKE	GOSPEL	SAVE IT

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 H C W Y S A O A D S O E  
 T H K S P C C A K T I H  
 C H O A E S U F F E R R  
 E R H K L O S E I T U X  
 C H C E S T E H P O R P

## Saint of the Week



**Ludmilla**

c. 860-921  
 Feast September 16

Married to Borivoy, founder of a dynasty, she became a Christian after he was baptized by St. Methodius in 874. They had six children and built the first church in Bohemia, now in the Czech Republic. But they were embroiled in the political storms of their family and region. Ludmilla had assumed the care and education of her grandson, Wenceslas, but his mother, Drahomira, resented her influence and took him away. Widowed in 894, Ludmilla retired to a country castle. She was strangled there, possibly by henchmen of Drahomira or pagan nobles.

### BIOETHICS, from page 12

ing, some parties to the discussion offered recommendations that the government provide lifetime guaranteed coverage of all future medical expenses, or lifetime health insurance, to every person who becomes a living kidney donor. I emphasized that we should not be "encouraging" donation by offering "incentives" to donors as a direct benefit at all. Offering lifetime health insurance or similar proposals would, in my view, constitute a form of payment or "valuable consideration" offered to the donor, and would again raise the problem of improperly incentivizing the donation of organs, pressuring someone to consider donating as a way to secure lifetime health insurance coverage.

When Congress passed the National Organ Transplant Act in 1984, this concern about incentivizing donations was directly

# Catholic teaching, pastoral response shows hope for those hurt by suicide

BY GINA CHRISTIAN

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — On a November morning in 2008, Father Marc Capizzi had his rosary in hand when he left the rectory at St. Albert the Great Parish in the Philadelphia suburb of Huntingdon Valley.

Having received an anguished call from a parishioner, he set out to comfort a family that had just lost a son to suicide.

His heartbreaking mission was not out of the ordinary.

"It's probably more common than you would think," Father Capizzi said. "A number of priests have had this experience."

According to a recently released report from the Centers for Disease Control, that experience is becoming more common. From 1999 to 2016, suicide rates increased by more than 30 percent in half of the nation's states. Almost 45,000 Americans die by suicide each year, making it the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S.

Recent celebrity suicides, such as those of fashion designer Kate Spade and celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain, also have highlighted the issue.

Both the CDC and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention emphasize that suicide has no single cause. Mental and physical health, relationship issues, sexual and substance abuse — along with financial, employment, legal and housing difficulties — have all been shown to contribute to a person's decision to end his or her life.

The complexities of mental, emotional and physical health are recognized by the Catholic Church in its stance on suicide.

"Suicide itself is a gravely disordered act, an evil one," said Father Bernard Taglianetti, a professor of moral theology at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnwood. "However, the Church also recognizes that strong emotional experiences — deep suffering, deep depression — can diminish one's culpability."

Father Taglianetti noted that the Church relies on the expertise of mental health professionals in

evaluating and crafting a pastoral response to suicide.

Priests cannot be regarded as mental health counselors unless they have received training and licensure as such, he said. However, clergy should be able to refer parishioners to appropriate treatment, and above all, priests can pray with and provide spiritual support for those contemplating suicide.

"God is with you, and the Church's blessing is always available," he told CatholicPhilly.com, the news outlet of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

In addition, the sacraments — particularly confession and the Eucharist — provide profound healing for those in despair. Through confession, an individual can be "relieved of spiritual anguish from bad decisions or thoughts," said Father Taglianetti, while the holy Eucharist makes Christ's love a tangible reality.

Although some Christian denominations maintain that suicide results in automatic and eternal damnation, the Catholic faith does not despair of God's mercy for those who take their own lives.

"The Catholic Church doesn't ever decide or declare that someone is in hell," said Father Taglianetti. "What's important here is hope — hope in the love of God, and in His divine mercy."

That mercy can save a soul even in its final moments on earth, he added.

"At the very last second of a person's life, if they've done this terrible act to themselves, they can cry out to God, whose mercy is infinite," said Father Taglianetti.

Those who commit suicide are no longer necessarily refused a Christian burial, said Father Dennis Gill, director of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Office for Divine Worship.

Although suicide was once regarded as a denial of God's mercy and power in a person's life, modern research affirms that "a person who takes his or her life most likely did not make a rational decision," said Father Gill in an emailed statement.

"Therefore, there is all the more reason to entrust the soul to the Lord with a funeral Mass,"

he wrote.

Catholic teaching also addresses the issues of euthanasia and end-of-life care.

Direct euthanasia, defined as "an action or omission which of itself or by intention causes death" to eliminate suffering, is "morally unacceptable," according to a 1980 Vatican declaration and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Physician-assisted suicide is considered a form of euthanasia.

In cases of terminal illness, the Church distinguishes between ordinary and extraordinary means of care. While ordinary care offers a reasonable hope for improvement without overburdening the patient, extraordinary means excessively burdening the patient without benefit and can be refused.

Father Taglianetti observes that at whatever period it occurs in one's life, suffering can be redemptive if viewed in the light of faith.

"It allows others more deeply into your life," he said, contrasting two high-profile cases of terminal brain cancer — that of Brittany Maynard, an outspoken physician-assisted suicide advocate who took her life in 2014; and Father Philip G. Johnson, a priest of the Diocese of Raleigh, North Carolina, priest who has fought his illness since being diagnosed in 2008 at age 24.

While still a seminarian, Father Johnson wrote an open letter to Maynard detailing his own medical struggles and urging her to remain alive as "an example and inspiration."

"Suffering is not worthless, and our lives are not our own to take," Father Johnson stated in his letter. "We do not seek pain for its own sake, but our suffering can have great meaning if we try to join it to the Passion of Christ and offer it for the conversion or intentions of others."

Father Taglianetti observed that suffering can ultimately be a road to sainthood.

"It can be an act of prayer, an act of love," he said. "And God's love is not temporary, but eternal, which always give us hope."

Christian is senior content producer at CatholicPhilly.com, the news outlet of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

# Archbishop Ganswein says abuse crisis is Church's 9/11

BY CAROL GLATZ

ROME (CNS) — The concern of now-retired Pope Benedict XVI and the promises made by the majority of Church leaders were not able to stop the evil of clerical sexual abuse, which has been the 9/11 of the Catholic Church, the retired pope's personal secretary said.

Even if the "catastrophe" of abuse does not fall on one particular date, but rather extends over "so many days and years" and has claimed "countless victims," Archbishop Georg Ganswein said on Sept. 11, in the wake of the Pennsylvania grand jury report, "the Catholic Church is looking — full of dismay — at its own 9/11."

Speaking during a book presentation in Rome, Archbishop Ganswein, who is also prefect of the papal household, said, "I don't mean to compare the victims or the number of abuses concerning the Catholic Church with the 2,996 innocent people in all who lost their lives Sept. 11."

"No one, so far, has attacked the church of Christ with airlines full of passengers. St. Peter's Basilica is still standing" as are other symbolic churches in the Western world, he said, according to news reports.

"And yet, the news coming from America that recently informed us about how many souls have been irreparably and mortally wounded by priests of the Catholic Church, gives us a message (that is) even more terrible than if there had been news that all the churches in

Pennsylvania had suddenly collapsed together with the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington," he said.

Having mentioned the basilica, the archbishop said he was reminded "as if it were yesterday" of when he accompanied Pope Benedict there April 16, 2008. The pope, who also visited New York on that trip, gave a lengthy speech to the nation's bishops at the shrine.

In the portion of his talk dedicated to the sexual abuse of minors, Pope Benedict "tried poignantly to shake the bishops assembled from all over the United States," the archbishop said.

Quoting from the pope's text, the archbishop recalled how the pope spoke about "the deep shame" caused by the sexual abuse of minors by priests and "the enormous pain that your communities have suffered when clerics have betrayed their priestly obligations and duties by such gravely immoral behavior."

But that talk, Archbishop Ganswein said, was "evidently in vain, as we see today. The cry of the Holy Father did not succeed in holding back the evil nor did the formal assurances and the verbal commitments by a great part of the hierarchy."

Archbishop Ganswein has worked with the retired pope since 1996, first serving on the staff of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and later becoming then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger's personal secretary in 2003.

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# SERVICE DIRECTORY

# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

**Father Andrew Budzinski's Italy Pilgrimage**

**FORT WAYNE** — Father Andrew Budzinski and the Vocation Office are promoting and participating in an Italian pilgrimage to Rome to witness the diaconate ordination of seminarian Spenser St. Louis on Sept. 27. The pilgrimage will visit Venice, Siena, Assisi and Rome, plus attend the ordination at St. Peter's Basilica. Call 260-434-6660.

**Right to Life benefit dinner**

**SOUTH BEND** — A benefit dinner will be held Thursday, Sept. 20 from 5-8 p.m. at the Century Center, 120 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. This year's dinner fea-

tures engaging keynote speakers highlighting the sanctity of life in the face of disability. Contact Melanie Garcia at 574-232-5433.

**Bernard Westhues Memorial Golf Outing**

**NORTH LIBERTY** — The Knights of Columbus Bernard Westhues Memorial Golf Outing will be Saturday, Sept. 22, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Whispering Pines Golf Course, 2280 SR 4. Continental breakfast and Bloody Marys served. Lunch and awards also served. \$50 per player. Make reservations by Sept 15. Contact Tom Walter at 574-586-3707 or at [debbieandtom@gmail.com](mailto:debbieandtom@gmail.com). Proceeds benefit the Endowment Fund of St. Patrick, Walkerton.

**Marian High School 50th class reunion**

**MISHAWAKA** — The first graduating class of Marian High School will celebrate a 50th class reunion Saturday, Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. at O'Brien's, Compton Family Ice Arena, University of Notre Dame. Cost is \$50 per person. Contact Rose Buzek Ferretti [RMFerretti@att.net](mailto:RMFerretti@att.net).

**St. Vincent scouts open Haunted Castle**

**FORT WAYNE** — The Haunted Castle and Black Forest, 8965 Auburn Rd., opens weekends starting Sept. 21 through Halloween night. Bring a canned good for the St. Vincent de Paul Society for \$1 off the regular price of admission.



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## REST IN PEACE

**Elkhart**

Antoinette M. Minichello, 85, St. Thomas the Apostle

**Fort Wayne**

Nancy Jean Coolman, 75, St Vincent de Paul

Richard Lee Stoner, St. Charles Borromeo

Lydia Peralta, 86, St. Charles Borromeo

Mildred C. Steenman, 100, St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel

Elizabeth Marie Martin, 95, St. Jude

Paul H. Smith, 87, Queen of Angels

Mary Ann Hile, 80, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Mary Gertrude Wyss, 95, St. Henry

**Huntington**

Mary Ellen Santa, 86, St. Mary

**Mishawaka**

Larry Fleck, 80, Queen of Peace

Angelo Dominic Oliva, 91, St. Monica

Robert G. Bauters, 87, St. Bavo

Della Buscoe, 77, St. Monica

**Monroeville**

Stanley L. Schmidt, 68, St. Rose of Lima

**New Carlisle**

James E. Walbert, 67, St. Stanislaus Kostka

**New Haven**

Patricia J. Ehle, 89, St. John the Baptist

**Roanoke**

Carole R. Ocken, 76, St. Joseph

**South Bend**

Angie Coscarelli, 91, St. Jude

Frances M. Koers, 91, St. Anthony de Padua

Cosimo Figliomeni, 86, Our Lady of Hungary

Dolores Lohmann Peck, 85, St. Therese, Little Flower

Emma Mary Wroblewski, 93, Our Lady of Hungary

Marjorie Ellen Radecki, 85, St. John the Baptist

Andrew F. Kazmierzak, 85, Holy Family

Marguerite A. Pluta, 94, St. Anthony de Padua

## Spirituality of Padre Pio Retreat

5 p.m. Thurs. Oct. 4  
through  
7 a.m. Monday, Oct. 8

**St. Felix Catholic Retreat Center,  
1280 Hitzfield Street, Huntington**

**Retreat Master:** Father Pio Mandato, FMHSJ. Father Pio is a Franciscan Hermit from the Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania as well as a distant relative of Padre Pio who knew Padre Pio personally as a child.

Daily Mass, Conferences, full Divine Office, time for private prayer and reflection. Sunday includes participation in National Rosary Rally and talk by Poor Clare nun.

Full retreat including overnights and meals: \$220  
Commuters (includes lunch and dinner): \$75

\$50 deposit mailed to Confraternity of Penitents, 1702 Lombard Street, Fort Wayne IN 46803. For more information call 260-739-6882 or email [copenitents@yahoo.com](mailto:copenitents@yahoo.com)

# Jimmy Carter joins volunteer groups at Habitat for Humanity event

BY CATHERINE M. ODELL

SOUTH BEND (CNS) — Although stormy skies often interrupted the hammering and sent volunteers ducking for tents, a Habitat for Humanity event in Indiana pulled together almost 2,000 volunteers, generous contributions, celebrities and faith groups.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn, both in their 90s, were in Mishawaka helping to build 23 single-family houses during the last week of August. This year's "Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project" was awarded to St. Joseph County in northern Indiana and the Carters' special project was to build a porch for one of the houses.

"We want to help the houses look like they're part of a real neighborhood," said Habitat volunteer Paul Kil, who led a team from St. Theresé Little Flower Church in South Bend that was landscaping and laying sod at the Carter site. Kil, who grew up in a family that built its own house, said his own carpentry skills are home-grown, but he's impressed with the training Habitat offers volunteers who come with minimal or no carpentry skills.

At an Aug. 26 opening ceremony for the building project, Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame, said he was proud that Notre Dame's student

Habitat chapter is one of the largest in the country.

The Carters were longtime friends of the late Holy Cross Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, who was Notre Dame's president from 1952 to 1987, Father Jenkins said.

Late-night talk show host and Indianapolis native David Letterman introduced the Carters and joked that while his enthusiasm for Habitat is huge, his building skills are limited. "What I quickly learned is that the only thing I can do is hammer. ... If there's a Hammering Hall of Fame, get me in!"

Letterman has been a Habitat volunteer and patron since he watched the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. He wondered what he could do and Habitat became his answer, he said.

Jimmy Carter told the crowd: "Habitat is not a sacrifice for us. We sometimes get too hot or too cold or work overtime. But, we always feel that we've gotten more out of this than we put in."

He also said it brings hope, noting that he was pleased that he and Rosalynn have drawn international attention to the need for affordable housing since they began working with the organization in 1984.

"Because of Habitat for Humanity ... every 50 seconds, a family somewhere in the world is getting a new or improved



CNS photo/courtesy Carter Habitat for Humanity

**Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter works in Mishawaka Aug. 27, helping to build 23 new homes for families through Habitat for Humanity of St. Joseph County.**

home," the former U.S. president said.

Benito and Junixha Salazar were among the 23 families working on the homes going up in Mishawaka.

Like all Habitat "partner families," the Salazars were helping to pay for their home through sweat equity — 250 hours of volunteer work. They are also attending Habitat-mandated partner family classes on budgeting and home maintenance.

Habitat's partner families get zero-interest home loans.

Habitat involvement has bolstered their faith, said the Salazars, who will live in their single-story house with 4-year-old Isabelle and 2-year-old Benito Jr.

Benito, a Catholic, became a forklift operator to make more money before Isabelle was born, but that meant leaving a job he loved at La Casa de Amistad, a community center serving immi-

grants in South Bend. Junixha is a social worker who attends a Seventh-day Adventist church.

Working full time and having small children made it tough to attend weekly classes and get the required service hours done, but recently he saw the payoff, Benito said. His new neighborhood was becoming a loving community even before its families moved in. "I help build my neighbor's garage or put trim on the house. We don't just work on our own houses. We work on everybody's houses."

This Habitat trademark of generosity and community has drawn many volunteers across St. Joseph County.

Jane Pitz, a former religious sister for 32 years, who worked in campus ministry at Notre Dame, could be enjoying a lazy retirement but instead she leads a Habitat Women Build project in St. Joseph County and fundraises for the organization.

A Jimmy Carter quote about the demands of the Gospel and Habitat's mission echoes her own belief and that of many Habitat volunteers.

She said, Carter believes: "If you are a person of faith ... you learn certain basic lessons about truth, justice, love and sharing that shape your life" and through Habitat for Humanity you find a way to "reach out to fellow humans who don't have a decent place in which to live."

## TV MASS, from page 1

website. The last locally produced TV Mass will air Sept. 16.

Stephanie Patka, Secretary of Communications for the diocese, recognized the difficulty of the decision. "While we will not see local priests, going forward, on the TV Mass, I am grateful that the ministry to the homebound is not being eliminated and that the Mass will still be accessible through local stations." The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is the only Indiana diocese to continue providing a televised Mass ministry.

Patka credits the volunteers of the TV Mass for making the local production possible. "Truly, it was their dedication, work and talent that provided this blessing to so many people throughout the diocese." Since the beginning, priests of the diocese who celebrated the weekly TV Mass would also typically bring parishioners to participate in the live liturgy as proclaimers, servers, musicians and choral groups.

The diocese also thanks its partners, WNDU-TV and the University of Saint Francis, which have provided locations for the TV Mass broadcast, as well as all the priests who celebrated Mass and the donors who have financially supported the ministry.



File photo

**Andy and Linda Knapp, volunteers of the South Bend TV Mass, provided music for the ministry each Sunday.**



File photo

**Beth Machall-Dwyer, Fort Wayne TV Mass volunteer, left, guides volunteers during a taping of the TV Mass at the University of Saint Francis Chapel.**

Watch the TV Mass online at  
[www.diocesefws.org/TV-MASS](http://www.diocesefws.org/TV-MASS)