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MARYLAND PILGRIMS WALK 50 MILES ‘IN Penance and prayer’ for priesthood

BY PAUL MCMULLEN
EMMITSBURG, Md. (CNS) — Stephanie Rubeling’s support of the priesthood goes beyond thoughts and prayers.

The 54-year-old parishioner of St. Peter the Apostle in Libertytown was among 19 hardy souls who set out Nov. 9 for a three-day trek on foot from Emmitsburg to Baltimore, dubbed “Fifty Miles in Faith: Pilgrimage Walk for the Priesthood in Penance and Prayer.”

It began with a Mass at St. Joseph in Emmitsburg and ended with another Mass Nov. 11 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore.

Pilgrims arrived the day in Baltimore before the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops opened its fall assembly there Nov. 12-14. The clergy sexual abuse crisis, which precipitated the pilgrimage, topped the bishops’ agenda.

Rubeling had to miss the second day of the pilgrimage; she and her husband, Gary, were among those at a Nov. 12 wedding in Montgomery County, with their eldest son, Father Michael Rubeling, as the celebrant. He is associate pastor of St. John the Evangelist in Severna Park.

Another brother, Timothy, recently entered formation with the Capuchin Franciscans.

“As the mother of a priest and a seminarian,” Stephanie Rubeling said, “we need to do whatever we can to help priests and the Church to repair the damage done and support those who want to move forward in holiness. Coming out of our comfort zone a little bit is a good thing.

“There is so much negative...
USCCB, from page 1

moment” in Church history. “We need to be clear where we stand and tell our people where we stand,” he said.

In his presidential address to the USCCB, Cardinal DiNardo took note of the historic nature of the meeting.

“Whether we will be remembered as guardians of the abused or of the abuser will be determined by our action beginning this week and the months ahead,” he said. “Let us draw near to Christ today sacrificing him our own ambitions and promptly submit ourselves totally to what He demands of us both in love and justice.”

He also held up his own weakness to victims in his remarks, saying: “Where I have not been watchful or alert to your needs, wherever I have failed, I am deeply sorry.”

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio to the United States — who met privately with Pope Francis just two days before his Nov. 12 address to the bishops — urged them to face the issue of clerical sexual abuse straight on, not to run from the challenges that confront them but “face them realistically and courageously.”

He added, “There is always more to do, and we bishops must not be afraid to get our hands dirty in doing that work,” he said, urging them to collaborate with the laity but to face the current crisis both individually and as a group first and foremost.

As the meeting was beginning, the bishops of Missouri made public a letter and statement sent to the chairman of the USCCB Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People. The letter to Bishop Timothy L. Doherty of Lafayette, Indiana, committee chairman, came with a 10-point plan to address the current scandal.

It said that while the bishops support some of the proposed actions from the Administrative Committee, they hoped the USCCB would address the “abuse of power that is at the center of the sexual abuse scandal of our Church.”

Among the points in their plan, the Missouri bishops called for putting abuse survivors at the center of the Church’s response to the crisis; strengthening the 2002 “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People”; having each bishop mandate that the charter apply to each religious order serving in their diocese; and better utilizing the charisms of the laity.

Most of the first day was set aside for prayer and reflection by the bishops in a makeshift chapel at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront.

During this time the bishops heard from speakers, including two survivors of child sex abuse, Luis A. Torres Jr. and Teresa Pitt Green. While they remain active in the Church, both spoke of the emotional pain they have lived with. They also said the Church can and must do better on addressing sex abuse.

The bishops also heard from two Catholic women Church leaders who urged them to work with each other and the laity to move forward from this moment when the Church is reeling from abuse allegations.

Other business the bishops had on their agenda included a number of action items, other than the abuse protocols they delayed voting on.

Those items included:

— Consideration of a proposed pastoral letter on racism, “The Enduring Call to Love: A Pastoral Letter Against Racism.”

— Despite many promising strides made in our country, the ugly cancer of racism still infects our nation,” it says.

— Racists acts are sinful because they violate justice. They reveal a failure to acknowledge the human dignity of the persons offended, to recognize them as the neighbors Christ calls us to love,” it adds. “Every racist act — every such comment, every joke, every disparaging look as a reaction to the color of skin, ethnicity or place of origin — is a failure to acknowledge another person as a brother or sister, created in the image of God.”

— The endorsement of the saintliness cause of Sister Thea Bowman, a descendant of slaves and the only African-American member of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, who transcended racism to leave a lasting mark on Catholic life in the United States in the late 20th century.

— Approving a budget for 2019 that shows a small surplus, but shows far less for the USCCB’s Migration and Refugee Services line item due to continuing federal cutbacks in the number of refugees being admitted into the United States.

— Hearing reports from bishops regarding the October Synod of Bishops on “Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment,” July’s V Encuentro of Perpetual Adoration, who transcended racism to leave a lasting mark on Catholic life in the United States in the late 20th century.

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Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, left, and other bishops listen as a bugler plays "Taps" Nov. 11 at the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington. The Mass marked the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.

Mass, ceremony mark 100th anniversary of World War I’s end

BY RICHARD SZCZEPANOWSKI

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With a solemn Mass, the mournful toll of bells, and patriotic songs and poems, more than 300 gathered at the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington on Nov. 11 to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I and to honor those men and women who have served in the armed forces.

“We have gathered not to assign blame, look at causes or rejoice in victory,” said Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services. “We gather to give thanks to those who sacrificed themselves. We also assemble to beg God for lasting peace.”

“We not only look back in gratitude,” he added, “but we look forward to profit from what we celebrate.”

Archbishop Broglio was the homilist at the Mass, and Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, supreme chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, was the principal celebrant. The commemoration was held on Veterans Day, the national holiday that was formerly known as Armistice Day in honor of the signing of an armistice on Nov. 11, 1918, that ended World War I.

“The soldiers we honor today risked their lives for a greater value: to end a senseless war,” Archbishop Broglio said. He added all veterans have responded to the call “to defend the weak and support our allies in favor of those freedoms in which we believe.”

The Mass was offered Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. — the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month — the same hour in Paris that the armistice between the Allies and Germany took effect exactly 100 years ago, thus ending “the war to end all wars.” The conflict — which was waged from 1914 to 1918 — resulted in around 40 million casualties.

In commemorating “the centennial of the armistice,” Archbishop Lori said, “we are commemorating those who gave their lives for freedom. ... We pray to our God of mercy and reconciliation for peace.”

Archbishop Broglio said the men and women who serve in the armed forces “go into the midst of conflict in our place. They have a sacrificial willingness to serve a greater good. It is essential we give thanks.”

He also mourned “the tremendous sacrifice of human potential when men fail to settle their differences by other means” than war.

Lt. Gen. Nadja West, the Army surgeon general, was a lector at the Mass. Gold Star mothers Judith Faunce and Mary Wiley — both of whom lost sons in conflict — were gift bearers.

The Mass was offered on what would have been the 44th birthday of Faunce’s son, Capt. Brian Faunce, who was killed in action Sept. 18, 2005. “I thought of him and that I gave birth to him exactly 44 years ago today,” Faunce said. “World War I was supposed to be the war to end all wars, but it wasn’t. Today, I honor all the vets — not only those who died, but also the living.”

Wiley’s son, Army Spc. Ross Vogel, was killed in action Sept. 29, 2009. He was 27. “We must never forget what they did for our country. We must never forget their sacrifices and their willingness to give up their lives,” Wiley said.

Prior to the Mass, the Knights of Columbus and the Archdiocese for the Military Services hosted an armistice centennial commemoration ceremony. It included readings from Catholic poet Joyce Kilmer, best known for the poem “Trees.” He also was a Knight of Columbus and a soldier killed in WWI.

During the ceremony, Kilmer’s crucifix was displayed, along with helmets worn by “doughboys,” a nickname for U.S. soldiers, who fought in France and the uniform worn by Father John DeValles, a Catholic chaplain known as “The Angel of the Trenches” for his heroic ministry to the injured and dying in that war.

That event also included a ceremonial wreath laying and the tolling of a bell 11 times to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the war.

Carl Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, pointed out that the Knights of Columbus were instrumental in establishing “comfort centers,” which “supported those who bore the burden of war.”

“World War I brought hate and bloodshed ... the Knights of Columbus had a higher mission — a mission that continues today,” Anderson said. “We continue to believe that our principles are cornerstones for our faith, our communities and our nation.”

He noted that the first American officer killed in the war, Army medical officer Dr. William Fitzsimmons, and the last American officer to be killed in the war, Father William Davitt, a chaplain, were both members of the Knights of Columbus. Anderson called them “two men who embodied the virtues of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.”

At the Mass, Archbishop Broglio reminded those in attendance that “war is the failure of statesmen, but the weight is borne by the armed forces,” and urged the faithful to work for “the promotion of understanding and world peace.”

Richard Szczepanowski is a staff writer at the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington.
National appeal supports elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests

WASHINGTON — The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection will be held Dec. 8-9 in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office in Washington, the appeal benefits 51,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend donated $150,706.53 to the last collection. In 2018, the Congregation of Holy Cross, U.S. Province of Priests and Brothers, whose central house is located in the diocese, received financial support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious. Almost 94 percent of donations aid senior religious and their communities, with the remaining funds used for administration and promotion of the national appeal.

The 2017 collection raised just over $28 million, and the NRRO disbursed $25 million to 560 religious communities for the direct care of elderly members. Communities combine these funds with their own income and savings to help furnish necessities such as medications and nursing care. Throughout the year, additional funding is allocated for congregations with critical needs and for retirement planning and educational resources.

Religious communities apply annually for financial support from the national collection, and distributions are sent to each eligible community’s central house. Although women and men religious often minister outside their home dioceses, they may benefit from the allocations disbursed to their individual orders.

“Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious have a far-reaching impact,” said Presentation Sister Stephanie Still, the NRRO’s executive director. “Most importantly, they help communities care for aging members, but they also underline initiatives aimed at addressing the underlying causes of the funding shortages.”

Religious orders are financially autonomous and thus responsible for the support of all members. Traditionally, Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests — known collectively as women and men religious — served for little to no pay. Today, hundreds of orders lack sufficient retirement savings.

Of 547 communities providing data to the NRRO, only 4 percent are adequately funded for retirement. Compounding the financial crisis are the rising cost of care and the increasing number of those needing care.

Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the national collection in 1988 to help address the deficit in retirement funding among U.S. religious communities. Since the collection was launched, U.S. Catholics have donated $844 million to the appeal, helping many communities stabilize their retirement outlook.

“We are overwhelmed by the ongoing generosity toward the annual appeal and by the love and thanksgiving for the service of our elderly religious,” said Sister Still. “Our office is committed to stewarding these funds in ways that help religious communities care for older members while continuing to serve the People of God.” Visit retiredreligious.org to learn more.

Elderly religious need the help of the faithful, though donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious at Mass. The collection will take place in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend on Dec. 9. Visit retiredreligious.org.

Pope recognizes martyrdom of U.S. Christian Brother

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has recognized the martyrdom of De La Salle Christian Brother James Miller, who was born in Wisconsin and was shot to death in Guatemala in 1982.

The recognition of the martyrdom of Brother James, or Brother Santiago as he also was known, clears the way for his beatification; the date and location of the ceremony were not immediately announced.

Publishing news about a variety of sainthood causes Nov. 8, the Vatican said Pope Francis also had recognized as “blessed” a 15th-century Augustinian brother, Michael Giedrojc.

The recognition amounted to the “equivalent beatification” of Brother Giedrojc, who was born in Lithuania and died in Krakow. With the pope recognizing that over the course of centuries the brother has been venerated by thousands of Catholics, the normal process leading to beatification is not needed.

Brother Miller, the U.S. martyr, was born Sept. 21, 1944, in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. He met the Christian Brothers at Pacelli High School there and, at the age of 15, entered the order’s juniorate in Missouri. After the novitiate, he taught Spanish, English and religion at Cretin High School in St. Paul, Minnesota, for three years. He also was in charge of school maintenance and served as the football coach.

Some websites refer to him as “Brother Fix-it” and an icon featured on the website of the Christian Brothers of the Midwest shows him wearing overalls.

In 1969, he was sent to Nicaragua, where he taught and helped build schools. According to the De La Salle brothers’ website, “His religious superiors ordered him to leave Nicaragua in July 1979 during the time of the Sandinista revolution. It was feared that since he worked for the Somoza government, he might be at risk.”

Returning to the United States, he again taught at Cretin High School. But in January 1981, he was sent to Guatemala, where he taught at a secondary school in Huehuetenango and at a center that helped young indigenous people learn job and leadership skills.

While on a ladder making repairs to the building on the afternoon of Feb. 13, 1982, he was shot several times by three hooded men and died instantly. No one was ever arrested for his murder. Funeral services were held in Guatemala and in St. Paul before he was buried in Chicago.
Equestrian order helps Holy Land Catholics, encourages dialogue

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The 30,000 members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem fund about 80 percent of the annual budget of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, ensuring that Catholic parishes and seminaries, schools and hospitals in Israel, Palestine and Jordan continue to function, said U.S. Cardinal Edwin F. O’Brien.

The cardinal, grand master of the Vatican-based order, said the knights and dames of the order come from 40 countries and pledge their prayers, their financial support and personal visits to the Holy Land to support the local Catholic communities there and to encourage ecumenical and interreligious dialogue and cooperation.

Every five years, leaders of the order from around the world gather for their general assembly, called a “consulta.” The meeting was scheduled for Nov. 13-16 in Rome and was expected to include an audience with Pope Francis.

A meeting with reporters Nov. 7, Cardinal O’Brien said the knights and dames “do not become involved in local governmental or political questions” in the Holy Land but offer support to the local Catholic Church there in cooperation with the Congregation for Eastern Churches.

Cardinal O’Brien said the order provides about $15 million each year in grants to Catholic projects in the Holy Land. Most are run by the Latin patriarchate, but the Maronite and Melkite Catholic churches also receive assistance.

The knights and dames of the Holy Sepulchre have given priority to education and formation programs, said Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, governor general of the order. By supporting 35 nurseries and 41 elementary and high schools in Israel and Palestine, he said, the order’s members hope to improve their quality and, through them, to make a fundamental contribution to the pacification of the region,” he said.

About 57 percent of the 19,000 students in the schools are Christian, and most of the others are Muslim, he said.

But all of them learn “our values of dialogue, tolerance and mutual respect,” which should help “overcome that violent confrontation that for years has martyred peaceful coexistence among people of different ethnic and religious groups.”

Cardinal O’Brien said each member of the equestrian order pledges to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land at least once in his or her lifetime, but most go regularly. The pilgrimage is “built around prayer and visits to the holy sites, but always includes visits to schools, clinics, parishes and other projects funded by the knights and dames.

The funds are disbursed as grants, the cardinal said, and members of the grant-making committee visit the Holy Land three times a year to monitor the projects.

The order’s headquarters near the Vatican occupies a small part of the 15th-century Palazzo della Rovere; most of the order’s building was rented out to a company that ran it as the Hotel Columbus. The order’s contract with the hotel company expired years ago and, after a court-ordered eviction was issued in 2016, the hotel closed in May.

Visconti said the Italian government is insisting that restoration work be carried out on the hotel’s 15th- and 16th-century frescoes, and plumbing and other work is underway. But, he said, the knights and dames hope to have a new company renting the building and running it as a hotel soon, because the rental income covers the order’s administrative costs, allowing all donations to go directly to the Holy Land.

Polonia, Wisconsin.

In other decrees published Nov. 8, Pope Francis recognized miracles attributed to the intercession of Edvige Carboni and Benedetta Bianchi Porro, meaning both Italian laywomen can be beatified. Carboni died in 1952; Porro died in 1964.

The pope also recognized the martyrdom of more victims of the Spanish civil war: Angel Cuartas Cristobal and eight of his classmates at the seminary in Oviedo, who were killed between 1934 and 1937; and Mariano Mullerat Soldevila, a physician, husband and father killed in 1936.

In 10 other causes for canonization, Pope Francis signed decrees recognizing that the candidates for sainthood lived the Christian virtues in a heroic way, which is the first step toward beatification.

The decrees included the cause of Bishop Alfredo Maria Obviar of Lucena, Philippines, founder of the Missionary Catechists of St. Therese of the Infant Jesus. The bishop died in 1978.

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BROTHER, from page 4

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**Archbishop Gomez: ‘Pray hard’ for all affected by Calif. shooting**

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — After a shooting three late Nov. 7 at a country-music bar in Thousand Oaks, about 40 miles from the heart of Los Angeles, Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles asked people to “pray hard” for the victims and their families.

Thirteen people, including the suspected gunman and a 29-year veteran of the Ventura County Sheriff’s Department, died in shooting at the Borderline Bar & Grill on what was college night, with the dead ranging in age from 18 to 26 dancing. The bar is popular with students at nearby California Lutheran University, and also attracts students from Pepperdine University in Malibu, Moorpark College in Moorpark and California State University-Channel Islands in Camarillo. “Like many of you, I woke this morning to news of the horrible violence last night at the Borderline Grill in Thousand Oaks,” Archbishop Gomez said in his Nov. 8 statement. “Let us pray hard for all the families, for those who were murdered and those who were injured, and in a special way for the heroic officer, Sgt. Ron Helus, who lost his life defending people in the attack.”

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, urged prayers for the victims and their families and also called for the enactment of reasonable measures to end gun violence.

**Devastating California wildfires**

Homes in Paradise, Calif., are seen Nov. 11 after being destroyed by the Camp Fire blaze. Fires in the state have killed more than 44 people in the past week and destroyed several communities. The Camp Fire is now the deadliest blaze in the state’s history.

**Archival find at Catholic U. leads to Kristallnacht remembrance**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Jews worldwide will remember the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht. In a direct German translation, it means “Crystal Night,” but it is more commonly thought of as “Night of Broken Glass,” as Nazis and their sympathizers rampaged through Nazi Germany — by this time had absorbed Austria and the Sudetenland — the night of Nov. 9-10, 1938. More than 7,000 Jewish-owned stores and businesses were damaged, more than 250 synagogues destroyed, more than 5,000 Jews arrested and sent to concentration camps, and nearly 100 more killed during the rampag es, which shocked the world. It was an open question, though, as to how American Catholics felt about Kristallnacht, which some had likened to a pogrom in which Jews are forcibly exiled. Father Charles Coughlin, “radio priest” during the Depression, had been years salting anti-Semitic commentary into his weekly broadcasts, which reached tens of millions of people, despite the grumblings of several U.S. bishops who warned him off the air. But it was the discovery in The Catholic University of America’s archives in 2004 of an old, scratched record, labeled only “Catholic Protest Against Nazis — Nov. 16, 1938,” that set the wheels in motion for a long-overdue reconsideration of Catholic attitudes in general, and Kristallnacht in particular.

**VATICAN CITY (CNS) —** Break through every “wall” of gloom and resignation and help the world realize people need to take care of one another because they are all part of one human family, Pope Francis told Catholic journalists. He also urged them to continue to call out injustices, follow ethical standards and put people first. The pope spoke Nov. 9 during an audience with some 340 students, alumni and faculty representing the Institute for the Promotion of Young Journalists — a Catholic school of journalism based in Munich. The school was established 50 years ago to provide professional training to Christians in the fields of journalism, media and communications. “As Christian journalists, you stand out for your positive approach toward people and for your professional ethics,” the pope told the group. The work is more than just a job, he said; it is a responsibility and commitment, especially today when it has become all too easy “to let oneself be carried away by popular opinion, defeatism and a pessimism that paralyzes and blinds.”

**Resist the ‘cold shadow’ of euthanasia, says Cardinal Collins**

TORONTO (CNS) — The “cold shadow” of euthanasia is spreading, warned Cardinal Thomas Collins. Speaking at the 30th annual Cardinal’s Dinner in Toronto Nov. 8, the cardinal urged 1,600 attendees to fight attempts to “reach across the vast reaches of Canada’s law to include minors.” The time for review of the federal euthanasia law is upon us, and there is great pressure to include the so-called ‘safeguards’ which made it seem to be not so terrible,” he told the audience at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. “One such safeguard is that euthanasia is to be only for adults. Now we hear arguments made that the concept of ‘adult’ is too restrictive and that even minors who are capable are eligible for euthanasia, even without the consent of their parents. The danger now is that euthanasia is spreading further in our land, and we must resist that,” the cardinal said.

**Years in gulag helped make Ukrainian dissident a Catholic**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Few dissidents who were exiled to gulags, the labor camps run by the Soviet Union, would think of them as pleasant experiences. But for Myroslav Marynovych, a Ukrainian who was jailed for being the founding member of a human rights group that operated above-ground, it gave him the opportunity of a lifetime.

In the camp, he said, “I became a Christian.” And it was from this his becoming a Ukrainian-Rite Catholic that he learned the social doctrine of the Church that served as the underpinning for much of his life after he was freed. “It was a change in the system of my world view,” said Marynovych, now the vice rector of Ukrainian Catholic University, a position that lets him lecture without having a PhD. “I got my PhD in [the] gulag,” he said with a laugh. “I understood the world cannot be imagined without God,” he said.

Christian views, Marynovych added, “became a very important basis for the reconstruction of the society.” He recalled growing up under the notion that “only the Soviet system took care of the simple people.” When I read ‘Novarum,’ the first social encyclical, by Pope Leo XIII, I thought, ‘Wow!’ The Soviet system also presented each struggle as a win-lose proposition, Marynovych said. But from reading Catholic social teaching, he came to the discovery that “each side needs the other.”

Adding that the world’s wealthiest countries were “the ones where cooperation between businesses and workers takes place.”

**Voters in two states OK anti-abortion measures, but Oregon funding stays**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An Oregon measure that would have banned state funding for elective and late-term abortions was defeated by voters Nov. 6, while a referendum that would allow the state to pay Medicaid for abortion the passage in West Virginia opens the door to the state Legislature banning abortion if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns its 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion nationwide.

**People unable to give have become slaves to possessions, pope says**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Life is for living, not amassing possessions, Pope Francis said. In fact, the true meaning and purpose of wealth is to use it to lovingly serve others and promote human dignity, he said Nov. 7 during his weekly general audience.

The world is rich enough in resources to provide for the basic needs of everybody, the pope said. “And yet, many people live in scandalous poverty and resources — used without discouragement — keep deteriorating. But there is just one world! There is one humanity. The riches of the world today are in the hands of a minority, of the few, and poverty — indeed, extreme poverty, and suffering — are for the many,” he told those gathered in St. Peter’s Square. The pope continued his series of talks on the Ten Commandments, focusing on the command, “You shall not steal,” which reflects respect for other people’s property.
Priests vs. seminarians roundball Dec. 27

FORT WAYNE — The basketball tradition featuring priests and seminarians is coming back to Fort Wayne on Thursday, Dec. 27, at 6:30 p.m. in the Bishop Dwenger High School gymnasium.

This year the seminarians look to defend their 2017 win, while the priests are seeking revenge from this family-friendly matchup on the court.

With other members of the Catholic community in this show of support for the seminarians and priests of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. There is no entrance fee. A freewill offering to support the seminarians will be collected. Bishop Dwenger High School is located at 1300 E. Washington Center Rd., Fort Wayne.

Theology on Tap winter series

MISHAWAKA — Theology on Tap, a Catholic speaker series for young adults in their 20s and 30s, single and married, will resume Feb. 5.

The gatherings will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Mishawaka Columbus Club, 114 W. 1st St., Mishawaka. Young adults are encouraged to attend for an opportunity to share in food, fellowship and faith. Additional dates and the roster of speakers have not been finalized.

Visit www.diocesefwsb.org/yam-retreats in coming weeks for additional information, or contact Sean Allen, director for Young Adult and Campus Ministry for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, at sallen@diocesefwsb.org or 260-234-0687.

Save the date for young adult retreat

MISHAWAKA — A retreat planned by the Office of Young Adult Ministry will provide young adult men and women in their 20s and 30s, single and married, a chance to get away from the busyness of daily life and encounter the Lord in a personal way.

The retreat will take place Feb. 9-10 at Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center, 9601 Union Rd., Plymouth.

Please visit www.diocesefwsb.org/yam-retreats in the coming weeks for additional information, or contact Sean Allen, director for Young Adult and Campus Ministry for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, at sallen@diocesefwsb.org or 260-234-0687.

‘Try Prayer! It Works!’ contest

EASTON, Mass. — Students are urged to submit entries now for the “Try Prayer! It Works!” contest. Deadline for the national competition is Feb. 20.

The competition is Feb. 20.

The “Try Prayer! It Works!” contest encourages children to participate in an inspiring faith experience by expressing their beliefs through art, poetry, prose and a new category this year: video. The competition is open to students in grades K-12 enrolled in a Catholic school, religious education program, parish or other organization, including home school.

This year’s theme, “Mary, Mother of the Church,” helps families explore how Mary is the Mother of Jesus and Mother to us all. Her important role in the Church flows from her deep connection with her Son and from Him to His children. The goal is to bring the Church’s teachings to life around the dinner table with discussion prompts, reflection question, prayer ideas and creativity. The first-place winner in each category receives $100. The sponsor of each winner also receives $100.

For details or to download an application, go to www.FamilyRosary.org/TryPrayer. For additional information, call Family Rosary at 800-299-PRAY (7729).

Sponsored by Family Rosary, the contest encourages children to bring the Church’s teachings to life around the dinner table with discussion prompts, reflection question, prayer ideas and creativity. The first-place winner in each category receives $100. The sponsor of each winner also receives $100.

Enjoy of Catholic ministries that inspires, promotes and fosters the prayer life and spiritual well-being of families throughout the world. Family Rosary, a member ministry, helps families pray, especially the rosary. Holy Cross Family Ministries is sponsored by the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Franciscan Center goal: 1,500 turkeys for annual distribution

FORT WAYNE — The Franciscan Center expects to again provide over 1,500 turkeys to clients on its annual “Turkey Tuesday,” the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. The community’s help is needed to fund the final 900.

The Franciscan Center relies completely on donations from the community to make this annual event a reality and needs help filling its freezers with the final 900 to meet expected demand from families on the southeast side of Fort Wayne.

Drop-off sites for turkeys and donations include:

The Franciscan Center’s main office, 1015 E. Maple Grove Ave., 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m.–11 a.m. Saturday.

The Franciscan Center Family Thrift, 925 E. Coliseum Blvd., 9 a.m.–8 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.–6 p.m. Saturday.

The Franciscan Center Family Thrift, 6145 W. Jefferson Blvd., 9 a.m.–8 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.–6 p.m. Saturday.

The Franciscan Center will even arrange pickup of turkeys if needed. For more information, contact Tony Ley at 260-710-3985 or visit www.thefranciscan-center.org.

The Elkhart conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul held its annual spaghetti dinner at the Knights of Columbus Hall 1045 in downtown Elkhart on Wednesday, Nov. 7. The event raised more than $4,500 to support local food pantry needs.

The highlight of the dinner was the display of 43 art pictures, illustrating the SVDP event, which were created by the Young Vincentian groups of St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Vincent de Paul parishes in Elkhart. Pictured are SVDP members prior to the start of the dinner.

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A going-away reception took place after Mass on Saturday, Nov. 3, at SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Huntington in honor of the service provided by Sister Miriam Gill, SSND, at left, and Sister Loretta Bauer, SSND. They were recognized with an award and gift blessed by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. Sister Miriam served the parish in catechetical ministry for 28 years, and Sister Loretta served as pastoral assistant for 19 years. The sisters will move Nov. 15 to the School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province in Wisconsin.

Service of School Sisters of Notre Dame recognized
Church leaders hope World Youth Day strengthens parishes

BY MANUEL RUEDA

PANAMA CITY (CNS) — The Church of Christ the Redeemer was built with Panama’s hot and humid weather in mind. There are no walls on the building. Its tall round roof is supported by cement columns spread far apart so that a good amount of breeze can make its way down the church’s aisles.

But there was no way to stave off the heat in April as a group of some 500 young men and women packed the large church to pray and dance at a service in preparation for next year’s World Youth Day.

The young people swayed back and forth, waving their arms joyfully, as they sang a hymn about being “invaded” by God’s love. A volunteer who led the service urged them to invite the Holy Spirit and to pray for young people who had lost faith in themselves.

“I think that World Youth Day will help us to grow spiritually,” said Ivan Lopez, 20, who attended the prayer service.

“There are many young people who have drifted away from the Church, but this will help us to strengthen our parishes,” Panama will host the 16th World Youth Day Jan. 22-27. It will be the first Central American nation to host the massive event, which will include a music festival, dozens of seminars for youth and an expected four-day visit by Pope Francis.

For many of the young people in Panama who are already preparing for this event, however, World Youth Day is not just about prayer and reflection. Organizers hope the event will strengthen parishes and provide them with an incentive to keep working for a better future in a region that has recently been through tough times.

Volunteers also are hoping that the event will give young people from around the world a chance to meet, share experiences and discuss ways in which young people can make an impact on society.

“We have people coming from places like Brazil, Haiti and the Philippines,” said Carolina Vivas, 23, a volunteer who is helping large groups of pilgrims to register for World Youth Day through the event’s official internet site, https://panama2019.pa.

“I’ve never been to those places. But when these people come here, I will be able to see the world through their eyes,” said Vivas, who is originally from Venezuela.

Father Romulo Aguilar, director of the local organizing committee, said he expected at least 300,000 people to register for the event.

That’s a large number for Panama, which has a population of 4 million people, and it means that hotel rooms will be scarce — and quite expensive — during the event.

Father Aguilar said thousands of families in Panama City are opening their doors to pilgrims to stay in their homes. Groups can choose that option when registering.

“We have already managed to make enough room for 60,000 pilgrims at family homes,” Father Aguilar told Catholic News Service in April. “Our country has responded with a lot of enthusiasm.”

The Panamanian government also will pitch in during World Youth Day by turning several schools in Panama City into shelters for pilgrims. Twenty-five public and private schools are being reviewed as possible shelters.

The government plans to open public hospitals to pilgrims who need medical assistance and organize a task force of 50,000 officers to provide security. Most of the musical performances and religious events will take place along a wide coastal avenue known as the “Cinta Costera,” which connects Panama City’s historic center with the financial district. Organizers say the central location, in the heart of Panama City, should make it easy for pilgrims to travel to events.

“We want visitors to leave Panama with the best possible experience,” said Michelle Dominguez, a spokeswoman for the government’s World Youth Day support committee.

For Panama Archbishop Jose Ulloa Mendiesta, though, logistical issues are not the only concern. He told CNS that as World Youth Day approaches, he has been visiting parishes to pray with young people, but also to speak with Church leaders about how the Panamanian Church can better serve them.

“We need to prepare for the day after this event is over,” Archbishop Ulloa told CNS.

“What type of Church will young people whose faith was renewed by this World Youth Day encounter?”

To prepare for the future, the archdiocese has published a manual that helps parish leaders facilitate discussions on 12 issues that matter to young people, including the environment, drugs, social inequalities and the role of women in the Church. The manual looks at what Church doctrine has to say about these issues.

Archbishop Ulloa said World Youth Day will be preceded by a special summit for indigenous people and by several prayer events in underserved communities, like the one held at Christ the Redeemer Church in April.

“We want this youth day to reach out to everyone, and especially those who are on the margins of society,” Archbishop Ulloa said.

In Colon, an impoverished port city about an hour from Panama’s capital, young parish leaders said they appreciated Church efforts to reach out to marginalized people. But they said more needs to be done to draw young people into the Church and show them that a better life is possible.

Colon has only 16 streets, but about 25 gangs are fighting for the local drug market. Entire blocks of the city are made up of decaying buildings with rusted paint, some of which have been abandoned by their owners and taken over by illegal tenants.

Yitzhak Gonzalez, a local leader for the youth committee, said young people in the poorest parts of Colon grow up seeing their peers getting into drug-dealing outfits. Many feel the Church is irrelevant in their lives.

Gonzalez, 24, said one way to fix that is by creating spaces for youths to “reflect on what they want to do with their lives.”

He said even if young people do not turn to crime, they go about life mostly thinking about how to make money to support their families. This hurts the chances of anyone seeking a career in the Church. The diocese is notoriously short on priests, which means some rural areas only get Mass once every three months.

“There is not much thought given to what God wants from us, or even if we may have a religious vocation,” Gonzalez said. “That is why we need more spaces to talk about our vocation and career options.”

Neyci Romero, a World Youth Day volunteer at Colon’s Paro Pan de Vida parish, said part of the problem her parish faces is that the faithful have a habit of keeping to themselves. She is hoping World Youth Day will become an excuse for churchgoers to “reach out” to the rest of the community.

“We are going door to door, encouraging people to learn about World Youth Day and get involved,” said Romero, 24. “We also have a car with big speakers that we take into the streets to get noticed and make some noise.”

The Colon diocese is aiming to take 3,000 pilgrims to World Youth Day. Some young Catholic leaders in the city have quit their jobs or taken months of leave to help the diocese prepare for the event.

Gonzalez took a one-year leave from his job at the local port. He said he has found the preparations to be rewarding and that he hopes Pope Francis, who is famous for seeking those on the margins, visits Colon while he is in Panama.

“A papal visit would renew our hope in the future,” Gonzalez said. “We don’t just need new infrastructure here, our people also need spiritual renovation.”

yassiel barranco, 21, ivan lopez, 20, and liz marie, 17, pray during a vigil for young people at the church of christ the redeemer april 22 outside panama city. world youth day 2019 will be celebrated jan. 22-27 in panama city.
Gobsmacked: Rome steps in, reform votes delayed

BY GREG ERLANDSON

Baltimore (CNS) — Seasoned bishop watchers know that just about every fall meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has a surprise. Sometimes it’s an election result. Sometimes it’s the debate that was never expected. Sometimes it’s that there’s no debate.

But the first day of the 2018 fall meeting was one that caught just about everyone in the room flat-footed. Right on the eve of what looked to be a decisive meeting of the U.S. bishops in dealing with sexual abuse within their own ranks, the Vatican’s Congregation for Bishops asked them not to vote on two of the key proposals that were to be put before them.

When Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the conference, made the announcement within the opening minutes of the meeting, the entire room — bishops, staff and journalists — were gobsmacked.

This, after all, was the meeting when the bishops were going to get their own house in order following the latest wave of sex abuse stories — Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick, the Pennsylvania grand jury report, and the subsequent flood of subpoenas and investigations and self-published lists of priest offenders.

The McCarrick scandal in particular raised questions about who knew what and when. It also highlighted the fact that even when adults were involved, there could be harassment and abuse of power. In an Aug. 16 statement, Cardinal DiNardo called for “an investigation into the questions surrounding Archbishop McCarrick, an opening of new and confidential channels for reporting complaints against bishops, and advocacy for more effective resolution of future complaints.”

Following meetings in Rome, some of the early requests by the U.S. — particularly for an apostolic visitation to investigate the questions surrounding the McCarrick scandal — were rejected or modified by Rome. Likewise, a request by Pope Francis that the fall meeting become a weeklong retreat for the U.S. bishops was rejected as logistically impractical, and plans were made for such a retreat in January in Chicago.

What is not clear is how much of the discussion and planning by the U.S. bishops involved Rome. By the eve of the November meeting, the U.S. bishops were planning to ask for votes by the entire conference on three key issues.

— A proposal to “Standards of Episcopal Conduct.”

— A proposal to establish a special commission for review of complaints against bishops for violations of the “Standards of Episcopal Conduct.”

— A protocol regarding restrictions on bishops who were removed from or resigned their office due to sexual abuse of minors, sexual harassment of or misconduct with adults, or grave negligence in office.

In addition, there was to be a report on a third-party reporting system that would allow victims or those knowledgeable of abusive situations regarding bishops to report such cases confidentially.

According to Cardinal DiNardo’s announcement, word was received Nov. 11 that the Vatican was asking the conference to delay their vote because of the previously announced meeting at the Vatican of the presidents of all the world’s bishops’ conferences to discuss the abuse crisis in February.

In his remarks, Cardinal DiNardo expressed his disappointment at this request, which threw the planned agenda for the four-day meeting into disarray. Theories abound about what happened and why.

What will be the implications of this sudden twist is still unknown. Protesters and bishops alike may now see Rome as the obstructionist, and the growing pressure on Pope Francis will continue. Ironically, this may take some heat off the U.S. bishops, at least temporarily, but is unlikely to help Rome-U.S. relations.

Critics of the proposed action items also may be relieved, since there were those who viewed the proposals as opening the door for other conferences to make similarly unilateral changes in areas of discipline or doctrine.

Perhaps most frustrated were those bishops — many of them appointees after 2002 — who want to open their archives, name priests credibly accused, and forthrightly address issues of accountability and transparency.

Following the announcement of the delay, the bishops of the Missouri province released a letter originally written Oct. 6. It expressed support for the proposals suggested by Cardinal DiNardo but added: “We fear these measures will not be enough in either substance or timeliness to meet the demands that this pastoral crisis presents.”

Delay is inevitable, however. And now the bishops had the rest of their meeting to decide what, if anything, they were still able to do.
High school students prepare for Church leadership roles

BY WILLIAM SCHMITT

On a feast day recalling Rome’s first generation of Catholic churches, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades spoke with students from all four diocesan high schools about an initiative for building the Church’s next generation of leaders.

Holy Cross College inaugurated the expanded initiative, called the Emerging Leaders Symposium, on Nov. 9. The college’s campus ministry office and selected student mentors welcomed about 30 high school representatives for a day of discussions and teamwork, plus a meal with the campus community and Mass celebrated by the bishop.

The feast of the Basilica of St. John Lateran, which honors the oldest and highest-ranking church in the world, helps to highlight the four “marks of the Church,” Bishop Rhoades said, citing the attributes of “one, holy, Catholic and apostolic.” Those qualities, found in the Nicene Creed, were the themes of the symposium and of presentations the students made to the bishop.

The Church’s worldwide tribute to a church built in the fourth century — named for St. John the Apostle and St. John the Baptist, and still the official cathedral of the pope as bishop of Rome — reminds Catholics that “we are the temple of God built of living stones, with Jesus as the cornerstone,” Bishop Rhoades said in his homily.

Strengthened inside a church with word and sacraments, we’re called to go forth “to evangelize and to communicate the life and love of God to others in the world through our words and actions,” the bishop told the emerging leaders, gathered with college students and faculty in the Holy Cross chapel.

After the team presentations, which visualized the four “marks” as attributes of Church leadership, Bishop Rhoades said the pope and bishops act as shepherds but that laypeople must also be active as “servant-leaders” bringing Christ to others.

“Leadership of the Church is always directed to service, not to power,” he reminded the symposium participants, who included other schools as well as the diocesan high schools, both Catholic and public.

“Some of the greatest leaders in the history of the Church were women,” he added, mentioning St. Teresa of Kolkata and the recently canonized St. Katharina Kasper, foundress of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, who sponsor Ancilla College.

Holy Cross College campus ministry Director Andrew Polaniecki, who had worked with Senior Vice President Michael Griffin to plan the symposium, said the goal — in keeping with the college’s mission — was to get young people excited about their roles in the Church.

“We wanted to expand the scope of leadership, to highlight who can be leaders, formally and informally,” Polaniecki said.

One participant, Jennifer Litchfield, who had come in a contingent from Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, said the leadership call, “go and make of all disciples,” resonated with her.

“It’s helpful to see theology in the context of other subjects, such as science or business or humanities,” she said. “Then you can use your theology to connect with people and strengthen the oneness of the world and the Church.”

Mentor Teresa Breckler, a sophomore studying theology and graphic design at Holy Cross, said the symposium’s focus on the four attributes of the Church was helpful. “To be a leader, you really need to know what you’re leading.”

Catherine Oliva, another Holy Cross student assisting with the symposium, said college life fosters Catholic leadership on the campus and in the community. Because of the college’s smaller size, “we get to create traditions” alongside practicing the inherited ones. “and pass them on to the next generation.”

The symposium is anticipated to be an annual event.
A ministry of hospitality: fostering community

BY BEA CUASAY

Hosting others in one’s home requires no pomp and circumstance. It all begins with an invitation. John and Jill Boughton, long-time residents of South Bend, invite people they’ve met in different contexts for hospitality dinners on Saturday nights. This is no recent development: They’ve held these weekly dinners for the past 44 years.

The couple’s ministry of hospitality was one of the expressions of faith they embraced when they became active with People of Praise, a charismatic Catholic group that experienced a renaissance during the late 60s and early 70s. The group’s members abide by a solemn agreement to form community, or “be together.” It’s an ongoing promise to remain with one another and grow in holiness, resigning their wills to God’s kindness in the area for these adults to establish a l’Arche-type residence.

The Boughton’s way of living: Community became central to how they carry out their ministry. They decided to open their home for a weekly meal. This entails blessing the candles, wine and bread. The candles are lit and prayer begins. A cup of wine is passed around as each person shares one blessing the Lord bestowed on them in the past week. The feast begins in thanksgiving.

Following this “eucharistia,” or giving of thanks, the bread is broken and shared. As the ice is broken as well, great food and conversation are shared. Though the people gathered around the table may not know each other, they find out they have much in common.

Oftentimes, people make hospitality harder than it has to be, Jill said. “People don’t do hospitality a lot because it’s a big production,” but it’s not necessarily entertainment or a time to break out the fine china. All one has to do is invite others in, regardless of a grand presentation.

The Boughtons provide hospitality in more ways than just Saturday night dinner. They’ve opened up their house to overnight guests and those needing a longer-term stay, such as college students and other singles, a couple of single moms with their children, family groups of foster children, and homeless folks working toward a better living situation.

On Monday evenings, they gather around the dinner table with a group of adults with disabilities. The couple would eventually like to establish a l’Arche-type residence in the area for these adults to live in.

Dinner begins with a prayer commemorating the Lord’s Day. As the ice is broken as well, people make hospitality harder than it has to be, Jill said. “People don’t do hospitality a lot because it’s a big production,” but it’s not necessarily entertainment or a time to break out the fine china. All one has to do is invite others in, regardless of a grand presentation.

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Sober but serene themes of judgment in the spirituals

I've often been impressed by the ability of old African-American spirituals to treat serious subjects in a clear, memorable and almost joyful way. This is true even of weighty matters like sin and judgment. During early November we are focused on the four last things (death, judgment, heaven, and hell) and November is also Black Catholic History Month. So, this seems like a good time to look at some of the creative lines from different spirituals that articulate these topics.

1. It can be very helpful to the preacher, teacher and parent in recovering an ethos of coming judgment. It is almost playfully bright while at the same time deeply soulful.

2. In a certain sense, the spirituals are inexplicable, even by hypersensitive post-moderns who seek to shame preachers for announcing sterner biblical truths. Most of these spirituals were written by slaves, who creatively worked biblical themes into these songs that helped and comforted both their work and their worship.

3. The spirituals were written in the cauldron of great suffering. Many people might be excused from thinking that the Lord would exempt them from judgment day, it was surely the enslaved in the Deep South. If any people might be excused from crying out for vengeance, it was they. Yet the spirituals are almost entirely devoid of condemnation. Enslaved blacks sang in ways that looked also to their own sins and the need to be prepared. If they were prepared, God, who knew their troubles, would carry them safely away to Jesus. They did not see themselves as exempt from the need to be ready.

4. If they, who worked hard in the cotton fields and endured the horrors of slavery, thought these texts applied to them, how much more do they apply to us, who live on our couches and speak of our freedom to do as we please?

Here are some lines from a few of the many spirituals that speak to judgment and the last things:

- I would not be a sinner, I'll tell you the reason why. I'm afraid my Lord might call my name and I wouldn't be ready to die.

- Someone go to Church for to sing and shout, before six months they're all turned out.

- Everybody talkin' bout heaven, ain't goin' there! Oh, my Lord!

- Where shall I be when the first trumpet sounds? Oh where shall I be when the dead rise to life, when the trumpet sounds, Oh where shall I be?

- Better watch your brother how you walk on the cross! Your foot might slip and your soul get lost!

- God gave Noah the rainbow sign, no more water but the fire next time!

- Old Satan wears a hypocrite's shoe, if you don't watch he'll slip it on you!

He has vanquished all enemies of God, as od to include and just. He sanctifies, or makes holy, all who have been perfected by their turning to God and by having had their sins forgiven.

St. Mark’s Gospel supplies this weekend’s third reading. Scholars assume that this Gospel was the first of the four to be written. Many believe that it was composed in Rome. Some think that the author had connections with Peter. They wonder if the author of this Gospel might not have been a scribe, writing at the behest of the illiterate Peter.

In any case, the Gospel appears evidently was written in a time of anxiety. Outright persecution lay menacing on the horizon. Christians knew what it meant to be on wrong side of power in the Roman Empire. The empire played for keeps.

Maybe this experience led the author to the conclusion in the Gospel text the Lord’s words about “trials of every sort.” Difficult times might come, but no power on earth, not even that of the mighty Roman emperor, would be able to thwart God’s plan of salvation. Even if evil seemed to prevail, the heavenly forces of God would descend from the clouds in glory and transport the faithful to everlasting joy and reward.

Reflection

The readings this weekend set the stage for next weekend, the great feast of Christ the King. They also address a situation as ancient in Christianity as the days of the Apostle Peter in Rome. They speak of the devout lifer’s attitude to face the enemies of God, amid harsh times.

In frankness, the readings put reality before us. Life on earth is no paradise. It has its share of the enemies of God. But life is not so bad. Evil is mighty. Enemies of God are real and active. Leading us astray in our own hearts are temptations from “the world, the flesh, and the devil.”

As my frustration level seemed to increase during this time. Then one day I realized that any inconvenience or problem can be offset with prayer devotion could be offered for those little squirmers themselves. My patience was developed through persisting. Even though the day may not have been a contemplative purpose for me at that time, I was teaching my children to pray it, and I was growing in self-discipline. Times are different now. I pray my daily rosary often alone, either first thing, in the dark, coffee in hand, or as I take my walk outside. The cadence of stepping coordinates with the rhythm of prayer.

Some people meditate on the mysteries as they pray. Others focus on the words of the prayers themselves. Still others mentally bring their intentions to our Lord as the words of the rosary are spoken. Sometimes it takes great effort to pray. Other times, the mind and soul take flight and it seems but a minute. It is so important to pray the rosary. The beads are each simultaneously blessings and offerings. Sooner or later, we will see the beauty of each bead, not unlike the brilliant magnificence of each autumn leaf, beautifying the earth and heralding a new season.

Theresa Thomas is the wife of David and the mother of nine children.
Roots of Catholic anger

After a month out of the country, working in Rome at Synod-2018 and helping mark the 40th anniversary of John Paul II’s election at events in Brussels and Warsaw, I came home to find Catholic anger. The crisis had entered its latest phase of the abuse crisis unabated and intensified in some quarters. That this crisis is not acknowledged by those who wield authority is by the highest authorities in Rome is a subject for another reflection at another time. The question today is: what are the roots of today’s Catholic anger and disgust?

Part of the answer to that, surely, is exhaustion. Why must we go through this again? Wasn’t the Long Lent of 2002 enough? Weren’t things fixed then?

Those whose anger is stoked by these understandable questions might have a look at a recent and thoughtful article by Kenneth Woodward in Commonweal (blog page www.commonwealmagazine.org/print/40277). Woodward understands that ripping the cover off the serial sexual predations of the former archbishop of Washington, Theodore McCarrick, triggered a gag-reflex among the Catholic laity that seems to have been bred out of at least some Catholic clergy, both here in the United States and in Rome. But the longtime religion editor of Newsweek also identifies another factor in today’s Catholic rage that ought to cause all of us to pause and think for a moment. Writing about the Pennsylvania grand jury report that sent Catholic anger through the roof this summer, my friend Woodward made a crucial point:

“...the way Pennsylvania attorney general Josh Shapiro presented the report — and the way it was often described in the press — made it easy to assume that the grand jury had unearthed three hundred new clerical abusers, when in fact most of the abuse covered in the report occurred in the last century and roughly eight out of ten of the alleged abusers are dead. It was easy to overlook the good news in an otherwise dishonest reporting — namely, that since the U.S. bishops established stringent new procedures for handling allegations of sexual abuse in 2003, only two priests from the seven dioceses studied have been accused.”

The “narrative” of an ongoing, widespread, and undressed rape culture in the Catholic Church in the United States is false. There are still abusive Catholic clergy in America; they must be rooted out and dismissed from the ministry. There are still bishops who don’t get it and they, too, must go. But as one state attorney general after another finds political hay to be made by investigating the Catholic past, it is essential that Catholics understand that a lot of the awfulness that is going to keep coming out of both in terms of abusive clergy and malfeasant bishops — was in the past. Effective anger today will focus on the present. And it will not be limited to local situations but will include the obtuseness (and worse) of officials in Rome.

Digging deeper, one hits another question: Why were so many Catholics, who don’t believe much else they read in the papers or see on TV, so ready to believe the stories that emerged from the Pennsylvania grand jury report? Part of the answer, I suspect, has to do with pent-up Catholic anger with clerical narcissism.

A priest or bishop who messes with the missal and re-writes it to his taste as he celebrates Mass is a narcissist. The priest of bishop who rambles on aimlessly during a daily Mass, abusing the time of his people, is a narcissist. A bishop who behaves as if he were hierarchical, but absent the gentlemanly “noblesse oblige” that characterizes the truly noble man, is a narcissist. And Catholics are fed up with clerical narcissism. The angers of the present have been stoked by that narcissism for decades, the deadly combination of McCarrick and Josh Shapiro blew the boiler’s lid off. Anyone who doesn’t recognize this is not going to be much help in fixing what’s broken.

At the same time, it must be remembered that most priests and bishops in the United States are not narcissists. Rather, they’re men with a deep sense of vocation who know they’re earthen vessels through whom flows unmerited but superabundant divine grace. Those men deserve our support, affection and gratitude as they, like the rest of us, deal with the fallout of the current era of humiliation and purification.

As for the narcissists, they need help — and disciplining.

POPE, from page 12

When the stars begin to fall You’ll hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground You’ll hear the sinner moan, to make a better day a comin’, Dere’s a better day a comin’, Do you see dem cof, finis burstin’, do you see dem folks is risin’? Do you see dat fork of lightnin’, Do you hear dat rumblin’ thunder? Fare thee well, fare thee well, Verse 1 I’m gonna tell ya ‘bout da comin’ of da judgment Dere’s a better day a comin’, Fare thee well, fare thee well, Verse 2 Oh preachers fold yo’ Bible, For dat last souls convert, Fare thee well, fare thee well, Verse 3 Blow yo’ trumpet Gabriel, Lord, how loud shall I blow it? Blow it right and calm and easy, Verse 4 Do not alarm all my people, Tell dem all come to da judgment, Fare thee well, fare thee well, Verse 5 Do you see dem cof, with the missal and re-writes it to his taste as he celebrates Mass is a narcissist. The priest or bishop who rambles on aimlessly during a daily Mass, abusing the time of his people, is a narcissist. A bishop who behaves as if he were hereditary nobility, but absent the gentlemanly “noblesse oblige” that characterizes the truly noble man, is a narcissist. And Catholics are fed up with clerical narcissism. The angers of the present have been stoked by that narcissism for decades, the deadly combination of McCarrick and Josh Shapiro blew the boiler’s lid off. Anyone who doesn’t recognize this is not going to be much help in fixing what’s broken.

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As for the narcissists, they need help — and disciplining.
Authors offer faith-filled ways to deal with process of grieving

BY DANIEL S. MULHALL


When someone we love dies, most people experience grief. That grief can take many shapes and forms, can last for years or for a short time, and can be mild or intense -- or both -- during different times of the grief period.

Paula D’Arcy, a former psychotherapist and a current retreat leader and author, walks us through a variety of these aspects in her book, “Winter of the Heart: Finding Your Way Through the Mystery of Grief.”

While she approaches the topic from a reasoned and analytical view, she writes as someone who has experienced the process of grief in a most personal and devastating way: Her husband and young daughter were killed in an auto accident.

When she writes that the heart should not be judged by the goodness of that life and for those left behind. He notes that “if someone dies in a morally compromised situation that suicide leaves, both the stigma that suicide leaves, both the goodness of his or her heart.”

Father Rolheiser confronts the stigma that suicide leaves, both for the individual who takes the life and for those left behind. He notes that “if someone dies in a morally compromised situation the goodness of that life and heart should not be judged by the circumstances of that death. Death caught that person on a down bounce” which does not offer “a true judgment as to the goodness of his or her heart.”

He writes that suicide is a disease, like cancer, and that those who commit suicide are usually sensitive. He notes that those who die at their own hands can be trusted to the “infinite understanding and compassion” of God.

This book offers hope and healing to those who have experienced the loss of a loved one or anyone trying to understand the topic.

Daniel Mulhall is a catechist living in Louisville, Kentucky.

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Corpus Christi holiday bazaar

SOUTH BEND — The 38th annual Corpus Christi holiday bazaar with over 50 quality handcrafted vendors will be held on Saturday, Nov. 17, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the school, 2822 Corpus Christi Dr. The Altar and Rosary Society will hold a raffle and the eighth-grade class will sell lunch to help fund the class trip.

St. Matthew Cathedral School craft fair

SOUTH BEND — The St. Matthew Cathedral Home and School Association, 1015 E Dayton St., will sponsor a holiday craft fair Saturday, Nov. 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the school gym and cafeteria. Enjoy shopping for the holidays with over 50 different craft booths. Concessions will also be available to purchase.

St. Louis Besancon ham and turkey dinner

NEW HAVEN — The St. Louis community will offer a fundraiser dinner Sunday, Nov. 18, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the parish hall, 15535 Lincoln Highway East. Tickets for dine-in are $9 for adults, $5 for ages 5-12 and kids 4 and under eat for free. Carry out and drive-thru options will also be available. A silent auction, turkey raffles, the Country Craft Store and a handmade quilt raffle will also be offered.

Bach Collegium opening night concert

FORT WAYNE — A favorite Bach cantata, “BWV 140,” and the Fort Wayne premier of Handel’s “Utrecht Te Deum” and “Jubilate” will be performed Sunday, Nov. 18, from 7-9 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 1122 S. Clinton St., by the Collegium choir and early instruments including natural trumpets. Tickets are $25, students with ID $10, under 12 free.

Our Lady of Hungary holiday craft bazaar

SOUTH BEND — A holiday craft bazaar will be Saturday, Nov. 24, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Hungary School Gym, 735 W. Calvert St. Arts and crafts by local artisans including handcrafted jewelry, handmade soaps, paper-crafted greeting cards and more. Lunch available and handicap accessible. Admission is a voluntary, non-perishable food donation for the St. Vincent DePaul Society. For more information or vendor space, call Edie Leemreis at 574-289-2143.

Organ recital

ELKHART — St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1108 S Main St., welcomes Jerome Cole, director of sacred music at St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka, Saturday, Nov. 25, at 6 p.m. The recital, entitled “Sounds from a Cathedral: the Organ Works of the Masters” will feature the music of Bach, Franck, Dupre, Brahms and Widor. Admission is free but donations will be accepted in support of future sacred music events.

Night of Lights

FORT WAYNE — Visit downtown Fort Wayne premier of Handel’s Messiah and more. Lunch available and more Catholic events and submit new ones at www.todayscatholic.org/event. For additional list

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@frontiernet.com

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Holy Land Catholic leaders ask Israel to repeal controversial law

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY

JERUSALEM (CNS) — The controversial Israeli Nation State law must be repealed because non-Jews also are citizens of Israel, said the Catholic ordinaries of the Holy Land.

"We, as the religious leaders of the Catholic Churches, call on the authorities to rescind this basic law and assure one and all that the state of Israel seeks to promote and protect the welfare and the safety of all its citizens," they said in a statement in early November. The ordinaries include bishops, patriarchs and religious leaders of various rites who serve in the Holy Land.

All residents of Israel, regardless of their religion, must be treated as equal citizens, the Catholic leaders said.

The law, which was passed in July, establishes that "the right to exercise national determination in Israel is unique to the Jewish people," that Jewish settlement is a "national value," mandating the state to "encourage and promote its establishment and development." The law also establishes Hebrew as Israel’s only official language, downgrading Arabic to a "special status."

"The Catholic leaders noted that since the creation of Israel in 1948, Arab citizens have been struggling with manifestations of discrimination. The new law, they said, is a blow to the very democratic values protected and promoted by the Human Dignity and Liberty Basic Law passed by the Israeli Knesset in 1992.

Now one of Israel’s basic laws — something akin to a constitutional law which guides Israel’s legal system — is more difficult to repeal than a regular law.

For its detractors, the law has downgraded non-Jews living in Israel to second-class citizenship, while its supporters say the law simply states the obvious — that Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people, much like France is the nation-state of the French, and Spain and the Spanish, while still retaining Israel’s democratic values.

"We must draw the attention of the authorities to a simple fact: our faithful, the Christians, our fellow citizens, Muslim, Druze and Baha’i, all of us who are Arabs, are no less citizens of this country than our Jewish brothers and sisters," said the statement.

Israel is about 75 percent Jewish, 18 percent Muslim, 2 percent Christian, and has Druze, Baha’i and others. "The (Nation State) law promotes an inherent discriminatory vision. In fact, other than seriously downgrading the standing of the Arab language in relationship to the Hebrew language, the law totally ignores the fact that there are Palestinian Arabs and other major religious communities, Christians and Muslims as well as Druze and Baha’i, that are profoundly rooted in this land," the Catholic leaders said.

"As Israelis and as Palestinian Arabs, we seek to be part of a state that promotes justice and peace, security and prosperity for all its citizens. As Christians, we take pride that the universal church was founded in Jerusalem and her first faithful were children of this land and its people," they said. "We recognize that Jerusalem and the whole of this Holy Land is a heritage we share with Jews and Muslims, Druze and Baha’i, a heritage we are called upon to protect from division and internecine strife."

PILGRIMS, from page 1
media. We need to go the extra mile, pardon the pun, in support of priests who are trying to lead holy lives, and remind everyone, there are good things going on in the Church," she told the Catholic Review, the news outlet of the Baltimore Archdiocese.

Pilgrims set out mid-morning in 41-degree temperatures and in a mist forecast to become an afternoon downpour, so ponchos and hand warmers were available, in addition to bottled water. Their itinerary included overnight stops at St. Bartholomew in Manchester and the Church of the Nativity in Timonium.

The pilgrimage, averaging 17 miles a day, went through four jurisdictions of the Baltimore Archdiocese, including Frederick, Carroll and Baltimore counties and the city of Baltimore.

It was led by Father John “Jack” Lombardi, pastor of St. Peter in Hancock and St. Patrick in Little Orleans. He also led “Feet for Francis,” a weekend, 100-mile walk from Baltimore to Philadelphia in September 2015, in conjunction with the archdiocese, to see Pope Francis on his visit to the U.S.

Walkers and support personnel this trek included several veterans of that pilgrimage, including Paul and Paula Tiller of St. Peter in Hancock and Pat and Laura Hamilton of St. Agnes in Catonsville.

“This is a reminder that we’re walking for the Lord, to repair what’s been torn,” Father Lombardi said before setting out toward Main Street in Emmitsburg and east on to Taneytown Pike. “It is our privilege to walk.”

Father Lombardi previously served as chaplain of National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, another religious landmark in the historic town of Emmitsburg.

He concelebrated Mass with Vincentian Father Harry F. Armone, associate pastor of St. Joseph Parish, which held a listening session regarding the clergy sex abuse scandals Nov. 5.

Father Armone noted that it was the feast of the dedication of the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome, a reminder “to see us as part of something bigger than ourselves. Don’t fall into the trap of American individualism. We are saved. It’s not ‘I am saved.’”

Emmitsburg’s St. Joseph Church, founded in 1793, had an early parish roll that included St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

“Any place that has the remains of the first American-born canonized saint is always a good place to begin a pilgrimage, or end one,” said Vincentian Father Martin F. McGough, pastor. “This was Mother Seton’s parish in Emmitsburg. Her presence here gives it a special aura of sanctity.”

Paul McMullen is managing editor of the Catholic Review, the news website and magazine of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.