FORT WAYNE — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend published on Tuesday, Sept. 18, the names of the priests and deacons who have been credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor.

During a news conference on Aug. 17, in which he made the announcement to release the names, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades stated the importance for victims to see the names of their abusers made public “for all to see. For everyone to know the pain caused by these priests.” Bishop Rhoades added, “It is my hope that by releasing these names, the innocent victims of these horrific and heartbreaking crimes can finally begin the process of healing.”

Bishop Rhoades reiterated the diocese’s commitment to protect children and young people, saying, “We must be vigilant in our efforts to protect our youth. With the Lord’s guidance and love, we will do so.”

The list of those credibly accused was developed with the assistance of the Diocesan Review Board, which was established to assist the bishop in complying with the requirements of The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and The Essential Norms. The Diocesan Review Board is comprised of mostly lay people, and its members assess all allegations of sexual abuse of minors by priests and deacons presented in this diocese.

In the determination of credibility for the purpose of the list, Bishop Rhoades followed the recommendations of the Diocesan Review Board. Bishop Rhoades expressed gratitude for their expertise and counsel. A full list of Diocesan Review Board members and their biographies can be found on the diocesan website.

The list of the names of priests and deacons who have served in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and have been credibly accused of at least one act of sexual abuse of a minor consists of: James Blume; Michael Buescher; Brian Carsten; William Ehrman; William Gieranowski; John Gillig; Gabriel Hernandez; Edward Krason; Paul LeBrun, CSC; Thomas Lombardi; Robert Mahoney; Eldon Miller; Edward O. Paquette; Cornelius Ryan, CSC; James Seculoff; Richard Sietgut; Richard Thompson; and James Trepander, CSC.

For the purposes of this list, a “credible accusation” against a priest or deacon of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is an accusation that, after a thorough investigation and review of available information, appears more likely true than not in the judgment of the Diocesan Review Board, and is accepted as credible by the bishop.

If the accused is or was a member of a religious congrega-

**Sisters’ presence in Huntington parish ends after 150 years**

**BY CINDY KLEPPER**

For a century and a half, the School Sisters of Notre Dame have served SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Huntington. On Sunday, Sept. 16, the parish celebrated that legacy with a Mass and a reception in the sisters’ honor.

The sisters’ presence in Huntington will come to an end in November with the retirements of Sister Miriam Therese Gill and Sister Loretta Bauer.

“Our physical presence here at SS. Peter and Paul may be ending soon,” Sister Phyllis Marie Grzeczk said to the parishioners who crowded into Father Rieder’s office for the reception honoring the sisters.

Members of the School Sisters of Notre Dame were honored at a Mass on Sunday, Sept. 16, celebrating the religious order’s 150 years of service to SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Huntington. In the front row, from left are Sister Miriam Therese Gill, Sister Miriam Thomas Kessens, Sister Colleen Bauer and Sister Margaret Ann Murawski; and in the back row, Sister Loretta Bauer, associate Patricia Tocco, Sister Phyllis Marie Grzeczk and Sister Jan Gregorcich.

**DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND**
Bishop Rhoades exonerated of allegation

FORT WAYNE — As a sobering wave of abuse allegations within the Roman Catholic Church in the U.S. continues to build, its full weight fell on the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend this month.

Recently, an allegation was filed in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, against Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades related to his time as Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The concern was reported to the Diocese of Harrisburg by the cousin of a young man who died in 1996. The concern claimed that the relationship between Bishop Rhoades and the young man seemed “odd.” The Diocese of Harrisburg then reported it to the district attorney.

Numerous media outlets published and broadcast news of the allegation, which was obtained from an unknown source and against the wishes of Dauphin County District Attorney Francis Chando.

The Office of the District Attorney of Dauphin County promptly, and thoroughly, investigated the allegation. On Thursday, Sept. 13, the results of the investigation were released.

**Official statement of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend**

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend appreciates the swift and thorough investigation into the unsubstantiated allegation against Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. As anticipated, the investigation exonerated Bishop Rhoades. The district attorney found the allegation was without merit and stated, “after a full investigation, the Dauphin County District Attorney has determined that there is no basis to conclude that Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades ever engaged in a criminal or otherwise improper relationship.” The relationship in question was “in the context of pastoral care and arose out of the recognized tradition of prison ministry.”

While it’s important that allegations be brought forward, it’s equally important for due process to take place. The result of this investigation underscores the importance of allowing appropriate authorities to determine credibility of accusations before the reputation of any individual is impugned in the court of public opinion.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend stands firm in sympathy and support for all victims of child sexual abuse and encourages victims to report allegations. Bishop Rhoades expresses his gratitude for the support he has received from parishioners during the past week. He stated, “I have offered up the pain of this difficult time for the victim survivors of child sexual abuse.”

The same media organizations that were quick to make public an unsubstantiated allegation against Bishop Rhoades, prior to its investigation by the Dauphin County District Attorney, have been asked to publize in a similar manner his exoneration. After a full and timely investigation, the Dauphin County District Attorney determined that there was no basis to conclude that Bishop Rhoades ever engaged in a criminal or otherwise improper relationship with the teenager in question. A media release from the district attorney’s office at the conclusion of the investigation notes that “the report by a member of his [sic] family was made confidentially and without the expectation that it would be publicly aired. No witness has alleged observing any criminal or improper conduct by Bishop Rhoades with respect to the young man referred to in the report of the Bishop.”

Bishop Rhoades and the family of J.T. fully cooperated in the investigation. “This has been a case of a public airing of mere speculation of impropriety with no foundation,” a media release from the Dauphin County District Attorney’s Office states. “In this case, the leaking of what turned out to be an unfounded report did unnecessary harm. This has done a disservice to actual victims of sexual abuse. It has also caused significant and unnecessary harm to Bishop Rhoades.”

The Dauphin County District Attorney’s Office now regards this case as closed.
Michael Buescher
Date of Ordination: June 14, 1989
Removed from Public Ministry: April 1989
Deceased: January 6, 1998
Date of Diaconate Ordination: June 16, 1990
Current Status: Retired
Order ofuales: Hospitallit.
Number of Credible Allegations: 2
Places Served:
July 1, 1988 – St. Anthony of Padua Parish, South Bend, Indiana
July 1, 1988 – Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, Indiana
September 8, 1987 – St. John the Baptist Parish, South Bend, Indiana
September 1, 1986 – St. Andrew Parish, Fort Wayne, Indiana
June 23, 2007 – St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elkhart, Indiana
July 2, 1973 – St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, Indiana
July 1, 1974 – St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne, Indiana
July 1, 1975 – Chaplain, Allen County Police, Fort Wayne, Indiana, with residence at St. Andrew Parish, Fort Wayne, Indiana
July 5, 1977 – St. Hyacinth Parish, Fort Wayne, Indiana
July 9, 1979 – St. Andrew Parish, Fort Wayne, Indiana, while continuing as pastor of St. Hyacinth Parish, Fort Wayne, Indiana

John Gillig
Date of Ordination: May 25, 1957
Retired: April 26, 1989
Suspended from all Public Ministry: March 25, 2002
Dismissed from Clerical State: February 8, 2008
Number of Credible Allegations: 9
Places Served:
June 7, 1957 – Our Lady of Hungary Parish, South Bend, Indiana
February 15, 1958 – St. Monica Parish, Mishawaka, Indiana
June 15, 1962 – St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, Indiana
August 30, 1963 – Teacher, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, Indiana
June 13, 1964 – Director of CIO and CYA, Fort Wayne Deanery
June 15, 1972 – Sacred Heart Parish, Fort Wayne, Indiana
April 18, 1974 – Chaplain, Allen County Jail, Fort Wayne, Indiana
July 5, 1977 – St. Mary of the Assumption Parish – Decatur, Indiana
September 17, 1985 – Holy Family Parish, South Bend, Indiana
November 15, 1986 – St. Peter Parish, Fort Wayne, Indiana

William Ehrman
Date of Ordination: June 10, 1922
Retired: May 26, 1970
Number of Credible Allegations: 8
Places Served:
June 22, 1922 – St. Patrick Parish, Kokomo, Indiana
January 26, 1926 – St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Michigan City, Indiana; Chaplain at St. Anthony Hospital and Indiana State Prison
April 12, 1929 – Immaculate Conception Parish, Kendallville, Indiana; St. Patrick Mission Parish, Ligonier, Indiana
July 8, 1929 – St. John the Baptist Parish, New Haven, Indiana
September 1, 1964 – St. Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, Indiana

William Gieranowski
Date of Ordination: June 11, 1949
Retired: July 1, 1981
Number of Credible Allegations: 3
Places Served:
July 15, 1958 – St. Stanislaus Parish, East Chicago, Indiana
April 20, 1951 – St. Adalbert Parish, South Bend, Indiana
July 3, 1931 – St. Thomas More Parish, Munster, Indiana
May 20, 1955 – St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elkhart, Indiana
January 15, 1960 – St. Henry Parish, Fort Wayne, Indiana
June 15, 1960 – St. Jude Parish, South Bend, Indiana
September 1, 1964 – St. Hyacinth Parish, Fort Wayne, Indiana
July 1, 1970 – St. Monica Parish, Mishawaka, Indiana
July 6, 1978 – St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish, New Carlisle, Indiana

Edward Krason
Date of Ordination: February 3, 1958
Retired: Pastor: July 8, 1998
Ordered to Cease All Ministry: April 16, 1999
Number of Credible Allegations: 2
Places Served:
February 15, 1958 – St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, Indiana
September 2, 1960 – Teacher, Central Catholic High School, Fort Wayne, Indiana
August 14, 1961 – SS. Peter & Paul Parish, Mishawaka, Indiana; director of guidance, Huntington Catholic High School, Huntington, Indiana
June 1, 1963 – Principal, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, Indiana
July 9, 1979 – Continuing Education, University of Notre Dame
July 7, 1980 – Continuing Education of the clergy with residence at Queen of Angels Parish, Fort Wayne, Indiana
July 11, 1983 – St. Joseph Parish, Garrett, Indiana
July 22, 1986 – St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne, Indiana
August 1989 – St. John the Evangelist Parish, Goshen, Indiana

Complimentary Catholic burial planned for cremated remains
FORT WAYNE — Divine Mercy Funeral Home and Catholic Cemetery announce plans to provide, free of charge, a committal service and a final resting place for cremated remains on Wednesday, Oct. 17.

In accordance with the Rite of Christian Burial, cremated remains are to be buried or placed in a marked mausoleum. Many times, families are unable to afford this cost, and therefore choose to keep the cremated remains of a loved one in their home.

Anyone who presents us with the cremated remains of their Catholic loved one will be afforded the opportunity to place their cremated remains at rest in Catholic Cemetery,” said Casey Miller, executive director of Divine Mercy Funeral Home. “It is important to us because the committal service is a vital step in the grieving process and allowing future generations of the family to pay tribute to their deceased relative or acquaintance.”

The committal service will take place at Divine Mercy Funeral Home, 3500 Lake Ave., Fort Wayne, at 2 p.m., with Msgr. Robert Schulte presiding. Burial will take place immediately after the committal service. Families that wish to participate in the committal service and interment of ashes should call the cemetery office at 260-426-2044 no later than Oct. 17 to schedule an appointment with a cemetery representative.

The leadership of Catholic Mercy Funeral Home hope that this outreach will give comfort to families who have lost someone they love, while also maintaining the dignity of each person. “It is a part of our mission to carry out the works of mercy in burying the dead and comfort, in Catholic tradition, those who have lost someone they love,” said Bob Jesch, Divine Mercy Funeral Home managing director.
**List, from page 3**

**Paul LeBrun, CSC**

*Date of Ordination: April 9, 1983*

*Faculties for Ministry Removed from Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend: April 2000*

*Dismissed from Clerical State: August 26, 2008*

*Number of Credible Allegations: 1 (from Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend)*

**Places Served:**

- St. Therese, Little Flower Parish, South Bend, Indiana
- Blessed Sacrament Parish, Tollleson, Arizona
- St. John Vianney Parish, Goodyear, Arizona

**Current Status:** Incarcertated

**Edward O. Paquette**

*Date of Ordination: February 2, 1957*

*Faculties for Ministry Removed from Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend: July 14, 1978*

*Dismissed from Clerical State: January 31, 2009*

*Number of Credible Allegations: 5 Places Served:*

1. June 15, 1962 – St. Monica Parish, Mishawaka, Indiana
2. August 16, 1963 – St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, Indiana
3. September 1, 1964 – St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elkhart, Indiana
4. September 1, 1965 – St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Decatur, Indiana
5. August 13, 1969 – Our Lady of Hungary Parish, South Bend, Indiana

**James Seculoff**

*Date of Ordination: May 26, 1962*

*Removed from Public Ministry During Investigation of Allegation: January 8, 2014*

*Removal from Public Ministry: October 13, 2015*

*Number of Credible Allegations: 7 Places Served:*

1. June 15, 1962 – St. Monica Parish, Mishawaka, Indiana
2. August 16, 1963 – St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, Indiana
3. September 1, 1964 – St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, Indiana
4. September 1, 1965 – Teacher, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, Indiana
7. July 1, 1974 – Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Fort Wayne, Indiana

**Richard Stiegler**

*Date of Ordination: May 26, 1973*

*Decree of Suspension from all Acts of Ministry: December 7, 1993*

*Dismissal from the Clerical State: July 7, 2007*

*Number of Credible Allegations: 5 Places Served:*

1. July 2, 1973 – Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne, Indiana
3. February 4, 1974 – Chaplain, Fort Wayne Serra Club
4. July 1, 1976 – Holy Family Parish, South Bend, Indiana
5. February 19, 1977 – Holy Family Parish, South Bend, Indiana (weekends); Sacred Heart Parish, Fort Wayne, Indiana (weekdays)

**LIST, page 5**

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**TODAY’S CATHOLIC**

September 23, 2018
Catholic Charities distributes disaster relief to areas hit by Florence

RALEIGH, N.C. (CNS) — The Carolinas were hard hit with record rainfall and flooding rivers from tropical storm Florence since it made landfall Sept. 14. And although the storm was downgraded from a hurricane to a Category 1 tropical storm, it still caused extensive water damage.

At least 24 people died in storm-related incidents, a number of thousands of homes were damaged and about 500,000 homes and businesses were still without power Sept. 17.

Prior to the storm, Catholic Charities of South Carolina was preparing to help those in need. Kelly Kaminski, director of disaster services for Catholic Charities, said the agency activated its Emergency Operations Center and disaster services team Sept. 10 and had been coordinating with county emergency management teams, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Catholic Charities USA.

It has been working with local partners to have water, cleaning supplies, baby items and other needed supplies readily available in areas along the coast.

Catholic Charities USA has set up its website donation page and text-to-give platform to help individuals and families impacted by Hurricane Florence. As it did in response to last year’s hurricanes, the agency forewarded 100 percent of funds raised to the local Catholic Charities agencies that serve the affected communities.

Those wishing to donate can text CCUSDISASTER to 71777 or call (800) 919-9338.

“We are praying for those affected by the storm,” said Dominican Sister Donna Markham, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA. “Unfortunately, those most impacted by natural disasters are the individuals and families who are already struggling to make ends meet.

“But thanks to the generosity of our donors, the most vulnerable have their immediate needs met and the long-term recovery support they need to rebuild their lives,” she said in a statement.

Catholic Charities USA said its staff members are prepared to deploy to local agencies that may need additional support. Its mobile response unit also is standing by to be sent to the region. The vehicle can be packed with nonperishable food items, health and hygiene kits and bottled water, all of which are ready for distribution.

A trailer connected to the vehicle contains a washer and dryer that will allow survivors to clean their clothes. The mobile response unit also can be used as a field office.

Two charity organizations, Food for the Poor and Matthew 25, had teamed up and coordinated efforts with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh to distribute disaster relief supplies to the hardest hit areas.

Food for the Poor received three tractor-trailer loads of goods from Matthew 25: Ministries for the relief effort with water, hygiene items, cleaning supplies, paper towels and toilet paper to be distributed by Catholic Charities.

Daniel Altenau, director of communications and disaster services for Catholic Charities in Raleigh, said a disaster can be one of the most traumatic things a family can experience.

“We are working with local partner agencies to address the immediate needs of families across central and eastern North Carolina,” he said.

Altenau said Catholic Charities was grateful for the support from Food for the Poor, noting: “We know that no one can ever recover from a disaster this big alone, and no single agency can meet all the needs of survivors. But, as a community, we can care for our neighbors in need.

“While we encounter as “very, very fruitful.”

“It was lengthy, and we shared a lot of thoughts and ideas together,” the cardinal told Catholic News Service, “so I found the meeting very good from that point of view.”

“The pope is well-informed,” the cardinal said, “and he’s also very, very attentive to what has happened to abuse victims in the Church in the United States.”

It had been a whirlwind week for the cardinal. He arrived in Rome on Sept. 12 following a meeting with the U.S. bishops’ Administrative Committee, which consists of conference officers, regional representatives and the chairs of all the conference committees. Its task was to set the agenda for the November general assembly in Baltimore of all of the country’s bishops.

Cardinal DiNardo described the Administrative Committee meeting as “sober.”

“I thought there was a good deal of unity of the bishops on where we need to go” and on the fact that “we have to move into action” in terms of addressing the abuse crisis, he said. The cardinal said the bishops must be “united in purpose on solutions.”

Cardinal DiNardo originally announced Aug. 16 that he was requesting a meeting with Pope Francis. The request followed the release of the Pennsylvania grand jury report on sexual abuse cases in six Pennsylvania dioceses and the announce-ment of credible allegations of child sexual abuse committed by Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick, the former cardinal-archbishop of Washington.

In his statement Aug. 16, Cardinal DiNardo said the USCCB Executive Committee had established three goals: “an investigation into the questions surrounding Archbishop McCarrick; an opening of new and confidential channels for reporting complaints against bishops; and an inquiry or more effective resolution of future complaints.”

When asked about the three priorities after the meeting with the pope, the cardinal said: “I think we can make movement on those things. I think we have to do it step by step.”

Since Aug. 1, Cardinal DiNardo has issued five state-ments responding to various aspects of the sexual abuse crisis and has called for greater trans-parenty and accountability in the Church, particularly on the part of the bishops.

When asked what role there could be for Catholic media, he said they “have to tell the truth, and they have to tell the truth in a way that is very balanced.”

Acknowledging the anger and even “rage” among some commenta tors, he said the task of Catholic media is “speaking the truth, but never forgetting the role of charity.”

When asked where he finds hope during the current wave of scandals and controversy, he said, “Our trust is in the Lord.”

“Even the pope today mentioned the cross, that you need to ... be crucified with the Lord — that’s the only way you can deal with this, go through it. You have to listen to other people, and you hope that in that shared vision of mission, of cooperating together, you grow in hope.”

After meeting pope, cardinal says he’s hopeful about addressing crisis

BY GREG ERLANDSON

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston struck a determinedly hopeful tone after his long-awaited meeting with Pope Francis to discuss the growing sexual abuse crisis in the United States.

“I myself am filled with hope,” he said, “but I also realize all these things might take purpose and time.”

The cardinal spoke following a noon meeting Sept. 13 at the Vatican. Cardinal DiNardo, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, was joined in his meeting with the pope by: Cardinal Daniel W. DiNardo of Boston, president of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors; Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, vice president of the USCCB; and Msgr. J. Brian Bransfield, general secretary of the conference.

The Holy Father is the important figure for us in this,” Cardinal DiNardo said. “He sees the problem all over the Church and the world, and he wants to do something about it.”

While the cardinal did not want to discuss the specifics of the private meeting beyond a statement released by the U.S. bishops, he did describe the encounter as “very, very fruitful.”

“‘It was lengthy, and we shared a lot of thoughts and ideas together,’ the cardinal told Catholic News Service, ‘so I found the meeting very good from that point of view.’”

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Down to earth: Vatican brings together world’s meteorite curators

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Rocks, mineral debris and even dust from space are kept in special collections, museums and laboratories all over the world, and the Vatican Observatory took the first small step to help curators make a giant leap in coordinating their efforts globally.

Staffed by a team of Jesuit scientists, the Vatican Observatory held the first-ever workshop on the curation and cataloging of meteorites and extraterrestrial samples — that is, specimens gathered during missions in space, like the Apollo moon rocks or stardust captured from a comet’s tail. The event, hosted Sept. 10-13 at the observatory headquarters in the gardens of the papal summer residence, brought together 30 curators and collections’ managers representing 27 different institutions from all over the world.

The gathering also had the support of the Meteoritical Society. “For many years, each meteorite collection was curated more or less independently, with the individual curators working out their own practices for the care and preservation of the specimens, mostly under policies of their particular institutions that were very different from one another,” Jesuit Brother Robert Macke, curator of the Vatican Meteorite Collection, told Catholic News Service.

Algerian martyrs to be beatified Dec. 8 in Algeria

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The beatification of 19 martyrs of Algeria, including the seven Trappist monks of Tibhirine, will be celebrated Dec. 8 in Oran, Algeria, the country’s bishopric announced.

Cardinal Angelo Becciu, prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes, will preside over the Mass and beatification rite for the six women and 13 men who gave their lives “for the least, the sick and the men, women and young people of Algeria,” said a statement published by the bishops Sept. 13. The martyrs “are given to us as intercessors and models of Christian life, friendship and fraternity, encounter and dialogue,” the bishops said. “May their example help us in our life today. From Algeria, their beatification will be an impetus and a call for the Church and for the world to build together a world of peace and fraternity.”

The 19 martyrs were killed between 1993 and 1996 while Algeria was locked in a 10-year-long armed conflict between government forces and extremist Islamic rebel groups; the conflict left tens of thousands of people dead.

A statue of an angel is partially submerged by floodwaters Sept. 16 in the cemetery of a church where residents took shelter in Leland, N.C., and later evacuated following Hurricane Florence. The storm, which became a tropical depression over the weekend, as of Monday was poised to affect more than 10 million people through the week of Sept. 17. At least 17 people died as a result of the storm.

Kurtz: U.S. society ‘much richer’ when Church, government work together

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee for Religious Liberty told a Washington audience Sept. 12 he is concerned about a “steady movement” in the U.S. away from religious institutions and an erosion in the view that religious liberty must be valued.

The public-private partnership of the government and the Church is necessary to serve all people’s needs, said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky. He reviewed a number of current challenges to religious liberty, including an effort to exclude Catholic agencies from providing adoption and foster care services over the issue of same-sex couples. Before his main address at the Catholic Information Center, Archbishop Kurtz commented on the current abuse scandal in the Church, in particular the credible allegations of child sexual abuse committed by Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick, the former cardinal-archbishop of Washington. He also has been accused of sexual misconduct with seminarians. “I felt angry, I felt hurt, and I felt embarrassed” over the revelations about Archbishop McCarrick, he said. “We’ve worked hard in trying to make sure young people would be safe.”

Catholics join other Christians in calling for admitting more refugees

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Christians in the U.S. have taken the Trump administration to task for a dramatic drop in the numbers of persecuted Christian and other refugees being admitted into the country, even though administration officials promised last year to help. While administration officials vowed on several occasions to help Christians in the Middle East facing what Vice President Mike Pence last year called an “exodus” from their ancestral lands, U.S. Christian groups trying to help them condemned the dramatic drop of refugees the Trump administration allowed into the United States last year and this year.

The FRCUSA said in a statement that policies “clearly aimed at Muslim refugees, ensure that Christians and other religious minorities from many of the countries on Trump’s list of suspect travel ban nations are also kept out. It suggests that the president has no real interest in religious persecution or the tenets of religious freedom.” The U.S. Department of State recently released figures showing that 14,289 Christian refugees were admitted in 2018, compared to 25,162 the previous year.

U.S. bishops tell pope abuse scandal ‘lacerated’ the Church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The leaders of the U.S. bishops’ conference said they shared with Pope Francis how the Church in the United States has been “lacerated by the evil of sexual abuse. He listened very deeply from the heart,” said a statement released after the meeting Sept. 13. Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, met the pope at the Vatican along with Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley of Boston, president of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors; Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, vice president of the USCCB; and Msgr. J. Brian Bransfield, general secretary of the conference. The USCCB statement described the encounter as “a lengthy, fruitful and open exchange,” but did not enter into details about what was discussed or whether any concrete measures were taken or promised that the bishops look forward to actively continuing their discernment together, identifying the most effective next steps, the statement said.
FORT WAYNE — Catholic dioceses, colleges, universities and high schools, including Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne, have traveled to Washington, D.C., each January to stand up for life through a prayerful protest known as the March for Life.

Each year, one college is selected to lead the March for Life by carrying the March for Life banner at the front of the march, in front of hundreds of thousands of praying protesters. One high school is also selected to carry the March for Life flags. Carl Loesch, Secretary for Education for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, announced to the Bishop Dwenger community on Tuesday, Sept. 18, that in recognition of its steadfast commitment to life, the honor and responsibility of being this year’s flag bearer has been given to Bishop Dwenger High School.

In Fort Wayne, since its earliest days, Bishop Dwenger High School students have lived out their Catholic faith by standing for life. Years ago, the Saints for Life Club was founded, and for decades Bishop Dwenger students prayed in front of the former abortion clinic in Fort Wayne every Thursday morning at 7 a.m. Thanks to their prayers and those of many others, consistent witness for life and the work of the pro-life community in Fort Wayne, that abortion clinic closed. At the present time, there is not an abortion clinic anywhere in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Recently, the Fort Wayne Planned Parenthood office also closed.

In addressing the school community to share the news, Loesch noted: “While we are certainly appreciative of this recognition, we accept this responsibility with heavy hearts and great humility. We are mindful of the millions of babies who have died. We are mindful of the millions of women who have been hurt by abortion. We pray that someday soon our nation will be freed from the evil of abortion, and we will not need a national March for Life. We pray for a greater respect for life from conception to natural death.”

The next March for Life will take place on Friday, Jan. 18. Students and chaperones wishing to participate can register at www.fwsbym.com/march-for-life.

New school year safety

Students at St. Joseph School in Garrett participated in an evacuation drill in the event of a school bus emergency. Bob Blotkamp, bus driver, conducted the drill. St. Joseph School owns a standard-size bus that transports students in the Garrett, Auburn, Waterloo and Angola areas to the school.

Bishop Luers announces Distinguished Knight Award recipients

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School announced the 2018 recipients of the Distinguished Knight Award and the Honorary Distinguished Knight Award after a Mass opening homecoming festivities on Sept. 14.

Bruce Keller, a graduate of the Class of 1966, was the recipient of the 2018 Distinguished Knight Award. Keller spent many years working for a city government in Illinois, helping improve the community for people he served.

Heiny, 96, remembers when Bishop Luers High School opened its doors in 1958 and welcomed the very first class of students.

In May, the University of Saint Francis’ board of trustees and USF’s president, Sister Elise Kriss, awarded Heiny an honorary doctor of humane letters at commencement for his lifelong accomplishments and service to God and his community.

World Apostolate of Fatima Mass and breakfast

FORT WAYNE — The World Apostolate of Fatima, Fort Wayne-South Bend Division, will host its annual Mass and breakfast Saturday, Oct. 6, beginning at 7:30 a.m. with confession, rosary and a First Saturday meditation at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 1122 S. Clinton St. Mass will begin at 9 a.m. Concelebrants for the Mass will be Father Glenn Kohrman and Father Robert Garrow.

After Mass, a Marian procession will take place from the cathedral to the Grand Wayne Center, 120 W. Jefferson Blvd., where breakfast will be served. Guest speaker at the breakfast will be Father Joseph Mary Wolfe, MFVA, chaplain of Eternal Word Television Network.

Father Joseph initially came to work at EWTN in 1985 as an engineer. Two years later, he became one of the founding members of the men’s community that Mother Angelica founded in 1987: the Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal Word. The motto of the friars is: “The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back.” The brothers realized their mission by utilizing modern means of communication, reaching millions of souls throughout the world.

Father Joseph was ordained to the priesthood in 1993 and over the years has traveled from the Garrett, Auburn, Waterloo and Angola areas to the school.

Around the Diocese

Bishop Dwenger High School selected to help lead March for Life

High school youth and chaperones from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will attend the National March for Life in January. This year, Bishop Dwenger High School has been selected to carry the March for Life flags at the front of the parade.
TODAY’S CATHOLIC

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

Taking the faith from high school to college

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

A

ny is 18 and a high school graduate. He spent his entire adolescence in a private Catholic school, including preschool, and is now off to a public college setting. How does he move into adulthood and college life while still living a life of faith?

The most important thing college students can do is go to Mass,” said Tami Goy, pastoral minister at Saint Joseph High School in South Bend. “Participating in the Mass and receiving Communion is key for all of us to stay connected to God and His grace in our lives.”

College students face challenges to their faith, but also opportunities. As young people leave the nest for the first time, they learn to define their own faith, instead of following the path taken by their family.

“I think one among many challenges is discovering the personal relevancy of their faith — the ‘why’ for their beliefs. During college and young adulthood, faith demands a much beyond just a habit carried over from childhood. I think growing into a deep friendship with Jesus and a strong community of faith are the keys to building a foundation where the ‘personal why’ of faith can unfold and take root,” noted TheaMarie Burns, Campus Ministry assistant for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Jason Garrett, campus minister at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne, noted that most secular colleges and universities have a Catholic Newman Center on or close to campus. Newman Centers are generally run through a local parish and connect college students to a church for attending Mass, as well as other possibilities for staying involved with the Church. Joining will provide students with a group of other young Catholics to help support them as they live out their faith in their college years.

“At IUSB, we have been focusing on two areas, outreach on campus and deeper formation for Catholic students who are already committed disciples. For outreach, we have roundtable discussions, social events like game nights, opportunities for service projects, the Awakening Retreat and right now a four-part series on prayer. For our Core Team, we are starting a discipleship group to provide a place to discuss some of the challenges of faith they experience and provide tools for outreach to their peers,” said Burns.

The World Wide Web can also be a helpful guide in one’s spiritual journey.

According to Goy, there are a vast number of websites and apps to help young people.

Newmanconnection.com helps students find Newman Centers and local parishes near their university campus. She noted that the mobile apps Laudate and The Better Part are helpful tools as well.

Garrett said he has found the website www.mycatholic.com helpful, along with the apps Catholic Confession, the Lives of the Saints and The Holy Catholic Bible.

“There is also a book I like to give to students who are going off to college. It’s called “God has Great Plans for You,” by Michael Tabors. It has short chapters, with great reflections and action plans to help God’s plan for their life,” noted Goy.

At Purdue Fort Wayne, a vibrant Catholic student group called Mastodon Catholic celebrated its first “Mass on the Grass” of the 2018-19 school year on Sept. 14. Groups like Mastodon Catholic and the national network of Newman Centers work to nourish the faith of new and returning college students and help them develop their personal practice of the faith.

Esther Terry to head Hispanic Ministry, special projects for diocese

FORT Wayne — In the Secretariat for Evangelization & Discipleship for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Hispanic Ministry has been energized by the addition of new Director for Hispanic Ministry and Special Projects Esther Terry. Deacon Frederick Everett, head of the secretariat, said Terry is a “great addition” to the diocesan evangelization team because of her wealth of energy, insight and enthusiasm.

Originally from Birmingham, Alabama, Terry’s vibrant, evangelical Protestant family instilled in her a love for Scripture and a sense of mission, and a desire to serve God and others. She attended Hillsdale College, graduating in 2008, after which she began working at the University of Notre Dame. She found a home in the Catholic Church and was confirmed in 2010.

At Notre Dame, she worked coordinating events, special projects and publications in the Kellogg Institute for International Studies from 2008 to 2011. She completed a Master of Theological Studies degree, with a concentration in moral theology, in 2013.

Terry worked in 2013-14 with Notre Dame’s Klaau Center for Civil and Human Rights, as project director for the online database of Catholic Social Teaching and Human Rights documents known as “Convocate.” She was also director of the highly successful Camino program at Notre Dame’s McGrath Institute for Church Life, and worked with dioceses across the country to offer online theology courses in Spanish for adult faith formation from 2015 to 2018.

In her new role, Terry will not only help with special projects within the Secretariat for Evangelization & Discipleship, “but she will oversee our outreach efforts with our Hispanic brothers and sisters — especially young adults, engaged and married couples,” said Deacon Everett.

As Director of Hispanic Ministry, she will support adults and young adults within the Hispanic/Latino community as they encounter Jesus Christ, and share that encounter with others. That may include, for example, working on a retreat for marriage preparation or meeting with recently ordained Hispanic deacons, giving an Education for Ministry talk in Spanish, or working with the Office of Worship Director Brian MacMichael to plan workshops for Spanish-speaking liturgical ministers.

During her first year, Terry said she also plans to do a lot of listening. “I want to learn the needs of our communities through conversations with our priests, parishioners, deacons, lay ministers and young adults, and then set priorities for next steps based on what emerges from that dialogue.”

She’s looking forward to “supporting the work of parishes in finding ways to help them grow in their capacity to carry out the mission of evangelization,” she added.

“At IUSB, we have been focusing on two areas, outreach on campus and deeper formation for Catholic students who are already committed disciples. For outreach, we have roundtable discussions, social events like game nights, opportunities for service projects, the Awakening Retreat and right now a four-part series on prayer. For our Core Team, we are starting a discipleship group to provide a place to discuss some of the challenges of faith they experience and provide tools for outreach to their peers,” said Burns. She’s looking forward to “supporting the work of parishes in finding ways to help them grow in their capacity to carry out the mission of evangelization,” she added.

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Diocesan confirmation retreat gathers hundreds

By Deb Wagner

A confirmation retreat for eighth-grade students took place Saturday, Sept. 15, at Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne. Nearly 400 students participated in this three-day retreat, which focused on prayer, reconciliation and the gifts of the Holy Spirit that are received in the sacrament of confirmation.

Students belonged to one of three groups for the day, differentiated by color of T-shirt. This differentiation facilitated the movement of groups for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and reconciliation, lunch and games.

John Pratt, director of Youth Ministry for the diocese, said: “The purpose of the diocesan confirmation retreat is to allow youth to have a day to encounter the joy of our faith, as a diocese. It’s a day of catechesis on the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Holy Spirit’s gifts. Ultimately, we hope our young people vibrantly encounter the love of God.”

The day began with praise and worship songs. Third-year theology student, seminarian David Pellican of the Archdiocese of Detroit, explained how fortunate people in the United States are to be able to practice the Catholic faith publicly. When he was in China recently, he learned that practicing his Catholic faith was in China recently, he learned that practicing his Catholic faith was impossible, so he and others participated in Mass secretly on the top floor of a steel factory whose owner was Catholic.

It was with this sense of privilege that the bilingual Mass began in the school’s gym, with celebrant Father Mark Gurtner. Father Gurtner’s homily spoke to the day being the feast day of Our Lady of Sorrows, and how the feast day relates to confirmation. He said the feast day recalls Mary suffering at the foot of her Son’s cross, and that this remembrance goes beyond the levels of normal grief because God allowed Mary to witness a mystical event. Recalling the account of the Roman soldier who pierced Jesus’ side, students were reminded that Mary was spiritually pierced, so that she shared in the suffering of Jesus in order to save the world.

Mary is a partner with Jesus and wants us to be partners with Him by following in the footsteps of Mary in receiving of the gift of confirmation, he said.

After Mass, Father Royce Gregerson gave a presentation on prayer. He said that prayer was awkward for many, including him at times. He cited the Gospel of Luke, where the Apostles ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. The method to prayer is The Lord’s Prayer, he said, and proceeded to explain exactly how each part of The Lord’s Prayer teaches us to pray.

For example, Father Gregerson said, “Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name” means, “holy is the Lord.”

“In prayer, God comes first. It’s not about me, me, me. Praise God for all things given, first. ‘Thy kingdom come’ means that there is no more suffering in heaven, which is to come and in which we find hope.”

“Thy will be done” asks that the Lord change our hearts to accept God’s will for our lives, rather than changing Him to accommodate our desires, he continued.

This session on prayer was a favorite part of the day for the students from Corpus Christi Parish, South Bend; St. Patrick Parish, Ligonier; St. John the Baptist Parish, New Haven; and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, among several others.

Bella Gerardot, from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, perhaps summed up the day best when she commented, “We’re preparing for confirmation based on events that have already occurred in Church history.”

Each of the three groups then participated in adoration and reconciliation, lunch and games. The students could also learn how to make their own rosaries from colored, cotton cord. Praise and worship songs brought the large group together again for an afternoon presentation by Father Jay Horning.

Father Horning told them that confirmation is the last of three sacraments that bring a person into full communion with the Catholic Church; baptism and the sacrament of Holy Communion are the other two.

“Confirmation is the sealing of the gifts we received in baptism, and to show the world we are children of God,” he said. He then asked for a few students to tell which confirmation name they had chosen. St. Paul of the Cross, St. Michael the Archangel, and St. Joan of Arc were named.

Father Horning said he chose St. Joan because “she chose her confirmation name, and he prays to St. Gabriel to intercede for him on a regular basis. Confirmation names are important, he told the candidates, because they “embodies something we want to emulate; and the saint gives you the zeal to listen to the Holy Spirit for the rest of your lives.”

White Masses celebrate health care professionals’ faith, career calling

By Kevin Kilbane

Medical care for unborn and newly born children will be the focus for the White Mass dinner Oct. 18 in Fort Wayne, while the White Mass dinner Oct. 26 in Granger will unite health care workers in prayer.

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, will celebrate both White Masses. The White Mass brings together health care personnel to celebrate their calling to care for the mind, body and spirit of individuals, said Sister Laureen M. Painier, vice president of mission integration, ministry formation, ethics and spiritual care at Saint Joseph Health System in the South Bend area.

Healing also comes to health care workers when people come together to pray with them and for them, said Sister Laureen, who helped organize the South Bend-area White Mass and dinner.

The South Bend-area White Mass will take place at 6 p.m. Sept. 26 at St. Pius X Church, 52553 Fir Road in Granger. It will be followed by a dinner at St. Pius X, sponsored by Saint Joseph Health System. There is no speaker this year.

The Mass is open to all people, but the dinner is for physicians, clinicians and other health care professionals, Sister Laureen said. Dinner reservations are due by Sept. 19 by emailing Karen.King@sjmhc.com.

“We are very much appreciative of St. Pius X, which has worked with us every year,” Sister Laureen said. Along with an easily accessible location, the parish’s choir and instrumentalists are outstanding, she said.

The Fort Wayne White Mass will take place at 6 p.m. Oct. 18 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 1122 S. Clinton St. Dinner will follow at 7:30 p.m. at nearby St. Mary, Mother of God Church, 1101 S. Lafayette St.

Dinner reservations are $15 per person and can be made by calling 260-222-6978 or by going to fortwayne.catholicradioindy.org. Dinner is free for students and those in religious life.

The event is organized by the Dr. Jerome Lejune Medical Guild of Northeast Indiana.

The speaker for the Fort Wayne White Mass dinner will be Dr. Brandon P. Brown, who will discuss fetal medicine and “Caring for the Least Among Us.”

An assistant professor of radiology and imaging sciences at the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, Brown also teaches bioethics at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. His work as a fetal and pediatric radiologist focuses on the perinatal period, which includes the time before and just after birth — a topic about which he spoke in May on the “Faith in Action” program on Catholic Radio Indy, 89.1 and 90.0-FM in Indianapolis. To listen to a podcast of the program, go to http://podcast.catholicradioindy.org and enter “Brandon Brown” in the search box.

Ultrasound and MRI imaging technology now allows doctors to better assess a baby’s health while the child is in the mother’s uterus and even before birth, he said. Medical teams also prepare in advance to do surgery, if needed, immediately after a baby’s birth, he said. Some surgeries also can be done while the child still is in the womb.

By investing their time and energy into a baby in the womb, medical specialists and staff “are giving a validity to that developing life and we are saying this is a life worthy of our care,” Brown said.

He also believes fetal medicine supports the child’s parents and caregivers, who may need to make decisions in Church history’s for a disabled child after birth, he told Catholic Radio Indy.

“I see our task as not just advocating for pre-birth human life everywhere but to really support those who are on the frontline caring for the weakest and most vulnerable among us,” he stated.
Christ the King student is Riley Champion

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

Eighth-grade student Connor Schuelke appeared as a hero. A student at Christ the King School, South Bend, he has favorite teachers, but not a favorite subject. He likes to play video games and build with Legos. He also swims, plays the violin and the piano.

He’s not allowed to play contact sports, but he was eager to get out on the playground with his friends recently, as soon as his doctors at Riley Hospital for Children let him return to school. He came back with a smile, and his classmates vied for the privilege of pushing his wheelchair when necessary.

That positive attitude is one reason principal Stephen Hoffman nominated Connor to be a 2019 Riley Champion. From 70 nominees, a committee then chose Connor and seven other Indiana young people ranging in age from 9 to 17, for recognition on the basis of their courage and philanthropy, and the inspiration they have provided to their communities.

Connor found out about the honor in August; so he was surprised at all the attention he received during a school assembly on Sept. 13, when the news was shared with his teachers and classmates.

In front of 465 students from pre-K to eighth grade, Riley Foundation representative Susan Miles unfurled a banner for the school to display. Connor can strike up a conversation with anyone, even with a stranger waiting in line with him, but representatives from local TV stations thrusting microphones in his face was a new experience. “How do you feel?” they inquired. He replied, “Nervous.”

In the coming months, Riley champions will have a chance to tell their stories to donors and parents, beginning as a “Be the Hope Now” luncheon in Indianapolis on Nov. 28. They’ll also be welcomed at an upcoming Indianapolis Colts game.

In the past, Christ the King School has raised money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The students, teachers and administrators also have collected over 3 million pop can tabs for Riley’s Ronald McDonald House, for families of hospitalized children.

Connor’s Riley story began in third grade, the same year he began attending Christ the King. In October he began experiencing pain in his left femur and vomiting, but doctors were mystified. Suspecting juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, they finally sent Connor to a specialist at Riley. In February 2014 she diagnosed Ewing sarcoma, a cancer that attacks bone and the soft tissue around it. By the time a biopsy confirmed that, it had metastasized to his lungs.

Treatment involved chemotherapy, which ruined his appetite and led to stomach infections. Radiation was also part of the regimen. A few months later he had a total hip replacement.

It’s a little ironic that Connor has been named a Riley ambassador, said his mother, Rachel Schuelke, because his face fell every time they had to check into the hospital for a week of chemotherapy — with only a week off in between each round. Connor’s teachers were very understanding, providing work he could do at home to keep up with his class.

That same year, Connor was preparing for the sacraments of initiation. But because he was so sick, he was unable to be baptized, confirmed and receive first Communion at the Easter Vigil. Instead, his pastor, Father Neil Wack, CSC, came to his house on his birthday. “My faith certainly grew during that time,” said Connor. “It was very helpful.”

Religion teacher Cindy Esch was especially supportive.

“He has such a good attitude,” Trinh testified. “I would have thrown the towel. He had to miss so much of his childhood!” But Connor is thankful for what he has today and compassionate toward those who have less.

He loves to give back to others, welcoming opportunities to serve the homeless. He comes home excited from his time relating to the residents at Healthwin Specialized Care nursing home. He does whatever the other patients and residents want, from pushing a wheelchair to helping a blind resident play bingo.

Connor’s younger siblings, Isabella and Julian, are in first grade and kindergarten at Christ the King, so they joined him at the school assembly, as did his grandmother; his mother, a nurse; and his father, Jason Schuelke, a firefighter.

With the cooperation and sponsorship of Kroger, Riley has been honoring champions for 11 years. One of the first honorees overcame osteosarcoma and now works as a trauma nurse.

Connor would like to become a pilot. His medical limitations will prevent his serving in the military, but he could fly commercially. He already has become the favorite of his flying instructor, who has taught him. Even though he doesn’t like math, he loves navigating by lining up the instruments in the cockpit.

It’s been 3 1/2 years since there’s been any evidence of Connor’s cancer. That’s too soon to say that he is “in remission,” however. He will need frequent medical checkups for the rest of his life. However, Trinh said, “I truly believe the power of prayer healed him.”
Lumen Christi Award finalists called examples of ‘how to change the world’

CHICAGO (CNS) — Catholic Extension’s finalists for its Lumen Christi Award show “what can happen when we build up and strengthen Catholic faith communities in the poorest parts of the United States,” said Father Jack Wall, president of Catholic Extension.

“If we all follow their examples, we can change our world,” the priest said.

Lumen Christi is Latin for “Light of Christ.” The award honors an individual, group or family who demonstrates how the power of faith can transform lives and communities.

This year’s finalists, announced Sept. 12, include three “Dreamers,” young people who are beneficiaries of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program; two women religious and one leader of religious sisters; the lay coordinator of an immigrant parish in Puerto Rico; the principal of the only Catholic school in the 25-county Diocese of Lubbock, Texas; and a priest who was orphaned when his police officer father was killed in the line of duty.

Another finalist is not an individual but a diocesan ministry — the Office of Hispanic Ministry of the Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi. The Lumen Christi Award is the highest honor bestowed by the Chicago-based national organization, which raises and distributes funds to support U.S. mission dioceses, many of which are rural, cover a large geographic area and have limited personnel and pastoral resources. Among other things, funds help build churches and assist with seminarians’ education and training for other Church workers.

The dioceses served by Catholic Extension nominate individuals and programs for the award.

The list of the finalists for the 2018-2019 Lumen Christi Award follows:

Randy Tejeda, Diocese of Caguas, Puerto Rico. At age 21, Tejeda has been serving as pastoral coordinator at his parish, in an immigrant community facing many challenges, for five years. He has helped lead the chapel’s restoration with scarce resources, coordinates youth ministry and the parish’s action and the parish’s service, coordinates youth ministry and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and the parish’s service and 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Good and bad ideas on Church reform

The ongoing discussion of clerical sex abuse has moved to proposals for Church reform. The immediate need is for transparency and accountability. Charges against former cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, along with those who allegedly covered up his abuses and advanced him to an advisory role at the Vatican, must be investigated and proved or disproved.

The U.S. bishops’ 2002 protocols that nearly eliminated new instances of abuse should apply to bishops, requiring the Holy Father’s cooperation. And these reforms must involve laypeople with appropriate expertise, to break through the wall of clericalism that protects predators.

Other proposals include improving screening and formation for seminarians, and a reformed process for selecting bishops. These are good ideas. There are also bad ideas, coming from Church factions seen as being on the “right” and “left” — though partisan loyalties have no place in the body of Christ.

One bad idea is what Father James Martin calls a “witch hunt” designed to eject men with same-sex attractions from the priesthood. He says some traditionalists favor this.

To be sure, about 80 percent of the victims of clerical sex abuse are male. But in the general population, sex abuse is widespread, and about 80 percent of the juvenile victims are female. We cannot blame this on the existence of men attracted to women. A man with homosexual tendencies may be drawn to an all-male environment and find it easier to give up married life. But if he strives to live the Gospel and remain chaste despite temptation, he could be a role model of virtue for others. This is the situation Pope Francis seemed to be referring to in his famous comment, “Who am I to judge?”

In the same interview, he said there should be no “gay lobby” in the Vatican.

The old proverb is to hate the sin but love the sinner. Actually, we must love the sinner and hate sin because it prevents him or her from flourishing as God intended. In working to stop abuse and extinguish the abuse, we must act from love of all our neighbors, whatever the nature of their temptations, or we are facing mortal sin.

A bad idea from the “left” is to end priestly celibacy or the all-male priesthood. Celibacy is a door to many centuries, while male ordination is a constant teaching based on the practice of Jesus himself. But whatever the theological arguments, a proposal of celibate female priests is irrelevant to our problem.

As the #MeToo movement illustrates, sexual exploitation has many victims of both genders. Some perpetrators are female, as when schoolteachers (many of them married women) seduce their male students. The crime of pedophilia is almost exclusively perpetrated by males — but “about 44 percent of convicted pedophiles either are or have been married, and a vast majority of pedophiles have sexual relationships with adults,” according to The Week magazine’s article “Pedophilia: A guide to the disorder.”

A recent column in my local secular newspaper actually said clergy sex abuse would end if priests could marry and have “healthy sexual relationships.”

The last thing we need is a message that women can “cure” men’s same-sex activities through marriage.

And it is naive to think we can end the “old boys’ network” of clericalism by making it an “old boys’ and girls’ network.” That only reinforces the idea of a clerical caste that can ignore accountability.

If we can’t blame sex abuse on the existence of homosexual men, unmarried men or men in general, then why not blame it for arming ourselves against sin and infidelity to the Gospel.

Nobody said the real solution would be easy.

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

Breaking up with your phone

I’ve been emailing my friend Becky, a newspaper editor in South Dakota, about our growing digital addictions. We used to compare notes on “Dancing with the Stars,” but lately we’re both watching less TV.

“My eyes have started to reject going from screen to screen,” she emailed me. Instead, she said, “I’ve been reading, cooking and walking her dog, which led to the discovery of downtown trails and encounters with bison, deer and bighorn sheep.”

“I notice a difference,” she wrote. “It has gotten to the point where my phone is strictly for texting and calling people on Sundays. I can’t keep up with it all, and I’m not sure it’s worth trying.”

I told her about my weeklong hiatus from social media, which retrained my thumb from tapping on Instagram feeds. I said that free time online to enjoy personality profiles and read substantive articles on mental illness, gender identity and child development. I found myself looking up the definition of words like ersatz, which means artificial or synthetic, an inferior substitute used to replace something natural or genuine.

Just as soon as I had landed on this snazzy new word — a word that says so much in six letters and has that novel “z” ending — I uncovered an application for it, one that got to the root of my iPhone addiction. Our screen time provides

Christina Capecci

stimulation that is ersatz to real human connection.

Social media apps purport to connect us with others but actually isolate and disrupt us, turning us into the kind of people who don’t answer a phone call but text the caller shortly later, only to enter into a rapid-fire exchange that feels urgent but not fulfilling.

It was time to turn to Catherine Price’s 2018 bestseller “How to Break Up with your Phone. The 30-Day Plan to Take Back Your Life.” Reading this book was like eating broccoli: I knew I was doing something good for myself. It offers an eye-opening assessment of the mental, social and physical effects of extended phone use — the way it fractures our attention spans, hinders our ability to form new memories and undercuts our sleep.

I wanted to cut back, for me, was the fact that we do not think critically about the impact of our phones. How do certain apps make us feel? Why is it hard to put down our phones? What are

CAPECCHI, page 13
Sacraments, not social events

A common pastoral problem today is that many people have reduced the liturgy and the sacraments to ceremonies. To be sure, they have ceremonial aspects, but they are not mere ceremonies. Sacraments change reality; they don’t just add up and affect a change in us that is necessary, real, and glorious. Too often the effects of the sacraments are forgotten in favor of the externals. The sacraments most affected by this mentality are baptism, holy matrimony, and the Mass itself.

As an illustration, consider a man who is about to be ordained a priest. He receives a letter from the bishop calling him to this ordination; it indicates the date of the ordination Mass approximately two months in the future. What if the man said to himself, “It’s just a ceremony,” and began presenting himself as a priest, even going so far as to hear confessions and celebrate Mass in local parishes? This course would be an egregious violation and sacrilege because one divide.” Thus, a new reality comes to be for both of them.

Priests’ titles

CAPECCHI, from page 12

they doing to our brains? Who benefits from our addiction? I was disappointed in myself for being lulled, like an unblinking toddler, into all the scrolling and swiping.

Meedying Price’s advice and cutting back on phone time has made me feel more in control, more engaged with my life. It empowers me to tackle other off-balance areas as I head into fall, which will be a season of change. I’m setting better sleep habits and healthier snacking, replacing Dove milk chocolates with peanuts and pecans. One positive change begets another.

I recently read about a priest who hits the gym several times a week and weight lifts 350 pounds. “It gets you used to doing hard things,” he said. “And when you’re doing hard things in this controlled environment, it’s easier to do hard things elsewhere in your life.”

When praying is hard, I focus on the simple prayers that ground me, beginning and ending my day. But I’m also realizing that being disciplined can turn the day into one continuous prayer: an act of appreciation for life, for God’s gifts, a love of something greater than self. And that’s a good reason to set aside the phone.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.

Gospel for September 23, 2018

Mark 9:30-37

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: a lesson about how Jesus came to serve. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

LIKE A CHILD

THE CROSWORD

The Crossword

September 23 and 30, 2018

Readings: Ws 2:12, 17-20; Jn 2:16-42; Mk 9:30-37 and Vtn 11:25-29; Jn 5:1-6; Mt 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

ACROSS

1 Tend on
6 You fight & wage __
9 Brake system
12 Iran’s neighbor
13 Bull, fight cheer
14 Millstone & cast into __
15 Puzzle
16 Uncurled
17 Do not cause little ones to __
18 Eve’s husband
20 Proverb
22 __ He does not __ us!
24 License, profits
25 __ hands of God

26 ‘A ___ of water’
27 Illness
29 Am not
31 Cardinal color
32 Shave
36 The seventy __
39 Before (prefix)
40 __ 1472
43 Engraved
45 __
46 __
47 __
48 Sister for short
50 Freedom of the __
56 Polish folk dance
58 Joshua’s father
59 Mischievous
67 Downwind
68 ‘Put the Just One to __’
69 Rate of speed
74 Patience
75 Merry
76 Decrease
77 Dry grassy land
78 A cup of water earns __
79 __ Francisco
80 __

The word search is based on the Gospel reading for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

Answer Key can be found on page 15
Packers fan sees game with aid from hospice, diocese

BY SAM LUCERO

A

LLOUEZ, Wis. (CNS) — When David Marosek, who had been battling stage 4 rectal cancer since July 2016, got the news in April his cancer had returned and spread into his lungs and spine, it was a depressing time.

“I was told that it was terminal, and they gave me six months to a year” to live, he told The Compass, newspaper of the Diocese of Green Bay, in a telephone interview from his Oshkosh apartment. Rather than begin new treatments, Marosek chose to enter hospice.

“I’ve been in hospice now for a few months,” he said. With the assistance of Aurora at Home Hospice, Marosek receives medical care and home visits from hospice staff, including Jayne Syrjamaki, Aurora at Home volunteer coordinator.

When hospice staff met Marosek in July, they asked him, “If you had one wish, what would it be?” It’s part of the hospice program’s “Drop in the Bucket” initiative to grant small wishes to patients. The wish was then turned over to Syrjamaki. “He said he had always wanted to go to a Packers game,” she said.

“I’ve been a Packer fan all my life,” Marosek, 52, told The Compass. “I can remember, back when I was 5 or 6, watching Packer games on TV with my father — or listening to the game on the car radio after church on Sunday, waiting for Mom to get groceries.”

When hospice staff met Marosek in July, they asked him, “If you had one wish, what would it be?” It’s part of the hospice program’s “Drop in the Bucket” initiative to grant small wishes to patients. The wish was then turned over to Syrjamaki. “He said he had always wanted to go to a Packers game,” she said.

“The chance to watch a Green Bay Packers game live at Lambeau Field would be a dream come true,” Marosek told Syrjamaki. She set out to make it happen, but got no replies after sending messages to Oshkosh-area businesses.

“I wasn’t about to give up because I had the exact same diagnosis,” Syrjamaki said. “I went through colon cancer treatment four years ago. I’m a survivor, but I knew David wasn’t going to have the tomorrows that I have. That’s why it was a little more important to me.”

Syrjamaki decided to contact the Diocese of Green Bay, “I grew up at St. Joseph Parish in Kellnersville and I remember reading things in the bulletin about how the diocese helped people,” she said. Her email request was given to Ted Phernetton, executive director of Catholic Charities in Green Bay.

“Within a day, I heard back from Ted and that he was going to put out a request. About two days later he had tickets,” she said.

In her email to the diocese, Syrjamaki explained that she wanted to grant the final wish of a hospice patient. “I am hoping you can help this gentleman or lead me in the right direction,” she wrote.

For Phernetton, the request “touched my heart immediately,” he told The Compass. “Maybe, in part, because I was lucky. I am a cancer survivor and he will not be.”

With terminal cancer, Marosek “has no real control over what comes next,” said Phernetton. “His wish is a way for him to pursue just a little bit of power and influence over what remains of his life.”

Phernetton’s first step was to email members of the diocesan staff, explaining the request and seeking help with tickets.

“When all the Fallen Trees were cleaned up, I was able to go to one Packer game,” he said. “I wasn’t going to be greedy. I am hoping somebody else (in hospice) will enjoy them and get to have the same experience I am having tonight.”

Lucero is news and information manager for The Compass, newspaper of the Diocese of Green Bay.

TODAY’S CATHOLIC
September 23, 2018
Fall festival planned at Hessen - Cassel
FORT WAYNE — St. Joseph Hessen - Cassel will have a fall festival Saturday, Sept. 22, from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the school. Many activities for young and old alike. Contact Andy Litchfield at 260-450-6730 for information.

Knights to host breakfast at Most Precious Blood Parish
FORT WAYNE — The St. Gaspar del Bufalo Knights of Columbus Council No. 11043 will be serving breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 23, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the gymnasium at Most Precious Blood. 1,500 Barthold St. Cost is $8 for adults, $4 for children 6-12, and $20 per family. $5 carryout packs will be available. Proceeds will benefit the parish athletics association.

Friends of the Poor Walk supports St. Vincent de Paul Society of Fort Wayne
FORT WAYNE — The Friends of the Poor Walk is a national special event to raise awareness and funds for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Join the walk on Sunday, Sept. 23, at Parkview Field, 1301 Ewing St., with registration at 1 p.m. and the walk starting at 2 p.m. Participants are asked to make a donation and/or get sponsors for their efforts. Sign up at https://bit.ly/2vd2dxs.

40 Days for Life set to begin
FORT WAYNE — 40 Days for Life will run from Sept. 26 to Nov. 4. It is a community-based campaign that takes a determined, peaceful approach to showing local communities the consequences of abortion in their own neighborhoods and for their own friends and families. This year’s campaign will take place across and/or get sponsors for their activities for young and old alike. Contact Andy Litchfield at 260-450-6730 for information.

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

The 177 Project — adoration around the nation
FORT WAYNE — The 177 Project is partnering with 22 different Catholic artists to bring an evening of eucharistic adoration and music to every single diocese in the U.S. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 10700 Aboite Cir Rd., will host this event on Sunday, Sept. 30, from 6:45-8:30 p.m. Tickets to the evening are completely free. The evening includes praying the rosary, eucharistic exposition and a praise and worship concert. Visit www.the177project.com.

St. Francis pet blessing
MISHAWAKA — The Secular Franciscan Order — Third Order of St. Francis — is sponsoring a “St. Francis Pet Blessing” from 1-3 p.m. in the south parking lot of Marian High School. All pets may be brought for a blessing in honor of St. Francis, patron saint of animals. Displays will include the Pet Refuge of Michiana, pet food samples from Well Pet, animal health advice from a local veterinarian, the Canine Unit from the South Bend Police Department and a dog groomer. Students from Marian High School will be available for giving dogs a bath and grooming. Bring a lawn chair, your favorite pet and enjoy time with God’s creatures. Contact Sister Agnes Marie Regan, OSF, at 574-259-5427.

Transitus of St. Francis
FORT WAYNE — Deacon Jose Arroyo, the Poor Sisters of Saint Clare and the Confraternity of Penitents will celebrate the Transitus of St. Francis with a prayer service to commemorate his death on Wednesday, Oct. 3, from 8-9 p.m. at St. Andrew’s Church, 2610 New Haven Ave. Evening prayer will be prayed as part of the Transitus. A potluck supper and sacred music will precede the Transitus and begins at 6 p.m., sacred music at 7:30 p.m. and the Transitus at 8 p.m.

Our calling to serve keeps growing.

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

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Divine Mercy Funeral Home... Serving all faiths.
SSND, from page 1

Auditorium for the reception, held on a steamy Sunday afternoon. "But I want to assure you that you will not be forgotten. We will continue to serve you through our daily prayer and suffering as we age and move on to the everlasting home of heaven."

The parish, likewise, won’t forget the sisters, said Father Tony Steinacker, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul.

“Your physical presence will always be here,” he said. “As we enter into this driveway that goes between our school and our church, it is now going to be named the School Sisters of Notre Dame.”

“How do you summarize 150 years of our presence in this wonderful community?” asked Sister Phyllis Marie. "I spoke on behalf of the sisters. The anniversary, she said, is “a time for gratitude and appreciation to all that has transpired in 150 years.

Also representing the order at the celebration were Sister Miriam Therese and Sister Loretta, who are currently serving the parish; Sister Margaret Ann Murawski and Sister Jan Gregorich, who previously taught at the parish school; Sister Colleen Bauer, who grew up in Huntington; Sister Miriam Kesselens; and Patricia Tocco, SSND associate.

“As I looked at the list of sisters who were missioned here through the years, I counted the names and there were 174 unique women who, with God’s help and your unwavering support, lived out their vocation call here at SS. Peter and Paul in Huntington,” Sister Phyllis Marie said.

The reception followed a Mass celebrated by Father Robert Steindl. He was assisted by Father Perry McDonald, who served as pastor of SS. Peter and Paul from 1979 to 1984.

At the end of Mass, the sisters — seated in a place of honor at the front of the congregation — were asked to stand and were congratulated by the congregation as its members sang a blessing for them: “May God bless you with His love, always fill you with His love, may He hold you in the hollow of His hand.”

The blessings began when the first trio of sisters arrived in Huntington on Aug. 18, 1868, at the request of the parish priest, providing spiritual and academic instruction to 136 students that provided spiritual and academic instruction to 136 students that provided spiritual and academic instruction to 136 students. Sister Phyllis Marie had previously been known as Sister Anthony Marie.

In addition to a new look, the sisters also adopted new names — new, at least, to their students. Sister Phyllis Marie had previously been known as Sister Marie Stefan; a co-worker, Sister Francis Regis Arens, Sister Ara Celi Stoll, Sister Susan Marie Curtin and Sister Louis Marie Kozinski.

When the two Catholic parishes in Huntington joined forces in 1956-57 to open Huntington Catholic High School, SSND sisters helped staff it. They moved into a new convent adjacent to the school in 1951. It initially provided a home for nine sisters who taught at the local parish school, and also served as a regional meeting place.

“We were the biggest convent in the area,” recalls Sister Phyllis Marie. “We would host most of the community meetings.”

The convent was filled with sisters in residence. “We had 10 or 12 in the house at the time,” she says. “We had a full house.”

Sister Phyllis Marie, just 20 and not even out of college when she was sent to Huntington, was charged with teaching fourth-grade reading and math in the mornings and starting a music program in the high school in the afternoons.

“We were still in the traditional habit, so that helped me with discipline,” she says with a laugh. But those were the days after Vatican II, which gave rise to changes within the sisters’ religious order — including the modification of the traditional habit and full veil. A woman in town took the sisters’ old habits and remade them into black skirts and blouses, Sister Phyllis Marie recalled.

And a student, she added, gave her a heads up on the black nylons she was still wearing with the shorter skirt.

“Apparently, black nylons had some kind of double meaning at that time,” she said.

In addition to a new look, the sisters also adopted new names — new, at least, to their students. Sister Phyllis Marie had previously been known as Sister Marie Stefan; a co-worker, Sister Stanella, also resumed using her given name, Margaret Ann Murawski.

Sister Margaret Ann spent seven years in Huntington, leaving in 1972. She had been sent to teach math in seventh and eighth grades, along with math and Spanish in the high school, but also raised up a range of varied responsibilities. She taught art for a while, ran the mission program, helped with the school play, helped build floats and, unexpectedly, ran an athletic program for female students.

“They needed someone to take care of the Girls’ Athletic Association,” she said. “I didn’t know too much about sports.”

Sister Phyllis Marie, too, expanded her abilities. With support from several other sisters, she helped the students put on several musicals, even though she had no idea how to block scenes.

“I bought a used book — it was all dog-eared — to learn how to block scenes.”

Huntington Catholic High School closed its doors in 1985, the same year SS. Peter and Paul and St. Mary parishes agreed to merge their grade schools.

Members of the School Sisters of Notre Dame continued to help staff the jointly operated grade school, known as Huntington Catholic School, until the close of the school year in 1989. The last resident of the convent, Sister Rose Helene Miller, moved out on June 21, 1989.

“Those the sisters have loved here and they will be missed,” the chronicle notes. “However, we leave Huntington knowing that the Lord’s work for us here has been completed.”

Two more sisters came after them, but they did not serve as teachers.

Sister Miriam Therese began serving SS. Peter and Paul Parish in 1990, and Sister Loretta joined her in 1999. Both live not in the convent, but in a small house across from the church.

“Most of the sisters who were here were connected with the school,” Sister Loretta said. “We carried out different purposes.”

Sister Miriam Therese served as director of religious education, while Sister Loretta filled the role of assistant director.

Sister Miriam Therese, a Huntington native, was taught by her predecessors — she attended SS. Peter and Paul Grade School and, when Huntington Catholic High School opened the year she entered ninth grade, completed her education there. One of the last SSND sisters to serve SS. Peter and Paul, she has a connection to those first sisters — members of her family lived in the house that had been built of lumber from that first log church.

Sister Loretta, who grew up in Loganport, came to Huntington to close out a career that included 28 years at Mount Mary College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she played double bass in a student folk music group — also to be closer to family.

Sister Miriam Therese and Sister Loretta have announced plans to retire in November of this year, leaving Huntington for the SSND retirement community in Elm Grove, Wisconsin.

Members of the School Sisters of Notre Dame face the congregation at SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Huntington as parishioners sing a blessing for them during a Mass on Sunday, Sept. 16, celebrating the religious order’s 150 years of service to the parish.