More than 50 members of the medical community gathered Sept. 26 at St. Pius X Church, Granger, to celebrate a White Mass, which honors those who work in the health care field.

“The Book of Wisdom was written about 200 years before the birth of Christ, and it seems that the wisdom God gave us is that life is eternal, and life goes beyond the grave,” said Msgr. William Schooler, who preached the homily. This becomes fully known in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, he added. Msgr. Schooler noted that the day’s reading from Wisdom is a popular one when family members choose the readings for the Mass of a deceased loved one. He feels that people sense the beauty of the words, which talk about images that are like sparks darting through the sky. “They’re glorious, and every single one of us is made in the image of God, a spark.”

“We who are made in the image of God, one day, through purification, will shine with all the Church for service in dioceses around the United States, Canada and Australia. The college strengthens the bonds between Rome and local churches worldwide, and it allows its students study the Church’s rich religious and cultural heritage at close range.”

WHITE MASS, page 3
The pope and the martyr: New saints offer youths a road map to holiness

BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVEZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church has its share of young saints who gave witness through their lives that holiness can be attained even at a young age.

Others, like Blessed Paul VI and Oscar Romero, show that the path to holiness begins early. The two will be declared saints Oct. 14 during the Synod of Bishops on young people and discernment.

Although Pope Paul VI is best remembered for shepherding the Second Vatican Council through to its end and helping implement its far-reaching reforms, his journey toward holiness began much earlier in life, said Father Claudio Zanardini, rector of the Basilica di Santa Maria delle Grazie in the northern Italian province of Brescia, where Blessed Paul VI celebrated his first Mass May 30, 1920.

“We here in Brescia are trying — at Pope Francis’ request — to make Paul VI’s younger years more known. That is, how he lived his time of vocational discernment and his formation so that he can become a model for young people who are on their own path of formation,” Father Zanardini told Catholic News Service Sept. 27.

Born Giovanni Battista Montini in 1897, the future pope and his brothers would attend youth meetings organized by the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in Brescia.

Father Zanardini told CNS that those gatherings were a time of “spiritual and human formation” for Blessed Paul, where he built friendships and adopted the local priests’ charism of ministering to young people.

Blessed Paul’s relationship with his family as well as a “deep sense of prayerfulness and an acute involvement in the social issues of his time were one of the legacies of his parents and brothers,” Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of Manila told CNS Sept. 25.

“The family atmosphere centered on faith and the common good prepared him to be a discerning person: listening to God’s word and the world; being at home in the solitude of prayer, which gave him the most profound experience of communion and the decisiveness to pursue a discerned choice,” Cardinal Tagle said.

Father Zanardini told CNS that Blessed Paul’s canonization would be “a beautiful sign that truly he is a pope who still has much to say” to young men and women today.

Blessed Paul VI was also remembered as a strong leader who was close to Catholics who suffered persecution, including the archbishop of San Salvador who will be declared a saint along with him: Blessed Oscar Romero.

While visiting the pope on June 21, 1978, Blessed Romero wrote in his diary that Blessed Paul encouraged him to “proceed with courage, with patience, with strength, with hope.”

Born in Ciudad Barrios, El Salvador, Blessed Romero entered a minor seminary at the age of 15. During his years of priesthood ministry, young Romero served the poor and the suffering of his country.

In 1977, Blessed Paul VI appointed him to lead the archdiocese of San Salvador during a tumultuous time when priests and religious who stood with the poor were targeted by right-wing paramilitary groups aligned with the government.

Italian Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, the postulator of the Salvadoran archbishop’s cause, told CNS that Blessed Romero’s canonization is a “great opportunity to rediscover the primacy of love that must characterize, energize and excite today’s generations, young people’s.”

Archbishop Paglia cited a letter sent by G. Mirna Garcia, a 17-year-old Salvadoran girl, to Blessed Romero in which she thanked him for fighting for her peoples’ rights and dignity.

“In reading and listening to your homilies, I recognize that you have shown the path for our salvation,” she wrote to the archbishop. “Harder days will come and faith will sustain us in those days, the certainty that God is with us and if he is with us, nothing will be against us.”

Salvadoran Mercy Sister Ana Maria Fineda, associate professor of religious studies at California’s University of Santa Clara, told CNS that her students see in Blessed Romero “the best of what they hope for in Church leaders” and identify with his humanity as a person with both “gifts and limitations.”

It was Archbishop Romero’s determination “to overcome his limitations in order to follow God’s call that the students most identify and find encouragement for themselves in their own struggles and challenges,” she said.

Julian Filochowski, chair of the U.K.-based Archbishop Romero Trust, told CNS Sept. 27 that Blessed Romero brought an authenticity to the Gospel message in words and deeds that attracted young people in El Salvador.

“He was not a populist politician dressed in a cassock. Rather a humble and self-effacing pastor seeking to love God, love the poor and love the Church,” Filochowski said.

“People, especially young people, can sense this,” he said, “and at such a difficult time for the hierarchical Church, he stands as a shining example of authenticity in his faith, a beacon of hope radiating unconditional love for his people.”
Church present and future: Synod to show young Catholics’ needs, gifts

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Synod of Bishops will meet in October to try to look at the world and the Catholic Church through the eyes of teenagers and young adults and find ways to encourage their enthusiasm and dreams, help them sift through the possibilities life offers them to serve others and resist the temptations that come their way.

Pope Francis will preside over the synod, which is scheduled for Oct. 3-28 and will bring together more than 300 cardinals, bishops, priests, religious and lay experts, including young people.

In addition to their personal experience, synod participants will have at their disposal a working document that was based on: input from bishops’ conferences, religious orders, offices of the Roman Curia and Catholic organizations; an online survey open to anyone 16-29 years old; and a document prepared by more than 300 young people who met in Rome in March at the invitation of the pope.

But just to make sure, young voices are still ringing in their ears. Pope Francis has invited hundreds of young people to join synod participants Oct. 6 in the Vatican audience hall for an evening of music and of young people talking about the search for their identity, hopes for their relationships and ideas for living a life of service and self-giving.

The theme for the synod is: “Young people, the faith and vocational discernment.”

The synod is not focused on increasing vocations to the priesthood and religious life, although that obviously is one of the concerns the pope and participants will discuss.

The real topic is in essence, the Church, its present and its future.

Addressing the presynod gathering in March, Pope Francis said the Church and its members must reach out, ask what God wants of them and continually find new ways to respond to the hopes and needs of the world’s people.

Of course, he said, everyone must “keep an eye on the roots” of the Church and preserve its essential teachings, but they also must find creative ways to share those teachings and reflect on how the Gospel responds to people’s questions today.

Young people, he said, are the ones who can help the Church fight “the logic of ‘it’s always been done this way,’” which he described as “a poison, a sweet poison that tranquillizes the heart and leaves you anesthetized so you can’t walk.”

But to equip young people to take their rightful place in the Church, Church leaders must listen to them, be as honest as possible in responding to their questions and pass on to them the art of discernment.

Discernment, according to the synod working document, is a prayerful process that “leads us to recognize — and become attuned with — the action of the Spirit in true spiritual obedience. In this way, it becomes openness to new things, courage to move outward and resistance to the temptation of reducing what is new to what we already know.”

“Discernment is listening, first and foremost, that can also become a driver for our actions, the ability to be creatively faithful to the one single mission the church has always been entrusted with,” the document said.

But reaching young people, educating them in the faith, preparing them for discernment and helping them live as Christians in the world involves addressing myriad issues, so the synod is expected to be broad.

For example, in mid-September the bishops’ conferences of East Africa published a list of the priorities their delegates will address at the synod: “Catechesis to counter the impact of religious fundamentalism and Pentecostalism; (the) institutional vocational status of single persons with no particular consecration; training of spiritual directors; as well as formation for active citizenry in politics; dignity of women; and civil, social and political engagement.”

The East African bishops also have members who will address the synod on: Catholic education; digital technology; unemployment; the liturgy; “situations of war, violence and young migrants; the role of families and life choices; and formative and social accompaniment.”

The 300 young adults who met in Rome in March mentioned those issues, as well as others. But underlying all their concerns was a request that Church leaders recognize them as full members of the Catholic community, take their concerns and questions seriously and make a commitment to being real role models and mentors.

SYNOD, page 4

Dr. John Rice speaks during a reception following the Sept. 26 Mass.

Msgr. William Schooler preaches during a White Mass offered Sept. 26 at St. Pius X Parish in Granger for health care professionals — people who are agents of God’s healing power, he said.

Dr. David Parker proclaims a reading during the South Bend-area White Mass.

WHITE MASS, from page 1

the heavenly angels and all the heavenly saints,” said Msgr. Schooler. “That’s why, when you look at images of the saints on our walls, you notice the saints all have halos. That’s because they have been completely purified. That’s because God, who is fire, who is light, shines through them because they are so transparent, and because we trust they are all made in the image of God. Because we trust that we are sparks.”

“Your profession is so incredibly important, and that is why you are literally ordinary ministers of God’s healing power,” he continued. “Because when you recognize God’s image in all your patients especially in the difficult ones who are giving you a really hard time. When you have the faith to do that, you are helping them through a very difficult purification process. We believe, of course, that the purification process continues after death,” said Msgr. Schooler. “People who need medical care are also being purified in a real way from the way that you treat them, the way that you respect them, it helps them through the purification process.”

Continuing, he recalled Sts. Cosmas and Damian: twin brothers, both physicians about whose lives little is known. The brothers were filled with the spirit of charity, though, he said, and they never took money for their services.

“On this day, on the feast of Sts. Cosmas and Damian, physicians ask for their intercession as you continue your health care work, and as you continue to recognize the spark from God’s image in every one of your patients,” said Msgr. Schooler.
TODAY’S CATHOLIC

Volunteer help with cleanup after Florence called an act of ‘faith, love’

BY KATE TURGEON WATSON

NEW BERN, N.C. (CNS) — Nancy Sciara’s “insides were shaking.” She woke up, she said, unsure of what to expect from the day. Sciara, 84, was widowed 12 days earlier. And, four days after that, she sat in her home and watched as wind and rain from Hurricane Florence raged outside a window. It flooded the garage and workroom of her River Bend home and damaged her living room.

Her son, from his home in New Jersey, made calls to try to hire someone to clean. “Nobody came,” she said. “Even for money. We couldn’t even get people to hire.”

But, on Sept. 22, four Knights of Columbus arrived at her home armed with wheelbarrows, work gloves and time to serve. The volunteers from St. Paul Parish in New Bern lined the street with once-treasured possessions, such as the vise from Sciara’s husband’s workbench, that had become trash.

It was a common scene on Plantation Drive, a residential street in the previously serene golf community, where curbs were lined with wet insulation, trash bags, furniture and mattresses. Chainsaws buzzed in neighbors’ yards as fallen trees were dealt with. Large, makeshift signs created with spray paint thanked volunteers and warned would-be looters.

Inside her garage, Sciara avoided the sun and helped the Knights. She’d occasionally pick up a wet cardboard box or a stray golf ball. She paused to look at photos of her husband, and their friends.

“That’s what has to happen,” she said as volunteers carried damaged items to the curb. “You have to close your eyes and just let them do the work. You could agonize over each and every piece, but then you’d be here for a week or two.”

Because her car was flooded, Sciara has been without transportation since the storm hit. She said she was eating the food already in her home, and was thankful for the work of the Knights of Columbus Council No. 3303 and her parish community at St. Paul, where she became a parishioner in 1995.

About four miles from Sciara’s home, Gary Johnson dealt with the damage to his house in Trent Woods, which he shares with wife Megan and their two daughters. The first floor of their two-story home and two of their cars were completely flooded.

Also a St. Paul parishioner, Johnson received help from a group of seven college students from East Carolina University’s Newman Center, a Catholic campus ministry. Students cut wet carpet into squares, tore it from the floorboards and delivered it to the curb as scented candles burned in the kitchen to mask the smell of standing water.

“This is faith. This is love,” Johnson said about the volunteers. “No matter how evil Hurricane Florence could be, the force of God is even stronger. If you don’t believe it, walk out in my yard and look at that mountain of debris that these people unselfishly created.”

Before the storm, the Johnson family evacuated to Atlanta, where they stayed with family members. When they returned home five days after the storm hit, they could not go back to live in their house, which was uninhabitable.

For the time being, they were living with a local couple who opened two rooms in their house to the family. “We’re figuring it out,” Megan Johnson said about their situation. “There’s not any temporary housing. There’s not a hotel room anywhere. It felt helpless being away (in Atlanta.) Coming through the house and working — as grimy as it is — at least I feel like I am moving to the next step. I know tomorrow is going to be hard, but we are doing it together and we are going to get through it.”

Johnson said that she and her husband are homeowners and were required to have flood insurance because their home was in a flood plain. However, she added, they didn’t have coverage for the contents in the house.

“For everything that’s on that curb, we don’t have a backup plan for,” she told NC Catholics, magazine of the Diocese of Raleigh.

Near historic New Bern, Catholic Charities USA delivered a mobile trailer that held six washers and six dryers. The trailer was parked Sept. 27 at Craven Terrace, an affordable housing area.

A 24-year-old daughter and two grandchildren, laundry is an ever-present family task.

White was looking for change so a neighbor could drive her to a laundromat when she spotted the trailer parked diagonally across the street. “A tenant told me it was a mobile laundry unit,” she wrote in a text. “I told him he was a God-sen(d) because I only found five cents to dry all these clothes. We sang...we talked about how it’s important to reach out to others.”

SYNOD, from page 3

The young adults, most of whom work for the Church or are very active in their parishes or Catholic movements, said young Catholics need better education in what the Church teaches. But they also need patient answers when they have questions about Church teaching that do not seem to coincide with the values and practices they absorb from their cultures.

At the same time, speaking for themselves and their peers, the young adults did not just stretch out their hands asking for help. They also offered it, if Church leaders were willing to open space for them.

“The church must involve young people in its decision-making processes and offer them more leadership roles” on a parish, diocesan, national and international level, they said.

“Young church also looks outward,” their statement said. Young people have a passion for political, civil and humanitarian activities. They want to act as Catholics in the public sphere for the betterment of society as a whole. In all these aspects of church life, young people wish to be accompanied and to be taken seriously as fully responsible members of the church.”
Father Polycarp Fernando observes 40th jubilee

BY JEANNIE EWING

S some priests are gifted with a missionary spirit and serve people on the fringes of society: the addicted, the forgotten, the elderly and the sick. Father Polycarp Fernando is one such priest, and he has dedicated the past 40 years of his life to following God’s call.

Father Fernando grew up in Sri Lanka as the youngest of 14 children, and he has two sisters who are nuns. He believes “there is no age for God to call us. He called Samuel when he was very small, which is why I believe in that calling even at a very young age.” He feels that all families should give that idea to their children, like his parents did to him and his sisters.

Officially, Father Fernando first had the idea of becoming a priest in the sixth grade. When he told his pastor, he was advised to wait. Admission to the seminary happens in the eighth grade there, and that’s when he entered. He still experienced a typical education in public school, because all schools taught religion classes in Sri Lanka.

Father Fernando grew up in an area that was heavily Catholic, and it wasn’t until he joined another diocese in Sri Lanka that was densely Buddhist that he gained another epiphany about his priesthood: a call to serve all people, regardless of race, religion or culture. He said many of the people in that particular diocese didn’t trust him at first, because they believed he intended to convert them.

But Father Fernando collaborated with the Buddhist monks to discern how best he could serve the needs of the people in that area, irrespective of their faith background, and over time they came to respect him and accept his help. “The first thing I learned as a priest,” he shared, “is that if you persevere with God’s help, you will accomplish His will. There are problems that will come, but God will see to everything and take care of it.”

After working for 19 years in Sri Lanka following his ordination, Father Fernando came to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. After working here for three years, he became incardinated. His diocese back in Sri Lanka was very tiny, because it had been split into two regions, and they had more than enough priests to serve the people, he figured, but he knew there was a great need for priests here.

Father Fernando has served in the diocese for 21 years now, first as associate pastor at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne, then pastor at St. Henry and Sacred Heart parishes in Fort Wayne, pastor at St. Dominick, Breimen, and most recently he was assigned to St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, as an associate pastor. During his time at St. Charles Borromeo, Father Fernando discerned a call to mainly perform the work of mercy visiting the sick and homebound. In so doing, he found this was something he really enjoyed doing, because he could bring Jesus to them. In many instances, he said, he has found that people are waiting for someone to visit them. People who are tired of being sick and in and out of hospitals need others in their life to understand, he said. They need understanding from society and their place of employment, too. People are not disposable. We need to see their dignity again, he added.

He explained why he desired to go back to his role as associate pastor rather than pastor. “I can continue this work of accompanying the sick and suffering. I feel I better serve the people of this diocese as a priest in the capacity as an associate, so that I can directly journey with them in their struggles.”

At St. Vincent, Father Fernando feels he can continue this work. There are nine nursing homes within the parish boundary, and it is his responsibility to serve Mass at seven of them once a month. An added bonus of being an associate pastor at a parish in which there are three priests, he explained, is that they all pray together. This gives them all strength, and “it’s a treasure to call the priests with whom I serve my friends.”

As he reflects on the past 40 years, Father Fernando believes God’s guidance and grace give him strength to fulfill his vocation every day. “Sometimes I ask myself, ‘How can I do this?’ But God always finds a way. It’s not my strength. It’s the grace of God given to me. I always rely on that inspiration and grace of God to me and others. This is common to all vocations.”

He admitted that the priesthood, like every vocation, can be a difficult journey with plenty of ups and downs. “We always learn,” he said. “We need prayer and the celebration of the Eucharist to sustain us, and always turn to senior priests for guidance.” In his experience, these are the very foundations of growing in holiness.

The vocation of every person, he said, is to “never forget that it is God who began [this call] in us. What He has begun, He will bring to completion.”

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Russian Catholics hope ties won’t be affected by inter-Orthodox tensions

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Russian and Ukrainian Catholics said the Vatican’s decision to recognize Orthodoxy’s jurisdiction over the two nations would not affect their ties to Rome.

The Vatican’s move to establish the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which is the ;and’s Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, could lead to a split with the Russian Orthodox Church, which is headed by Patriarch Kirill. The Ukrainian Church has been under pressure from Moscow to recognize the Russian Church as the senior body.

The Vatican’s decision, announced April 23, follows months of negotiations between the Vatican and Ukrainian Church leaders. The Vatican has previously recognized the Ukrainian Church as the senior body in Ukraine, but the move to establish its own jurisdiction could lead to a split with the Russian Church.

The Vatican’s decision is significant for Ukrainian Catholics, who have been seeking recognition of their church’s jurisdiction for decades. The Ukrainian Church, which was established in the 16th century, has been under pressure from the Russian Orthodox Church to recognize the Russian Church as the senior body.

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**Teacher approaches school year with ‘flipped’ classroom**

**BY EMILY DIEHM**

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton’s middle school mathematics teacher, Deb Brough, was looking for a better way to maximize her one-on-one time with each of her students. Her answer: a flipped classroom with flexible seating.

A flipped classroom switches around the traditional order of teaching. Students take notes at home, complete a short assessment while watching a video that Brough has created, then come to class and compete their homework and projects.

“The purpose of the flipped classroom is to create a more in-depth and supportive environment in the classroom where the teacher is present and able to help students,” said Brough.

For homework, St. Elizabeth middle school students are required to watch a video and complete a small assessment. Through the video, Brough teaches students the lesson and gives examples in the same way that they would receive content in the classroom. A series of questions are embedded, requiring students to interact with material while learning the content. Because the lesson is online, students can pause, rewind, or re-watch portions of the video at any time.

Brough believes the approach of students taking notes at their own pace drives them to be more self-directed.

“Having to know when they need to go back over a certain concept they did not fully grasp the first time allows the opportunity for students to take responsibility for their own education,” she said.

Each lesson is specifically designed to have students view a video, take notes and reflect on the material by completing an assessment. This should take an average of 30 minutes or less. According to Brough, this is the same amount of time that a normal math assignment in a traditional setting could take.

A flipped classroom does not change the fact that students are expected to go home and do homework. The only thing that is different is the type of “homework” that they are doing. Students are expected to come prepared to class each day with the background knowledge of each concept, ready to dive deeper into the material.

“The flipped classroom requires students to take responsibility for their learning in several ways,” said Brough. Students must plan time to watch the video when they are still fully awake and able to make connections between content. They must take initiative to re-watch videos they need to see again.

Students must also make sure that if they are absent, they still watch the required videos and complete the assessment. This allows all students to be on the same page and move at their own pace.

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**Grandparents’ Day at St. Joseph School, Garrett**

St. Joseph School welcomed and honored students’ grandparents and special guests to its annual Grandparents Day Celebration on Friday, Sept. 21. The day started with an All-School Mass, followed by refreshments and classroom visits. Among the visitors were Robert and Jeryl Marshall, the grandparents of preschool student Daniel Lloyd.

**FONSO WHITE named Bishop Luers boys’ basketball coach**

**FORT WAYNE** — Bishop Luers High School has announced the hiring of Fonso White as the boys’ basketball coach. White comes to Bishop Luers from Westfield High School, where he was an assistant coach last season. His coaching experience includes head coach at Clinton Central High School and assistant coach at Southport High School, Franklin University, Park Tudor High School and Pike High School.

He is a graduate of Franklin College and earned his teaching certification from Marian University.

“We welcome Coach White to Bishop Luers High School,” said Athletic Director Kevin Godfrey. “His expertise as a basketball coach, teacher and mentor will build a strong rapport with our athletes, coaching assistants and the Bishop Luers community.”

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**Red Mass planned for South Bend**

SOUTH BEND — A Red Mass is a celebration for lawyers, judges and civil government officials. It is a renewal of a tradition in which God’s blessing is asked on all those who serve the law.

An ancient custom dating back to the 13th century, the Red Mass began with the solemn votive Mass celebrated annually at the opening of the judicial year. From the earliest of times, the Mass was attended by the judiciary, attorneys at law, law professors, high-ranking government officials, distinguished guests and others who work in the legal arena. The Mass was intended to gather them for the purpose of seeking divine guidance and strength for the coming terms of court.

Local associations of the St. Thomas More Society are hosting Red Masses this month in Fort Wayne and South Bend. The Fort Wayne-area Mass took place on Oct. 2, and in South Bend a Red Mass will be celebrated Oct. 8 at 5:15 p.m. at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame. It will be followed by a reception in the Eck Commons of the Notre Dame Law School.

“We hope people will get at least three different things from this event,” said organizer Stephen Judge. “First and foremost, the grace of the Mass and the special prayers for lawyers and lawmakers. Second, the rich and deep history of the Mass helps to connect contemporary Catholic lawyers with a wonderful tradition dating back many centuries. Finally, the Mass and reception allow Catholic lawyers to connect with other members of the local legal community; our St. Thomas More Society is a young organization, and I hope those connections will help us grow.”

Guests can RSVP to stthosmorebs@gmail.com for the reception following the South Bend-area Red Mass.

— Lisa Kochanowski
St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Elkhart celebrated its sesquicentennial of serving the faithful in Elkhart on Sunday, Sept. 30, with a special Mass and reception.

Father Matthew Coonan, pastor, explained that although the actual anniversary date of the parish was in July, the staff and parishioners wanted to celebrate the milestone in conjunction with the feast of St. Vincent de Paul, which was Sept. 27. “This year is our 150th year, so we planned our celebration close to our patron’s feast day instead rather than in the middle of Lent,” he said.

In honor of the anniversary, a monthly 40-hour devotion was begun about a year ago for the purpose of fostering a stronger devotion to the Blessed Sacrament “to spiritually prepare to celebrate our patron,” Father Coonan said. It began each month on a Sunday evening at 5 p.m. and continued until Tuesday at 9 a.m., and was so well-received, according to parishioners, that Father Coonan plans to continue it.

A 150th anniversary committee was also formed, and they chose an apostolate — each month to emulate their parish patron. George and Vicki Kalil were part of that committee, along with Joe Foy, Diane Consentino, Kellie and Bill Swaller, Anne Koch, Theresa Plechowiak and others. Some of those charitable acts included a 5K run for their sister parish, St. Peter in Bainet, Haiti, to help rebuild a chapel destroyed in the 2010 earthquake; a food drive for Knights of Columbus Christmas baskets; and a coat drive for St. Vincent de Paul School, the St. Vincent de Paul Society and a homeless shelter in Goshen. “By doing one thing a month, we got the whole parish involved and kept it in front of them,” George said.

The committee also helped plan the anniversary Mass. They invited back former priests who served the parish, put together historical exhibits and planned a light reception that would take place in the St. Mother Teresa Center. Students from the school lead tours of the school for former students during the weekend, and an anniversary prayer and song were composed for the special occasion.

Anniversary Mass

Father Coonan welcomed everyone to the Mass by saying, “It is with great joy that we come together to celebrate Mass, especially with so many of the priests who’ve served in the past joining us. We’re also grateful for the bishop being here, so with gratitude in our hearts we ask to be strengthened to be faithful witnesses for the future.”

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades also greeted the parishioners and visitors who filled the church. “Today we celebrate with much joy and thanksgiving your 150th anniversary, and also the feast day of your patron, St. Vincent de Paul,” he began. He then mentioned how wonderful it was to have several of the parish’s former pastors return to concelebrate the anniversary Mass. Returning were Father David Carkenord, Father Jack Overmyer, Father Wilson Corzo, Father Glenn Kohrman, Father Judd Hayes and Father Zachary Barry, as well as Father Jacob Gall, who still serves the parish on occasion.

The Mass was a trilingual celebration, with several parts of the liturgy sung or spoken in Latin.

During the homily, Bishop Rhoades gave a brief introduction to the parish’s history and connected it to the Gospel for the day, which was Matthew 9:35-38.

“At the sight of the crowds, Jesus’ heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned like sheep without a shepherd.” I imagine that in the 1850s and 1860s, the Catholics of Elkhart, mostly of German and Irish descent, felt like sheep without a shepherd,” he said.

“A priest from Mishawaka, Father Henry Koenig, would occasionally visit the Catholics of Elkhart and celebrate Masses in their homes. In 1867, a new pastor was named for St. Joseph Parish in Mishawaka, Father August Bernard Oechtering, and he would come here to Elkhart more often and organized a congregation of about 20 Catholic families. He told the first bishop of Fort Wayne, Bishop John Henry Luers, about the little congregation, and Bishop Luers came to Elkhart for a visit.

“Bishop Luers was impressed with the Catholic families and the growth of the town of Elkhart and he tried to acquire property for a church.” Bishop Rhoades continued. “He found property that he wished to buy, but when they found out it was for Catholic purposes, they would not sell the property to him. So, he found another property on the Goshen Road and bought it. It was on March 8, 1868. 150 years ago, that Mass was celebrated in Conley’s Hall, after which Father Oechtering called a meeting and officially organized the congregation and placed it under the patronage of St. Vincent de Paul.”

On July 12, Bishop Luers returned to Elkhart and blessed Historically, St. Vincent de Paul Parish has been the faith home of Catholic expatriate communities in Elkhart, most recently Italians and Mexicans.

Several former pastors of the parish returned to concelebrate its 150th anniversary; among them, from left in front, are Father John Eze, Father Glenn Kohrman, Father Jacob Gall, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Father Jack Overmyer, and current pastor, Father Matt Coonan. In back are Father Jack Overmyer and current pastor, Father Matt Coonan.
St. Vincent de Paul
150th Anniversary
1868-2018
Parish Prayer

O God, Almighty Father, we thank you for the faith we have received. We praise you for the stewardship, witness and discipleship of generations past. Grant us, we beseech you, the grace and strength to continue to nurture the faith in our time and to pass it on to the coming generations. May our patron St. Vincent de Paul intercede for us so that in all things we might serve the glory of your Holy Name. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A joyous occasion for parishioners

Theresa Gervels, her husband Brian and their children have been parishioners at St. Vincent about five years. To her, the day was “a celebration of our heritage of faith that we received from people who left their homes and found a home here in Elkhart.”

“It’s a culmination of a year looking back — it’s amazing how many souls have come through this parish,” said parish secretary Renee Campanello.

Father Glenn Kohrman visited with parishioners at the reception, and said, “It’s just a wonderful thing to participate in this parish’s rich tradition — it’s so beautiful,” he said.

“St. Vincent’s has always been an immigrant church, welcoming everyone and then moving toward a community of people working together. That’s where I think they’ve gotten to here; they’ve crossed barriers and are coming together. That’s what this parish has always been about.”

For Vicki Kalil, the day was even more personal. “It’s a celebration of my family’s history at the parish. George has been here all his life. His parents were married here, we were married here and our daughter was married in this church, so it’s very special,” she said. “We wanted to be involved and give back to all the new families here.”

Father Coonan shared his hopes for the future of the parish, which are: “rooting our faithful more deeply in fidelity and love for Christ; fostering more devotion, especially to the Blessed Sacrament; and evangelizing in our area so our people can bring in others who are disconnected and bring them to know Jesus.”

Bishop Rhoades receives the gifts from St. Vincent de Paul parishioners.

by the example of St. Vincent and has been blessed by his prayers of intercession. On this anniversary, let us ask for his intercession in the present and for the future.”

Bishop Rhoades said St. Vincent’s relationship with the Lord is what motivated him. “It was his love for God, as we heard in our first reading from the book of Deuteronomy, the commandment to love the Lord with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our strength. That is what moved St. Vincent to do the great and small things he did during his 60 years as a priest. His ministry was a response to God’s grace. He was a man of prayer and it was his prayer that led him to action. St. Vincent once said: ‘Give me a man of prayer, and he will be able to do all things; he can say with St. Paul, ‘I can do all things in him who strengthens me.’”

St. Vincent de Paul spent one hour each morning before the Blessed Sacrament before celebrating Mass. He visited the Blessed Sacrament before and after his meals, and he would frequently make short visits to the chapel before leaving and upon returning from his responsibilities. Our lives and the ministries of a parish can become superficial without prayer, without being centered in Jesus, in His Word, and in the Holy Eucharist.

On this 150th anniversary, I encourage you, as individuals and as a community, to be renewed in your spiritual life. Without the Lord and His grace, we can do nothing. But with His strength, like St. Paul and St. Vincent, we can do all things. St. Vincent’s radical and passionate love for the poor came from his radical and passionate love for Jesus,” he said.

As we give thanks to God today for all His blessings upon this parish these past 150 years, let us pray that He will continue to bless this parish with His abundant love and grace,” Bishop Rhoades concluded.

“May our Blessed Mother and St. Vincent de Paul intercede for you, that you may continue to bear faithful witness to Christ here in the city of Elkhart! May God bless you!”

Among them, from left in front, are Father John Eze, Father Glenn Kohrman, Father pastor, Father Matt Coonan.

At a reception followed the anniversary Mass, a parishioner speaks with Bishop Rhoades.

At a reception followed the anniversary Mass, a parishioner speaks with Bishop Rhoades.

October 7, 2018

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

October 7, 2018

TODAY’S CATHOLIC
Down syndrome adult, advocate highlight the joy in every life

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

“I have a busy life — just like most of you,” said Katie Shaw, speaking to nearly 1,000 people at the St. Joseph County Right to Life benefit dinner Sept. 20. “It’s a wonderful life. I’ve made the world a better place.”

The 33-year-old Indianapolis resident, who has Down syndrome, concluded her remarks by quoting Psalm 139:14: “I praise you, because I am wonderfully made; wonderful are your works!”

Shaw’s accomplishments are many. She has studied dance, piano and violin, received sacraments at her parish, competed in softball, cross country and a mini-marathon, earned her GED diploma and an accreditation in early childhood education from Ivy Tech, and lost weight with the help of a personal trainer.

She’s held jobs in child care and retail, and is currently loving her work at J.C. Penney. She also volunteers in several positions, including data entry at a Down syndrome organization and educating medical residents about her disability.

Raised in a pro-life family, Shaw said her mother’s obsteetrician never suggested abortion.

Her parents taught her and her siblings that “every life is a wonderful gift.”

“But not everyone sees that,” she admitted. So, she lobbied for state legislation outlawing abortion on the basis of race, gender or disability. Part of her life’s mission is to show skeptics what a wonderful life lies before a family whose baby has Down syndrome.

It was in testifying before the state senate that Shaw met Dr. Mary O’Callaghan, a Public Policy Fellow at the University of Notre Dame’s Center for Ethics and Culture. St. Joseph County Right to Life honored Dr. O’Callaghan during the evening’s events with its Pillar of Life award, after presenting the Annette M. Macknick Courage Award to Josh Comeau, a father of seven who has been valiantly battling cancer for the last four years.

In her keynote address, O’Callaghan explained that she was an advocate for people with disabilities long before her youngest son, Tommy, was born with Down syndrome in 2007.

Her summer job with residents of a group home 50 years ago, where adults with disabilities lived, “changed the course of my life forever.” The remarkable capacity of those adults for friendship led her to Ph.D. studies in developmental psychology at Notre Dame.

After experiencing miscarriage and stillbirth, Mary and her husband, John, were thrilled to welcome Tommy. “He was beautiful,” she recalled. “How could I mourn a child who lived?” Parenting Tommy strengthened her desire not only to protect those like him, but also to help others understand “this gift beyond all understanding.” It thrust them into the supportive Down syndrome community worldwide.

O’Callaghan spoke with horror of the consequences of advances in prenatal testing that may soon be able to identify not only Down syndrome, but also other rare and common genetic disabilities, even autism. This sophisticated testing has led to what has been termed a “search-and-destroy mission” against preborn children who are less than genetically perfect.

There is a double madness here, O’Callaghan said. Jerome Lejeune, who first identified the genetics of Down syndrome, said only “mad science” aims to kill the patient, rather than fight the disease. The second arm of this insanity is the reduction of a human heart and soul to a diagnosis, an impersonal set of symptoms. Surely a human life is worth more than its particular mixture of suffering and happiness, she asserted.

O’Callaghan said she finds it ironic that medicine, which claims to be evidence-based, ignores the evidence that over 90 percent of individuals with Down syndrome and their families — like Shaw — report that they are happy with their lives. Those lives have challenges, but people with Down syndrome have an immediate, lively capacity for love, and their suffering also has the capacity to draw unselfish love from their family members and friends.

In the face of a poor prenatal diagnosis DO NOT BE AFRAID
Support available for poor prenatal diagnoses

MISHAWAKA — Miriam’s Blessing is a diocesan ministry designed to provide comprehensive support to parents who receive a difficult prenatal diagnosis. It may be the detection of a chronic condition like Down syndrome, spina bifida or cystic fibrosis, or a life-threatening disorder like anencephaly. Trisomy 13 or Trisomy 18. With little or no information or resources available that support the option of carrying the baby to term, many of these pregnancies end in abortion. When offered a service of comprehensive support, however, the majority of parents choose to carry to term and to cherish the child and the time they have been given.

Miriam’s Blessing is based on the national program Be Not Afraid (www.benafraid.net), which utilizes a peer ministry model of support and presence. Peer ministers provide empathetic emotional and spiritual support based on their own experience of having carried to term after a poor prenatal diagnosis, or having experienced a perinatal loss such as miscarriage, stillbirth or early infant loss.

Support extends through three distinct phases: the pregnancy, the birth and the postpartum period. Families are typically followed for one year following the birth, no matter the outcome. Peer ministers are trained and work in teams, and their outreach is informed by a pastoral care manual. To expectant parents, peer ministers offer unique insight and sensitivity regarding such difficult issues as mourning the loss of the anticipated baby, maintaining hope when a prognosis is poor, the preparation of a birth plan, and if necessary, the perinatal bereavement process. Peer ministers provide concrete, compassionate support before, during and after birth, so that no family has to face the unique challenges posed by a difficult prenatal diagnosis alone.

Miriam’s Blessing affirms the sanctity of every human life from the moment of conception and supports families of any faith in their mission to be “the sanctuary of life.”

For more information about Miriam’s Blessing, visit www.diocesesfwb.org/miriamsblessing or contact one of the diocesan coordinators.

South Bend area: Lisa Everett
Email: leverett@diocesesfwb.org
Office phone: 574-234-0687

Fort Wayne area: Allison Sturm
Email: atsturm@diocesesfwb.org
Office phone: 260-422-4611

Memorial Masses for those who have lost a child (including through miscarriage or abortion)

Sunday, October 23rd, 7:00p.m.
St. Pius X Church, Elkhart
Celebrant: Fr. Bill Miscamble, CSC
Reader: Father Matthew Coonan
Minister: Mrs. Eve Leverett
Music: Cantors Fr. Andrew Budzisz and Jeannie Shriver

Thursday, October 25th, 7:00p.m.
St. Michael the Archangel Church, South Bend
Celebrant: Fr. Andrew Budzisz
Minister: Mrs. Joy Coonan
Music: Cantors Fr. Budzisz and the Parish Choir
Valuing truth over faction

Confirmation of a new justice for the U.S. Supreme Court has been hailed, at least temporarily, by an acolyte who notes that the nominee when 17 years old tried to force himself on a 15-year-old girl. (A second accusation may delay the confirmation process further.)

I have no special knowledge of the cases. The nominee’s accusers seem sincere in their claims, as does the nominee in denying them; and as I write this, senators are trying to work out how to proceed. I cite the dispute to make a broader point.

It seems Sen. Dianne Feinstein held on to the first allegation until the last minute, and now wants an FBI investigation, to run out the clock until the midterm elections when Democrats hope to take over the Senate.

Earlier in these hearings, she allowed her commitment to “abortion rights” to be drawn to attention to facts, claiming that between 200,000 and 1.2 million women died from illegal abortions in the two decades before the Supreme Court’s abortion decision. (According to federal data, total abortion-related maternal deaths in those years could be as many as 244 annually, but in 1972 the number from illegal abortions was 40.)

Nor do Republicans have clean hands. They blocked confirmation of a Supreme Court nominee in the last year of the Obama administration, for much the same reason — they hoped to do better in the upcoming election.

And conservatives at one point leap on a claim that the Trump nominee’s first accuser had negative student evaluations at the college where she teaches — until it turned out they had the wrong college and the wrong teacher.

Lastly ignored here is a principle cited by Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, who leads the U.S. bishops’ efforts to defend religious liberty, when he gave a Sept. 12 lecture on that topic in Washington: “A rightly ordered political life needs to be understood not by raw power that imposes, but rather by the process of seeking the truth together.”

That principle may seem unrealistic. In his book, “The Righteous Mind,” social psychologist Jonathan Haidt cites evidence that most people arrive at their moral judgments first by intuition, then rationalize why they feel that way. And many political judgments begin with an allegory, a parable or “tribe,” followed by seeking the facts to support my tribe’s vision of reality. When we want to believe something, we find evidence assuring us that we can believe it; when we don’t want to, we question why we must believe it.

As an witness of human nature in general, this is open to question — it is largely based on interviews with people already immersed in our modern culture. But it describes current politics well. What is now growing is an inability or unwillingness to listen to any account coming from someone from a different tribe.

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

Pursuing less to live more: the grace of enough

Haley Stewart stared at the publish button and froze.

It’s nerve-wracking to announce big news, and this, in particular, had the potential to raise eyebrows.

The title of the blog post stared back at her, boldface, unblinking: “When You Leave Your Comfortable Life and Change Just About Everything.”

The announcement had been a long time coming — Haley and her husband, Daniel, had begun discerning the direction of their lives, and their house had been on the market for two months — but now that it was time to go public, she hesitated.

“I was expecting people to think we were crazy,” Haley said, standing by her backyard chicken coop in Waco, Texas, on a hot Friday afternoon and smiling at the memory.

The Stewarts had decided to move their five-person family halfway across the country to live in a 650-square-foot apartment on a farm. It would be a primitive existence — no flushing toilet and it was exactly what they were craving. Daniel’s work as a software tester had kept him away from their three young kids too much and brought him no closer to his passion of farming.

They dreamt of a lifestyle where they could eat every meal together as a family, where the kids could be involved in their parents’ work and live off the land.

And now they were doing it, thanks to a sustainable-agriculture internship Daniel had landed and the flexibility of Haley’s freelance writing and homeschooling.

The response to the announcement was overwhelmingly positive. Texts, emails and more than 100 comments on the blog post poured in.

“Yay for adventure!” one reader wrote. “I can live my fantasy of living on a farm vicariously through you.”

“You and Daniel are my newest heroes!” another reader wrote.

Haley couldn’t believe how deeply the news resonated. “So many people said: ‘I wish we could do something like that,’ or, ‘We may not be able to do that right now, but we’re trying to figure out how to simplify our lives’.

It was the spirit of starting over, of eschewing the rat race to embark on an adventure as a family — a storyline dramatized by Kevin Costner in “Field of Dreams.”

Christina Capechi

Marriage is a manifestation of the kingdom of God

The Sunday Gospel

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mark 10:1-16

The book of Genesis is the source of the first reading among the first five books of the Bible. Genesis reveals great facts. God is the creator of all. He gives life.

God also created humanity, in the genders of male and female. Further, it was God’s will that the two genders, united in one male and one female, complement each other and live with each other.

The Scriptures at times are accused of belittling women. Certainly, the Scriptures were all developed within varying cultural contexts. To an extent, they were influenced by these cultural contexts.

The culture surrounding the development of Genesis was not strictly Hebrew. Rather, it was enveloped by paganism. In this paganism, little was seen of human nature.

Genesis, however, takes pains to declare the dignity of women equal to that of men. This is the meaning of the story that Eve was created from Adam’s rib. Adam and Eve, man and woman, were created in God’s image.

It was a revolutionary, fundamental basis for looking at both men and women. Both genders possess a unique dignity, because all are created by God and infused with an eternal soul.

Finally, every person, regardless of everything else, holds the supreme dignity of being God’s own, God’s created, each a physical, earthly sign of God.

This reading is a powerful testament to the historic Jewish and Christian concept of marriage. Ordained by God, marriage should never be defiled by exploitation, selfishness or insecurity.

For its second reading, the Church offers us a passage from the Epistle to the Hebrews. It also reaffirms the dignity of each human.

According to the reading, humans who love God, and are faithful to God, one day will rejoice in the presence of God. They will be with God. The key to attaining a place in God’s presence is Jesus.

Because Jesus is human, as well as God, he became one with all people as brothers and sisters. St. Mark’s Gospel provides the third reading. It is a familiar passage. The question is raised upon the legality before God of divorce itself, not the grounds for divorce.

Often it is assumed that this question put to Jesus opened an entirely new debate, and that in reply, Jesus set aside the Law of Moses.

Actually, the debate was vigorously underway at the time among persons learned in the Mosaic tradition. No universal agreement permitted as to what the Law of Moses meant in this regard.

By settling the question, by ending the debate, Jesus appeared in the role of the divinely constituted and divinely empowered representative of God the Father.

Jesus set the question in its proper circle. Marriage is God’s creation. It is subject to God’s will. Ideally, marriage in the hearts of the spouses reflects God’s love.

In the same passage, though, on another occasion, Jesus blessed the children. Like children everywhere and at all times, these children were innocent and vulnerable, but with grace are simply “to succeed” in this life, but to live with God in the eternal life.

Reflection

Fundamentally, these readings call us to a divinely revealed truth so often and so outrageously ignored in the world. Each human being is God’s precious child, God’s priceless masterpiece of creation. No one, and no society, has the right to demean or compromise this dignity.

The agonizing problems of this day and time all spring from refusing to honor all human beings as God’s own. So, terror and prejudice reign.

Secondly, marriage comes from God. It is fully and absolutely within the overall purpose of God; namely, to enable men and women to better know, love and to serve God, and then finally to be with God in the wonder of heaven, along with the angels.

Readings
Sunday: Gn 21:28-44 Ps 121:1-6 Heb 29:11-14 Mk 10:16
Monday: Gal 16:12 Ps 111:1-2, 7-10 Lk 10:25-37
Tuesday: Gn 1:3-34 Ps 139:1-3, 13-15 Lk 10:38-42
Wednesday: Gn 2:1-2, 7-14 Ps 11:1-4
Thursday: Gn 3:1-5 (Ps) Lk 16:9-17 Lk 11:5-13
Friday: Gl 3:22-29 Ps 105:2-7 Lk 11:27-28
Saturday: Ws 7:7-11 Ps 90:12-17 Heb 4:12-13 Mk 10:17-30
I would like to tell you a story about one of my all-time favorite patients. This happened many years ago. Only a few people in my family and a few colleagues know about this case. I thought it was time to share with you.

I met this 60-year-old lady soon after I came to Fort Wayne to join one of the two small startup cardiology practices that existed in 1982. I can’t be sure about the exact date, but I believe it was the winter of 1983 when I met her as she was in the throes of an acute anterior myocardial infarction (heart attack) at St. Joseph Hospital in downtown Fort Wayne. After my arrival and evaluation in the emergency room, the staff loaded her onto the gurney to take her to the Coronary Care Unit.

Back in those days, it was common for the cardiologist to stay at the bedside for several hours, ready to treat any complications as well as be sure there was adequate pain control. We were riding the elevator up to the floor when I glanced at my patient. She had suddenly become unresponsive and appeared to be seizing. One quick look at the heart monitor told me she was in ventricular fibrillation, or cardiac arrest. Thankfully, we were prepared. We had our defibrillator with us for the transport and quickly shocked her back into a normal heart rhythm.

In about 30 seconds, she was conscious again and was asking what had just happened. As we scooted her off the gurney to get her in her CCU bed, she lost consciousness again. She required another defibrillation, and in just a few minutes we had to shock this poor lady about 60 times. I prayed as I saw this lady’s life slipping away. The patient, the nursing staff and I were at wits’ end, when I suddenly remembered another option. There is little doubt in my mind that this thought was brought to me by the Holy Spirit.

When I was training at The Ohio State University, I took several months of special training with an electrophysiologist who was internationally known. He had been invited to France to give some lectures, and when he returned home he told me about a new exciting medication that was in early trials in Europe and being used for life-threatening ventricular arrhythmias. One of his French colleagues gave him the gift of multiple vials of this medication to use experimentally. A few months before I left OSU for my cardiology position in Fort Wayne, he offered to give me three vials of this medication, called amiodarone, in case of a dire emergency. (I suspect the Holy Spirit had something to do with this as I otherwise don’t know why he would have offered it.) But, if there was ever a dire emergency, this was it. I instructed the nursing staff to stay at the bedside and continue to shock the patient every time she went into ventricular fibrillation. I got in my car and raced home, where I had my stash of amiodarone vials.

I was speeding on Jefferson Boulevard when I saw the blinding red lights of one of Fort Wayne’s finest. As soon as I stopped my car and jumped out with my white coat on, the officer simply waved me on. (The Holy Spirit strikes again!) On my return to the hospital, I asked all the nursing staff to exit the room and close the door. I told them not to come in unless I called them. I did not want any witnesses. My future career flashed in front of my eyes as I drew the medication out of the vials to give it through the IV. What I knew was that we had now shocked this patient 78 times, and she was not going to survive much longer if I didn’t do something.

I slowly injected the first vial, watching her vital signs closely. Her rhythm and blood pressure remained stable. It had now been 10 minutes without having to shock her. I drew up another vial and a little more slowly gave it through the IV. It had now been 20 minutes without a shock, and the patient hadn’t died from my clandestine injections. I waited for our final vial, and decided I was all in. The third vial was given. There were no more episodes of VF and no more shocks needed. Two days later, called amiodarone, is now FDA-approved and is a mainstay for the treatment of ventricular arrhythmias.

A week later this vibrant lady left the hospital. I had the pleasure of caring for her for another 15 years. I still see her beautiful smile and remember her never-give-up attitude. She brought great joy to her husband, family and to me as well. I not only saw her in my office frequently but also got to see her at Mass in my very own parish, although when I was treating her I did not know she was a Catholic and attended my church. Is there any doubt that God’s hand was directing me as I cared for this patient? It has been such an honor to be a physician and see miracles like this. This is a story I will never forget, and I thank God for the exciting and fulfilling career He has given me.

Dr. David Kaminski

The Catholic Doctor Is In

DR. DAVID KAMINSKAS

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The Grace of Enough: Pursuing
Less and Living More in a
Throwaway Culture.”

Published by Ave Maria Press,
October 2012

It extends an invitation to
humbled Americans: There is
another way.
The Stewarts have not yet mastered simple living. Now that they have four kids, the productivity to acquire stuff is even stronger, and they still battle the instinct to measure their days by output versus relationships.
But they limit extracurriculars to one, jujitsu, which the kids attend back to back, requiring only one family outing—not the chauffeured circuit that splinters many families. And Daniel recently passed up a promotion that would have brought longer hours and increased stress.
The American drive to work more, buy more, do more ultimately—is “symptomatic of a failure to love,” Haley writes in her book. Goodness abounded when they learned to pursue less: the grace of enough.

Christina Capechi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.
Sixth-grade St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School student Zach Calderon works on his math homework with teacher Deb Brough. “Mrs. Brough is very helpful and understands math. Her videos cut down on homework stress,” said Calderon.

A flipped classroom eliminates student frustrations at home, increases student engagement and increases student-teacher interaction.

“I wanted to be the one helping to guide my students past their challenges, roadblocks, and confusion. By flipping my classroom, I see less anxiety from my students. More students are coming into my room with an open mind to learn and challenge themselves. I love seeing the light bulb go off — something I didn’t get to see when they did their homework at home.”

Along with a flipped classroom, Brough’s middle school math classroom offers students flexible seating, an option that allows for flexibility in classroom arrangement as well as in seating design. Brough has replaced the traditional classroom desks with a variety of tables, stools, couches, beanbag chairs, pillows and benches.

“Miss Widner brought the idea of flexible seating to me and I immediately jumped at the idea of continuing to be able to offer my students different ways to learn other than in a traditional setting,” said Brough. “Once it was proposed to me, my brain didn’t stop working on all the different possibilities and how to introduce the new seating arrangements to my students.”

A study conducted by the University of Minnesota found that students participated 48 percent more in discussions in a classroom with collaborative group seating, versus traditional lecture-style seating, and improved their performance on standardized tests.

Brough feels that by creating more student control and less teacher control has improved student engagement. Her classroom is “truly a comfortable learning environment.”

Parents and students are excited about this teaching approach. The parents have told Brough they like seeing the videos at home because they get a glimpse of what their child is learning and how it is being taught. She, in turn, is excited about how well this school year is going and about the learning atmosphere of her classroom.

“I love seeing the students relaxed in their chosen spots and engaged while they work. The flipped classroom allows students to work independently at their own pace, conference with me multiple times a class period, and get immediate feedback on their progress,” she said. “I have seen their confidence increase while experiencing less anxiety over math. It’s been great!”
World Apostolate of Fatima Mass and breakfast
FORT WAYNE — World Apostolate of Fatima will host their annual Mass and breakfast Saturday, Oct. 6, beginning at 7:30 a.m. with confession, rosary and First Saturday meditations at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 1122 S Clinton St. Mass celebrant will be Father Glenn Kehrmann. Guest speaker will be Father Joseph Mary Wolfe, M.FVA., chaplain of EWTN. After Mass join a Marian Procession to the Grand Wayne Center where breakfast will be served. RSVP to Theresa Schortgen at 260-494-6444 or ctshortgen1980@frontier.com.

Jeremiah Retreat
GRANGER — St. Pius X will host the Jeremiah Retreat — a morning of Mass, reflection, discussion, fellowship, prayer and healing on Saturday, Oct. 6, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. for mothers who have experienced loss(es) due to miscarriage, stillbirth and/or infant loss. Register online today at https://stpius.net/Jeremiah.

Fall festival
NEW HAVEN — St. Louis Besancon, 15535 Lincoln Highway East, will host a fall festival Saturday, Oct. 6, from 7-11 p.m., featuring fun, great music and Mexican fare. Live entertainment by the Hubie Ashcraft Band, a live auction, 50/50 raffle, event photo prop, silent auction will be offered. Tickets are $30 individual, $55 per couple or $220 for a table of 8. Each ticket includes a beverage and Mexican bar. For information call 260-749-4525 from 8 a.m. to noon or visit www.stlouisacademy.org.

Chicago bus trip
FORT WAYNE — St. Peter Parish will host a bus trip to Chicago on Wednesday, Nov. 28. Enjoy a day away in downtown Chicago to shop, visit museums or sight-see. Round trip transportation provided as well as doughnuts/coffee/juice in the morning and a box lunch on the trip home. Leave from St. Peter Parish at 7 a.m. and return approximately 10 p.m. Cost is $45 per person. Call 260-744-2765 or email: stpeter1872@frontier.com.

Memorial for the Unborn
FORT WAYNE — On Sunday, Oct. 7, at 2 p.m. babies lost to abortion will be remembered at Catholic Cemetery, 3500 Lake Ave. This event honors the short lives of these children and an opportunity to pray for their mothers and all who are or have been affected by abortion.

‘Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age’
FORT WAYNE — The movie “Screenagers” will be shown at St. Charles Church, 4916 Trier Rd., from 6:15-8 p.m. The movie is targeted towards parents and young people ages 10 years old and up. The movie is a very sympathetic, sane, and practical look at the way millions of teens are struggling with phones and games and technology in general. The license for “Screenagers” has been paid and there will be no charge to attend. This movie does not try to demonize screen time, but simply equips parents with the tools to understand and find balance.

Day of Reflection
MISHAWAKA — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent, 1515 W. Dragon Trail, Wednesday, May 2 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is “Oscar Romero — Voice for the Voiceless.” Register by Oct. 5 by calling Sister Barbara Anne at 574-259-5427.

God At Work: Following the Holy Spirit in Work, in Life
FORT WAYNE — The St. Vincent de Paul Career Ministry will host an evening of professional and spiritual development — “God At Work: Following the Holy Spirit in Work, in Life.” The movie “Screenagers” will be shown at St. Francis Convent, 1515 W. Dragon Trail, Wednesday, May 2 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is “Oscar Romero — Voice for the Voiceless.” Register by Oct. 5 by calling Sister Barbara Anne at 574-259-5427.

Divine Mercy Funeral Home to offer complimentary Committal Service and Burial of your Catholic loved-one’s cremated body

Wednesday, October 17, at 2 p.m.

The Catholic Rite of Christian Burial teaches us that the cremated body should be buried or placed in a marked mausoleum. Some families, however, choose to hold on to their loved-one’s cremated body – only to regret later that the remains didn’t receive a proper burial.

In our mission to carry out the corporal works of mercy in burying the dead, Divine Mercy Funeral Home and Catholic Cemetery is offering to receive your Catholic loved-one’s remains and place them at rest in the cemetery, free of charge.

A community-wide Committal Service and Burial will take place at Divine Mercy on Wednesday, October 17, at 2 p.m., with Msgr. Robert Schulte officiating.

Families wishing to make burial arrangements at the cemetery should call 260-426-2044 by Wednesday, October 10, to schedule an appointment with a cemetery advisor.

Divine Mercy hopes that this outreach will give comfort to those grieving for their loved ones, while enabling future generations to pay tribute, remember and pray for their deceased relative or acquaintance.

McElhaney-Hart
FUNERAL HOME
715 North Jefferson
Huntington
(260) 356-3320
www.mcelhaneyhartfuneralhome.com
ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE — SPENSER ST. LOUIS

Following the Mass of ordination, Deacon Spenser St. Louis, left, is pictured with Deacon Daniel Niezer. Below, Deacon Niezer vests St. Louis during the Mass.

Provided by Scott St. Louis

St. Louis and other candidates from the seminary of the Pontifical North American College in Rome kneel during Mass.

Provided by Denis Nakkeeran

Deacon St. Louis stands with his family following the Mass, which took place in the Papal Basilica of St. Peter in the Vatican.

Provided by Scott St. Louis

Pilgrimage to St. Felix Catholic Center

Blessed Solanus Casey’s Home
Where he Lived for the last 10 Years of his life!

Daily Mass and Holy Hours, Generational Healing Mass, Talks, Testimonies and Quiet Time
Come and ask for INTERCESSION AND HEALING!
Blessed Solanus encouraged everyone to pray for the Holy Souls because “they hardly ever fail.”

SPACE IS LIMITED
SIGN UP EARLY!

NOVEMBER 2-4, 2018

Weekend Options:
A) Bus, Meals, Conferences and Lodging: $395
B) Weekend Package Without Bus: $275
C) Weekend Package Without Bus And Without Overnight Stay: $150

For more info, or to sign up, call Garrett or Margaret

773-790-3164
www.inyournamelord.com

This All Souls weekend come and pray for your deceased loved ones!