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# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 93 No. 4

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## Marchers urged to stand strong, fight for life with 'compassion, hope'

BY JULIE ASHER

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Those who stand up for the dignity of life in all its stages and want to see this respect for all life enshrined once again in U.S. law have a friend in the Pence family and the Trump administration, Vice President Mike Pence told the March for Life crowd on the National Mall Jan. 18.

Pence and second lady Karen Pence were a surprise addition to the roster of speakers at the rally, and after his remarks, the vice president introduced a videotaped message by President Donald Trump, which also was unexpected.

"We're the Pences and we're pro-life," the vice president said to the cheering crowd.

"We gather here because we stand for life and believe as our Founding Fathers did that life born and unborn is endowed with certain unalienable rights, and the first of those is life," Pence said.

In his message, Trump said the pro-life movement is "founded on love and grounded in the



Joshua Schipper

Students from Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, including juniors Sam Horine and Max Simcox, from left in foreground, chant as they hold the official banner and lead the National March for Life in Washington, D.C., Jan. 18.

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## Moments of witness, outreach at March for Life

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

While many travelers to the National March for Life in Washington, D.C., returned home sooner than initially expected due to impending snowfall, numerous pilgrims from the local diocesan and college communities still made the most of their opportunity to stand united as advocates with the poor, the unborn and all those suffering from want of love.

This 46th annual march included 850 participants from the University of Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College and Holy Cross College, collectively, and more than 600 students from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Together they joined hundreds of thousands in support of pro-life legislation and the

creation of authentic cultures of encounter, outreach and inclusion.

Audriana Sheets-Thornburgh, a freshman at Belmont High School who attended with the youth group of St. Mary of the Assumption in Decatur, exclaimed, "I loved how everyone came together and shared their passion to fight for the same cause. I was inspired by the hope and unity in God throughout the march." Her parish youth minister, Karen Weber, added, "It was overwhelming how much support of all ages came to represent the sanctity of life."

While this event traditionally focuses on the effort to eliminate legalized abortion in the United States, it also has helped serve as a catalyst for expanding the notion of being pro-life for all ages, viewing every man and

woman as an individual created with inherent God-given dignity.

In addition to Bishop Dwenger's highlighted presence at the front of the march, many students from Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, chose to embody the spirit of compassion and preferential care for the poor through aid to the homeless in their midst. Senior Lily Shafer, attending her third March for Life, recalled in previous years, "at various places throughout the National Mall seeing people who were less fortunate than my friends and I. Last year, as many were buying lunch, I saw a man digging through the garbage for food. At the time, I had nothing to give the man, which personally broke my heart. This year I wanted to do something for the homeless, since we are marching for all those from conception to

natural death and it is our duty as Catholics to help our brother and sisters in Christ. We were able to help them by putting together over 100 'blessing bags,' with huge help from Mrs. Beth Carlin, our campus minister, to distribute to those throughout the march."

Shafer continued: "As leader of our pro-life group 'Knights for Life,' I asked students to hand-deliver letters to their home parishes asking for their help in collecting items for the 'blessing bags.' Right away, they responded and we were blessed with many donations. We were able to collect many hand-knitted hats from their local parishes, and Klinger Family Dentistry donated over 75 toothbrushes. Mary Braun and Caroline Gladding

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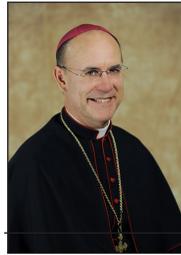
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# 'Let it be done to me according to your word': World Youth Day



## IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

*The following is the homily given by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades to World Youth Day pilgrims in Panama City, Panama, on Jan. 20.*

**W**e begin our World Youth Day pilgrimage of faith here in Panama on this Second Sunday of Ordinary Time with the Gospel of the Wedding Feast of Cana. As you know, the theme of World Youth Day is Mary's response at the Annunciation: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word." These words reflect Mary's basic and fundamental attitude and spirit, the same attitude and spirit that we see at the wedding feast in Cana: faith and openness to God's will. Mary felt compassion and affection for the bride and groom. She wanted to help them in their very embarrassing situation of having run out of wine. She turns to her Son and says to Him: "They have no wine." Mary didn't assert her own will. With trust, she turned the situation over to her Son. She entrusted a very human need over to Jesus, not telling Him what to do and not asserting her own desire. She is always the handmaid of the Lord; open to God's will. She leaves the problem to Jesus when she says: "They have no wine." Mary trusted in her Son's power and love, that He would come to the rescue to help the young newlyweds. And, of course, Jesus did.

We learn from Mary in today's Gospel to be compassionate to those in need, to be gracious and willing to help others, and not to be indifferent bystanders when people are in need or in trouble. Mary teaches us to be aware of the problems of others and not to ignore them. She could have just ignored the problem of the bride and groom running out of wine at their wedding feast. But no; Mary had pity on them. And she interceded for them with her Son.

So in this Gospel, we learn from Mary to be compassionate toward others and to pray for them and their needs. We also learn from Mary at Cana how to pray: not by asserting before God our own will and our own desires, however important they might be or however reasonable they may seem to us, but rather to bring our needs and desires before the Lord and let Him decide what He intends to do. "Not my will, but your will be done." Mary teaches us this. "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word." We learn from Mary humility and generosity in accepting God's will and believing that He knows what is best for us, what is our true good.

Jesus' words of response to His mother may seem a little strange at first, even a little harsh. He says to her: "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." First of all, children at that time, like today, wouldn't address their mothers as "woman." There's obviously a deeper meaning here. The title "woman" reflects Mary's place in salvation history. It recalls the account of the creation of Eve. Adam gave her the name "woman." The woman Eve was the mother of all the living. Mary is the new woman, the new Eve, the woman



Michael O'Sullivan

**St. Francis of Assisi Church in the Old City of Panama City, Panama, features a mosaic depicting the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

whose "yes" to God gave us Our Redeemer, reversing the "no" of that first woman. On the cross, at the moment of our redemption, Jesus would again address His mother as "woman." He said to her: "Woman, behold your son," thus entrusting John and all of us to her loving care. Mary became the mother of the redeemed, our spiritual mother. Jesus said to John and to all of us: "Behold your mother." On the cross, when Jesus gave us His love to the end, when He gave us His life, He gave us His all, including His holy mother.

Back to Cana and Jesus' question: "woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." Mary's concern and Jesus' concern were the same: to do the will of the Father. But wasn't Mary's concern about helping the newlywed couple? Jesus is thinking more deeply here. Of course, He's the Son of God; He can help the couple. He can do a miracle, but His hour had not yet come, the hour of His glorification, the hour of His passion, death, and resurrection. Mary

accepts this. Her Son's hour had not yet come. So she simply says to the servants: "Do whatever He tells you." She encourages the servers to obey Jesus. She does the same with us. She is not only our mother who intercedes for us like she interceded for the couple — she is also our mother who encourages us in the way of discipleship, instructing us to obey her Son, to do whatever He tells us.

Though Jesus' hour had not yet come, He accedes to His mother's request and helps the newlywed couple. His hour had not yet come, but He does something that anticipates that hour of His glorification on the cross. He gives a sign in which He proclaims that hour, the hour of another much greater wedding feast, the wedding feast of the Lamb, the hour of the union between God and man in which He is the Bridegroom and the Church is His Bride. Jesus antici-

# Shutdown finds Catholic Charities working to meet growing need

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Robert Archie knows he'd be homeless if it wasn't for the Rapid Re-housing program run by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey.

A data specialist with the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Archie has been in the program since mid-2018. He told Catholic News Service it has brought stability to his life: He's no longer on the streets, has paid off long-standing debt and helps support his 12-year-old son.

While Archie, 40, is set to move out of the program at the end of January — by design — some of his friends benefitting from it are wondering what's going to happen Feb. 1 when Catholic Charities will no longer be receiving Department of Housing and Urban Development funds to run it because of the partial federal government shutdown.

"In my opinion, it would be devastating for a program like this to take a hit during a time like this when the country actually needs it," Archie said.

Mosudi Idowu, the program's director for Catholic Charities in Trenton, said 27 people face questions about their housing situation. He said they are afraid of being forced into a shelter or even the streets in the peak of winter.

He also expressed concern that there appears no end in sight to the monthlong shutdown.

"If it goes on indefinitely, it will affect all of our programs," Idowu told CNS. "We're talking to our congressional representative and city officials to let them now of the impact of the shutdown on our program."

The Trenton program receives funds under HUD's the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, which was established under the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act adopted in response to the Great Recession.

The program provides short-term rental assistance and other services to people who are homeless or are facing homelessness. Its goals include helping people find housing quickly, increasing self-sufficiency and making sure people stay housed.

In the short term, Idowu and his staff are providing referrals to other community agencies that may have money to prevent homelessness.

At the same time, Idowu is just as concerned for his own family because he faces either being laid off or working without a paycheck beginning in February.

"We advise the government to open for business," Idowu said.



CNS photo/Jorge Duenes, Reuter

**U.S. workers near Tijuana, Mexico, replace a metal sheet border fence Jan. 9. Catholic Charities USA is fighting a difficult battle to mitigate the effects that the monthlong partial government shutdown, which was provoked by a dispute over the reinforcement and extension of the wall, is having on programs that serve the poor.**

"They need a plan that will really work for the people."

Key government-funded programs — Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Section 8 rent subsidies and Department of Agriculture's Farm Services Agency — are the focus of efforts by Catholic Charities USA to press Congress and the Trump administration to end the shutdown.

"We're giving them a reminder that this isn't a Washington problem. We're reminding people it's also your local communities that are being affected," Lucas Swanepoel, vice president for social policy at Catholic Charities USA, told CNS.

Under federal rules, several states have advanced February payments to people enrolled in SNAP, formerly known as food stamps. Notices have advised enrollees to properly budget so their allotment will carry through Feb. 28.

But in some communities, Catholic Charities agencies already are offering food distribution to federal employees and contractors and are preparing contingencies to fill other human needs gaps that might emerge should the shutdown last for weeks more.

Federal workers have already missed one paycheck but are

expected to receive back pay. However, people who work for government contractors, largely in low-wage jobs, have been laid off and are not guaranteed of making up their lost income, creating a potentially new pool of clients for agencies.

In the Diocese of Salt Lake City, the shutdown has become a major concern in Ogden, Utah, where more than 5,000 people are employed by the Internal Revenue Service alone.

"A lot of the jobs in this area are some of the more entry-level positions," said Maresha Bosgieter, director of Catholic Community Services of Northern Utah. "They're still living paycheck to paycheck. For those families, not knowing when they will receive their next paycheck can be very stressful."

Catholic Community Services' Joyce Hansen Hall food bank has seen a 50 percent increase in clients from the usual 100 families a day that come through its doors.

"If this (shutdown) goes on too long, we may have to reach out to our partners and the public for extra assistance," Bosgieter said.

In the Archdiocese of Washington, federal workers in

**CHARITY, page 5**



## Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Tuesday, January 29: 11:30 a.m. — Fort Wayne You Can Lend a Hand Luncheon, Grand Wayne Convention Center, Fort Wayne

Wednesday, January 30: 12 p.m. — Live Broadcast on Redeemer Radio, Fort Wayne

Thursday, January 31: 11:30 a.m. — South Bend/Southwest Michigan You Can Lend a Hand Luncheon, Century Center, South Bend

Saturday, February 2: 9:30 a.m. — Meeting with St. Augustine's Men's Group, St. Peter Church, Fort Wayne



## Advisory

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has recently been advised that a certain Joseph B. Wilson, who was previously a Holy Cross Brother of the Moreau Province and later ordained as a priest of the Diocese of Scranton in Pennsylvania ("Wilson"), currently resides in South Bend. Wilson is not a priest in good standing of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and has not been granted faculties by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades to perform any public ministry as a priest in this Diocese. In August 2002, the Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton imposed restrictions on Wilson, prohibiting Wilson from wearing clerical garb, presenting himself as a priest, or celebrating Mass or the Sacraments publicly as a priest. Those restrictions, imposed as the result of credible allegations of sexual misconduct involving minors, remain in place. Further, Wilson's name appears on the Diocese of Scranton's website "List Of Individuals For Whom Allegations Of Sexual Abuse Of A Minor Have Been Admitted, Established Or Determined To Be Credible."

### IN TRUTH, from page 2

pates that hour with the sign he performed, the changing of water into wine. He turned a huge amount of water, between 120 and 180 gallons, into wine. What Jesus does here is He helps the couple at the wedding feast obviously and saves them from embarrassment, but the sign is much more. Jesus transforms the human wedding feast into an image of the divine wedding feast in which He gives us every good thing, represented by the abundance of wine. With this simple miracle at Cana, Jesus anticipated the hour of His glorification on the cross when He abundantly bestowed the grace of salvation upon us, His people. The superabundance of Cana is a sign that God's feast with humanity had begun. This is the feast we celebrate ever anew in the Eucharist. Jesus celebrates the marriage feast with us here and now. We are united with Him when we receive His Body and Blood. He gives us His life and strength and grace. The Holy Eucharist is truly an anticipation of the wedding feast of heaven.

Every day this week, we will have the blessing of the Holy Eucharist. He will give Himself to us each day. He will change bread and wine into His Body

and Blood. Every day we will receive Him and be filled with every heavenly blessing and grace.

Throughout this week, may Mary our mother intercede for us and for all the people we are praying for, like she interceded for the newlywed couple at Cana! All week, we will sing and meditate on her words at the Annunciation: "He aqui la Sierva del Señor, hágase en mi según tu palabra." "I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word." Mary's words to the servants at Cana "Do whatever He tells you" express the same disposition. It is the disposition that all believers, all of us, should have toward God: humility, receptive openness to God's will, and lively obedience. These are the basic attitudes of discipleship. They are fundamental for growing in holiness. And that's why we're here in Panama with young disciples from all over the world, with adult leaders, priests, bishops, and Pope Francis: to grow in holiness as disciples of Jesus. With the help of Mary's prayers, may this week help all of us to grow in discipleship, to grow in holiness! Let us entrust ourselves, our diocese, our families and friends, and all the pilgrims here in Panama to our Blessed Mother's loving intercession!

# Rev. King called 'artisan of peace' and 'true witness to power of Gospel'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Societies today need "artisans of peace," like the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., "who can be messengers and authentic witnesses of God the Father, who wills the good and the happiness of the human family," said the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Rev. King "was a messenger and true witness to the power of the Gospel lived in action through public life," said Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston in a statement issued for the observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day Jan. 21, the federal holiday marking his birthday.

The civil rights leader was born Jan. 15, 1929, and was fatally shot April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee.

"This year, as we again mark the anniversary of his life, and reflect upon the 51st anniversary of his death, we are thankful for the path forged by Dr. King and the countless others who worked tirelessly and suffered greatly in the fight for racial equality and justice," the cardinal said.

He added that the United States, "as a nation and as a society," faces "great challenges as well as tremendous opportunities ahead."

Cardinal DiNardo made reference to Pope Francis' annual message for the World Day of Peace Jan. 1. The pope said that

in today's climate of mistrust, rejection and nationalism, the world urgently needs peacemakers and politicians who protect and lovingly serve others.

The cardinal also reminded U.S. Catholics that the body of bishops at their November general assembly approved a pastoral letter against racism, "Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love." The full text can be found at <https://bit.ly/2bRijUK>.

"The letter's goal is to again name and call attention to a great affliction and evil that persists in this nation, and to offer a hope-filled Christian response to this perennial sickness," Cardinal DiNardo said in his statement, released Jan. 18. "Racism is a national wound from which we continually struggle to heal. As we wrote in the pastoral letter, 'Racism can only end if we contend with the policies and institutional barriers that perpetuate and preserve the inequality — economic and social — that we still see all around us.'"

In recalling how Rev. King "contended with policies and institutional barriers of his time, many which persist today," Cardinal DiNardo said, "we renew our pledge to fight for the end of racism in the church and in the United States.

"We pledge our commitment to build a culture of life, where all people are valued for their



CNS photo/Yoichi Okamoto, courtesy LBJ Library

**Civil rights leader the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. talks with U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson in this undated photo. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act into law July 2, 1964. Martin Luther King Jr. Day was celebrated Jan. 21 this year.**

intrinsic dignity as daughters and sons of God. We encourage Catholics and all people of goodwill to study the pastoral letter, and to study and reflect upon Dr. King's witness against the destructive effects of racism, poverty and continuous war."

The U.S. bishops "call on everyone to embrace our ongoing need for healing in all areas of our lives where we are wounded, but particularly where our hearts are not truly open to the idea and the truth that we are all made in the image and likeness

of God," Cardinal DiNardo wrote. In conclusion, he quoted Rev. King: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."

## After initial outrage, claims of racism, clearer details emerge

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An exchange between Catholic high school students and a Native American tribal leader in Washington Jan. 18 was vilified on social media the following day, but the immediate accusations the students showed racist behavior have been stepped back as more details of the entire situation have emerged.

Many say the incident still needs to be investigated or discussed and others have pointed out that what happened can still provide a teaching moment not just about racism but also about news coverage and social media's rapid response.

The student most prominent in the footage, junior Nick Sandmann of Covington High School in Kentucky, issued a statement Jan. 20 saying he was "received physical and death threats via social media, as well as hateful insults" based on reaction across social media. He also said he would cooperate in any investigation church leaders plan to undertake.

The group's chaperones, also criticized on social media, said later the students "were targeted from the get-go."

On Jan. 18, tens of thousands gathered in Washington for the

annual March for Life, a march along Constitution Avenue after a rally on the National Mall to the Supreme Court to mark the court's Jan. 22, 1973, decision that legalized abortion.

The march, held a few days before the actual anniversary this year, took place on the same day as the first Indigenous People's March where marchers walked in the other direction on Constitution Avenue to draw attention to injustices against indigenous people.

At the day's end, while students from Covington Catholic High School who had attended the March for Life were waiting for their buses to pick them up near the Lincoln Memorial, they met up with members of the Indigenous People's March, in particular Nathan Phillips, tribal elder for the Omaha Tribe.

In clips from a video that went viral almost immediately, students are shown surrounding the leader, who is chanting and beating a drum. They appear to be mocking him and one student in particular, who is inches away from the drummer and never moves, was accused of flagrant disrespect.

Some students in the crowd were identified by their Covington High School sweat-shirts but the attire that drew the most rage was the "Make

America Great Again" hats worn by a few in the group. That phrase, which President Donald Trump coined during his successful presidential campaign, has been deemed to be "racist" by his opponents.

In response to the escalating fury and disgust on social media against these students, Covington High School and the Diocese of Covington issued a joint statement Jan. 19 saying they condemned the students' actions "toward Nathan Phillips specifically, and Native Americans in general."

"We extend our deepest apologies to Mr. Phillips. This behavior is opposed to the Church's teachings on the dignity and respect of the human person," it said, adding that the incident was "being investigated and we will take appropriate action, up to and including expulsion."

The school and diocese also said the event "tainted the entire witness of the March for Life" and they apologized to those who attended and "all those who support the pro-life movement."

March for Life president Jeanne Mancini also issued a statement that day saying the encounter did not represent her organization or "the vast majority of the marchers" and that the students' behavior is not welcome at the march and never will be. The next

day the March for Life said it in a tweet had deleted its original tweet about the students "given recent developments.

"It is clear from new footage and additional accounts that there is more to this story than the original video captured. We will refrain from commenting further until the truth is understood," the tweet said.

The day after the initial clip of the exchange went viral, extended footage of how the situation unfolded appeared on social media, and the students issued their own statements about it, like Sandmann, who was directly in front of the Native American drummer. Longer videos shown online reveal that another group at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial included members of the Hebrew Israelites, who also were attending the Indigenous People's March to share their own beliefs that African-Americans are God's chosen people and the true Hebrew descendants.

Members of this group, as shown in video footage, taunted the students and some responded back. Phillips, the Native American, walked over to the students and the group, as an intervention, singing and beating a song of prayer.

Sandmann, in a statement, said Phillips "locked eyes with

me and approached me, coming within inches of my face."

"I did not speak to him. I did not make any hand gestures or other aggressive moves. To be honest, I was startled and confused as to why he had approached me. We had already been yelled at by another group of protesters. ... I was worried that a situation was getting out of control."

Sandmann said the group started doing school spirit chants to "counter the hateful things that were being shouted at our group" and they had asked for chaperone permission to do so.

He said he stayed motionless to help diffuse the situation and also prayed silently that it would not get out of hand.

"During the period of the drumming, a member of the protester's entourage began yelling at a fellow student that we 'stole our land' and that we should 'go back to Europe.' I heard one of my fellow students begin to respond. I motioned to my classmate and tried to get him to stop engaging with the protester," an action that can be seen on the video where he motions to the student to stop and points and nods to the tribal leader.

The student said he didn't understand "why either of the

# House bill outlaws brutal later-term abortion procedure

Sue Liebel had just completed the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., last week when her focus turned back toward Indiana.

The longtime pro-life advocate was asked to comment on a bill introduced this month in the Indiana General Assembly that would ban dismemberment abortion, the method of choice to terminate a pregnancy after the first trimester. She did not hesitate to state her case.

"This is a gruesome and brutal procedure," said Liebel, for many years the vice president of public affairs for Indiana Right to Life. "People don't even believe it's legal when they learn the graphic nature of it."

Passage of House Bill 1211 would make Indiana the 11th state to declare the later-term abortion method illegal. The Indiana Catholic Conference supports the bill, authored by Rep. Peggy Mayfield (R-Martinsville), Rep. Christy Stutzman (R-Middlebury), and Rep. Ben Smaltz (R-Auburn).

"Protecting innocent human life is at the very top of the Catholic Church's priorities," said Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the ICC, the public policy arm of the Catholic Church in Indiana. "This bill would outlaw one of the most disturbing abor-

tion methods that has ever been devised."

Dismemberment abortion, also referred to as a dilation and evacuation abortion, involves tearing a live fetus apart in the uterus using forceps or other instruments and then extracting it one piece at a time. This is because the baby's head is larger in the second trimester, and the first-trimester methods — suction abortion or use of the abortion pill — are no longer possible.

"Most Americans think that abortion is a tidy little procedure," Liebel said. "It isn't even in the first trimester. But dismemberment abortion is done at 12, 13, 14 and up to 20 weeks, and medical science is completely clear that the baby can feel pain at this point."

Liebel was a member of the working group called together last summer by Rep. Smaltz that eventually led to the drafting of House Bill 1211. The District 52 Republican, frustrated that previous efforts to limit abortion had been stymied in the state legislature, was searching for common ground that he believed the majority of Hoosiers could agree upon.

"Most people are shocked to hear that it is not illegal in

## INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

the state of Indiana to remove a living child from the mother's womb piece by piece," Smaltz said.

Now chairman of the public policy committee of the Indiana House of Representatives, Smaltz said he is hopeful to gain support for the bill on both sides of the aisle.

"Indiana is a pro-life state, but we have to keep this issue in front of people — not in a way that makes them recoil, but by presenting reasonable, logical arguments that result in people saying, 'That just makes sense,'" he said. "I think our chances of moving forward are very good."

"This bill will save lives if it is not challenged."

House Bill 1211 would make performing a dismemberment abortion a level 5 felony unless a physician "reasonably believes" that performing the procedure is necessary to prevent serious



REP. PEGGY MAYFIELD



REP. CHRISTY STUTZMAN



REP. BEN SMALTZ

health risks to the mother or to save the mother's life. The criminal penalty would be for the physician, not the mother.

The bill's lead author, Rep. Mayfield, says she is reasonably confident that the bill will receive a hearing in this session of the General Assembly.

"I believe the support is there," said Mayfield, assistant majority floor leader in the House. "In Indiana, we are a pro-life legislature. Nationally, the word 'abortion' has become so ubiquitous, and we as a society have

become so desensitized to what actually is entailed in this type of procedure. This bill is very clear about what is actually involved. Hoosiers don't want to know

that babies are being pulled apart in the womb."

Mayfield is no stranger to pro-life legislation. In fact, she is co-author of House Bill 1337, which was signed into law by then-Gov. Mike Pence in 2016. The law prohibited women from terminating a pregnancy due to their unborn child's race, gender or genetic abnormality. It was soon challenged by Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky and the American Civil Liberties Union. Federal courts ordered an injunction against the law, which keeps it from being enforced. The U.S. Supreme Court is currently considering taking up the case.

The District 60 Republican is passionate about pro-life issues not just as a legislator but as a Catholic.

"There is nothing more sacred than life," said Mayfield, a member of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Martinsville. "You can call it what you want, but it doesn't change the fact that it is a human life in the mother's womb."

**To follow House Bill 1211** and other priority legislation of the Indiana Catholic Conference, visit [www.indianacc.org](http://www.indianacc.org).



CNS photo/Kaya Taitano, social media via Reuters

**Students from Covington Catholic High School in Park Hills, Ky., stand in front of Native American Vietnam veteran Nathan Phillips near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington in this still image from video. An exchange between the students and Phillips Jan. 18 was vilified on social media the following day, but the immediate accusations the students showed racist behavior were stepped back as more details of the entire situation emerged.**

### OUTRAGE, from page 4

two groups of protesters were engaging with us, or exactly what they were protesting" and that his group was just there to meet a bus, "not become central players in a media spectacle."

"I was not intentionally making faces at the protester. I did smile at one point because I wanted him to know that I was not going to become angry, intimidated or be provoked into a larger confrontation. I am a faithful Christian and practicing Catholic, and I always try to live up to the ideals my faith teaches me — to remain respectful of others, and to take no action that would lead to conflict or vio-

lence," he added.

The student said he has been called "every name in the book, including a racist" and has received death threats and hateful insults.

"I am mortified that so many people have come to believe something that did not happen — that students from my school were chanting or acting in a racist fashion toward African-Americans or Native Americans. I did not do that, do not have hateful feelings in my heart, and did not witness any of my classmates doing that," he said. His statement was posted on the CNN website, <https://cnn.it/2FOLNCC>.

Jesuit Father Jim Martin, an author and editor of *America*

magazine, who was critical of the students' behavior on Twitter Jan. 19, said in a tweet the following day that he would be "happy to apologize for condemning the actions of the students if it turns out that they were somehow acting as good and moral Christians. The last thing I want is to see Catholic schools and Catholic students held in any disrepute."

He also tweeted: "We may never know exactly what happened and the various 'sides' may continue to disagree and condemn one another. But I hope the truth emerges."

He said the situation can provide a teachable moment with "important lessons about racism and marginalization, about dialogue and encounter, and about truth and reconciliation, during this coming week, which is, believe it or not, Catholic Schools Week."

Eileen Marx, a religion teacher at Notre Dame High School in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, who also is the faculty moderator of the school's diversity club, told Catholic News Service Jan. 21 that she certainly planned to discuss this incident with her classes this week in light of Catholic social teaching which "so clearly states that we are meant to live in relationship with one another, not as enemies. We are all part of the human family."

She also acknowledged that there is more to discuss now as more details of what happened after the march are emerging.

As this story continues to be

### CHARITY, from page 3

need have received emergency funds. Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley based in Dayton, Ohio, has started sending a food truck to outlying areas more frequently than the usual once or twice a month. Several agencies are raising funds directly for federal workers. And in Dallas, Honolulu and Burlington, Vermont, while agencies were feeling minimal impact in mid-January, staffers were gearing up to respond to needs should demand for services grow.

Meanwhile, Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio, is not just preparing to respond to increased needs because of the shutdown, but it is also planning for the March closure of the General Motors assembly plant in Lordstown.

Rachel Hrbolich, diocesan director of Catholic Charities, said she expects her agency will see people seeking assistance for rent or mortgage payments.

In addition, she added, the cutoff of government reimbursements for social services is expected to stress the agency.

"It's almost like a double whammy. The people face a lack of resources and the agency's facing a lack of funding," Hrbolich told CNS.

"Come March what are we going to do?" she asked.

"We have to work as a community to try to keep people steady, that things hold steady. We're just praying that this thing can be over. It's going to have a

big effect if things aren't resolved soon."

Robert McCann, president and CEO of Catholic Charities Spokane, Washington, told CNS that Section 8 project-based voucher contracts were being renewed as the shutdown began and that those contracts remain unsigned, jeopardizing housing for low-income senior citizens, families and disabled people.

His agency also began accumulating additional food and contributing money into a reserve fund in December to meet growing needs, especially in rural areas.

"If the shutdown were to actually continue for months, and we pray it does not, you could see tens of thousands of people in the Diocese of Spokane who had already been living at or below the federal poverty line end up being propelled further downward into outright food insecurity and even homelessness," he said.

"The shutdown seems to boil down to the digging in of heels and the building of walls," McCann added. "If it continues long enough, it will start to build a wall around our ability to reveal God's love to the poor and vulnerable and dig already fragile people into a bigger hole than they already find themselves in."

*Contributing to this story was Linda Peterson, who writes for Intermountain Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Salt Lake City.*

## By helping expectant fathers, center upholds 'dignity of fatherhood'

APPLE VALLEY, Minn. (CNS) — When Allen Diaz's girlfriend — who is pregnant — visited Pregnancy Choices pregnancy help center in Apple Valley last year, it led to more help for Diaz as an expectant father than he could have imagined. "It helps a lot when you're a new father, and on top of that, they give you a lot of very good tips," said Diaz, 29, who participated in Pregnancy Choice's life coaching program for expectant fathers. Pregnancy Choices, part of the Elevate Life network of centers serving clients with unexpected pregnancies, is the only pregnancy resource center in Minnesota with a paid certified life coach for fathers, according to Vaunae Hansel, who is president of Elevate Life. The program helps fathers prepare for their new responsibility and support the mother. Luke Spehar, the center's certified life coach, has been working with fathers for the past two years. "I think the biggest thing we offer men here is a listening ear," Spehar told *The Catholic Spirit*, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis said. "We really just listen and give them a voice to share what's going through their heart and mind as they're trying to navigate an unexpected pregnancy." When Spehar began working with Pregnancy Choices, he said he couldn't find any men's ministries at other pregnancy help centers to learn from. Also a professional Catholic musician, Spehar came to Pregnancy Choices looking to volunteer, but he was asked to become a life coach because of the growing presence of male clients coming with their partners. "We kind of have had to blaze a trail with it so far," Spehar said.

## Annual poll shows 75 percent of adults want restrictions on abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Just in time for the annual March for Life, an annual poll of Americans' views on abortion shows that 75 percent want "substantial" restrictions on abortion access even as more than half of respondents describe themselves as "pro-choice." Conducted by the Marist Poll at Marist College, the survey of 1,066 adults Jan. 8-10 revealed that respondents would welcome limits on abortion so that it can be performed only during the first three months of pregnancy. Even 61 percent of "pro-choice" respondents favored such a restriction. Unsurprisingly, 96 percent of respondents who identified as pro-life supported such a restriction. Among Republicans, 92 percent support abortion limits, while 60 percent of Democrats and 78 percent of independents shared the same view. "What you're getting here is the sense that the debate over abortion

## Parish of teen who escaped abduction credits power of prayer



The poster features the FBI logo on the left. The text reads: "MISSING PERSON" in large white letters on a red background, followed by "JAYME CLOSS" in large red letters on a white background. Below the name is the date "October 15, 2018" and location "Barron, Wisconsin". At the bottom, there are four small photographs of Jayme Closs, each with a red banner at the bottom that says "Located".

CNS photo/FBI handout via Reuters

Wisconsin teen Jayme Closs is seen in this U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation missing person poster. She had been missing for nearly three months after being kidnapped, but she escaped her abductor Jan. 10 in Gordon, Wis. During her captivity, members of St. Peter Catholic Church in Cameron, where her family attends Mass and Jayme received religious education, prayed for her safe return. When they heard the news that she had escaped her abductor and was safe, their prayers switched to gratitude. The parish sign said, "Praise God Welcome Home Jayme," after its Mass times listing. Jayme's parents, James and Denise, were murdered Oct. 15, during her abduction. Their funeral Mass was celebrated at the church Oct. 27.

when you look at what people want in terms of restrictions ... is in favor of substantial restriction on abortion," said Andrew Walter, vice president for communications and strategic planning for the Knights of Columbus, during a Jan. 15 teleconference with reporters. The Knights have sponsored the poll since 2008.

## Judges block expansion of religious exemptions to HHS mandate

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two federal judges temporarily blocked the government from putting into effect new rules that would expand the exemption to the federal contraceptive mandate to the Little Sisters of the Poor and other religious employers. The decisions came in cases filed in federal courts in Pennsylvania and California that challenged the expansion, arguing that allowing some employers to not offer contraceptive coverage in health

insurance plans violated provisions of the Affordable Care Act. Judge Wendy Beetlestone of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania based in Philadelphia issued a nationwide preliminary injunction the afternoon of Jan. 14, the day the policy was to take effect. Beetlestone's 65-page ruling came less than 24 hours after Judge Haywood S. Gilliam Jr. of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California granted a preliminary injunction sought by 13 states and the District of Columbia to stop the rules from taking effect. The decisions do not permanently block the new policy, but prevent the rules from taking effect while the legal challenges are debated in the courts. Lawyers for the Little Sisters of the Poor said the religious order would continue to defend its religious rights. U.S. Catholic bishops said Jan. 15 that "freezing these common-sense regulations leaves those with conscientious or religious objections" to the contraceptive mandate "out in the cold."

## Pope advances sainthood causes for 17 women

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis advanced the sainthood causes of three women and recognized the martyrdom of 14 religious sisters who were killed during the Spanish Civil War. The pope formally recognized a miracle needed for the canonization of Blessed Marguerite Bays, a laywoman from Switzerland known for her spirituality in the face of great physical suffering and for bearing the stigmata of Christ. Born in 1815, she grew up helping the peasant farmers in her small village and became a professed member of the Secular Franciscan Order. She was particularly devoted to Our Lady and discovered she was cured of colon cancer on Dec. 8, 1854, when Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. The same year, she started to show signs of the stigmata on her hands, feet and chest. She died in 1879 and St. John Paul II beatified her in 1995.

## Collection for the Church in Latin America to be held Jan. 26-27

WASHINGTON — The annual Collection for the Church in Latin America will be taken up the weekend of Jan. 26-27. For more than 50 years, the collection has been a sign of solidarity between Catholics of the United States and those in Latin America and the Caribbean. "The Collection for the Church in Latin America is a chance for Catholics in the Americas to share their faith and grow closer to Christ," said Bishop Octavio Cisneros, auxiliary bishop of Brooklyn and newly-appointed chairman of the Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America. "I thank the faithful of the United States for their compassion and generosity to their sisters and brothers in Latin America and the Caribbean. I have seen first-hand the people in many countries who benefit from this generosity."

The collection supports the work of the Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America by funding grants for pastoral efforts such as lay leadership training, seminarian and religious formation, prison ministry, and youth ministry, among others. In 2018, the collection awarded nearly \$7.5 million in grants to support the Church in Latin America and Caribbean, including areas ravaged by recent natural disasters.

## Pope wants abuse summit to lead to clarity, action

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At the upcoming meeting on protecting minors, Pope Francis wants leaders of the world's bishops' conferences to clearly understand what must be done to prevent abuse, care for victims and ensure no case is whitewashed or covered up. "The pope wants it to be an assembly of pastors, not an academic conference — a meeting characterized by prayer and discernment, a catechetical and working gathering," Alessandro Gisotti, interim director of the Vatican press office, told reporters Jan. 16. The Feb. 21-24 meeting on the protection of minors in the Church "has a concrete purpose: The goal is that all of the bishops clearly understand what they need to do to prevent and combat the worldwide problem of the sexual abuse of minors," Gisotti said, reading from a written communique in Italian and English. "Pope Francis knows that a global problem can only be resolved with a global response," he said. The pope announced in September that he was calling the presidents of the world's bishops conferences, the heads of the Eastern Catholic churches and representatives of the leadership groups of men's and women's religious orders to the Vatican to address the crisis and focus on responsibility, accountability and transparency.

## Trivia night at Forever Learning

SOUTH BEND — Forever Learning Institute will host a trivia night fundraising event on Saturday, Feb. 9, at Forever Learning, located in St. Therese, Little Flower Parish Center, 54191 Ironwood Rd., South Bend. The general-knowledge trivia competition will support FLI's mission to improve the quality and dignity of senior adult life through continuing intellectual challenge, spiritual reflection and social interaction.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with competition beginning at 7 p.m. The trivia will be offered in 10 rounds or categories, with 10 questions in each round.

Each team is encouraged to bring its own snacks. A cash bar for beer, wine, soda and water will be offered. Teams are encouraged to bring table decorations. Prizes will be awarded.

Teams of up to eight participants may register at the Forever Learning office. Registration forms are available at the office or online at [ForeverLearningInstitute.org](http://ForeverLearningInstitute.org). A \$100 tax-deductible registration fee per team is due by Feb. 1. Call FLI at 574-282-1901 for more information.

## Find greater meaning, community as a Providence Associate

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS — Champaign, Illinois, resident Nancy Olson felt at ease when she met with Sister Ann Casper.

Olson made monthly visits to meet with Sister Ann at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, during her spiritual integration to become a Providence Associate with the Sisters of Providence.

"We worked through the Providence Associates notebook, but also spent a lot of time talking about the history of the Congregation, about St. Mother Theodore Guerin (foundress of the Sisters of Providence) and about Sister Ann's own personal journey in the community," she said.

Olson officially became a Providence Associate in November 2018. She said she found the process uplifting.

"I continue to be inspired by all the wonderful things happening in the community," she said. "It strengthens me to become part of the group and to feel their love and support in our mutual endeavor."

Anyone looking for spiritual enrichment, support, a community, or a sense of mission, who feels God may be nudging them, can apply to become a Providence Associate of the Sisters of Providence. Applications are being accepted beginning Feb. 1 and concluding May 31 for those considering being a Providence Associate in the coming year.

Providence Associates are women and men of faith, ages 18 years and older, who share their own unique gifts and talents with

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Young usher at Sacred Heart, Holy Family parishes



Provided by Father Julius Okojie

Camden Orlowski, a 7-year-old student of Corpus Christi School in South Bend, spends his weekends and holidays with grandparents Karen and Dennis Orlowski. Together they attend the 4:30 p.m. vigil Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Lakeville and the 9 a.m. Mass at Holy Family Church, South Bend, on Sundays. The young usher is committed to participation at both churches and serves as an inspiration for other children, according to Father Julius Okojie. Camden is pictured taking up the collection.

others while walking with the Sisters of Providence.

The Providence Associate relationship with the Sisters of Providence began in 2007. Currently, there are more than 260 Providence Associates in the United States and Taiwan.

Accepted applicants spend a year meeting one-on-one on a regular basis with a Sister of Providence or another Providence Associate companion. During the meetings, the candidate and their companions learn and share about Providence spirituality.

Accepted candidates attend an orientation at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in October. Following the orientation, the candidate and companion usually meet once a month for the coming year.

Contact Providence Associate Co-Directors Debbie Dillow at 317-250-3294 or [ddillow@spsmw.org](mailto:ddillow@spsmw.org) or Sister Sue Paweski at 312-909-7492 or [spaweski@spsmw.org](mailto:spaweski@spsmw.org) to request an application. Learn more at [ProvidenceAssociates.org](http://ProvidenceAssociates.org).

## University of Saint Francis announces Philosophy/Theology Spring Lecture Series

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis is pleased to announce four outstanding speakers and topics for its Philosophy/Theology Spring Lecture Series. The lectures and their dates and times are:

"What is Truth? The Christian Nature of Reality" by Dr. T. Alexander Giltner, assistant professor of theology, at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 31.

"Faith, Reform, and Mission When the Church Becomes an Obstacle" by Father Joseph Chinnici, OFM, at 3 p.m. Feb. 17.

"Charles Taylor on Secularity and Social Imaginaries" by Dr. Vincent Wargo, associate professor of philosophy, at 7 p.m. March 20.

"Christian Friendship: Exploring the Tradition, Engaging the Culture" by Dr. John Bequette, professor of theology, at 7 p.m. April 10. The Feb. 17 lecture will be in the North Campus Auditorium, 2702

Spring St. The others will be in BrooksideBallroom, 2701 Spring St. Admission is free to these lectures sponsored by the Department of Philosophy and Theology and the USF School of Liberal Arts and Sciences. For more information, contact Angie Springer at 260-399-7700, ext. 8100, or [aspringer@sf.edu](mailto:aspringer@sf.edu).

## Lindenwood to host Lenten retreat with Father Jerry Schweitzer

PLYMOUTH — Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center presents a Lenten day retreat with Father Jerry Schweitzer on March 16 in Donaldson.

The retreat will focus on the Easter Vigil readings and their impact upon our faith as the liturgical year moves from Lent to Easter — from agony to ecstasy, death to life. Participants will explore how the Liturgy of the Word on Holy Saturday evening assists in the understanding of living a robust Christian life.

The cost of the retreat is \$35 and includes lunch and refreshments. Father Schweitzer will cel-

brate Mass in Ancilla Domini Chapel during the retreat. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. EDT. The retreat time is 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Register at [Lindenwood.org](http://Lindenwood.org) before March 9.

## Kelly Grier to deliver SMC commencement address

NOTRE DAME — Kelly Grier, a 1991 alumna of Saint Mary's College and EY U.S. chairman and managing partner and EY Americas managing partner,



KELLY GRIER

will deliver the commencement address to the Saint Mary's College Class of 2019. Grier will receive the college's highest honor, an honorary doctor of humanities degree, at the ceremony on Saturday, May 18.

Elected last year for a four-year term, Grier is the first woman to lead the giant accounting and professional-services firm in the Americas. In her role, she leads more than 72,000 people in 31 countries, with an annual revenue of \$15.6 billion. During her 28-year tenure, she has held a variety of roles, previously serving as EY's Central U.S. regional managing partner, EY Americas vice chair of talent and Chicago office managing partner.

Grier earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Saint Mary's College and has previously served as a member of the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship and currently serves on the board of governors for the Center for Audit Quality, among others. She also has been recognized by the World Economic Forum as a "Young Global Leader" and was named to Fortune Magazine's 2018 Most Powerful Women in Business list.

Saint Mary's also will present an honorary degree to Sister Maureen Grady, CSC, who spent 20 years in war zones in the Middle East as chief operating officer for Catholic Near



SISTER MAUREEN GRADY, CSC

East Welfare, caring for war victims and supporting the restoration of social services and infrastructure in Lebanon and Syria. Sister Maureen has been praised for her "tenacity and resourcefulness" while serving the poor and the suffering in dangerous conditions. She received Lebanese national citizenship and the National Order of the Cedar Officer badge for acts of courage and devotion of great moral value to Lebanon, as well as the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal from the Holy See for service to the Catholic Church.

# University of Saint Francis science complex expansion blessed

FORT WAYNE – After stressing the relationship between faith and science, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades blessed the Achatz Phase 1 Expansion on the morning of Jan. 16 at the University of Saint Francis.

The bishop went from room to room in the newest part of Achatz Hall of Science and Research Center, sprinkling holy water during the blessing. “What a beautiful addition, right next to our beautiful new St. Francis Chapel,” he said. “Just to be able to look out the window and see the mission of the University of Saint Francis, the dialogue between faith and reason.”

He encouraged USF students to take full advantage of the new opportunities afforded by the expansion of Achatz Hall. “Science teaches us so much and continues with new discoveries,” he said. “As Catholics, we affirm and uphold the compatibility of faith and science. Good theology helps in this. We believe all things exist by God’s wisdom and power.”

The expansion of Achatz Hall of Science and Research Center is part of a larger project at USF, which also includes the construction of St. Francis Chapel and renovation of the older parts of Achatz.

Completion of Phase 2 of the project, the renovation of older parts of Achatz Hall and final touches on the chapel, is expected



Photos by John Martin

**A ceremony and blessing that included remarks by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades signaled the completion of an expanded section of the Achatz Hall of Science and Research Center on the University of Saint Francis campus in Fort Wayne on Jan. 16.**

later this year.

“Achatz Hall will be a great asset for workforce development for the community, as USF students will have the opportunity to utilize tools, instruments and technology they will encounter when they embark on their professional careers,” USF’s president, Sister M. Elise Kriss, said.

Other speakers at the bless-

ing included Dr. Matt Smith, vice president of institutional advancement; Dr. Lance Richey, vice president of Academic Affairs; Dr. Andrea Geyer, interim dean, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Meagan Roy, biology-pre-veterinary student; Bill Niezer, chairman of the board; and Jon Gilmore, president of Tonn and Blank Construction.

Students returned to campus the week of Jan. 14 and began using the expanded areas of Achatz Hall, which consists of five additional science labs, an imaging center, computer science lab, instrument lab, cadaver lab, observatory terrace and outside

classroom. There are three additional classrooms, two conference rooms, isolated storage for biological wastes, glass storage, a gas tank service room and other amenities. Students are also utilizing new study areas throughout the building.



**Bishop Rhoades sprinkles holy water in one of the new science laboratories.**

## World Youth Day pilgrims begin their journey in Panama



Michael O’Sullivan

**Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend attendees at World Youth Day gather after their first Mass together in Panama City, Panama. The contingent, led by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, consists of high school students, seminarians, priests, religious, diocesan staff and curia, and chaperones. They will participate in a prayer vigil with Pope Francis on Saturday, Jan. 26, and celebrate a papal Mass on Sunday, Jan. 27.**

# Educational excellence with Christ at the center

BY MARSHA A. JORDAN

I began my career in 1973 as a Catholic school teacher in the diocese — and in 2019, after subtracting six years as a stay-at-home mom, mark the completion of 40 years as a diocesan educator in a variety of capacities. As I look back on my career, I see many similarities and many differences in diocesan schools and teachers, and the issues and events that affect them.

A review of historical data in “Worthy of the Gospel of Christ,” written by Joseph M. White, states that in 1976 there were 46 grade schools educating 12,240 students. The teaching staffs consisted of 161 sisters and 318 lay teachers. In addition, there were five high schools educating 3,811 students taught by 21 priests, 23 sisters, 17 brothers and 154 lay teachers. A recent statistical survey by the diocese, as submitted to the National Catholic Educational Association, showed 39 elementary schools with 10,464 students and 769 teachers (full- and part-time), including four religious sisters. Currently there are four high schools with 3,062 students and 232 full- and part-time teachers, including one female religious. Classes in 1973, particularly in the elementary schools, tended to be double the size of those today, partly accounting for the difference in the number of teachers employed in 1976 compared with today. Other reasons include a more robust design of curriculum and programming because of accreditation requirements today.

Msgr. J. William Lester served as superintendent through 1970. As noted in “Worthy of the Gospel of Christ,” the focus then and throughout the 1970s was a firm and persistent emphasis on upgrading the professional preparation and status of teachers, lowering class sizes and improving the salary scale and insurance benefits provided to teachers along with curriculum changes and evaluation outcomes. Today, with the exception of lowering class sizes, the same issues are a constant focus within the administration of our schools and school system. The goal is always to respond to current needs and challenges, and to become better tomorrow than we are today.

Catholic Schools Week 2019 again provides the opportunity to celebrate all that is good about Catholic schools — the work of teachers, administrators and students; the daily experiences of faith and sacraments; the outstanding

academics, arts and athletics; and the family atmosphere that nurtures the schools. Maintaining a standard of excellence requires that we constantly evaluate programs and purpose, while always keeping Christ at the center of our schools as a means of continuing His mission of proclaiming the Gospel. This mission is vital to the future of our young people, our nation and especially our Church.

In a homily given to teachers and administrators, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades stated: “Our Catholic schools exist to call our children and young people to greatness, this greatness of soul, to use their God-given gifts to do what is great in God’s eyes — to serve, to help, to give and to build up the body of Christ. A great school is one that encourages and strives for excellence. It doesn’t just try to get by. And it isn’t seeking the mere prestige of the world. A great Catholic school pursues academic excellence, to be sure, but first and foremost it seeks the greatness of Christ, the magnanimity of the Beatitudes, the courage of the cross. These pursuits, academic and spiritual, go hand in hand. For when we pursue academic excellence, we do so knowing that reason and intelligence, like faith, are gifts that God gives us to be used. In the light of our faith, we also know what true greatness is. We must strive for greatness in our lives and in our schools, seek to grow in goodness and virtue, and not be satisfied with the minimum, with mediocrity or the status quo. We must be committed to excellence, to growth, working together to make our schools the best they can be, everything aimed at building up the body of Christ and growing to the full stature of Christ.”

In my 40 years as an educator, I have been privileged to walk daily with hundreds of other diocesan teachers. As I reflect on these relationships, one constant, regardless of the era or issues affecting schools, has been the unwavering devotion of teachers to providing a mission-focused Catholic education, first and foremost, while striving for excellence each day and working together collegially to building up the body of Christ. Teaching in a Catholic school is a vocation, a calling to become something of great significance — in this case, to share in the Church’s mission. Jonathan Doyle writes in his book “Tools & Fuels” that Catholic school teachers are called by God to a vocation that is so important in helping to form saints that only through a total dependence on His help can we accomplish what He wants of us in our vocation. As a

22-year-old new teacher in 1973, I turned down a position in a public school system, opting instead for a parochial school. I am

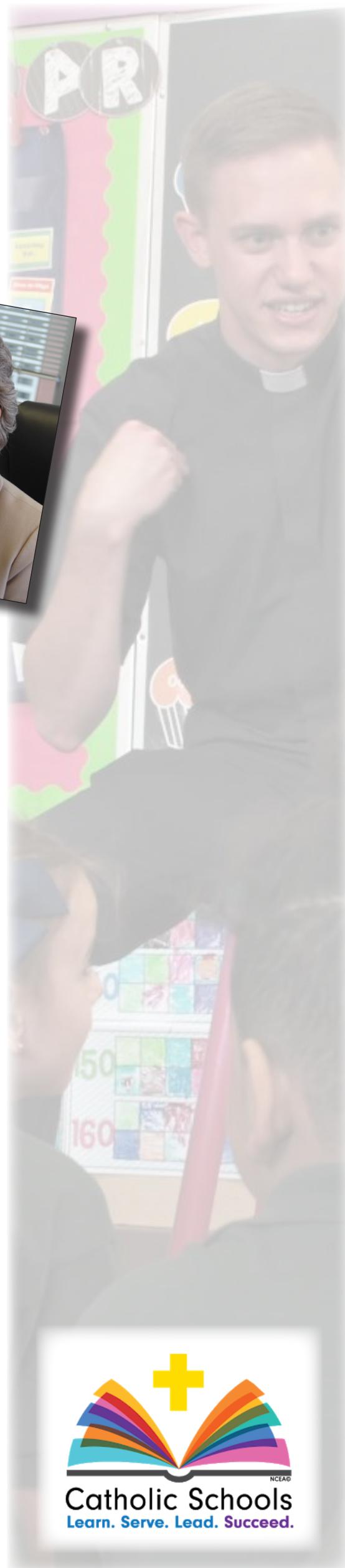
not sure that at the time I knew this to be my “vocation,” but God did. I am certain that God chooses us for this vocation and that the Holy Spirit draws out the gifts we have so that we can fulfill His plan for us.

Recently, while filling in as principal in one of our elementary schools, a fifth-grade teacher shared with me a flip book of writing that a student had just presented to her. Perhaps the young man had the song “On Eagle’s Wings” in mind when he created it; I don’t know. His words to her in his creation were: “The fire eagle represents the fire in your heart to make us to be the best person we can be; the electric eagle represents the speed in your legs when you come and help me; the water eagle represents the water in my eyes when I don’t get the assignment and you come and help me get over it. Thank you.” Touching her heart with her hand, she said, “This is why I do what I do!” The reward of sharing the faith, challenging students to grow in holiness and working with them to be the best they can be is powerful and compelling; it is an affirmation of one’s vocation.

The theme for Catholic Schools Week is “Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.” During this special week, we invite parish communities to pray daily for our schools. We especially ask that you pray for teachers and staff members who daily witness and proclaim the Gospel to our students — those who learn, serve, lead and succeed. These men and women truly are, in the words of St. John Paul II, “great gifts to the Church.”

Pray also for our predecessors, priests and laypeople, who established the firm foundation of Catholic schools in our diocese. What a tremendous treasure they have given us! Inspired by their example, may we continue to strive for greatness in all areas of our Catholic schools so as to continue to build up the body of Christ.

*Marsha Jordan is the superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.*





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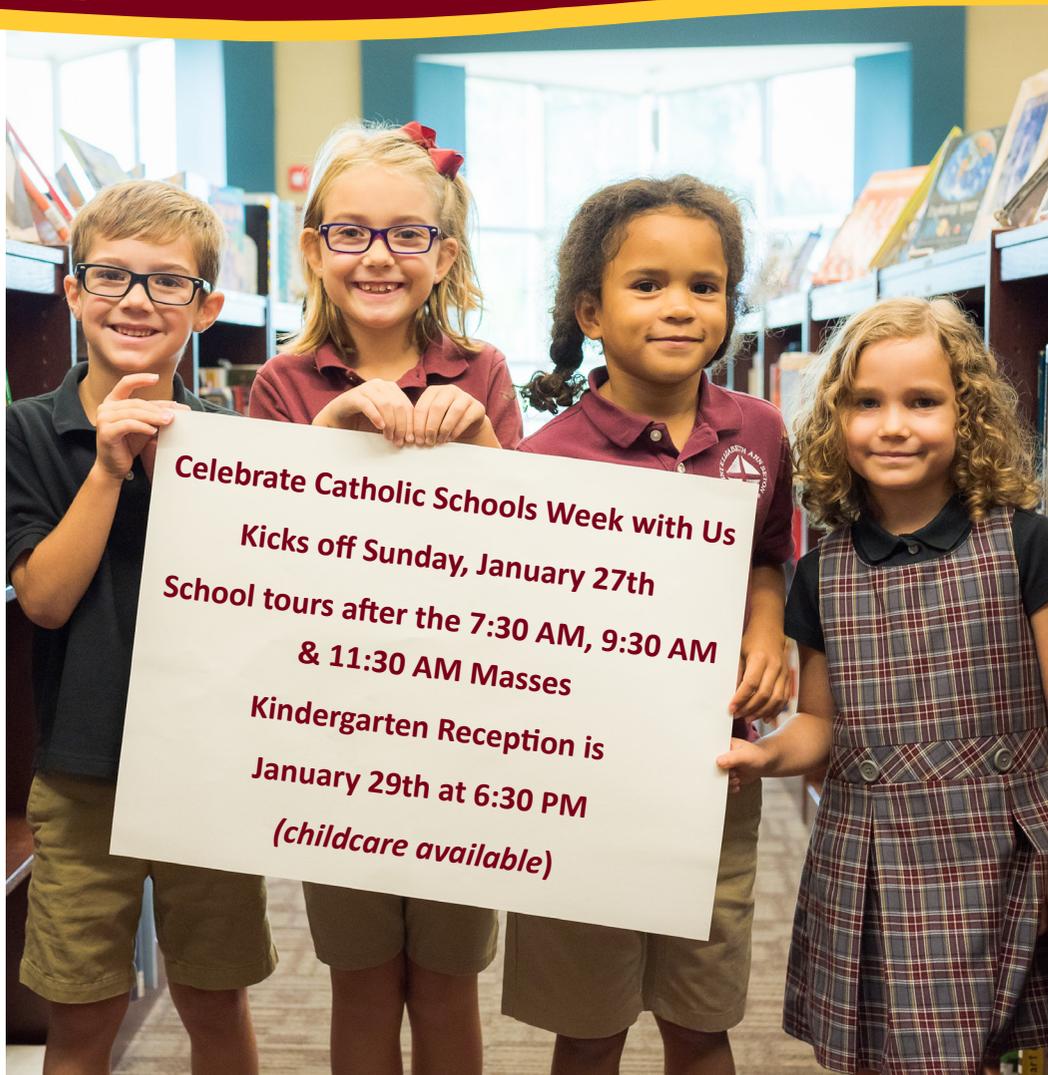
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## Marian High School patroness inspires inclusivity

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

When he named Our Lady of Lourdes the patroness of Marian High School in Mishawaka, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades gave wings to Annie Ganser's longtime dream. The chairman of Marian's Learning Strategies Department since 2007, Ganser and her colleagues help about 50 students who have mild learning disabilities with individualized service or Catholic accommodation plans. The students are working toward academic diplomas, but need a little extra help along the way. They are part of Marian's "history of trying to serve the needs of all our students," as principal Mark Kirzeder put it, "and they add a richness to our community."

However, Ganser and Kirzeder also have a heart for members of the extended Marian family who have more moderate cognitive disabilities that prevent them from earning regular diplomas. Those students shouldn't be excluded from a prayerful Catholic educational environment, they feel.

During a strategic planning process two years ago, Ganser and Kirzeder identified learning strategies as one of the school's strengths — and "an opportunity to engage more fully in our Catholic mission," in Kirzeder's words — "following Jesus as teacher and servant."

After the bishop named Our Lady of Lourdes their patroness, construction began on a grotto and the school planned a 2020 pilgrim his community also tried to learn more about the apparition. They discovered that the girl to whom Mary first appeared at Lourdes in 1858, St. Bernadette, had learning difficulties and trouble mastering her catechism — a fact that made her declaration that she had seen the "Immaculate Conception" far more credible, since she seemed unable to manufacture or understand the title.

All the funding is not yet in place, but next fall Marian hopes to begin admitting yearly a cohort of three to five "Bernadette Scholars" with moderate disabilities such as Down syndrome. They will join other Marian freshmen for some classes and also take specialized



CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemit

**Mary appears to St. Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France, in this stained-glass window at St. Mary Church in Manhasset, N.Y.**

classes designed to maximize their independence in the future. "They will bring our community so much!" Ganser exclaimed. "They will teach us all a great deal about life and God's love."

Ganser became interested in special education because of an older sibling whom she never met. Born with hydrocephaly, spina bifida and other problems, the sister did not live very long, but her parents lovingly kept her memory alive.

After earning degrees from Ball State and IUSB, Ganser taught public school students with severe intellectual, emotional and physical disabilities. At the time, Catholic schools were unable to serve those with special needs. Then the principal of St. Monica School, now

part of Michiana Catholic School, approached her about a new full-time position as a resource teacher. As things evolved, she was eventually pulled over to Marian High School.

Although the Bernadette Scholars Program is still in its infancy, many families already have expressed an interest. For information, contact Kirzeder at [mkirzeder@marianhs.org](mailto:mkirzeder@marianhs.org), Ganser at [aganser@marianhs.org](mailto:aganser@marianhs.org) or either at 574-259-5257.

*They will bring our*

*community so much!*

*They will teach us all a great deal*

*about life and God's love.*

ANNIE GANSER

# 'Burger King Coupon Book' money turns to tech for Catholic schools

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

Anyone who has purchased a You Can Lend a Hand coupon book from a local Catholic school student snared some deals on Burger King burgers, fine dining at Chili's and Papa Vino's Italian Kitchen and a discount on admittance to entertainment venues like Four Winds Field, home of the South Bend Cubs. But that purchase also gave a helping hand to "the highest quality education available to children," in the words of Dan Fitzpatrick, chairman and CEO of Quality Dining — someone who finds it very gratifying to see Catholic school enrollment grow and outstanding teachers recognized for holding up the light of learning.

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend receive the proceeds from the annual sale of You Can Lend a Hand coupon books, which are sometimes referred to as "Burger King coupon books." Many put those proceeds into a general fund, where they help pay for various needs, including technology upgrades.

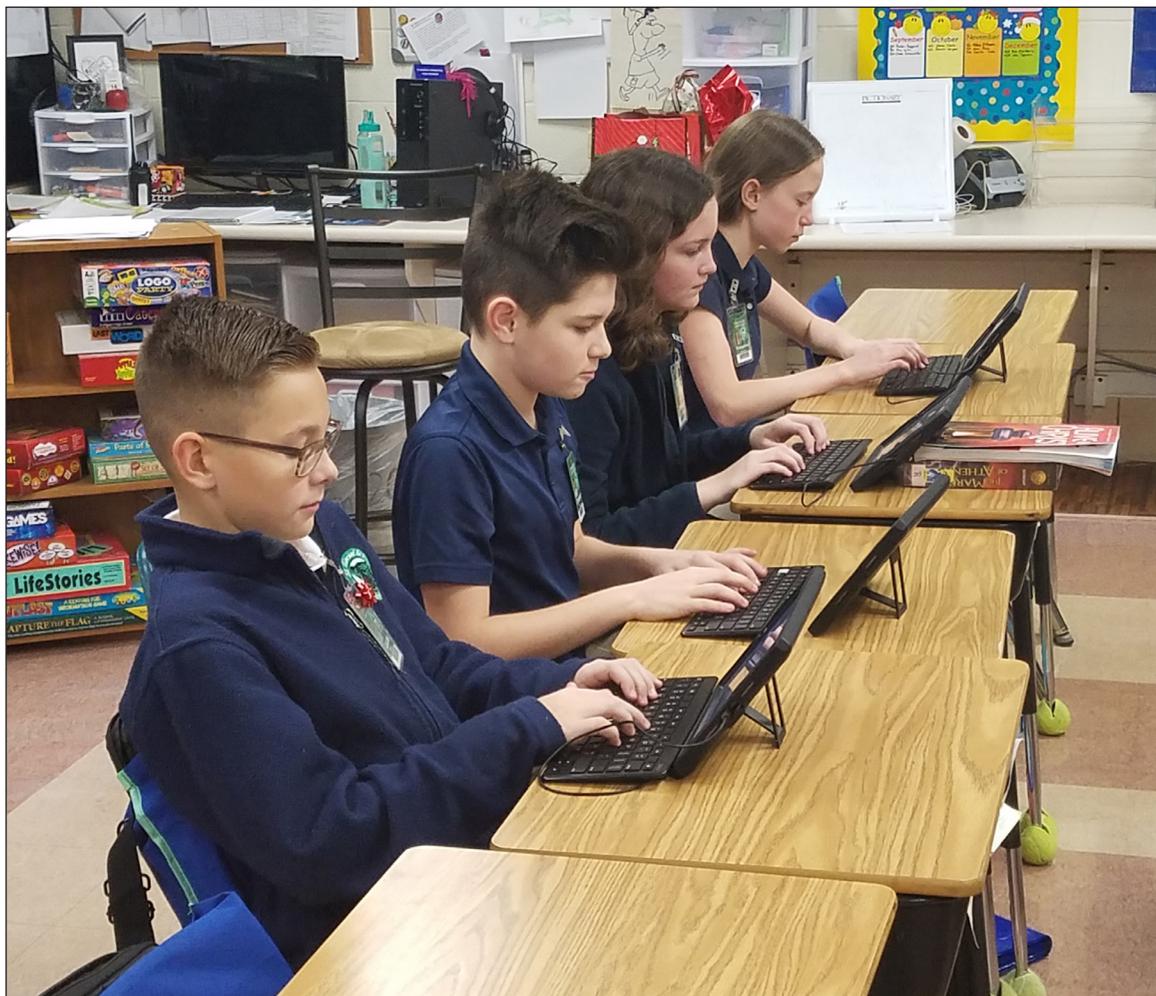
Sacred Heart School in Warsaw is slowly purchasing enough iPads so every student can have one. St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel School in Fort Wayne has used the money to continue adding to its library of computer programs: Last year it bought an accelerated-reading program, and this year its goal is to receive enough money to buy a program called Study Island.

St. Adalbert School, South Bend, has used coupon book money for outreach to Spanish-speaking parents, as well as for technology upgrades. St. Adalbert is not far from the former St. Casimir School, and classrooms there are gradually being renovated so St. Adalbert can offer music, art and gym classes. The former St. Casimir School building lacks the infrastructure for computers, a situation to which You Can Lend a Hand coupon book funds are being applied. A better vehicle is also needed to bus students between the two buildings.

Sometimes, however, schools earmark their You Can Lend a Hand money for specific purposes.

In addition to purchasing physical education equipment and replacing old textbooks with their portion of the proceeds, Queen of Angels School in Fort Wayne plans to buy music books and percussion instruments; St. Vincent de Paul School in Elkhart plans to buy new furniture and lighting for its cafeteria.

St. Vincent de Paul School in Fort Wayne has used its money to buy and post positive behavior signs throughout the school, replace worn playground equipment and have Catholic personality Jason Evert speak to middle schoolers about chastity.



Provided by James Faroh

Students in Patti Faroh's second-grade class at Sacred Heart School, Warsaw, use an IXL program on their iPads. Grades one through three use the program, which reinforces standards taught by the teachers and provides leveled support. Both the hardware and software were purchased with money raised during the You Can Lend a Hand coupon book campaign.

This year the school hopes to purchase more keyboards for the iPads students in grades three through eight take home: Those students who have already received one love being able to use more than two fingers to complete assignments, principal Cheryl Klinker said.

At St. Anthony de Padua School, South Bend, You Can Lend a Hand is the main fundraising event for its active Home and School Association. The group funds community-building events like an art-themed block party in downtown South Bend, and "Boo Hoo Yahoo" — a gathering for parents who are sad or

glad the school year is starting. A priority this year is safety, so coupon book proceeds will be used to provide walkie-talkies to all staff members. Teachers will also be able to apply to HASA for minigrants to carry out special projects, such as a topographical map of Africa assembled from cake and candies.

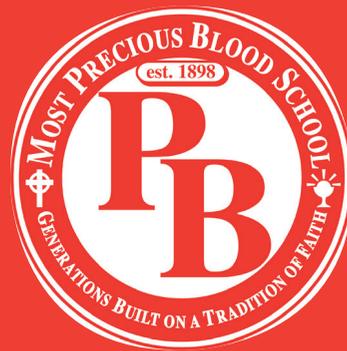
Fitzpatrick recounted his days of collecting Green Stamps for the Catholic grade school he and his siblings attended in Toledo, Ohio. When they bought their first four Burger King restaurants in the Benton Harbor-St. Joseph, Michigan, area, the Fitzpatricks began offering assistance to Lake Michigan Catholic Schools, a struggling system with a high school and two small elementary schools. The first coupon books, issued in 1982, contained eight coupons and sold for \$1.

Still eagerly participating in the program, today Lake Michigan Catholic is thriving.

The content and prices of the books have since changed, but the concept remains the same. Schools set their own goals and decide how many coupon books to order. They keep all the money their students collect for the books — a combined total of nearly \$11 million over the past 37 years. Forty-six Catholic schools sell the books, includ-

YCLAH, page 14

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# Compassionate student support program invokes St. Raphael

BY JANET PATERSON

A person might call it a second chance or mercy or compassion, but at Fort Wayne's Bishop Dwenger High School it's called the St. Raphael Student Assistance Program.

Also known as SRSAP, the program was introduced at the beginning of the 2018-19 school year to identify and assist students who are struggling with issues such as drug or alcohol use, nicotine use or vaping, pornography and self-harm.

"The need for the program came out of conversations about how we can help these students," said Tiffany Albertson, assistant principal at Bishop Dwenger and coordinator of the program.

Chris Svarczkopf, who is dean of students at the school, began researching how to intentionally assist at-risk students two years ago. He learned about a successful program at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, Albertson said. After a meeting with Roncalli student assistance staff, the staff and faculty at Bishop Dwenger agreed that they wanted a similar program for

their students.

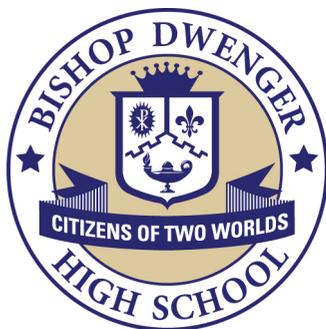
Albertson said that since the Bishop Dwenger team wanted the program to be separate from the disciplinary actions that are the responsibility of Svarczkopf, she took the lead as program coordinator. Her job is to process the referrals, meet with families to discuss the program and formulate a plan, and organize meetings with the Student Assistance Team. In addition to keeping tabs on the students in the program, she tracks their progress, schedules drug testing and keeps data to continuously evaluate the program.

Entry into the program is by referral. Students can refer themselves or be referred by a teacher, parent or other student. The program

accepts both signed and anonymous referrals.

Albertson said that because the program does not have disciplinary action attached to it, there is no danger that an anonymous referral would be malicious.

"Students who are referred for drugs or alcohol may be able to avoid initial disciplinary consequences ... and have been able to stay in school rather than face expulsion," she said. If the



## St. Raphael Student Assistance Program



**Purpose**

Provides students with an avenue to receive assistance for drug/alcohol/tobacco/nicotine usage without initially incurring a discipline or extra curricular penalty.

www.bishopdwenger.com

A slide from the St. Raphael Student Assistance Program highlights areas of disciplinary concern for which students can receive help and counseling.

student fails follow-up testing, disciplinary action may be initiated.

The program began in August with two students enrolled following conversations with parents during the summer break from classes. Albertson said the program is currently serving eight students and five have already completed the program.

The program team includes Bishop Dwenger's assistant principals, guidance counselors, pastoral minister and chaplain, a life skills counselor, the school nurse and athletic director. Counselors from the mental health community also may become involved in a student's

plan of action. Each participant is assigned a "mentor" at Bishop Dwenger who meets with the student regularly.

Albertson said there is no set time limit for a student to be in the program. "When parents, the student, and the student's mentor feel they are out of the 'at-risk' zone and are able to avoid the issues that led to the referral, they are recommended for dismissal from the program."

Parents are very much a part of the process, she continued. "We want to keep the lines of communication open and provide parents with support for their children. Parents can assist in setting goals and have options

in the plan that is developed for their student."

Naming the program after St. Raphael was part of "Dwengerizing" it, Albertson said. "We wanted to add a faith component to it. St. Raphael, as the patron saint of healing, was a good choice to serve as the namesake for the program. Ultimately, we want our students to be healthy in mind, body and soul."

In addition to the expected outcomes of helping students aim for success in school and in life, she said that one of the unexpected outcomes has been the team's efforts to provide useful information to the Dwenger community. "We have been distributing information about vaping and other related issues to our students and families."

She believes Bishop Dwenger's St. Raphael Student Assistance Program is the only one of its kind in northeast Indiana. "It has been well-received, and we are finding that we are very happy with the results so far. This program provides a compassionate approach designed to help students stay in school and find success in the classroom."

Before starting the program, principal Jason Schiffl and Svarczkopf presented the plan to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and the diocesan school board. "Bishop Rhoades asked that we collect data to report back at the end of the school year. At this point, we are hopeful that our program will serve as a good model for the other diocesan high schools," Albertson said.

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Provided by Allison Taylor

**Junior high students at St. Anthony de Padua School, South Bend, created a topographical map of Africa out of cake and candies last year. The annual project is made possible by proceeds from You Can Lend a Hand coupon books.**

**YCLAH, from page 11**

ing some beyond the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend — in the Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Gary dioceses.

Fitzpatrick sees collaboration among principals as a positive byproduct of Quality Dining's efforts. Another is the students' investment in the opportunity, which extends beyond the sales function. Every year, students are invited by Quality Dining to submit designs for posters schools can use to track their sales progress. This year's winners are Kaitlynn Fowerbaugh, a sixth-grader at Huntington Catholic School, Huntington; and Darwin Kariuki, a fourth-grader at St. Jude School, South Bend. Some of the schools provide

fun incentives for their young coupon book salespersons. The top seller from St. John the Evangelist School, Goshen, wins a family pass to the Indianapolis Zoo and the Children's Museum. Those selling 100 books or more at St. Jude get a limousine ride to lunch at a nearby Burger King. The top seller at St. Joseph School, Fort Wayne, gets to be principal for a day. Dress-down days, homework passes, pizza and ice cream are other popular rewards.

This year, everyone can lend a hand from Feb. 1-28, the scheduled dates of You Can Lend a Hand coupon book sales. Over 90,000 coupon books have been printed: To purchase one, talk to a Catholic school student or contact a nearby Catholic school.

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# On My Way Pre-K programs expand in diocese

BY JENNIFER MILLER

Quality pre-kindergarten programs in a caring, trained environment are one of the greatest boosts to a child's overall education, both in school and for their lifetime. They are beneficial for the children themselves, as well as for the community at large.

Although research in this area has been documented since the 1960s in national Head Start studies, the findings remain consistent through today. They indicate that to improve the quality of preschool education is to help the whole being of the child their whole life long. The effects are strongest among certain sub-groups of children, particularly Hispanic and African-American children, dual-language learners, children who are homeless or in foster care, those who qualify for free lunch and those whose mothers didn't graduate high school. When a mother is especially engaged in the child's educational endeavors, the return is even greater.

Since 2014, the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend have worked to improve the quality and depth of their pre-K programs.

Following national standards, numerous schools of the diocese have been certified through the national Pathways to Quality program. As a result, they now can accept students who qualify for On My Way Pre-K assistance.

"There is work being done by a number of preschool programs within Catholic schools of the diocese to reach Level 3 accreditation through Paths to Quality, a step needed in order to become an On My Way Pre-K-certified school. On My Way Pre-K schools receive state funding for low-income preschool students to attend a quality pre-K program, thus giving those students a head start on quality educational programming and later success in elementary school," stated Marsha Jordan, superintendent.

The goal of achieving Level 3 engaged the whole pre-K community of teachers, administrators and staff. Level 1 focused on health and safety standards, such as access to updated, child-appropriate restrooms and sinks as well as the health and well-being of the adults instructing the children. Level 2 addressed the learning environment for the students, such as the accessibility and utilization of age-appropriate materials — that literacy materials are readily available, and the space is designed with the pre-school child in mind. This means that leaning tools are on their eye level, the room is pleasing, welcoming and nurturing and for many basic tools like new furniture.

Level 3 focused mainly on planned curriculum, where teachers received ongoing professional development and used



Four-year-old students at St. Adalbert School, South Bend, enjoy playing and learning together. Because schools across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are striving for Level 3 updated certification from Pathways to Success, more children are now able to benefit from high-quality pre-K programs in a Christ-centered educational environment.

their knowledge and skills to prepare students for school readiness programs such as High Scope.

Holy Family School, South Bend, received its Level 3 certification in September and now is able to welcome On My Way students. Principal Jennifer Veldman admitted, "Holy Family is ecstatic about earning Level 3 On My Way Pre-K status. It certainly was a lot of hard work. However, with the support of Kacey Deverell and the Early Childhood Alliance Cohort team, many of the schools within the diocese have been able to complete the mission we so greatly wanted to achieve. Since the summer of 2018, Holy Family has transformed our pre-K classroom to create additional space for capacity: Holy Family can now take up to 24 pre-K students. Our pre-K teacher, Donna Bella, is now a certified High Scope instructor. We are extremely grateful to Family Connection for their assistance with obtaining a thorough curriculum to advance our program. (And) Bella has also

attended Minds in Motion training to implement for the 2019-20 school year."

"With the amount of changing needing to be made, we are extremely thankful to the support of several grants," Veldman added. "Through the Registered Ministry Grant that was awarded to us, we have been able to purchase new classroom materials and equipment, replace several items needed to meet the state requirements for On My Way Pre-K, and our pre-K staff will attend the High Scope International Conference this coming May. Honestly, all in all, this has been a time-consuming process, yet truly rewarding as we are hopeful to greatly grow our pre-K program," she said.

"The benefits of a high-quality preschool program ripple throughout the entire school community. The little 3-year-olds first learning how to make finger rosaries out of pipe cleaners quickly grow to eighth-graders preparing to receive the sacrament of confirmation. What a blessing it is to be taught in a



Photos by Jennifer Miller

Catholic school environment from one's earliest school days!" Holy Cross School in South Bend welcomed its first On My

Way students this fall, both for their traditional and dual-language programs. They, along with Holy Family, St. Adalbert School and St. Jude School in South Bend, Queen of Peace School in Mishawaka, St. John the Baptist School in New Haven and St. Therese School and Queen of Angels School in Fort Wayne are looking forward to completing the fourth and final level of certification in the near future. St. Joseph Pre-School in South Bend and St. Joseph School in Fort Wayne already received their Level 4 certification and accept On My Way students.

Families are welcome to apply for the On My Way Pre-K programs and to visit the updated preschool classrooms during open houses for Catholic Schools Week. Visit the individual schools for dates and times and check <https://www.in.gov/fssa/pathstoquality/3735.htm> for more information about qualifying.



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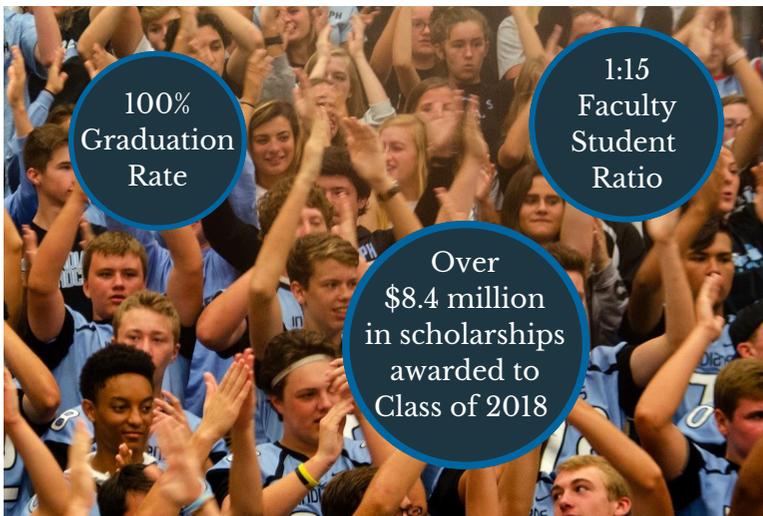


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# FORTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE



Young women from Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, explain to a reporter why they chose to participate in the march.



The march reaches its destination, the U.S. Supreme Court. Assisting Bishop Dwenger students with the banner are college students from the Diocese of Tulsa, Okla.



After over an hour of waiting, the Bishop Dwenger flag bearers receive permission to begin the march.



A view toward the back of the crowd of marchers.

Photos by Joshua Schipper

## Bishop Dwenger High School students take the lead

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Over 200 students from Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, carried large flags and a banner that lead the 46th annual National March for Life in Washington, D.C., on Friday, Jan. 18. The school was selected for the honor this year from among the thousands of Catholic high schools in the U.S., and the Bishop Dwenger students responded in force and with great joy over the opportunity to lead the thousands who demonstrated support for the lives of the unborn.

The students' journey began earlier that same week, when Sen. Todd Young of Indiana held a video conference with the seniors who planned to attend the march. After commending the students, Sen. Young opened the floor to questions. One student inquired if Sen. Young believed marches like the March for Life

actually bring forth change in the world. The senator responded that they are "incredibly impactful," citing other marches that have effected change, including the march for civil rights and marches for women's voting rights. He thanked the students for continuing to inspire those who are not yet convinced, and for encouraging those who are pro-life.

Prior to departure, the students celebrated Mass in Queen of All Saints chapel. During the homily, chaplain Father Jay Horning reminded them that this journey to the capitol was not merely a trip, but a pilgrimage. A "pilgrimage" implied discomfort and inconvenience, he noted, adding that this particular pilgrimage would not be easy. He was proven correct several times during the trip, including on the early morning of Friday, when one of the buses among the school's contingent broke down on the highway.

Although delayed, around 9:30 a.m. the students arrived steps of the Capitol building. They celebrated Mass on Capitol Hill at St. Joseph Parish, with Father Horning and fellow chaplain Father David Huneck, who expressed thanks to the parish during his homily for allowing the pilgrims to worship in the church on short notice. He next drew a parallel between the pilgrims' journey

and the story of the Nativity, noting that the Holy Family searched for an inn, and when none was found, St. Joseph led his pregnant wife to a stable where she gave birth to the Lord. In a similar way, he said, St. Joseph, the patron of the parish, found a church for the pilgrims to celebrate Mass.

More photos are available at [www.todayscatholic.org](http://www.todayscatholic.org)



Afterwards, the pilgrims met the Knights of Columbus of Virginia to receive the flags of the march. Breathing the cold, winter air while a pre-march rally with speaker Ben Shapiro ended, they were joined by U.S. Rep. Jim Banks. Rep. Banks gave the students advice about how to engage pro-choice Americans in a discussion about the sanctity of life. "At the end of the day, the best conversations I have with those I disagree with are respectful, often rooted in relationships," he said. "In our tribal society today, what's lacking is we don't have relationships with people who we don't agree with often enough. So, it's important to build relationships with people before you start arguing with them about issues. We need to surround ourselves with people who don't always think and believe what we do, and then develop a relationship with them, and then, try to win them

over, convince them, especially on the right-to-life issue." Along the mile-long march to the Supreme Court, bands played and people cheered the marchers to chants of support for life. The Bishop Dwenger Saints smiled and chanted along as they approached the Supreme Court building where *Roe v. Wade*, the case that legalized abortion over four decades before, had been decided. The students experienced little opposition to the walk from their vantage point at the front of the crowd, but some was directed at the crowd that followed them. The pilgrims heard chants accusing Catholics of Marian worship, and suggesting that abortion would end, "When you stop praying to the Virgin Mary." This was met with a loud praying of the Hail Mary, the prayerful voices drowning out the voices of the protesters.

# South Bend marches for the unborn



Photos by Jennifer Miller

**Eighth-grade students from Holy Family School and their chaperones support life from conception to natural death during the South Bend March for Life on Jan. 18. Below, students from St. Joseph School, South Bend, and St. Vincent de Paul School, Elkhart, line the sidewalk of the federal courthouse building downtown.**



Catherine Horvath

**Students from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend gather for Mass at the Capital One Arena in Washington, D.C., prior to the National March for Life.**



Colette Cline

**Students and graduates from Marian High School, Mishawaka and Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration prepare to begin the march.**

### ADVOCATES, from page 1

were able to collect so many cases of water that the Luers' student body will be able to use the leftovers for giving 'blessing bags' throughout Fort Wayne.

"On the night of our departure meeting, we had around 20 people helping assemble the bags. We even had a student from Canterbury High School and two home-schooled students equally enthused to help. We were able to pass them out at

Union Station and received so many warm smiles and hugs in return. It was such a profound experience for everyone who was able to participate, with a hope that the project will be able to grow and continue throughout the years."

Abby Carlin, a freshman at Bishop Luers who assisted in distributing the bags, shared that "this experience was very eye-opening, seeing how we can help other people and offer assistance to those in our community.

It allowed us to engage in our faith in a new way, not only being at the March for Life to stand against abortion, but also helping in other pro-life issues."

She further indicated: "Now that we are back in Fort Wayne, we can continue to make gift bags and give them out to people, help at local missions, and preach the Gospel not only through words, but also through our actions."

Mishawaka Catholic religion teacher Kevin Glowiak expressed his gratitude and joy for this type of intentional outreach which "gives an increased sense of hope for the future of the pro-life culture."

"People are beginning to appropriately broaden the definition and understanding of what 'pro-life' means: to care for the sick, elderly, imprisoned, even the dignity of marriage being between one man and one woman. Being pro-life shouldn't be solely about abortion, it should be about every facet of social justice and the entire corpus of Catholic social teaching."

Maria Dunn, a Holy Cross College freshman and parishioner at Our Lady of Good Hope, Fort Wayne, shared the importance of continuing the spirit of the event long after its conclusion.

"This march is the most united cause we have, all these different people of different religions and races coming together is such a rare and pivotal moment. What I learned most, however, is that while you often go to the March to be a witness to everyone else, in the process you more so become a witness to yourself." She explained, "At one point, I turned around and took a picture of the huge swarm of people behind us, which showed how unified and motivated we were to walk together in support of life."

*"The teaching of the Encyclical Humanae Vitae... ought to be taken up anew, in order to counter a mentality that is often hostile to life..."*

Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*, 222

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**MARCH, from page 1**

nobility and dignity of every human life. I will always defend the first right in our Declaration of Independence: the right to life."

Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life, welcomed the crowd and thanked them for coming once again to march to end abortion, what she called "the greatest human rights abuse of our time."

She asked the crowd if they will keep marching to fight abortion, to march for the "poorest of the poor" and those who cannot march for themselves until "we no longer need to march" and abortion "is unthinkable." She received a resounding "yes" to each question.

Looking out from the speakers' platform, she declared the crowd to be bigger than she has ever seen in her seven years as head of March for Life.

No official crowd counts are available for such events, but ahead of this year's rally and march, organizers expected more than 100,000 to participate.

"We must keep marching for life every day of the year," Mancini said, and she asked each marcher to share his or her pro-life story on social media because even of those stories about "why we march" can change others' minds about abortion.

Before she gave her remarks, Mancini introduced Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas

City, Kansas, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-life Activities. He offered the opening prayer for the march and also urged the crowd to go "change the world!"

In a statement issued later in the day to mark the upcoming Jan. 22 anniversary of Roe v. Wade, Archbishop Naumann called on the faithful "to pray for an end to the human rights abuse of abortion, and for a culture of life, where through God's grace all will come to know they are made in his divine image."

The theme for this year's March for Life was "Unique From Day One: Pro-life Is Pro-science," focusing on how scientific advancements reveal "the humanity of the unborn child from the moment of conception."

In his remarks, Pence urged the pro-lifers to stand up for God's creation, spread their message with compassion and hope, and not let their detractors dissuade them.

In 1973 with its Roe decision, he said, the Supreme Court turned "its back on life" but the pro-life movement was born, "motivated by love and truth," and has been "winning hearts and minds ever since," he added.

"We know in our heart of hearts, life is winning in America once again," he said, pointing out the many pregnancy centers helping women across the nation, adoptive families "who open their hearts and homes," and pro-life leaders who have stepped up to serve in the government.

Other speakers included Ben Shapiro, editor-in-chief of The Daily Wire; three members of Congress — Sen. Steve Daines, R-Montana, and Reps. Dan Lipinski, D-Illinois and Chris Smith, R-New Jersey; a Democratic member of the Louisiana Legislature, Rep. Katrina Jackson; Alveda King, Priests for Life's director of civil rights for the unborn; and Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, CEO of the Knights of Columbus.

Shapiro said the Democratic Party has "embraced abortion as a sacrament," but he also was critical of Republicans in Congress for not stepping up to halt federal funding of Planned Parenthood.

He said the pro-life movement has been deemed to be "out of line with society," noting that Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau just said that recently. The media "will ignore us," Shapiro continued, and will pay more attention to "the five who show up tomorrow," referring to the Women's March scheduled for Jan. 19 in Washington.

But it's OK to be "out of line," Shapiro said, because "righteousness doesn't have to be popular, just righteous."

Smith told the crowd that the new Democratic majority in the House "has made it clear that they want to eviscerate all pro-life protections including the Hyde taxpayer abortion funding ban, which alone has saved over 2 million people from death by abortion."

**#whywemarch**

*Many student participants in the National March for Life, including those below from Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, expressed their pro-life convictions on social media using the official March for Life hashtag #whywemarch.*

**Nancy Le:** I marched for those who couldn't march and to get the word out about this. I put this everywhere on my social media so everyone can be informed. Along with that, it shows how devoted we are to get this abortion law out so the children can be saved and given a chance to live.

**Liam Row:** We march for the those who can't march for themselves, the millions of innocent babies who are helplessly murdered every year. We march to change the immoral and unscrupulous idea that began with Roe v. Wade in 1973. So that every single human will be given their fundamental right to life and may live as God intended, this is why we march.

**Mary Carroll:** I march for the women who are too afraid to march for themselves. I march for leaders who don't have the courage to stand up for what's right. I march for future generations, so that one day they won't have to, and we can end this with our generation.

**Olivia Eagan:** I march because these babies are being killed without a say in what happens to them. They don't have a voice and they need someone to advocate for their lives. It's not right that these children are stripped of their lives because of another persons decision.

**Erin Strzelecki:** I march because I believe that all human beings, even the tiniest, deserve a voice. I want to make a difference in protecting the vulnerable, unborn children who cannot stand up for themselves.

**Julia Eckrich:** I go on the march because it sparks hope in my heart to be surrounded by thousands upon thousands who support the same cause. It is disheartening to be surrounded by society who primarily disagrees with anyone who is pro-life. I pray that one day it will be a march of celebration, but until then we must keep supporting one another and not lose hope and trust in God.



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# Recovering intimacy in a lonely world

In the early 1990s, the famed mystery author P.D. James published "The Children of Men." Set in the year 2021, it describes a dystopian world where the human race had become incapable of reproducing itself.

The scientific reason for this sudden and total collapse in the birthrate was unknown, but the story's narrator concludes: "Pornography and sexual violence on film, on television, in books, in life, had increased and become more explicit but less and less in the West we made love and bred children."

James wrote this book well before the rise of the internet, but like all good science fiction, she had a glimpse of a possible future world. It wasn't pretty.

Not quite three decades later, and James' dystopia seems to be arriving right on schedule. Sex, love and marriage all are showing troubling signs of decline, according to a recent article in *The Atlantic* magazine. Titled "The Sex Recession," the author, Kate Julian, actually ends up reporting on an even more worrisome decline in intimacy. It's not just in the United States, and it's not just among millennials.

The author at first takes a rather head-scratching tone: Why aren't these young people having more sex the way they are supposed to in our enlightened age? But the research she quotes shows that rates of sex are declining for all age groups and in many Western countries.

Despite the increasingly graphic presentations of popular media, despite the multibillion

dollar and increasingly perverted pornography industry, physical and psychological intimacy are on the skids. People are hooking up less, dating less, having sex less, enjoying it less.

Back home, the report tells us, dating and hookup apps and ubiquitous smartphone screens aren't making things better. What they are doing is degrading the ability to simply approach another person and have a conversation or suggest a date.

In fact, teens who report going on dates are decreasing. College classes now instruct students on the lost art of dating. Even at Catholic universities, kids are looking for how-to instructions on negotiating this suddenly strange terrain. In the world of #MeToo, asking someone out seems less like an invitation to coffee than potential harassment.

That license has led to lassitude is not likely to shock the Church, which has two millennia of wisdom when it comes to human nature and sex. Sexual love is meant to be expressed in the context of marriage, the Church teaches. It is meant to be at once total, faithful, exclusive and fecund.

In his much-abused encyclical "Humanae Vitae," Pope Paul VI talked about the "inseparable connection" in marital love between the "unitive" and "procreative." For the past century of birth control, the battleground has been about the procreative aspect. Now the other shoe is dropping.

The "inseparable connection" has been severed. Society has become increasingly efficient at



GREG ERLANDSON

## AMID THE FRAY

separating conception from sex, and as Pope Paul predicted, the unitive aspect that is lifelong intimacy is eroding.

The collapse of intimacy that *The Atlantic* describes may be an opportunity for the Church to recast its message. Rather than "Thou shalt not" as its battle cry, the Church can offer a genuinely positive vision of "the joy of love," a holistic understanding of sex and intimacy for a society increasingly despairing about both.

Greg Erlandson, director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service, can be reached at [gerlandson@catholicnews.com](mailto:gerlandson@catholicnews.com).

# Our most primal fear

At Mass for Wednesday of the first week of the year, we read a text from Hebrews that describes our most basic and primal fear. Our inordinate fear of what people think of us is rooted in an even deeper fear, one that is at the very core of our being. The Hebrews text both names it and describes it as being the source of our bondage. In order to unlock the secret of the text, I want to suggest to you an interpretation that will allow its powerful diagnosis to have a wider and deeper effect.

Consider this text from Hebrews:

"Since the children have flesh and blood, [Jesus] too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death" (Heb 2:14-15).

This passage is clear in saying that the devil is the origin of our bondage to sin, but also that hold on us is through the fear of death. This is what he exploits in order to keep us in bondage.

When I have explored this teaching with people, I have found that many have difficulty understanding it at first. Especially for the young, death is almost a theoretical concept; it is not something they consciously fear. This is particularly true in the modern age, when medical advances have so successfully pushed back the boundary between life and death. Every now and then something may shake us out of our complacency (perhaps a brush with death), but in general death does



MSGR. CHARLES POPE

## COMMUNITY IN MISSION

not dominate our thoughts. So, then, what is meant by the fear of death and how does it hold us in bondage?

Well, what if we were to replace the word "death" with "diminishment"? To be sure, this is an adaption of the text (the Greek text — phobo thanatou) is accurately translated as "fear of death"), but doing so can help us to see what the text is getting at in a wider sense. It doesn't take long to realize that each diminishment we experience is a kind of "little death." Diminishments make us feel smaller, less powerful, less glorious.

What are some examples of diminishments we might experience? On one level, a diminishment is anything that makes us feel less adequate than others. Maybe we think others are smarter or more popular. Perhaps we do not feel attractive enough; we're too tall, too short, too fat, or too thin. Maybe we resent the fact that others are richer or more powerful. Perhaps we wish we were younger, stronger, and more energetic. Maybe we wish we were older, wiser, and more settled. Perhaps we feel diminished because we think others have a

POPE, page 21

# Salvation, unfolding in Jesus, is the gift of God's love



## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 1:1-14, 4:14-21

The Book of Nehemiah furnishes the first reading for this weekend. At one time, in the Hebrew editions of the Bible, this book and the Book of Ezra formed one volume. In time they were separated, and so they remain today.

Although some Old Testament books tell the history of the people of Israel, all are chiefly concerned with inspiring God's people to be faithful and eager in their religious practice. In this reading, Ezra, who was a priest, called together men, women and children old enough to

comprehend precisely to this end. He admonished this gathering to listen carefully to the Scripture.

After hearing the reading of the Scriptures, the people in this audience affirmed their faith. Ezra continued by interpreting what he had read.

Finally, Ezra and Nehemiah called the people to rejoice — for cause. God had spoken to them. God was guiding them.

For the next reading, the liturgy presents St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians. The Christian community in Corinth especially challenged Paul. Corinth was an important commercial center, actually one of the major markets and distribution centers in the empire. Moreover, it was a very large city.

Troubling for Paul was not that Corinth was large and rich, but that its size and wealth produced an atmosphere in which vice and greed reigned supreme. Indeed, throughout the Mediterranean world, in which license and exploitation were commonplace, Corinthians had the reputation of being exceedingly licentious.

The evils in this atmosphere were contagious, enticing many Christians.

In addition, Corinthian Christians vied with each other within the Church. They quarreled with each other. They schemed against each other. They gossiped about each other. They toyed with pagan practices and customs.

Paul constantly and energetically called the Corinthian Christians away from the temptations the pagan environment pressed upon them. In particular, he scorned the competitiveness among the Christians.

In this reading, Paul insists that all the baptized are in the body of Christ, however, the body has many members. Each has a vocation.

Finally, St. Luke's Gospel supplies the last reading. Midway in this reading, the Gospel directly addresses Theophilus, using the honorific "Your Excellency." Luke's Gospel seemingly was written for one person and to one person.

Scholars debate if this person had the name of Theophilus, or was it the Gospel's title, since

"Theophilus" in Greek means "friend of God." In any case, the person apparently enjoyed some prestige, hence the use of the words "Your Excellency."

In this reading, Jesus appears in the synagogue of Nazareth to explain the mission of salvation. Salvation, unfolding in Jesus, was the gift of God's love, the final chapter in the long record of the merciful deeds of God among God's people.

## Reflection

The Church has celebrated Christmas, the feast of the birth of Jesus, as well as the feasts of the Epiphany of the Lord and the Baptism of the Lord. In the lessons of these great liturgical events, the Church has introduced us to Jesus. It has identified Jesus. He is the son of Mary, so Jesus was a human. He is the Son of God. He is the Redeemer.

Now the Church begins to tell us about salvation and about how we personally should respond to salvation.

First, Corinthians sets the

stage. If we have accepted Christ into our hearts, we belong to God. Each of us has a personal vocation, although we may consider this term too lofty or too suggestive of a religious life. Regardless of occupation or circumstance, our vocation is to follow, and to reflect, Christ.

God provides for us in this effort. He assists and strengthens us. He never forsakes us, but we are free. We must decide to be loyal.

## READINGS

**Sunday:** Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 Ps 19:8-10, 15 1 Cor 12:12-30 Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

**Monday:** Heb 9:15, 24-28 Ps 98:1-6 Mk 3:22-30

**Tuesday:** Heb 10:1-10 Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 10-11 Mk 3:31-35

**Wednesday:** Heb 10:11-18 Ps 110:1-4 Mk 4:1-20

**Thursday:** Heb 10:19-25 Ps 24:1-4b, 5-6 Mk 4:21-25

**Friday:** Heb 10:32-39 Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40 Mk 4:26-34

**Saturday:** Mal 3:1-4 Ps 24:7-10 Heb 2:14-18 Lk 2:22-40

# Lay collaboration and episcopal authority

The Vatican is a hotbed of rumor, gossip and speculation at the best of times — and these times are not those times. The Roman atmosphere at the beginning of 2019 is typically fetid and sometimes poisonous, with a lot of misinformation and disinformation floating around. That smog of fallacy and fiction could damage February's global gathering of bishops, called by the pope to address the abuse crisis that is impeding the Church's evangelical mission virtually everywhere.

Great expectations surround that meeting; those expectations should be lowered. In four days, the presidents of over 100 bishops' conferences and the leaders of a dysfunctional Roman Curia are not going to devise a universal template for the reform of the priesthood and the episcopate. What the February meeting can do is set a broad agenda for reform, beginning with a ringing affirmation of the Church's perennial teaching on chastity as the integrity of love. In a diverse world Church, that teaching applies in every ecclesial situation. And it is the baseline of any authentically Catholic response to the abuse crisis.

What the February meeting must not do is make matters worse by swallowing, and then propagating, some of the fairy tales circulating in Rome about the Church in the United States: like the noxious fiction that the U.S. bishops have overreacted to what is essentially a media-created crisis.

To be sure, inept or hostile journalists too often fail to report the significant reform measures the U.S. bishops have implemented since 2002 and the positive effects of those reforms. But there is still much reform work to be done in the American Church; most U.S. bishops know

that; and for Rome to blame the Church's current crisis of confidence on the media is a reflexive dodge and an obstacle to genuine reform.

Then there's the "Protestantization" fairy tale. In Roman circles, it's said that panicky U.S. bishops cobbled together reform proposals that would gravely diminish episcopal authority by handing great chunks of that authority to lay people — a "Protestantizing" move, as it's called along the Tiber. To make matters worse, some in Rome blame this alleged "Protestantizing" on what are deemed "too many" converts in the U.S. Church today.

How to begin unraveling this nonsense?

First, it is beyond bizarre for anyone to complain about too many converts in a Church called by the pope to live "permanently in mission," radiating "the joy of the Gospel." In real-world 2019, American adults are baptized or enter into full communion with the Catholic Church because they believe the Catholic Church knows what it is, teaches the truth, and offers them Christ Himself in the sacraments. They don't "convert" to change the Church's self-understanding.

Second, how does it diminish their authority for bishops to collaborate with orthodox, capable lay people in addressing the current crisis in both its dimensions: clerical sexual abuse and episcopal failure in addressing that abuse? What the U.S. bishops were prepared to do in November, before an inappropriate Vatican intervention prevented it, was to create a national body of competent lay people to receive allegations of episcopal malfeasance, assess them by a carefully crafted set of standards and report credible allegations to the appropriate



GEORGE WEIGEL

## THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

Church authorities. Period. Such a process would not only preserve the bishops' authority; it would enhance it.

In any effective organization, the leader with ultimate responsibility engages the expertise of others in order to do what only he or she can do: make good final decisions. Not a jot or tittle of episcopal authority will be damaged by the American bishops collaborating with expert lay people who understand the boundaries of lay competence. On the contrary, that collaboration is essential if the bishops — and the Vatican — are going to recover the credibility necessary to do the jobs that only bishops and the Vatican can do in reforming the priesthood and the episcopate.

These points must be made forcefully in Rome in February. Fictions about American Catholic life and American attempts to impose a universal solution to the abuse crisis on the world Church must be firmly rejected. An appropriate pastoral response to a genuine crisis, well-suited to the ecclesial situation of the U.S., should be vigorously defended. And the Roman voices saying there are too many converts in the U.S. should be invited to read Matthew 28:19-20.

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

paste, soap, or cosmetic product, you'll be surrounded by beautiful people and sex will be more available to you. If you drive this car, people will turn their heads and be impressed with you. The message is that you don't measure up now (you're diminished) but our product will get you there. Just buy it and you'll be happier, healthier and more alive!

Perhaps you can see how such advertising appeals to greed, pride, materialism and worldliness; it puts forth the lie that these material things will solve our problems. In fact, appeals like this actually increase our fear of diminishment (and death) because they feed the notion that we have to measure up to these false and/or unrealistic standards.

It is my hope that you can see how very deep this drive is and how it enslaves us in countless ways.

This demon (fear of death,

of diminishment) must be named. Once named and brought to light, we must learn its moves and begin to rebuke it in the name of Jesus. As we start to recognize the thought patterns emerging from this most primal of fears, we can gradually, by God's grace, replace this distorted thinking with proper, sober, and humble thinking — thinking rooted in God's love for us and the availability of His grace and mercy.

The text from Hebrews above is clear in saying that this deep and highly negative drive is an essential way in which Satan keeps us in bondage. It also says that Jesus Christ died to save us and free us from this bondage. Allow the Lord to give you a penetrating and sober vision of this deep drive, this deep fear of diminishment and death. Allow the light of God's grace and His Word to both expose and heal this deepest of wounds.

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for January 27, 2019

Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: the beginning of Jesus' ministry according to Luke. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

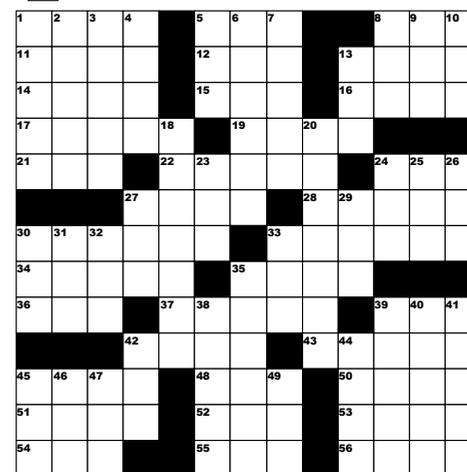
LUKE	UNDERTAKEN	TO WRITE
THEOPHILUS	POWER	NEWS
NAZARETH	SABBATH	SCROLL
ISAIAH	THE LORD	ANOINTED ME
THE POOR	SENT ME	SIGHT
THE BLIND	FREE	SAT DOWN
EYES OF ALL	TODAY	HEARING

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 K O R E D E O J D N T R  
 T O O L R M D E I H H C  
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 I T T O H S F R E E I B  
 T D N I L B E H T N A A  
 E A S U L I H P O E H T  
 J O A N N A Z A R E T H

## The Cross Word

January 20 and 27, 2019



Readings: Is 62:1-5; 1Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11 & Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1Cor 12:12-14, 27; Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21

### ACROSS

- 1 "\_\_\_ of the Apostles"
- 5 Sixth sense
- 8 Foreign Ag. Service
- 11 Work against
- 12 African antelope
- 13 Wading bird
- 14 Not a one
- 15 Void
- 16 Exhaust
- 17 Master of ceremonies
- 19 Tears
- 21 \_\_\_ Wednesday
- 22 "Do whatever he \_\_\_ you"
- 24 Digit

### DOWN

- 27 Peter holds these
- 28 Many months
- 30 Unit of electric current
- 33 Ezra was one
- 34 Condescend
- 35 The fourth evangelist
- 36 "In \_\_\_ Spirit we were baptized"
- 37 To one side
- 39 Radon
- 42 Plot
- 43 Biblical Aram is now called
- 45 1970s hairdo
- 48 Former USSR's secret police
- 50 "\_\_\_ Blessed Sacrament"

- 51 Took water from well
- 52 Building addition
- 53 Pop
- 54 # of stone water jars
- 55 Mesh
- 56 Prayer ending

### DOWN

- 1 Sleep disorder
- 2 Mollusks
- 3 Victory shines like one
- 4 Eye infection
- 5 Easter symbol
- 6 Tangles
- 7 A disciple can be one
- 8 National police
- 9 Atmosphere
- 10 Compass point
- 13 That (possessive)
- 18 "\_\_\_ life"
- 20 Pumps up
- 23 "\_\_\_ witnesses"
- 24 Thai
- 25 Globe
- 26 Vane direction
- 27 Beer container
- 29 White-tailed sea eagle
- 30 Flurry
- 31 Males
- 32 Pastry
- 33 Turf
- 35 Ad's song
- 38 "For \_\_\_"
- 39 He "rejoices in his bride"
- 40 Church pathway
- 41 Devil
- 42 Prisoner of war
- 44 Popular gym/pool site
- 45 Spots
- 46 Day of the week (abbr.)
- 47 "Christus \_\_\_"
- 49 Sandwich

Answer Key can be found on page 23

### POPE, from page 20

better marriage, a nicer home, or more accomplished children. Maybe we compare ourselves unfavorably to a sibling who has done better financially or socially than we have.

Advertisers know how to exploit the fear of diminishment in marketing their products. I remember studying this topic in business school at George Mason University. The logic goes something like this: You're not pretty enough, happy enough, adequate enough, or comfortable enough; you don't look young enough; you have some chronic illness (e.g., depression, asthma, diabetes) — but just buy our product and you will be "enough"; you won't be so pathetic, incomplete, and, basically, diminished. If you drink this beer, you'll be happy, have good times, and be surrounded by friends. If you use this tooth-

# 'Finding Beauty in Ashes': A deacon's wife finds hope in his untimely death

BY JEANNIE EWING

**“W**hat are the ashes? ... These are the wounded parts of our lives. God uses all of it and makes it into beauty as only God can,” writes Mary Hilger in the concluding pages of her memoir, “Finding Beauty in Ashes: Angels Sent in our Darkest Hour.”

For most people, the losses and suffering they experience are difficult to discern as beauty or gifts from God. It's a struggle to find meaning and purpose through the ups and downs of life, and sometimes a person must settle into the mystery of uncertainty about the trajectory of his or her life.

Hilger is no stranger to such struggle. Yet her faith, evidenced in the chronicles about her husband, Deacon John Hilger and his final days, grew in powerful and unimaginable ways.

Despite the couple's plan to enjoy a Viking cruise to Germany, God had other plans, as Mary often writes in her book. The very first evening on board the cruise ship, Deacon John suffered cardiac arrest and never recovered.

Mary, in shock but hopeful that her husband might survive, was surrounded by compassionate people whom she referred to as “angels.” These were initially hospital staff, such as nurses, physicians and social workers. She broke the news to their six



daughters, who rallied together to find a way for them all to be by their father's side in what would become his final moments.

In those moments, beautiful and holy blessings unfolded. Even in the midst of her grief, Mary saw God's hand moving through the conversations she had with the medical staff, in the prayer of blessing she extended to her husband's ailing roommate, and in the tenderness of the privilege she experienced in washing her husband's body shortly after he died.

The journey was not over yet, as the Hilger family would discover following Deacon John's death. Everywhere they went they felt his presence, especially as they entered a spring festival in the Netherlands that reminded them of the fall festivals at Hilger's Farm Market.

Heartfelt condolences poured in through emails, text messages and phone calls from family and friends. Most of these were firsthand accounts of how Deacon John had personally touched their lives – or even changed it for the better. Even the Hilger daughters found their faith strengthened with new resolve to return to the sacraments regularly as they thought of the example of their Catholic faith instilled in them by their father.

Mary Hilger's book is not riddled with depressing tales of melancholy as one might expect from a death memoir. Instead, she is honest and real but ever joyful, reflecting the truth all Christians share as a Resurrection people who believe that death is not the end, but the beginning, of life.

“Mourning is deep, pervasive and seemingly endless, even as I plumb its depth in writing,” she writes. “On the other hand, writing this has brought me to share the special things I miss about John. I take joy in writing about

the sort of person he was, the activities we enjoyed together, and memories that trigger both laughter and tears. These are the golden nuggets that glitter in the sand and mud of grief.”

Excerpts like these are common in Hilger's book. She found the snippets and snapshots of life that were worth living, in which God touched her with His intimate presence and comforted her in her darkest moments. Grief can be very heavy and intense, as Hilger acknowledges openly, but she looked for and listened to the ways God was speaking to her – sometimes through her daughters, sometimes in nature, and sometimes in spontaneous conversations with long-lost friends at the grocery store.

Ultimately, Hilger discovered that her husband is still with her in a deeply spiritual way. Through his prayers for their family, and in the family's prayers for him, their faith in our perfectly loving God has shone in the witness they carry to others in their workplaces, communities and neighborhoods. Hilger, who is also an artist, continues to share her gift of creating in order to bring healing to the lives of those who are still in a place of mourning and woundedness. She has found her own sense of healing through her loss by giving back to God the gifts He has given to her.

Parting thoughts from her book will leave the reader lingering on his or her own understanding of how suffering can be transformed by God's love: “Every memory, however sweet, is tinged with sorrow, I suppose, just as shadows fall from light ... How ‘flat’ our lives would be – how lifeless our spirits – without the contrast of joys and sorrows.”

**“Finding Beauty in Ashes: Angels Sent in our Darkest Hour,”** by Mary Hilger. Self-published, 2018. \$15.

## Chief Operating Officer

Saint Anne Communities in Fort Wayne, Indiana, is looking for qualified candidates to fill the role of Chief Operating Officer. St. Anne Communities is a not-for-profit five star continuing care retirement community which strives to be faith centered and family focused. The COO is responsible for the smooth and efficient operation of the company, including management of the profit and loss statement for the business, as well as the related resources associated with the operation. Candidates must have a bachelor's degree in Healthcare Administration, Nursing, Finance, or other relevant field of study. Candidates must have or the ability to obtain a licensure as a Health Facility Administrator in Indiana. To view a full job description, please visit [www.diocesefwsb.org](http://www.diocesefwsb.org).

To apply, please send a resume and cover letter via email to Bob Nicholas at [Bob.Nicholas@onbinvestments.com](mailto:Bob.Nicholas@onbinvestments.com), or mail to 116 E. Berry St. Fort Wayne, IN 46802 Attn: Bob Nicholas



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## LITTLE FLOWER HOLY HOUR

Feb. 5  
7 p.m.

Fort Wayne, Indiana  
St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel  
with Father Tom Shoemaker



Please, come and pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

**Allen County March for Life**

**FORT WAYNE** — Join thousands of pro-life advocates for a march through downtown Fort Wayne to show support for life from conception to natural death on Saturday, Jan. 26, at the University of Saint Francis Performing Arts Center, 431 W. Berry St. Rally with keynote David Bereit, founder of 40 Days for Life, will be a noon, doors open 11:30 a.m. March to the Federal Building at 1 p.m. For more information visit: [www.ichooselife.org/march/](http://www.ichooselife.org/march/)

**St. Joseph School open house**

**GARRETT** — St. Joseph School will host a Catholic Schools Week Open House on Sunday, Jan. 27. The Knights of Columbus will serve breakfast following the 10:30 a.m. Mass for a donation. Families are invited to meet the teachers, tour the building and learn about programs and scholarship opportunities. Over 50 percent of students who attend St. Joseph receive a financial scholarship making private, Catholic education a possibility for many. St. Joseph School received a letter grade of "A" for school accountability for the last nine years from the State of Indiana. Students include pre-K 3s and 4s through 6th grade. Reservations not required. Call Jenny Enrietto, principal, at 260-357-5137 or email [info@stjosephgarrett.org](mailto:info@stjosephgarrett.org) for more information.

**St. Pius X School open house**

**GRANGER** — St. Pius X School, 52553 Fir Rd., will open its doors on Sunday, Jan. 27, from 1-3 p.m. for an annual school open house event. The event kicks off Catholic Schools Week, a celebration of Catholic education held across the country. Attendees may tour classrooms, explore opportunities for all students and visit the "School Fair," a gather-

ing of "all things St. Pius School" in the main gym. At the school fair, guests can learn about uniforms, the lunch program, extracurricular and enrichment activities, the extended day program, services provided by the Health Office, the Step-by-Step Stewardship program and much more. Website: <https://www.stpiuscatholicsschool.net>.

**It's A Polish Wedding fundraising event to benefit Chiara Home**

**SOUTH BEND** — It's A Polish Wedding fundraising event benefiting Chiara Home will be Saturday, Feb. 2, from 5-10 p.m. at the Holy Family Parish Center, 56405 Mayflower Rd. Enjoy a wedding reception dinner complete with Polish food, open bar, along with along with lots of dancing (including Polkas). The evening will feature a surprise bride and groom chosen from the crowd, honeymoon cash, wedding gifts drawn from the "hopper," music by the DJ Sound FX, and more. Tickets are \$40/person. RSVP by Jan. 25 by calling 574-287-5435 or email [development@chiarahomerespite.org](mailto:development@chiarahomerespite.org).

**Theology on Tap - Sexual Abuse Crisis: What Can We Do?**

**MISHAWAKA** — Theology on Tap, A Catholic speaker series where young adults in their 20s & 30s, single and married, can share in food, fellowship and faith will begin the series: "Confronting a Broken World." Join Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades Tuesday, Feb. 5, for the topic, "Sexual Abuse Crisis: What Can We Do?" at the Mishawaka

Columbus Club, 114 W. 1st St. Visit [www.diocesefwsb.org/tot-sb](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/tot-sb) or contact Sean Allen at 574-234-0687 [sallen@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:sallen@diocesefwsb.org).

**Little Flower Holy Hour**

**FORT WAYNE** — Pray for vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life on the first Tuesday of each month from 7-8 p.m. at the Mother Theodore Guerin chapel. Tuesday, Feb. 5, will feature Father Thomas Shoemaker. For information, contact Christine Nix at [cbonahoomix@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:cbonahoomix@diocesefwsb.org).

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend**

**AUBURN** — Take your marriage to the next level. The next Weekend is scheduled for Jan. 25-27, in Auburn. To see more information go to [wwme.org](http://wwme.org) or [wwme-ni.org](mailto:wwme-ni.org), or call 260-422-0803.

**St. John Vianney's incorruptible heart at Notre Dame**

**NOTRE DAME** — As a part of a national tour with the Knights of Columbus, the Incorruptible Heart of St. John Vianney will be at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart Sunday, Jan. 27, from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. There will be Mass at 10 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. as well as solemn vespers at 7:15 p.m. The relic will be available for personal devotion outside of those hours. Website: <https://www.kofc.org/en/events/vianney.html#/>.

## REST IN PEACE

**Decatur**  
Edward L. Hammond, Jr., 72, St. Mary of the Assumption

Rita Bookmyer, 86, St. Jude

Gerald Schuckel, 83, St. Vincent de Paul

**Fort Wayne**  
James Heimberger, 74, St. Charles Borromeo

**Granger**  
Timothy Gilbride, 52, St. Pius X

Stephanie Sienkiewicz, 95, St. Jude

**Huntington**  
Margaret C. Scher, 82, SS. Peter and Paul

June Guthier, 103, St. Jude

**Mishawaka**  
Sister M. Raphael Kochert OSF, 84, Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration

Bernadette Swiss, 94, St. Jude

**South Bend**  
Margaret Yorey, 85, Christ the King  
Frank Ieraci, 84, Holy Family

Robert J. Bella, 88, Holy Family

**Sister Louise Schroeder, 93,** Church of the Immaculate Conception, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Sister served at St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne.

Visit [www.todayscatholic.org/event](http://www.todayscatholic.org/event) for the complete calendar.



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