



# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

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BY CINDY WOODEN

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (CNS) — In an officially Muslim nation where Christians are welcomed as guest workers and free to worship, Pope Francis urged leaders of the world's main religions to embrace a broader vision of freedom, justice, tolerance and peace.

Addressing the interreligious Human Fraternity Meeting in Abu Dhabi Feb. 4, Pope Francis said all those who believe in one God also must believe that all people are their brothers and sisters and demonstrate that belief in the way they treat others, especially minorities and the poor.

The Human Fraternity Meeting, which brought together some 700 religious leaders from Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Sikh, Hindu and other religious communities, was a centerpiece of Pope Francis' visit. The meeting was sponsored by the

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CNS photo/Paul Haring

**Pope Francis and Sheik Ahmad el-Tayeb, grand imam of Egypt's al-Azhar mosque and university, exchange documents during an interreligious meeting at the Founder's Memorial in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Feb. 4.**

## Assisi Young Adult Conference will encourage spiritual growth, networking

BY KEVIN KILBANE

**A**Catholic young adult can sometimes feel isolated. Friends may have drifted away from practicing their faith. At Mass, families and older adults may fill the pews.

Catholic young adults are out there, though. The Assisi Young Adult Conference plans to bring them together for spiritual growth, networking and support March 2-3 in Achatz Hall at the University of Saint Francis, 2701 Spring St. in Fort Wayne.

Organizers hope participants leave with "a deeper sense of their own identity in Christ and kind of that they are on a mission in our own community," said Eliese Kurtzweg, 23, the conference director and a December nursing degree graduate from USF.

The is the first year for the



conference, which is open to young adults, ages 18-35, from throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The schedule features a number of speakers, including Leah Darrow, a former contestant on the TV show "America's Next Top Model." The conference concludes with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, followed by a brunch reception.

Kurtzweg said she's always had a passion for sharing her Catholic faith with others. The idea for the conference grew out of a pilgrimage visit she made last winter to Assisi, the hometown of St. Francis of Assisi in central Italy.

"I was really captivated by the way St. Francis evangelized. I think, first, he kind of fell in love with God," she said. "He was

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# St. Vincent de Paul to coordinate re-entry programs for former prisoners

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As the Society of St. Vincent de Paul continues to evolve into an organization that asks why the people it serves are poor, one unavoidable answer is imprisonment.

The organization learned that "30 percent of those going to food pantries in our service area are formerly incarcerated individuals, or families of formerly incarcerated individuals," said Jim Wachuta of Des Moines, Iowa, the chair of the society's national prison re-entry task force. That number, he added, is in line with national statistics.

One more stark example Wachuta gave: "The Boys & Girls Clubs in Atlanta report that 50 percent of the single mothers of the children in their program have an incarcerated spouse."

It is because of those kinds of figures that group is about to debut its Immersion re-entry program for former prisoners. Wachuta, speaking after a St. Vincent de Paul open meeting Feb. 2 as part of the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington, told Catholic News Service his task force had become aware of about five chapters that had a "returning-citizen" ministry. Then, while in Washington, they learned of a sixth, in Denver.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was one of the co-sponsors of the Feb. 2-5 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, as were 15 other Catholic organizations and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development and seven other USCCB departments.

The Immersion program has eight principles:

— Supporting healthy relationships at home and work; and providing a program with "a true national presence."



CNS photo/Go Nakamura, Reuters

**The exterior of Metropolitan Detention Center in the New York City borough of Brooklyn is seen Feb. 2. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul plans to coordinate efforts to help former prisoners re-enter daily life**

— Increasing the organization's capacity to build a larger team.

— Focusing on dignity, work, service, faith; and helping returning citizens "reach their God-given potential at their own pace."

— Walking with former prisoners "as they break the cycle of poverty and reintegrate into their communities."

— Adhering to measurements to detail the success of the program; and supporting partnerships with other local agencies that support the same aims.

"Advocacy is on our list. Advocacy is pretty much everything we do," Wachuta said during the meeting. "It's important for us to advocate in all these areas to improve the conditions of returning citizens."

According to Wachuta, the

federal Bureau of Justice Statistics puts the three-year recidivism rate at 69 percent. But among those helped by the Vincentian programs already in place, the recidivism rate is just 12 percent.

"The Immersion program is what some of our folks are already doing," he said. "It's an alternative support system. Many folks coming out of prison already have a support system. That's wonderful. But many of them don't."

Immersion would dovetail with other St. Vincent de Paul initiatives, such as "Getting Up, Getting Out" and "Neighborhoods of Hope," as well as its "Bridges Out of Poverty" program, which has its own re-entry component, Wachuta said. St. Vincent de Paul, he added, was already "in the top 10 provoking housing to

the homeless. We spend \$75 million just putting people into their beds. There's probably no other rational charity that does more."

If counting utility bill payment and rent subsidies to ward off eviction, he added, the total would approach \$200 million.

With the low U.S. unemployment rate, the national focus given to restoring voting rights to now-released prisoners who served time for felonies and the recently passed First Step Act for criminal justice reform, "the time is now" to put Immersion into practice, Wachuta said.

"I've made poor choices in my life here and there. Jesus said forgive people not seven times but seven times 70," Wachuta said. "I know many of us have been given a second chance. I just ask that we give our brothers and sisters a chance."

## Arabian Peninsula has ancient Christian heritage

BY DALE GAVLAK

JUBAIL, Saudi Arabia (CNS) — As Pope Francis embarks on the first-ever papal visit to the Arabian Peninsula, few may realize that the predominantly Muslim region carries an ancient Christian heritage.

Christians worshiping there today have their antecedents in churches and monasteries hailing from the earliest times of Christianity. St. Paul ministered in Arabia, as recorded in the New Testament.

When Pope Francis visits

Abu Dhabi, one of seven emirates composing the United Arab Emirates, he will be walking in the well-trod footsteps of Christians in centuries past.

The UAE boasts the historical Christian monastery on Sir Bani Yas Island built about A.D. 600. The church there contained private cabins for monks and prayer rooms. Archaeologists found nearly 15 kinds of pottery and glassware, some of which was used in religious ceremonies, according to the UAE's former minister of state for tolerance, Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi.

The archaeological finds at

the monastery highlight the history of various religions and cultures that inhabited the island for thousands of years, said Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, chairman of Abu Dhabi Authority for Tourism and Culture. He said the monastery reflects the richness of the country's history.

Another pre-Islamic Christian monastery and church were discovered at Marawah in southern UAE, dating from the seventh century. Both are thought to have been built by the Assyrian Church of the East, formerly known as the Nestorian Christians.

Although Islam is the state religion and the faith of almost all of the UAE's citizens, numerous modern-day churches exist, and Christians are permitted to practice their faith. However, there are no bells rung to call the faithful to prayer and no crosses can be visible from the street.

Yet, in neighboring Saudi Arabia, public worship of other faiths outside of Islam is prohibited, and Christianity can be practiced only in private homes. This huge country dominating

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# Bishops call Virginia effort to expand abortion ‘vicious,’ ‘horrifying’

RICHMOND, Va. (CNS) — Richmond Bishop Barry C. Knestout said the words “horrific, outrageous, vicious” were “in my heart” when he heard about a measure proposed in the Virginia Legislature to expand “the brutal practice of abortion.”

“We should not be legislating in favor of abortion, let alone third-trimester abortions at all,” he said. “All our actions and decisions should be life-giving.”

Bishop Knestout, Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington and the Virginia Catholic Conference, which represents the state’s bishops on public policy matters, issued statements Jan. 31 about an abortion measure introduced by Del. Kathy Tran of Fairfax, which was tabled by a subcommittee of the House of Delegates in a 5-3 vote Jan. 28.

Remarks in support of the bill made by Tran, a Democrat, and Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, also a Democrat and a former pediatric neurosurgeon, went viral and met with a storm of protest by pro-life leaders.

At a hearing on the bill, Tran confirmed it would allow for an abortion to be performed at delivery. Northam discussed the bill in a radio interview Jan. 27 and was criticized for saying: “If a mother is in labor, I can tell you exactly what would happen. The infant would be delivered. The infant would be kept comfortable. The infant would be resuscitated if that’s what the mother and the family desired, and then a discussion would ensue between the physicians and the mother.”

“This legislation shocks the conscience and is made more egregious by the governor of Virginia suggesting the permissibility of denying care to infants born alive during the abortion,” said the chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

“This senseless disrespect for new human life is horrifying. We join the bishops of Virginia in urging all people of good will to stand up to protect unborn and born infants from legislation that would permit their gruesome deaths,” said the chairman,



Austin Jennings, a member of the Students for Life at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Va., joins

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas.

The abortion measure in Virginia followed the signing into law of an expansion of abortion in New York state, fully backed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Catholic, and met with an outcry by the state’s Catholic bishops and calls by some that Cuomo be excommunicated.

In his statement, Bishop Burbidge said the Virginia bill “rightly failed,” but added, “I am, along with so many people of goodwill, distraught that this bill was introduced in the first place. It could have paved the way for babies to suffer a violent and gruesome death moments before birth and could have been harmful to women.”

He added, “My hope is that this bill failed because the elected officials of the state legislature recognized that it was an evil and impermissible offense to human life and our collective decency.”

“Tran’s bill would have expanded the state’s abortion law by loosening restrictions on third-trimester abortions that are currently allowed in order to take into account the risk of the preg-

nancy to the mother’s “physical or mental safety.” Tran wanted to remove existing language that says third-trimester abortions are allowed only if the risk to the mother’s life is “substantial and irremediable.”

It also would have required only one doctor to sign off before the procedure is performed; now three must sign off. Also under Tran’s bill second-trimester abortions could take place outside state-licensed hospitals.

“There is no place in a civil society for this sort of thought and action,” Bishop Knestout said in his statement. “Equally disheartening and reprehensible are the comments made by Virginia’s governor and the legislator who proposed such a bill. The discussion a mother and doctor should have is in the best interest of the child as to how we can preserve and not destroy life.”

Bishops Knestout and Burbidge, along with the Virginia Catholic Conference, called on all Catholics in the state to be vigilant about the bills put forth by their elected officials and to urge them to protect human life at all stages, especially the lives of “those children whose lives are at risk even during the process of birth,” as Arlington’s bishop said.

“This is a critical moment in the life of our Church and our society,” Bishop Burbidge said.

“Now more than ever, it’s important to raise our voices when we see such threats and injustices on the most vulnerable in our society,” Bishop Knestout said.



CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn

A woman holds a pro-life sign during the 2019 annual March for Life rally in Washington Jan. 18.



## Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, February 10: 10:30 a.m. — Concluding Mass for Diocesan World Youth Day Youth Conference, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne

Monday, February 11: 9 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, Marian High School, Mishawaka

Thursday, February 14: 5:30 p.m. — Annual Scholarship Dinner for Ave Maria University, Ave Maria, Florida

Friday, February 15: Meeting of Board of Trustees of Ave Maria University, Ave Maria, Florida

Saturday, February 16: 3:30 p.m. — Question and Answer Session, Rekindle the Fire Men’s Conference, Century Center, South Bend, with Mass at 4:30 p.m.

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A woman visits the ancient Jubail church in Saudi Arabia Jan. 19. The ruins date back to the fourth century, making it one of the country’s oldest churches.

## ARABIAN, from page 2

the land mass of the Arabian Peninsula also hosted a number of Christian churches and bish- oprics in centuries past.

One of the country’s oldest churches dating back to the fourth century is found near the eastern town of Jubail. It, too, originally belonged to the Assyrian Church of the East.

Discovered in 1986, the mud-brick structure was covered in sand when a dune buggy reportedly crashed into the structure and subsequent digging found the ancient worship place deco-

rated with crosses.

Although there are only partial remains of some walls to ancient structure and the crosses have been covered over with cement, the Jubail church signifies an important part of the historic Christian presence in Arabia.

There are numerous other church ruins in Saudi Arabia, including one outside the capital, Riyadh, and in Jeddah. Archaeologists also discovered Christian monuments from the fifth and sixth centuries and inscriptions in Najran.

# Diocesan schools train teachers in suicide prevention

BY JENNIFER MILLER

**A**ny guess on the second-leading cause of death for people ages 10-34 in the U.S.? Surprisingly, suicide.

Pam Schena, guidance counselor at Holy Family and St. John the Baptist schools in South Bend, noted that suicide continues to be a taboo subject in modern culture. "There is a mistaken belief that if we talk about suicide, we're putting the idea into a person's mind," she said. "What we need to do is be willing to talk not only about suicide but also about the stressors, the beliefs or the mental health issues that drive a person to believe suicide is the only option."

"Any average person can save a life just by asking how you can help, by offering support and by helping those who are struggling to connect with needed resources," she continued. "It doesn't take any special training to ask a person if he or she is thinking about suicide. In simply asking, we can help to open the door to saying, 'I need help.' ... We are saying, 'you are more valuable than any problem you may have and I am here for you.'"

Children as young as 8 and 10 years old, of all faith backgrounds, are currently dying due to suicide. Indiana leads the nation in the number of high school-aged students considering and choosing suicide, and



Photo by Chinh Le Duc on Unsplash

**To confront the growing trend of death by suicide among young people and even children, and in accordance with Catholic teaching, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has trained teachers and staff in every school to recognize, intervene and support potentially susceptible students.**

in 2016, it took the lives of 436 children — an average of more than one per day.

The support and protection of all human life is intrinsic to Catholic belief. All people are loved and valued, simply for who they are. Made in the image and likeness of God, all people, regardless of age, ability, race, gender, finances, beliefs or back-

ground, are important, loved and good. Going forward, it's a message children in schools of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will hear more often.

In 2017, Indiana House Bill No. 1430, a suicide awareness and prevention bill, became law. It compels all schools to require that teachers, administrators, staff and other appropriate school employees who work with grades five-12 to attend or participate in evidence-based in-service youth suicide awareness and prevention training every three years.

Because teachers and educational professionals are around students five days a week, they are ideal adults to help prevent

such a final decision.

Schena chose QPR Institute: Gatekeeper Training, a peer reviewed, accredited, effective program to educate and share with her professional peers. QPR stands for "Question, Persuade and Refer," three simple steps anyone can learn in order to help save a life in the midst of a suicidal crisis. It can be adapted for any professional or person to use.

Schena felt the QPR program was helpful in "creating a common language to speak the same message, across the diocese" in assisting students. She first received a grant to receive the training herself. Then, working with the administrative team of

the Catholic Schools Office and Mindy Cochran, life skills counselor at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne, a schedule was created to visit every diocesan school in just a few short months this past summer and early fall. Each one was a part of and trained in this vital program.

Marsha Jordan, superintendent of Catholic schools, was grateful for the useful and timely training. "We deal with all of the aspects of a student's life," she said, adding that the Catholic manner of educating is to form the whole person.

"How to respond to a student contemplating suicide is a vital training to provide. Our two counselors, Pam Schena and Mindy Cochran, were trained to be able to, in turn, provide the necessary training to the 10,000-plus educators in the diocese — a huge undertaking. Even students in elementary school have been assisted because of this training."

Schena hopes in the future that, "We continue to discuss where we go from here. We will continue to provide prevention and intervention training for staff and faculty. We have also had many schools ask about prevention programs and education for students. I believe the Catholic Schools Office is reviewing the best approach for these types of services for our students. Personally, my hope is that we have opened the conversation and will continue to be prepared to step in and help anyone we see struggling."

**More information** on QPR can be found at QPR Institute | Practical and Proven Suicide Prevention Training or by contacting Schena at pschena@hfssb.org.

## Bishop says Pakistani woman acquitted of blasphemy will live in Canada

TORONTO (CNS) — Asia Bibi, the Catholic woman who spent eight years on death row in Pakistan, will be welcomed to a small town in Canada, where she will be reunited with her two teenage daughters, along with the family who aided and protected her daughters in Lahore while the mother sat in jail through years of legal appeals. The location of Bibi's daughters and their family friends must remain secret for now, a Canadian bishop who has worked on bringing Bibi to Canada told *The Catholic Register*, Canadian Catholic weekly. "It's real life and death stuff," said the bishop. "There is a possibility that a militant Islamic group could come after her here." On Jan. 29, the Supreme Court of Pakistan rejected a final attempt to have Asia Bibi retried on blas-

phemy charges that stem from a 2009 argument between Bibi and fellow farm workers, who accused her of drinking from the same cup as her Muslim co-workers. Under Pakistani law, insulting the prophet Muhammad is a capital offense. With news of the Pakistani court's decision, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau revealed Canada has offered asylum to Bibi and her husband, Ashiq Masih, and that the offer has been accepted.

## Pro-lifers urged to be aggressive, fight abortion on 'many fronts'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Abortion has been prominent in the news cycle for most of January as many state legislatures scrambled to get various measures passed near the anniversary of the landmark Roe v. Wade decision, and controversy still swirled about an incident between young March for Life attendees and marchers at another demonstration in Washington. Lawyer Thomas

Brejcha, president and chief counsel for the pro-life Thomas More Society, gave a telephone interview to Catholic News Service Jan. 25 to discuss the current legal landscape surrounding abortion, how current court and legislative battles fit into that landscape, and his hopes for the pro-life movement going forward. "We have to be as aggressive as possible on as many fronts as possible," Brejcha said, noting how legal precedent indicates the abortion issue has been "anything but settled" since Roe v. Wade, which was decided in 1973. In the past year, Brejcha noted, the pro-life movement lost some key battles but scored a significant victory with the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. Kavanaugh, a former D.C. Circuit judge, who was nominated to the bench by President Donald Trump in May 2018, proved to be a polarizing figure as the interests of both pro-lifers and of supporters of legal abortion recognized he would provide a "swing vote" that could overturn standing abortion precedent.

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# Bill would protect conscience rights of health care professionals

**A**s a family practice physician and a devout Catholic, Andrew Mullally runs a medical office that is unabashedly pro-life.

That's why prospective patients are told up-front what he and his team cannot provide them, including any services or referrals related to contraception or abortion. The Fort Wayne-based practice is clearly a rarity in today's world, but Mullally firmly believes that no one in the health care field should be forced to engage in activities that violate their personal convictions.

His dedication to this issue brought him to the Indiana General Assembly last week, where he testified in favor of legislation that would expand conscience protection rights related to abortion across a broader range of health care professionals. While current state law applies only to physicians and hospital employees, Senate Bill 201 would extend conscience protection to nurses, pharmacists and other health care professionals licensed in Indiana. The bill would prohibit any health care provider from being required to perform an abortion or assist or participate in procedures intended to result in an abortion if the provider objects on ethical, moral or religious grounds.

"This bill is essential to close a vulnerability in our current conscience protection laws in Indiana," said Mullally, who

operates privately owned Credo Family Medicine, affiliated with the Dr. Jerome Lejeune Catholic Medical Guild of Northeast Indiana. "Traditionally, health care has been provided primarily by physicians. But due to the shortage of physicians and the rise of newer education models for health care providers, we now live in an age where a significant amount of health care services are provided by non-physicians. Physician assistants, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, and allied health professionals all play a valuable role in the health care team and are increasingly being called on to take a managing role in the care of patients. This is a new and rapidly expanding change to the health care climate, and it's vital that our laws keep up."

Mullally and other supporters of Senate Bill 201 described this expanding "scope of practice" in the health care field during a Jan. 30 Senate health committee hearing. The bill's primary author, Sen. Liz Brown (R-Fort Wayne), noted that the state's current conscience protection laws have been in place for at least 25 years and that they must be changed to adapt to the times.

"A lot of nurse practitioners and physician assistants have prescribing authority today, and they can prescribe a full list of drugs that previously only doctors could prescribe," Brown said.

## INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

She cited the example of RU 486, the so-called "abortion pill," which has offered an alternative to surgical abortion since its introduction in the United States in 2000. The combination of medications is intended to terminate a pregnancy at up to 10 weeks. There have been numerous cases of prescribers and pharmacists objecting to prescribing and dispensing the medicine.

"We are not about preventing access to care, but anyone who has a moral or religious objection to being involved in abortion should not have to violate their conscience," said Brown, who represents Senate District 15 and is a member of St. Jude Catholic Church in Fort Wayne. "This bill is important to anybody who believes in the sanctity of life."

The Indiana Catholic Conference supports the bill. Representing the ICC before the Senate committee, Glenn Tebbe cited the availability of medication abortion as a prime example for the need to update state conscience protection law.

"Because of the expansion of abortion methods, it is necessary to provide expanded conscience protection for health care providers," said Tebbe, executive director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. "When Indiana law was established, RU 486 was not available. It is time to add pharmacists and other health care providers to those protected in law from being forced to violate their conscience."

"The Church teaches that one is obligated to follow one's conscience, and that citizens are not obligated to follow civil authority if it is contrary to moral order, the rights of people, or the Gospel," Tebbe continued. "Besides a moral duty, this is a basic human right."

Brown said she believes the bill has support in her Republican caucus and that she considers Indiana a pro-life state. No one spoke in opposition to the bill during last week's hearing, although there were questions regarding whether the list of health care providers was too broad in scope.

As she and other proponents of the bill wait for a committee vote to be scheduled, they continue to watch developments in other states.

New York has made headlines since the passage last month of the Reproductive Health Act, signed into law on the 46th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade



**SEN. LIZ BROWN**

Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. In addition to making late-term abortion permissible for almost any reason, it allows nurse practitioners, physician assistants and licensed midwives to perform abortions.

For Mullally, whose parents are both physicians and whose example of helping people inspired him to become a doctor himself, these changes are extremely troubling.

"Once someone is 'allowed' to do something (in their respective profession), for some employees it will be what they're expected to do," he said. "This is happening in real time, and something like what's occurring in New York can have repercussions through all the states. Being pro-life in medicine, we run an uphill battle every day. That is why it's so important to expand the conscience protection rights of people in this changing climate."

A vote on Senate Bill 201 is expected in the Senate health committee in the coming weeks.

To follow this and other priority legislation of the ICC, visit [www.indianacc.org](http://www.indianacc.org).

## Denver archbishop urges Colorado Catholics to fight passage of sex-ed bill

DENVER (CNS) — Colorado lawmakers are considering a bill to require all public schools and charter schools "to either use a comprehensive sex-ed curriculum that contradicts human nature and is inconsistent with Christian values, or to provide no instruction on sexuality at all," Denver's archbishop said in a letter read at all Masses Jan. 27. Legislators held a hearing Jan. 30 on the Comprehensive Human Sexuality Education bill, or H.B.19-1032. Its main sponsors are Democratic Rep. Susan Lontine, Democratic Sen. Nancy Todd and Republican

Sen. Don Coram. "We know that God made us male and female, in his image and likeness, but the comprehensive curriculum route which most schools will likely adopt teaches innocent children this is not true," Denver Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila said. "Specifically, public schools would have to promote abortion as an equal option to life, and parents wouldn't be notified before lessons were presented on

gender-identity and sexual orientation," he added. "Each of us must do our part to fight this legislation." In the letter, released the first day of Catholic Schools Week in the U.S. Church, the archbishop said the "work of Catholic schools cooperating with parents in forming the minds, hearts and souls of our children plays a key role in the future of our church and society."

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## Cardinal Dolan criticizes Cuomo for 'stinging criticism' of Church

NEW YORK (CNS) — New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan in a Sirius XM broadcast Jan. 29 criticized Gov. Andrew Cuomo for his "stinging criticism of the Catholic Church" in singling out Catholics over the crisis surrounding the sexual abuse of minors. He really caricatured the Church and only the Church, singling it out for the sexual abuse of minors and contesting that we were the ones that had blocked the Child Victims Act," Cardinal Dolan told Father Dave Dwyer, co-host of "Conversation With Cardinal Dolan," which airs every Tuesday afternoon on Sirius XM's The Catholic Channel. "And then misquoting, taking out of context, Pope Francis, and to flaunt his dissent from established Church teaching and to use all that as an applause line," the cardinal said of the governor. He was referring to Cuomo's State of the State address in which he cited his own Catholic faith and Pope Francis and at the same time emphasized his full backing of a bill — now signed into law — to radically expand abortion access in the state. Cuomo also criticized the state's Catholic bishops for their earlier opposition to the Child Victims Act, also now a law. The new law makes it easier for abuse victim-survivors to sue. The bishops did support the final measure because it included both private and public institutions. Earlier versions only targeted the Church. Cuomo also criticized the Catholic bishops in a news conference and radio interview Jan. 28 claiming that despite the teachings of Christ about "truth and justice," the bishops resisted justice for victims and had worked to event to protect the Church over doing justice."

## CARA survey shows uptick in number of men, women taking perpetual vows

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When you head to Mass this Sunday, chances are you will hear the intention "an increase in vocations to the religious life" lifted up before the gifts are presented. A recent survey suggests those prayers might be getting answered. The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University, a non-profit that conducts and publishes social-science research on the Catholic Church, just released findings of a national survey of men and women who in 2018 professed perpetual vows in monasteries, provinces or religious congregations based in the United States, and the results suggest an increasing number of Catholics are willing to pursue this kind of obligation. Senior research associate Mary Gautier told CNS in a phone interview

# NEWS BRIEFS

## Black History Month Mass



CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

A man flashes the peace sign during an annual Mass celebrated for Black History Month Feb. 3 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. The liturgy, sponsored by the Archdiocese of New York's Office of Black Ministry, was celebrated in observance of the National Day of Prayer for the African-American and African Family.

that CARA "(was) able to identify 240 persons" taking perpetual vows, "up from 200 the last time we did the survey." According to a news release, CARA reached respondents by contacting major superiors — leaders of religious institutes — belonging to the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious or the Conference of Major Superiors of Men. The full report can be found on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' website at <https://bit.ly/2UxdFPJ>.

## Steinfels: No one did thorough review of grand jury report

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Upon hearing in August of the findings of a Pennsylvania grand jury about how Catholic clergy abused children and young people, veter-

an journalist Peter Steinfels was shocked and appalled. The former *New York Times* religion reporter and former editor of *Commonweal* magazine had little disagreement with most of the documentation on the abuse allegations, although he wondered what prompted the grand jury to conclude that six of Pennsylvania's eight Catholic dioceses acted "in virtual lockstep" to cover up abuse allegations and dismiss alleged victims over the course of seven decades. He also was troubled by what he found to be incomplete work by journalists who covered the report's release. Steinfels investigated and concluded that the grand jury report largely overlooked Church documents and "misrepresented" that "the church was dismissing the needs of victims suffering the abuse and the long-lasting effects of that." He detailed his concerns in a 12,000-word essay posted Jan. 14 on the *Commonweal* web-

site and appearing in the magazine's Jan. 25 print edition.

There were times, Steinfels discovered, when the Church did not respond in a compassionate manner to abuse victims' claims. But for the grand jurors to say there was a blanket policy to dismiss the victims in order to protect the reputation of clergy and the Church is inaccurate, he said. Of note was that the report did not place into context that Church authorities had received a third or more of the alleged crimes documented in the report just since 2002, the year the U.S. bishops adopted the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People." The charter mandates automatic removal from ministry when a priest or other Church worker is accused of abuse. He also said the grand jury report did not mention how the count of 301 alleged abusers — mostly priests but also other Church

## Ex-agents in Poland face charges for framing Blessed Jerzy Popieluszko

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Polish prosecutors have charged three former communist secret police agents with attempting to frame Blessed Jerzy Popieluszko before they abducted and murdered him. The three were among four men convicted of Blessed Popieluszko's murder; all four were released early after controversial sentence revisions. Marcin Golebiewicz, an official with the Commission for Investigating Crimes against the Polish Nation, said the agents faced up to three years' jail if convicted of creating false evidence under penal and criminal code provisions against "communist crimes and crimes against humanity." His statement, published Jan. 28 by Poland's official National Remembrance Institute, said the agents illegally entered Father Popieluszko's apartment and left "ammunition, explosives, leaflets and publications. This behavior constituted, at the time of its execution, an act of repression and persecution against a priest for political and religious motives," the statement said.

## Gift of fidelity in marriage, priesthood is possible, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Unity and fidelity are indispensable cornerstones of Christian marriage, Pope Francis said. Having two people generously come together as one and pledge lifelong faithful love must be not only "adequately explained to future newlyweds," these values also require the pastoral care of the Church's ministers and members, the pope said, addressing members of the Roman Rota, a tribunal handling mostly marriage cases. In fact, married couples who live their marriage "in generous unity and with faithful love" are "a precious pastoral help to the Church" and offer everyone "an example of true love," he said Jan. 29 in an audience marking the inauguration of the Vatican court's judicial year. These important role models teach in silence, he said, and unfortunately, "don't make headlines while scandals, separations and divorce make the news." Today's increasingly secularized world, he said, "does not favor the growth of faith, resulting in the Catholic faithful struggling to give witness to a lifestyle according to the Gospel, including with regards to the sacrament of marriage."

# WORLD YOUTH DAY

## Panama — 2019



**Deacon Daniel Niezer and diocesan seminarians Samuel Anderson, Brian Florin, Logan Parrish, Joseph Knepper and Benjamin Landigan pose in a colorful Panamanian sign located on the edge of the Pacific Ocean. All six men are currently receiving their formation at Mount St. Mary's Seminary.**



**Deacons Daniel Niezer and José Arroyo Acevedo serve at Mass with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at St. Joseph Church in Casco Antiguo (Old City).**



**Before the events of World Youth Day began, pilgrims from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend were able to explore and enjoy some of the local flavor of Panama including the Panama Canal and Gamboa Rainforest. Pilgrims toured a sloth sanctuary, a habitat for butterflies and frogs and were taken through the river of the canal on a boat tour. During the tour, the boats pulled up alongside the natural habitat of various wildlife including monkeys, alligators, iguanas, sloths and numerous types of birds.**

## The graces of a pilgrimage

*By Stephanie A. Patka*

*Pilgrims from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend were among 600,000 people gathered together for the Vigil of the Pope in Panama on Saturday, Jan. 26. During the vigil, pilgrims heard a speech from the Holy Father, various testimonies of young people and musical performances, and prayed with the Blessed Sacrament before sleeping in an open-air field. This nightlong event would culminate the next morning with a Mass celebrated by Pope Francis, a high point of the World Youth Day celebration.*

*Through the lens of these large-scale events, it could be an easy conclusion to draw that World Youth Day was solely an opportunity for pilgrims to participate in large, spiritually fulfilling events within an international community. The 2019 Panamanian World Youth Day pilgrimage proved to be much more. It was an invitation for each participant to consider how they might attain all the graces intended for them on the journey.*

*It is a beautiful moment when a pilgrim can walk into a church and be moved to prayer and reverence by the beauty of the art and religious artifacts. However, many times, the graces of a pilgrimage arrive in unsuspecting ways, because Jesus calls each pilgrim to encounter Him in unique moments. Encounters with Jesus happen at large events, through shared community and prayer. Taking the opportunity to fully participate and intentionally sharing your story when you arrive back at home also allows for spiritual growth and maturity. There are also graces to be found in the encounter of those around you and in the embrace of any suffering or hardship that a pilgrim might encounter. Father Matthew Coonan, at the last Mass the participants celebrated together in Panama, shared in his homily that God will speak to us and we will know, because He will whisper. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and the pilgrims of the diocese exuded joy as they entered into the community of pilgrims to embrace the journey and the graces of the 2019 World Youth Day in Panama.*

## 'I want to bring back the message of happiness'

**T**he theme of World Youth Day in 2019 was "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." This simple "yes" from Mary, the mother of Jesus, is an act of faith. It demonstrates an openness to God's bigger plan in the lives of His children. There were many opportunities for pilgrims to reflect on this theme, as well as employ it in practical ways, during the 10-day pilgrimage to Panama.

Dane Litchfield, a senior at Bellmont High School and parishioner of St. Mary of the Assumption, Decatur, had the opportunity to say "yes" to a larger participation in World Youth Day events. During the Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis, Litchfield was chosen to read the reflection of the 12th Station. Another pilgrim from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Renate Kurtzwieg, Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne, was chosen from the delegation to carry the cross at the same station.

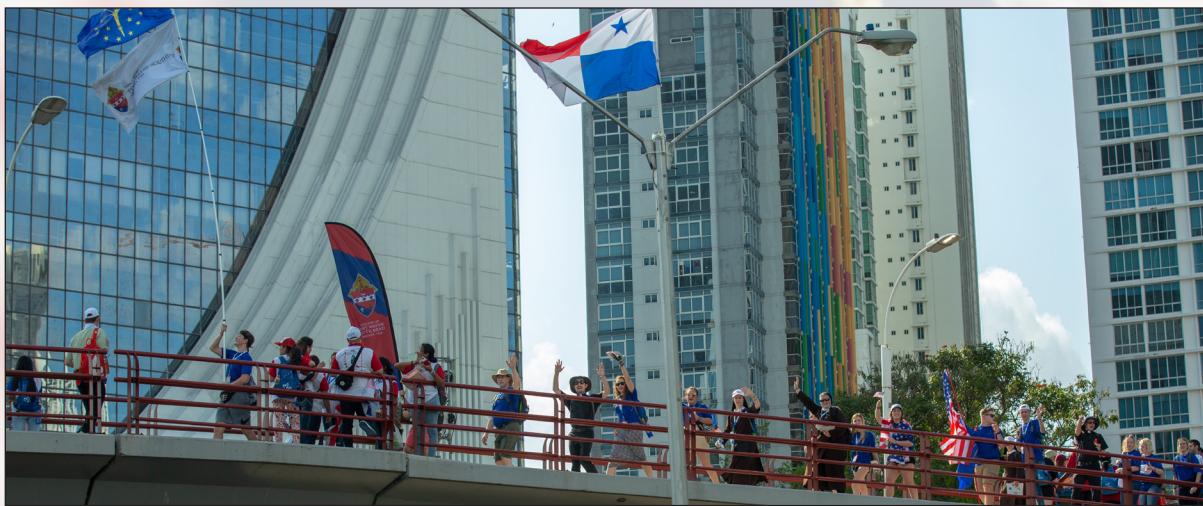
Litchfield had already given his "yes" in service to several diocesan retreats, events and World Youth Day formation meetings, helping in whatever

way possible. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops also contacted the diocese looking for youth to participate in events and liturgies, and Litchfield was extremely excited to be nominated.

He credited his decision to travel to World Youth Day in Panama to a Holy Cross College retreat, Saints and Scholars, which he first attended in 2016. "It was such a powerful experience for me because it really tied together the academic study of theology and the spiritual side of my faith. Ever since then, that fire that was instilled in me kept driving me forward."

More than a "yes" to just being open deeper spiritual growth and pursuing a future in theological studies, Litchfield described the profundity of his experience in adoration during the retreat. "I just kept sitting there asking God, 'Why me? Why choose me?' I just kept hearing in the back of my head, 'I am with you' over and over again. The song 'You Are Mine' started playing with the refrain 'Do not be afraid, I am with

**LITCHFIELD, page 9**



**Diocesan pilgrims traveling to the Opening Mass of World Youth Day donned their navy blue shirts with the theme of World Youth Day, "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Joyfully they raised banners of the diocese, as well the flag of Indiana to help guide pilgrims in the right direction amidst the chaotic and congested crowds.**



Provided by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

**Bishop Rhoades is all smiles as he poses with brothers Father Terrence Coonan, pastor at St. Therese Little Flower in South Bend, left, and Father Matthew Coonan, pastor at St. Vincent de Paul in Elkhart, along the landscape of the highway. The weather in Panama reached temperatures of 85 degrees or more with a humidity of at least 70 percent during the trip, sometimes requiring more casual attire.**



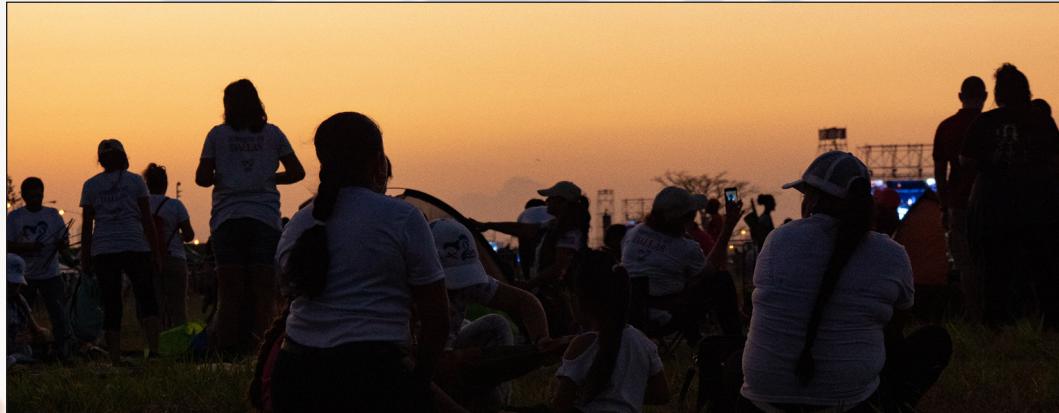
**In the evening, pilgrims regrouped at the Marriott Hotel to process the events of the day. Father Matthew Coonan prompted the small groups to consider and talk about what blessings they witnessed and identify the graces that they experienced along the way, despite any hardships that they might've encountered. A powerful moment of community was experienced through this 'prayer tunnel.' Pilgrims formed this tunnel and each person had the opportunity to walk through as other pilgrims would momentarily lay hands on each person and lift them up in prayer.**



**Pilgrims gather in front of the altar for a photo after Bishop Rhoades celebrated Mass on the feast of St. Agnes at the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Many times, locals from Panama and other pilgrims would join the diocesan contingent for Mass, truly embodying the spirit of the communion of saints.**



Bishop Rhoades concelebrated Mass with Cardinal Sean O'Malley at La Merced in Casco Antiguo (Old City) for numerous English-speaking dioceses from the United States. Cardinal O'Malley also played an active role in the Fiat Festival, carrying Jesus in a monstrance through the conference center during Adoration with Bishop Robert Barron.



Pilgrims settled on tarps and sleeping bags in an open-air field as dusk overtook festivities during Adoration and a Saturday night vigil with Pope Francis.

#### LITCHFIELD, from page 7

you' and since that moment, my life has been bright and full. My heart was everywhere and all I could see is light."

Litchfield saw World Youth Day as an extension of that moment and said that it made it really easy for him to say 'yes' to attend. "I am so inspired by the bigness and the universality of the Church. This is what heaven is going to be like: all these pilgrims coming together, praising Jesus for all of eternity. We are walking among the physical communion of saints right now, here in Panama."

The journey to get to World Youth Day turned out to be an active act of faith for Litchfield, who said that it wasn't easy. He shared his gratitude for the momentous assistance he received from his parish to attend the international event. He wrote articles for his parish bulletin on what he was learning in formation, and slowly, donations began to arrive in the mail

for him. He also worked a part time job at a local Pizza Hut to help underwrite the cost of his trip. "I've learned the value of money, but also of how important it was to be spiritually prepared for this trip."

"Before these experiences in my life, I treated my faith as a textbook with no life. There was no connection or reality for me. But the Saints and Scholars retreat, which opened me up to being willing to say 'yes' to Panama has helped me focus on my relationship with Christ and how very real that is," Litchfield said.

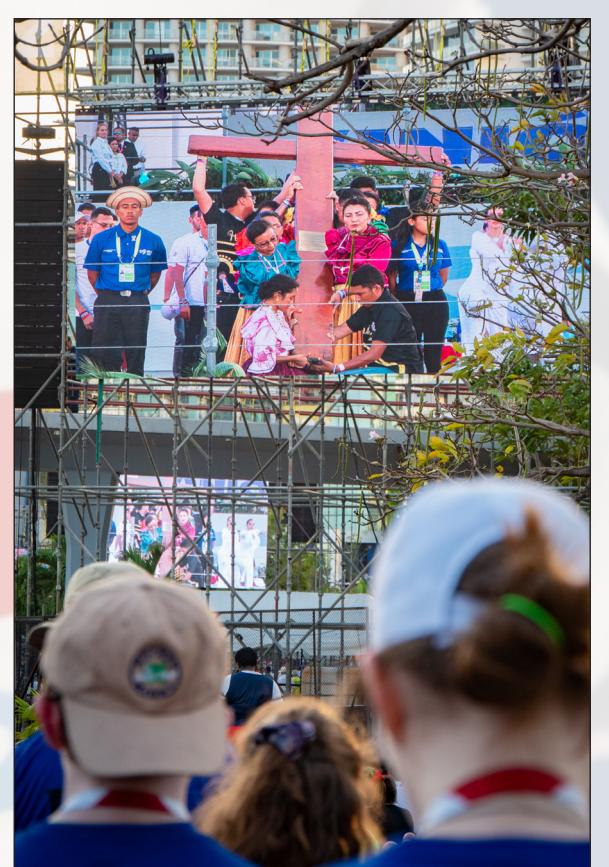
"After World Youth Day, I want to bring back the message of happiness. There is such great joy in the world and sometimes our society grays it out. We need to live this Gospel of Life and combat the culture of death." Litchfield beamed. "The way we can do that is through a culture of life, as we look to what is truly holy in our lives and bring that as joy to other people. Joy is a contagious virtue, and it's my goal to bring it back to Indiana."



Dane Litchfield, right and Victor Gomez take an opportunity to ask about developing a deeper relationship with Mary, the Mother of God, during a question and answer session with The Most Reverend Christopher Prowse, Archbishop of Canberra Goulburn in Australia. The archbishop was the primary speaker during that morning's catechesis session.



Due to narrow space along the highway, pilgrims were assigned specific locations along the ocean to view several large events on a Jumbotron, like the Stations of the Cross and the opening Mass. During Stations of the Cross, pilgrims followed along with the prayers and readings in a World Youth Day-distributed prayer book. Many of events were primarily spoken in Spanish, so pilgrims tuned into stations that helped translate on AM/FM radios.



# Sisters of St. Francis rejoice at being pressed into service at papal Mass

BY STEPHANIE A. PATKA

**A**n unexpected surprise came for four Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration before Mass on Sunday, Jan. 27, at World Youth Day. While standing on tarps laid out from the Vigil of the Pope the night before, a volunteer came up to the sisters and, through a priest interpreter, asked if they would be willing and able to be ministers of holy Communion during the Mass with Pope Francis. "We got very excited," said Sister Mary Grace Richey.

Sister Ignatia Henneberry noted that many sisters, friars and brothers were requested for this role because the volunteers thought that they would know what to do without instruction.

The sisters, along with several sisters of other orders, were escorted after the homily to a pop-up tent shielding several tables of ciboriums from the humid and piercing Panamanian morning sun. "I was picturing priests being at the tents to hold the ciborium for when the hosts were consecrated. But the priest just gave us each one and then we just followed the volunteer to the very back of the fields very far away. I couldn't believe that it was going to be consecrated during the Mass while we held the ciborium in our own hands," she said.

Sister Maria Faustina Herber agreed, with a huge smile on her face. "I was in awe when the hosts were consecrated. I was holding Jesus. I just talked to Him and prayed to Him and He was right there in my hands. I thought, what an honor! I felt like I am not worthy of this and but yet, it was such a blessed gift."

The Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration are a religious order of nuns who came to Indiana at the request of Bishop Joseph Dwenger in 1875. The main charism of the sisters is in the Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Yet, they are visible in their ministry as they combine the contemplative life with the active, serving in selfless acts of service to others in works of mercy. For the



**Sister Maria Faustina Herber distributes communion during Mass Sunday morning with Pope Francis**

four sisters at World Youth Day, distributing Communion to the pilgrims was a particular act of service during the Mass that was especially meaningful.

"In that moment, our adoration was just extended," stated Sister Maria Faustina. "Adoration is an extension of the Mass so we got to adore Him really close up."

She pointed excitedly to her hands. "I got to adore Him when He was right there in such a special way."

During the consecration of the hosts contained in the ciboriums that the sisters held, each sister was placed beside the fence row next to a field of hundreds of thousands of people who were watching the Mass on large Jumbotron screens. As people took shade under umbrellas, scarves, towels and blankets, the sisters noted that it might have been easy to not acknowledge the reality of what was happening only a few yards away from where they were standing. Sister Ignatia said: "I thought about the words of St. Francis as I held Jesus in my hands, 'Love is not loved.' Reflecting on that, I wanted to just focus on Jesus, who was fully present in my hands at that moment and try to fully love Him the way that He deserves."

"In that moment, holding the hosts as they were being consecrated," said Sister Mary Grace. I was thinking about how privileged myself and the other sisters were in being able to serve in this way. It was an extension of our charism of perpetual adoration. We were adoring the

Lord in our hands, and then giving Him to the universal Church. As a religious sister, we want to bring Jesus to people, and during Mass, we were actually able to physically give Jesus to the Church in a very real way."

As the sisters reflected, they mentioned several ways that World Youth Day has taught pilgrims to take Christ to the universal Church. Many times, they would experience pilgrims approaching them and asking for prayer. Sister Ignatia mentioned a story of men from Pakistan who asked for prayers because Christians like them are very persecuted in their country. "You hear these stories and want to make the conscious effort to pray for these people from around the world. It's important to set aside intentional time for intercessory prayer, keeping stories and people in mind and not just making a list."

"You develop a connection with these pilgrims through prayer, talking with them and learning about their culture and experience in their own country," stated Sister Mary Grace. "We hope that our prayer request link on our website receives many more prayer intentions for us to offer up!" The Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration encourages anyone with a prayer intention to submit it at: <http://ssfpa.org/prayer/>.

Sister Maria Faustina recalled the song sung in English at the beginning of Communion during Mass, "We are one Body in Christ."

"One of the ways to bring Christ to others is to be in community with each other. That's why when someone gives me something to pray about for them, I like to stop what I'm doing and pray with them, even when it's inconvenient. It's more powerful and stronger, and doesn't even have to take that long. We are the body of Christ, so whenever there are two or three gathered in His name, there Jesus is also. So we are really never alone."

## World Youth Day offers glimpse of Church's diversity to pilgrims

BY RHINA GUIDOS

PANAMA CITY (CNS) —

Panama City has skyscrapers, bumper-to-bumper traffic and a population of 880,000 within the city limits — more than 1.5 million in the metropolitan area. Yet a group of pilgrims from Indiana found warmth and the diversity of the Catholic Church while attending World Youth Day in the bustling city center.

From encountering friendly and welcoming Uber drivers and watching other pilgrims dance to sharing the Catholic faith and spirit, the experience has been a joyful one, said a group from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. They spoke to Catholic News Service Jan. 23 at the FIAT Festival, an event aimed at U.S. pilgrims.

"It's a unique experience," said Leo Patiño of Warsaw, Indiana, a city of about 14,700. Patiño, attending World Youth Day for the first time, said he had found exactly what Archbishop José Ulloa Mendieta spoke about at the event's opening Mass — the warmth of the Panamanian people.

"Everyone has been very friendly," said 17-year-old Sophia Rodriguez of South Bend.

Even when the group went looking for hard-to-find Mexican food in Panama City, particularly tortillas, which are not a staple food here, Panamanians told them to call ahead of time and they would do what they could to accommodate them.

But one of the biggest benefits has been being able

to mix with pilgrims of other countries and also those who express their lives of faith a little differently.

Alexandra Castañeda, 17, said the Church back home in Ligonier, Indiana, is "more conservative," so it was beautiful to watch other pilgrims express themselves differently, specifically through dance, and she appreciated the "emotion and energy" she saw in them. It was something that was "different" for her, she said.

Rodriguez said it made her realize the variety of styles within the Church, but also the different nationalities that make up Catholicism.

Patiño said being around pilgrims from other countries at World Youth Day has helped him see the Church's richness.

The pilgrims said they met people from New Zealand, Colombia and El Salvador, and even though many of them were Latinos like them, they learned new things and appreciated meeting them.

"It makes you see the differences" in a good way, said Rodriguez.

Eduardo Arroyo, 24, said it was enriching to hear the Uber driver explain about politics and the history of his home country, a place of architectural riches, particularly when it comes to churches.

But the biggest gifts of the week came in the discernment process about what this World Youth Day will mean going forward, said Patiño.

"We're on fire and we're ready to put into practice the words of (Archbishop Ulloa) ... to confront obstacles and break barriers," he said.



Stephanie A. Patka

**A group from Indiana poses for a photo outside the Figali Convention Center in Panama City Jan. 23 at the start of the FIAT Festival, one of the largest events for U.S. pilgrims attending World Youth Day. Coming from smaller cities and towns in Indiana, the World Youth Day experience in a metropolitan city has provided insight into the universal and diverse world of the Catholic faith, they said.**

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend would like to thank Michael O'Sullivan, Motivation Media Inc., for capturing visual images of the stories behind World Youth Day.



**Find more photos and videos at:**  
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[www.facebook.com/worldyouthdayfwsb](http://www.facebook.com/worldyouthdayfwsb)  
[www.facebook.com/motivationmediainc](http://www.facebook.com/motivationmediainc)

# A Wise choice: valuing the sacrament of marriage

BY JENNIFER MILLER

**E**very night I thank God for him and I pray for him. I never thought I'd be this lucky."

Harriet Wise spoke with great love in her voice. She and her husband, Richard, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Sept. 11th, 2018.

Both of South Bend, he from the east side and she from the west side, they were married at St. Hedwig Parish in 1948. Now 91 and 90 years old respectively, they have been parishioners of St. Matthew Cathedral Parish for the last 60 years.

Their joy of simply being with one another is evident.

"Church and prayer have always been No. 1," Harriet explained. She was raised Catholic by her devout Polish immigrant mother, Josephine.

"Every day, once we entered the doorway, we spoke Polish and would say "Praise be Jesus Christ!" and she would reply, "Forever and ever, Amen!"

He was from an old Scotch-Irish immigrant family, but they had similar childhoods. "I think this is why we got along together," he said, smiling, of his bride.

Richard knew he wanted to marry her first. After they had been seeing each other for a while he asked Harriet, "Don't you think you love me enough?" one day.

They met at the Sky-High roller rink on the corner of Lafayette and Wayne St, above a car garage where Richard worked. Harriet was in high school and went with her two older brothers, because for 15 cents they could roller skate to organ music from 7-9:30 p.m. They started dating, but not steadily. He was her date her junior prom at Washington High School. Then, Richard turned 18 and enlisted in the armed services. They corresponded by letter for two years.

## Who is St. Paul and what did he write?

**SOUTH BEND** — The writings of St. Paul can sometimes be confusing. In some places he appears to even contradict himself, to be rigid or to not value women. This can be because the New Testament presents three different versions of St. Paul.

Father Eugene Hensell, OSB, is a monk of St. Meinrad Archabbey and an associate professor of Scripture. He will uncover these different versions and help participants discover the real St. Paul during three nightly presentations at St. Jude Parish, 19704 Johnson Rd., South Bend, Feb. 25-27 from 7-8 p.m.

The presentations are open to the public. For more information contact Heather Bulson at 574-291-0570 or email [faith@stjudeparish.net](mailto:faith@stjudeparish.net).

"At first they (the letters) were very romantic. I didn't date anybody else, but I danced with other fellows," Harriet said. "When he was gone, my girlfriend taught me how to jitterbug and we used to go to sock hops. You would take off your shoes and dance in your socks in the gym."

When Richard returned home four or five months later, he took her out on a date to the roller rink but in Mishawaka, where he was from.

"I told him I preferred dancing now. We would double date with his friend, Alex and his also-Polish girlfriend."

They never went out on Tuesday or Thursday nights, but Harriet didn't know why.

In April of 1948, Harriet's mother passed away suddenly of a heart condition at 46 years old. "It sort of pushed everything," she said. Harriet's father had passed away when she was only 9 years old, and her mother had recently remarried.

During this difficult time, Richard revealed to her that he was becoming Catholic. Every Tuesday and Thursday evening, he was receiving instruction to join the Catholic Church. He had wanted to surprise both her and her mother, so that he and Harriet, too, could be married.

That September, 1948, Richard was received into full communion with the Catholic Church. A week later they were married and he could receive Communion. "That was one of the best parts." His father, a Methodist, would comment about how "they passed the hat too much" at the Catholic Church, but told his son, "If you're going to be a Catholic, be a good one."

"And he sure has been!" exclaimed Harriet. "He goes to church every Sunday and says the rosary every day at St. Matthew. When we can't go and say the rosary there, we say it

## Lutheran choir concert at Basilica of the Sacred Heart

**NOTRE DAME** — The Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame, will host a concert by the National Lutheran Choir at 8 p.m. Feb. 28. Kim André Arnesen's magnificent work for chorus and strings, "Holy Spirit Mass," will be performed.

Between the first and second major movements of the concert, brief reflections will be given by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Bishop William O. Gafkjen of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Indiana-Kentucky Synod. Bishop Rhoades will speak about the Church's commitment to ecumenism and encounter.

Attendance at the concert is free of charge.



Photos provided by Dick and Harriet Wise

**Richard Wise of South Bend was received into full communion with the Catholic Church in September 1948, and a week later married his sweetheart, Harriet. The couple celebrated their 70th anniversary last year at the anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at St. Matthew Cathedral.**

at home. No. 1 is Church and prayer. ... Some men would drink and then go home and you know ... He never cussed at me. When he got mad, he would say, "Hold that thought — and go outside or to the garage. And then one of us would apologize."

"The only piece of advice my mother-in-law ever told me was "It takes two to argue. He can't argue if I keep my mouth shut,"

Harriet recalled. "We lived with them for the first two years. She was a saint. I never heard her say a cross a word about anybody. I couldn't help but love her."

In 1952, they moved into their home near St. Matthew Parish and still live there today. They had two children, Nancy and Rick, Jr., who also live in South Bend. "I was so pleased when



**Prayer, kind speech and realizing the blessing that is the other: These are the things that comprise a recipe for love and a long-lasting marriage, say the couple.**

they were born — and very close to Jesus then."

"We always discussed everything. I was a penny pincher and saved," Harriet explained. "We're tightwads," Richard confirmed with a laugh. "For dates, we would go for a walk in Leeper Park and get a bag of potato chips and bottle of pop and walk and talk. We got along together."

"We always talked everything out. When we bought new windows, which one and when or when we thought about enclosing our front porch, even our water softener," she said, laughing.

One can see the joy from the sacrament and life lived in trust of God's providence in Harriet's demeanor. In the Catholic sacrament of marriage, the husband and wife witness Christ's spousal love for the Church. Man and women were created for each other, as explained in the Book of Genesis in Sacred Scripture. Richard and Harriet demonstrate well their love for God in how they treat and love one another. Through small gestures of touching one another's arm, a loving laugh or smile at a thoughtful memory, they explained how they have fully lived the past 70 years of marriage. "Seventy years is a long time," she said with a grin, "and we do worry more now." But clearly the permanent union of a man and woman capable of knowing, loving and serving God is visibly alive in the marriage of Richard and Harriet Wise.

As the Wises got older, they continued to enjoy one another's company. "We love dancing and musicals at the Morris or going to Amish Acres on Sunday — you know, theater things. He was a part of the golden gang — a bowling league — and we both enjoy working on puzzles." The best part of their day is still just being with each other.

# Building a wall against life

In what Gov. Andrew Cuomo calls a "historic victory for New Yorkers," New York has passed what may be the nation's most extreme and irresponsible abortion law.

Andrea Miller, president of the National Institute for Reproductive Health that favored the law, calls it a "blueprint for change" to be replicated in other states. In a Jan. 23 *Washington Post* column, she says such laws will create "oases," to prepare for possible future Supreme Court decisions allowing more states to be "abortion deserts."

We should understand what this oasis looks like. The new law declares that women have a "fundamental right to access safe, legal abortion," calling abortion itself "a fundamental component of a woman's health, privacy and equality." Women who don't have abortions seem to be second-class citizens.

It expands legal abortions from 24 weeks of pregnancy up to birth, for reasons of "health" (which in the abortion context means emotional and social "well-being," a recipe for abortion on demand). It allows "health care practitioners" other than physicians to perform them.

It also repeals 10 provisions of New York law. Among them: A provision specifying that abortion is legal only with the woman's consent; a law allowing a manslaughter charge against an abortionist who causes the woman's death during an abortion; a law discouraging self-induced (which Miller calls "self-managed") abortions; a law requiring care for a child born alive during

an attempted late-term abortion; a law against providing someone else with a drug or other instrument for the purpose of "unlawfully procuring the miscarriage of a female."

"Abortion rights" groups hailed the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision as protecting women's health and freedom, ensuring that every child born is a wanted child, and putting an end to "back alley" and "coat hanger" abortions. Now these groups would endanger women and born children, allow "back alley" and "coat hanger" abortions, and let callow men obtain abortion drugs to slip into their girlfriends' drinks.

To enhance this irony, Gov. Cuomo pressured the legislature to pass this law by saying he would not sign the state budget unless this were included. So now we have two top executives, of opposing parties, willing to shut down the government unless legislators help them build a wall against the unwanted. In New York the wall is birth, and you may take aim against the unwanted as they approach or even manage to scale the wall.

Miller says this trend will sweep the country. I wonder. She complains that since Roe was decided in 1973, "states have passed more than 1,000 laws against abortion access" — and that trend continues. This past year, for example, voters in Alabama and West Virginia approved amendments declaring that their state constitution contains no "right" to abortion, allowing legislators to protect the unborn to the extent allowed by



## A MORE HUMAN SOCIETY

RICHARD DOERFLINGER

the federal Constitution.

The drive for unlimited "access" to abortion also fails the test of public opinion.

Gallup's May 2018 abortion poll showed only 45 percent of Americans wanting abortion to be legal "for any reason" in the first three months of pregnancy, and only 20 percent in the last three months.

A January 2019 Marist College poll shows 15 percent support for abortion being available "at any time during pregnancy," rising to only 25 percent among those identifying as "pro-choice." The federal bill that a majority of the U.S. Senate recently voted for, banning most abortions after 20 weeks, wins Americans' support in the Marist poll and others.

The New York law is less a blueprint than an object lesson. The "abortion rights" movement now insists that abortion itself has more fundamental rights than women and children do. Let the buyer beware.

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

# Adventure by Catholic terms: 'You were made for greatness'

All afternoon I had been hunkered over my MacBook, perched above a frozen lake and watching the sun cast pink into the clouds. I was thinking about what lie dormant and all the possibility below, waiting to thaw.

My task at hand: editing a cover story about three Catholic families who had taken radical leaps of faith. One couple moved to Costa Rica with their baby to do mission work. One man felt called to head up a floundering radio station. Another family set aside their jobs and rented out their home to embark on a year-long cross-country RV trip, prodded by a sensation many of us recognize.

"Life was starting to rule us, not the other way around," the 40-year-old mom said she had realized one Wednesday evening during her son's karate class. "We felt we were losing time."

Their travel is reshaping them. Worshipping at tiny desert churches and ancient cathedrals has made them appreciate the universal Church. And the time together in tiny quarters, the experience of truly putting family first, has been restorative.

When the year is over, they're determined to apply their lessons from the road. They plan to do a homeschool hybrid — two days at a local charter school and three days at home — rather than the traditional school their



## TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

son had attended. They vow to camp monthly to continue the intense family bonding begun in their RV. And they pledge not to overcommit, to never agree to something on the spot but rather say, "That sounds great; let me get back to you after talking to my spouse."

As I kicked around cover lines for the story, I considered phrases like "leap of faith" and "bold journey." But one word felt most apt, dulling in any paraphrase: adventure. Somehow it contains both courage and motion, stretching long like an open highway.

Webster's defines it as "an exciting or remarkable experience" and "an undertaking usually involving danger." It originates from the colloquial Latin word "adventura," meaning "what must happen," which conjures a sense of destiny — the thing with burning urgency that can no longer be delayed or denied.

That evening my friend

**CAPECCHI page 13**

# Each person who hears the word of Christ has a holy task



## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 5:1-11

The Book of Isaiah is the source of the first reading this weekend. It was composed in a time when tranquility prevailed in the southern Hebrew kingdom of Judah, but dark clouds were forming on the horizon.

Isaiah, believing that God had called him to call the people to obedience to the divine will, warned that if the wayward and listless did not reform, and if the nation did not return to God, then disaster awaited.

No one wanted to turn away from the happy times and good

living for the more restricted life that would pertain if all were faithful to God. Isaiah, despite or perhaps because of being apparently in somewhat a privileged position, was resented.

It was not just that the prophet demanded that people mend their ways: He wrote with determination and even fiery language at times — language much displayed in this reading.

Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians provides the next reading. Paul recalls the death of Jesus and then the Lord's resurrection. He reports that Peter, whom Paul calls "Cephas," using the Greek term, saw Jesus after the resurrection, that James saw Jesus, and that even 500 of those who believed in the Gospel saw the risen Lord.

The reading also is auto-biographical. Paul declares that he himself is an Apostle, having been called by the Lord. However, he calls himself "least" among the Apostles, since he, unlike the others, once persecuted Christ living in the community of Christians.

Unrestrained by this sense

of personal unworthiness, Paul wholeheartedly accepts and responds to this calling. Through him, he devoutly believes, God works the plan of redemption and mercy.

St. Luke's Gospel supplies the last reading. This particular passage shows the fine literary hand at work in the composition of the Gospel of Luke. Each Gospel is a carefully prepared document to assure that readers understand very well the message of Jesus. Here Luke uses the Gospel of Mark as a source, but then he adds details drawn from a source also used by John.

Of course, Jesus is the central figure in the story. The next most important figure is Peter. In this story, Peter, a fisherman, was in his boat on the Sea of Galilee when Jesus embarked. The Lord began to preach to the people assembled on the shore.

Then Jesus told Peter to row into deeper water and lower the nets into the water. Peter mildly protests, but he does as told. The nets are so filled with fish that Peter and his companions have difficulty in pulling the nets

aboard.

Humbly aware of the Lord's power, Peter confesses his own sinfulness. Recognizing Peter's faith, Jesus tells Peter thereafter to fish for souls.

### Reflection

For weeks, since Christmas, the Church has been introducing us, as it were, to Jesus. The great feasts of the Epiphany and of the Baptism of the Lord told us about Jesus.

Now, subtly but firmly, the Church tells us where we meet Jesus today. It is in and through the Church, in which repose the memory and authority of Peter, given by Jesus.

We need God's guidance. We cannot wander from God. The readings firmly say this.

Isaiah, Paul and Peter all saw themselves as unworthy, yet fortified by God's help, they became instruments of redemption. They fulfilled holy tasks.

Each person who hears the word of Christ and is healed and strengthened by Christ's life in grace, has a holy task, even if

they feel unworthy. Each believer has a role in the work of salvation. God calls each of us, and God will give us all that we need truly to be saved from our sins and to serve God.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Is 6:1-2a, 3-8 Ps 138:1-5, 7-8  
Cor 15:1-11 Lk 5:1-11

**Monday:** Gn 1:1-19 Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6,  
10, 12, 24, 35c Mk 6:53-56

**Tuesday:** Gn 1:20—2:4a Ps 8:4-9 Mk  
7:1-13

**Wednesday:** Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17 Ps  
104:1-2a, 27-30 Mk 7:14-23

**Thursday:** Gn 2:18-25 Ps 128:1-5  
Mk 7:24-30

**Friday:** Gn 3:1-8 Ps 32:1-2, 5-7 Mk  
7:31-37

**Saturday:** Gn 3:9-24 Ps 90:2-6,  
12-13 Mk 8:1-10

# The internet and Satan's game

**B**y now the entire country has seen a video of a supposedly racist confrontation, in front of the Lincoln Memorial, between a grinning young high school student and a Native American elder, chanting and beating a drum. The immediate and ferocious judgment of the internet community was that the boy was effectively taunting and belittling the elder, but subsequent videos from wider angles as well as the young man's own testimony have cast considerable doubt on this original assessment. My purpose in this article is not to adjudicate the situation, which remains, at best, ambiguous, even in regard to the basic facts. It is to comment, rather, on the morally outrageous and deeply troubling nature of the response to this occurrence, one that I would characterize as, quite literally, Satanic.

When the video in question first came to my attention, it already had millions of views on Facebook and had been commented upon over 50,000 times. Eager to find out what this was all about, I began to scroll through the comments. They were practically 100 percent against the young man, and they were marked, as is customary on social media, by stinging cruelty. As I continued to survey the reactions, I began to come across dozens urging retribution against the boy, and then dozens more that provided the addresses and email contacts of his parents, his school and his diocese. I remember thinking, "Oh my goodness, do they realize what they're doing? They're effectively destroying, even threatening, this kid's life."

At this point, my mind turned, as it often does today, to René Girard. The great Franco-American philosopher and social commentator is best known for his speculations on what he called the scapegoating mechanism. Sadly, Girard maintained, most human communities, from the coffee klatch to the nation state, are predicated upon this dysfunctional and deeply destructive instinct. Roughly

speaking, it unfolds as follows. When tensions arise in a group, as they inevitably do, people commence to cast about for a scapegoat, for someone or some group to blame. Deeply attractive, even addictive, the scapegoating move rapidly attracts a crowd, which in short order becomes a mob. In their common hatred of the victim, the blamers feel an ersatz sense of togetherness. Filled with the excitement born of self-righteousness, the mob then endeavors to isolate and finally eliminate the scapegoat, convinced that this will restore order to their roiled society. At the risk of succumbing to the "reductio ad Hitlerum" fallacy, nowhere is the Girardian more evident than in the Germany of the 1930s. Hitler ingeniously exploited the scapegoating mechanism to bring his country together — obviously in a profoundly wicked way.

Girard's theory was grounded in his studies of Shakespeare, Dostoevsky, and other literary figures, but his profoundest influence was the Bible, which not only identified the problem, but showed the way forward. Take a good, long look at the story of the woman caught in adultery in the eighth chapter of John's Gospel to see what Girard saw regarding both the sin and the solution. It is surely telling that one of the principal names for the devil in the New Testament is "ho Satan," which carries the sense of the accuser. And how significant, thought Girard, that it is precisely ho Satan who offers all of the kingdoms of the world to Jesus, implying that all forms of human community are tainted, at least to a large degree, by the characteristically Satanic game of accusation, blaming, scapegoating.

All of which brings me back to the incident in Washington and the nasty reaction to it on the internet. I have used the internet to great positive effect in my evangelical work for many years; so I certainly don't agree with those who denounce it in an unnuanced way. However, there is something about social



## WORD ON FIRE

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

media comboxes that make them a particularly pernicious breeding-ground for Girardian victimizing. Perhaps it's the anonymity, or the ease with which comments can be made and published, or the prospect of finding a large audience with little effort — but these forums are, increasingly, fever swamps in which hatred and accusation breed. When looking for evidence of the Satanic in our culture, don't waste your time on special effects made popular by all of the exorcism movies. Look no further than your computer and the twisted "communities" that it makes possible and the victims that it regularly casts out.

A few weeks ago, the *Wall Street Journal* published a piece on me and my work. The author referred to me as "the Bishop of the Internet," a title which I find more than a little strange. But for the moment, I'm going to claim it, only so I can make a pastoral pronouncement to all those who use social media. When you're about to make a comment, ask yourself a very simple question: "Am I doing this out of love, out of a sincere wish for the good of the person or persons I'm addressing?" If not, shut up. If it becomes clear that your comment is simply spleen-venting, scapegoating, or virtue-signaling, shut up. The internet can be a marvelous tool, and it can be a weapon used for Satanic purposes. Applying the test of love can very effectively undermine the scapegoating mechanism and drive the devil out.

**Bishop Robert Barron** is an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries.

## CAPECCHI, from page 12

Stephen came over to discuss the epic road trip he was about to begin: driving from Minnesota down to the bottom of South America to take in Patagonia. He'd just been at a party where they were swapping definitions of adventure, Stephen told me. For him, it involved the new, "going into the unknown."

I'll be following his travels through Instagram while staying put. Days after he hits the road, I'll be going into labor.

A sense of peace washed over me as I listened to Stephen. I know my next adventure ordained by God is about to

begin, and though mine centers on a rocking chair and a dimmed nursery, it is no less thrilling. What greater adventure could there be than raising a child?

I felt happy for both of us, thinking in that space beyond comparison, where you see how unique and worthy each path is and would never hold them up together.

That night I Googled quotes on adventure for the back of the magazine, circling around words from Helen Keller and the ever-quotation G.K. Chesterton. Suddenly the answer flashed in my mind: a statement from Pope Benedict XVI. "The world offers you comfort, but you were

not made for comfort. You were made for greatness."

That's the true meaning of adventure, whether you're in Patagonia or in pajamas at home: the times you push beyond comfort to achieve your greatness, designed by God.

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

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

### Gospel for February 10, 2019

Luke 5:1-11

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: the call of Peter and the other fishermen. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

CROWD	PRESSING IN	WORD OF GOD
TWO BOATS	LAKE	FISHERMEN
WASHING	SIMON	ASKED
PUT OUT	SAT DOWN	TAUGHT
THE DEEP	A CATCH	MASTER
ALL NIGHT	PETER	KNEES
SINFUL MAN	JAMES	SONS

### INTO THE DEEP

P	N	A	N	T	W	O	B	O	A	T	S
E	R	F	A	C	A	T	C	H	J	O	I
W	D	E	R	E	T	S	A	M	N	J	M
O	H	O	S	G	N	I	H	S	A	W	O
R	W	H	A	S	Y	L	I	W	K	T	N
D	T	T	H	G	I	N	L	L	A	H	W
O	D	C	H	O	F	N	A	U	S	E	O
F	E	J	F	U	P	K	G	D	E	D	D
G	K	D	L	F	E	H	U	I	E	E	T
O	S	M	P	U	T	O	U	T	N	E	A
D	A	J	A	M	E	S	E	R	K	P	S
N	H	N	E	M	R	E	H	S	I	F	X

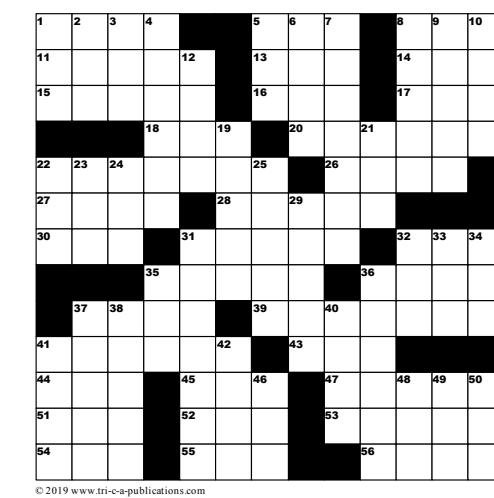
### The CrossWord

February 3  
and 10, 2019

55 Peter caught one off  
56 Looked at

#### DOWN

- 1 Dowel
- 2 Make mistake
- 3 Epoch
- 4 Find
- 5 Beige
- 6 "Christ died for our \_\_\_"
- 7 "Fight against you but not \_\_\_"
- 8 Church walkway
- 9 What a mob does
- 10 Cattle
- 12 Remake
- 19 Shovel
- 21 Sea eagle
- 22 Wrath
- 23 Joshua made it stand still
- 24 Poem
- 25 Moses' river
- 29 "An ember from the \_\_\_"
- 31 Toward the shore
- 32 Popular papal name
- 33 Flightless bird
- 34 Magnetic audio tape
- 35 Belonging to a thing
- 36 John came \_\_\_ Jesus
- 37 False name
- 38 Where two slopes meet
- 40 Seaweed
- 41 Food
- 42 Capital of Western Samoa
- 46 Rocky hill
- 48 Child's plaything
- 49 "Spy \_\_\_" of Holy Week
- 50 Mismatched



**Sunday readings:** Jer 1:4-5, 17-19; 1Cor 12:31-13:13; Lk 4:21-30 and Is 6:1-2a, 3-8; 1Cor 15:1-11; Lk 5:1-11

#### ACROSS

- 1 Take the rind off
- 5 Cooking measurement
- 8 Noah's boat
- 11 Sin
- 13 Atmosphere
- 14 Next Pope John Paul
- 15 "The \_\_\_ of God"
- 16 Compass point
- 17 "\_\_\_ of Joseph"
- 18 Spots
- 20 Thin
- 22 Different forms of an element
- 26 Greek god of war
- 27 "It is not impatient; it is not \_\_\_"
- 28 Once more
- 30 Vane direction
- 31 Poem
- 32 Moses \_\_\_ the people
- 35 Tactless
- 36 Torah table
- 37 Branch of learning
- 39 Quick dinner option
- 41 Naaman came to him
- 43 Sport's official
- 44 Help
- 45 Choose
- 47 Gambling game
- 51 Price sticker
- 52 River (Spanish)
- 53 "Love is not \_\_\_"
- 54 South southeast

Answer Key can be found on page 15



# MOVIE REVIEWS

## Miss Bala

BY JOHN MULDERIG

**NEW YORK (CNS)** — "Miss Bala" (Columbia), director Catherine Hardwicke's remake of a well-received 2011 Spanish-language film, is meant to be the tale of an ordinary woman discovering her inner toughness when placed in extraordinary circumstances.

But those in search of something more than the climactic spectacle of Gina Rodriguez in an evening dress toting a high-powered rifle will come away disappointed.

Rodriguez plays initially mild-mannered, somewhat put-upon Los Angeles makeup artist Gloria. While Gloria is visiting her best friend, Suzu (Cristina Rodlo), in Tijuana, the two go out to a nightclub where they witness the attempted assassination of a local official.

In the chaos that follows, Suzu disappears. But when Gloria turns to the police for help finding Suzu, and offers to identify the culprits in the failed rubout, she discovers that the officer to whom she has entrusted herself is in the pay of the powerful drug cartel behind the hit. The leader of this gang, Lino (Ismael Cruz Cordova), promptly arranges for Gloria's abduction.

After Lino blackmails Gloria into playing an unwitting role in the bombing of a DEA safehouse, she makes a break for it but winds up being kidnapped again, this time by DEA agent Brian (Matt Lauria). Brian threatens to

send Gloria off to the penitentiary for decades unless she helps him catch Lino. Clearly, this girl can't get a break.

Improbabilities abound along Gloria's odyssey. And there's little of note going on during her journey beyond a complex and charismatic performance from Cordova, who manages to make the Gloria's in-spite-of-herself connection with Lino seem somewhat believable.

Gareth Dunnet-Alcocer's script tries to give Lino some humanity and depth. So it's in character when he abandons a plan to compel Gloria to have sex with him (the two are interrupted at the moment of truth) and instead contents himself with caressing her hand while lying next to her in bed.

Though rampant corruption leads to a muddying of the moral waters — it's hard to tell the good guys from the bad -- the mayhem on screen is mostly bloodless, and the sexuality, as typified when handholding replaces rape, restrained. That makes "Miss Bala" acceptable for a wide swath of grownups.

The film contains considerable stylized violence, including gunplay and explosions, with only slight gore, a narcotics theme, some sensuality, brief partial nudity, at least one mild oath, a couple of rough terms and several crude expressions. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

## "Glass" (Universal)

**NEW YORK (CNS)** — Long on eerie atmosphere but wanting in coherence, director M. Night Shyamalan's thriller reunites characters from two of his previous films, 2000's "Unbreakable" and "Split" from 2016, for a prolonged meditation on the possible real-life existence of superheroes. Firmly opposed to the idea is a therapist (Sarah Paulson) who claims to specialize in treating those with delusions of DC or Marvel-style grandeur. She gets the opportunity to try to convince a security expert who moonlights as a vigilante (Bruce Willis) and a schizophrenic murderer (James McAvoy) that they are merely human when they join a former comic-book gallery owner, rare disease victim and true believer in extraordinary capabilities (Samuel L. Jackson) under confinement at the asylum where she works. Many of the grown-ups for whom the movie is acceptable will find the debate on which it hinges pointless while they will also likely be put



James McAvoy and Bruce Willis star in a scene from the movie "Glass."

off by the bloodletting in which it briefly indulges. Much violence with considerable gore, including an off-screen act of cannibalism, a few gruesome images, a couple of uses of profanity, occasional crude language, an obscene gesture. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13



Ricardo Abarca, Jorge Millan, Miguel Plata, Erick Delgadillo, Ismael Cruz and Gina Rodriguez star in a scene from the movie "Miss Bala."

## The Kid Who Would Be King

BY JOSEPH MCALER

**NEW YORK (CNS)** — The Arthurian legend gets an inventive updating in "The Kid Who Would Be King" (Fox), a thrilling adventure that casts schoolchildren as latter-day Knights of the Round Table, destined to save the world.

Borrowing heavily from the Harry Potter canon, with a dash of J.R.R. Tolkien and Disney's "The Sword in the Stone" (1963) thrown in, writer-director Joe Cornish serves up that treasured Hollywood rarity: an entertaining, family-friendly film that skillfully blends in strong messages — in this case, about truth, justice and caring for others.

Not to be confused with the 1975 Kipling adaptation "The Man Who Would Be King," this movie is set in modern-day Britain. It's a land wracked by divisions, anxiety and political uncertainty (Brexit, anyone)?

Twelve-year-old Alex (Louis Ashbourne Serkis) has but one goal: to get through the school day without himself or his nerdy best friend, Bedders (Dean Chaumoo), being bullied by classmates. No such luck: after Alex stands up to two toughs, Lance (Tom Taylor) and Kaye (Rhianna Dorris), they give chase, determined to humiliate him.

Alex escapes through a hole in the fence surrounding a building site. There he's amazed to find a shiny sword sticking up in a pile of rubble. He grasps the handle and pulls out the blade, unaware that the mythical Excalibur is now in his grasp, making him the new "king."

Fabled wizard Merlin promptly arrives, a shape-shifter played



Louis Ashbourne Serkis stars in a scene from the movie "The Kid Who Would Be King."

alternatively as a fellow schoolboy (Angus Imrie) and a grizzled old man (Patrick Stewart). Merlin warns Alex that his success with the storied weapon has awakened the wicked enchantress Morgana le Fay (Rebecca Ferguson) in her subterranean lair — where she was imprisoned eons ago by her half-brother, King Arthur.

In a mere four days, a solar eclipse will offer Morgana the chance to re-enter the world of the living. Alex has little time to assume the crown, recruit knights and raise an army.

"I'm supposed to stop that? That's ridiculous — I'm 12!" he tells Merlin.

Destiny will not be ignored, however, and under Merlin's tutelage Alex begins by enlisting Bedders. He also reconciles with his enemies, hoping to benefit from Lance and Kaye's brawn as well as their popularity. It's no surprise that the names of the new band turn out to correspond to those of Arthur's knights:

Lance is Sir Lancelot, Kaye is Sir Kay, and Bedders is Sir Bedivere.

Our company of misfits embarks on an epic quest that takes them from London to Stonehenge and on to Arthur's birthplace, the coastal village of Tintagel in Cornwall. Then it's back to school where they must convince the entire student body to don armor and join the battle against Morgana's zombie warriors (whose appearance may frighten younger viewers).

"If we fight together, evil doesn't stand a chance," Alex declares, validating Merlin's observation that "there is an old soul in every child."

The film contains potentially scary fantasy violence and two mild oaths. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

# 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.

#### Mission Possible: Healthy Marriages

SOUTH BEND — Celebrate National Marriage Week with a workshop for couples followed by a candlelight dinner. Mission Possible: Healthy Marriages will be held on Saturday, Feb. 9, from 3-7 p.m. at St. Augustine Parish, Community Hall, 1501 W. Washington St. The workshop will be presented by Terri and Andrew Lyke, authors of "Marriage on a Lampstand." The cost is \$20 per couple, and registration is required by emailing your names and contact information to Deacon Mel Tardy at [mtardy@nd.edu](mailto:mtardy@nd.edu).

#### Trivia night

GOSHEN — A trivia night will be Saturday, Feb. 9, from 6-9:30 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Parish school gym, 109 W. Monroe St. Trivia will begin at 7 p.m. There will be tables of eight players at \$80 per team or \$10 a person. For more information call 574-533-3385.

#### Interpreter to be at Mass

FORT WAYNE — An interpreter from Deaflink, a service of The League for the Blind and Disabled Inc., will be present for the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Feb. 10, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, 1122 S. Clinton St. An interpreter will sign in American Sign Language every second Sunday of the month. An interpreter from Community Services All Deaf will sign in American Sign Language at 11 a.m. at the St. Matthew Cathedral, 1701 Miami St. South Bend. Contact Allison Sturm in the Secretariat for Evangelization at [asturm@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:asturm@diocesefwsb.org) or 260-399-1452.

#### St. Valentine's Day square dance

NEW HAVEN — Grab your partner and promenade to the annual Valentine's Day square dance Saturday, Feb. 9, at St. Louis Besancon, 15535 Lincoln

Hwy E. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. with dancing from 8-11 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person and music will be provided by Bill Werling and Breakaway.

#### Bingo at St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel

FORT WAYNE — Bingo will be played at St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel, 11521 Old Decatur Road S., on Sunday, Feb. 10. Doors open at 2 and games start at 2:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person and includes 10 games with payouts from \$25 to \$100. Must be 18 to play. Bring items for the food bank to receive extra door prize tickets.

#### Vespers in Log Chapel at the University of Notre Dame

NOTRE DAME — Join Bishop Rhoades for vespers in the Log Chapel at the University of Notre Dame on Sunday, Feb. 17, at 5 p.m.

#### Rosary for those lives lost by abortion

FORT WAYNE — St. Charles Borromeo Parish will offer a rosary dedicated to the innocent lives lost every day through legalized abortions on Monday, Feb. 18, at 7:15 p.m. following the 6:30 p.m. Mass at the church, 4916 Trier Rd. Email [mariroe416@gmail.com](mailto:mariroe416@gmail.com) for information.

#### Not Your Grandma's Family Planning

HUNTINGTON — A fun and engaging comparison of today's most popular methods of natural and artificial family planning will be Saturday, Feb. 23 at SS. Peter and Paul Parish, 860 Cherry St., from 6-8 p.m. Food and childcare are provided at this free event. RSVP by texting or calling 260-610-3777 to Stephanie Hamilton, CrMS.

#### St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel Notre Dame Smoker

FORT WAYNE — A Notre Dame Smoker will be Sunday, Feb. 24, from 12:30-5:30 p.m. at St.

Joseph - Hessen Cassel, 11521 Old Decatur Road S. Stag only event cost of \$20 pre-sale or \$25 at door includes food and drinks. Notre Dame players will be at the event along with other fun activities to participate in. Pick up presale tickets at Nine Mile Restaurant or call 260-445-6054.

#### Theology on Tap — Why Does God Allow Suffering?

MISHAWAKA — Theology on Tap, A Catholic speaker series where young adults in their 20s & 30s, can share in food, fellowship and faith will begin the series: "Confronting a Broken World." Join Father Raphael Mary, OP, Tuesday, Feb. 19, for the topic, "Why Does God Allow Suffering?" 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).

#### St. Patrick Parish plans fish fry

ARCOLA — St. Patrick Parish, 12305 Arcola Rd., will have an all-you-can-eat fish fry on Friday, March 8, from 4-7 p.m. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches available for children. Tickets are adults \$10, seniors 60 plus \$9, children 5-10 \$5 those 4 and under free. Drive through and carry-outs available.

#### Bereavement support group

FORT WAYNE — The St. Vincent Bereavement Support Group will meet on Tuesday evenings for seven weeks in the spring: March 5 through April 23, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the parish library (the gathering space of the church, 1502 E Wallen Rd). The hope to provide a comforting atmosphere in which to offer emotional support. Your loss need not be recent for the sessions to be helpful. Space is limited, so register in advance. Contact Claire Martin at 810-569-4935 or [rmcm0813@gmail.com](mailto:rmcm0813@gmail.com).

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## REST IN PEACE

### Arcola

Richard Friedrich, 92,  
St. Charles Borromeo  
Helen Marie  
McKinney, 88,  
St. Patrick

### Decatur

Margaret A.  
Colclasure, 84,  
St. Mary of the  
Assumption

### Fort Wayne

William Knorr, 90,  
St. Charles Borromeo

### Huntington

William R. Marshall,  
67, SS Peter and Paul

Margaret C. Scher  
82, SS Peter and Paul

**Mishawaka**  
Sister M. Monica  
Bertha, OSF, 93,  
Sisters of St. Francis of  
Perpetual Adoration

### Indiana Holy Family Catholic Conference

KOKOMO — The Indiana Holy Family Catholic Conference is Saturday, March 9 at Kokomo High School, 2501 S Berkley Road from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The event will offer activities and programs for adults, students and children, as well as babysitting for children up to two years old. The day includes speakers Teresa Tomeo, Deacon

Dominick Pastore, Chris Bray, religious Sisters from St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration and Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia. Adoration time, a hot catered meal and family fun time after lunch with an indoor Eucharistic procession, Adoration Chapel, confession and concluding Mass with Bishop Timothy Doherty. Visit [www.holyfamilyconference.org](http://www.holyfamilyconference.org) for details.

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**ASSISI, from page 1**

captivated by the incarnation — God becoming one of us."

She believes St. Francis' approach — asking "Who are you, Lord, and who am I?" — can help people discern their vocation and aid them in striving for sainthood in everyday life.

Kurtzwieg has worked with Sister Ignatia Henneberry, USF's assistant director of campus ministry, and other young adults to plan the Assisi conference in partnership with the diocese. Sister Henneberry, 29, also has been the liaison with USF staff for facilities use and related needs.

Organizers hope the event also attracts young adults who aren't actively practicing their faith, said Sister Henneberry, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration religious order that founded and operates USF. Participants will experience an encounter with God and connection to a network of people who will support them in their spiritual journey.

"Really, with this conference, we are tilling the ground and the Holy Spirit will plant the seeds," said Kurtzwieg.

**Uniting in faith**

**WHAT:** The Assisi Young Adult Conference invites people ages 18-35 from throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to learn from informative speakers and to network with other Catholic young adults.

**WHEN:** 9:30 a.m. to about 10:30 p.m. March 2 and 8:30 a.m. to about 1 p.m. March 3. Mass will be said at 8:30 a.m. March 2, and by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at 11 a.m. March 3. Breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks will be provided March 2, and breakfast and brunch will be served March 3.

**WHERE:** Achatz Hall at the University of Saint Francis, 2701 Spring St. in Fort Wayne

**COST:** Through Feb. 15, \$45 per person and 50 percent off a friend's ticket; Feb. 16-March 2, \$65 per person including on-site registration opening at 7 a.m. March 2. Register in advance at [assisifortwayne.com](http://assisifortwayne.com).

**NOTE:** You must arrange for your own overnight lodging March 2.



Provided by Assisi Young Adult Conference

**Eliese Kurtzwieg, left, conference director, and Sister Ignatia Henneberry, assistant director of campus ministry at University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, are among those who have organized the Assisi Young Adult Conference, which will take place March 2-3 in USF's Achatz Hall.**

**Speakers**

Leah Darrow, a former fashion model and past contestant on the "America's Next Top Model" TV show, now is a Catholic speaker, writer and author of the book "The Other Side of Beauty." Darrow also is host of the "Do Something Beautiful" podcast and a co-founder of the LUX Conference for young adult women.

Timothy P. O'Malley serves as director of education at the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame, academic director of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy and as a member of the university's Department of Theology. His many books include the recently published "Off the Hook: God, Love, Dating and Marriage in a Hookup World."

Father Augustine Thompson is a professor of history at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley, California. His special area of interest is medieval Italy. Books written by Thompson include one on St. Francis of Assisi.

Sister Benedicta Duna entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration religious order in Mishawaka in 2008 after earning a bachelor's degree in theology at the University of Notre Dame. She has taught middle school religion, earned a master's degree in theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, and currently serves as assistant vocations director at her religious order's motherhouse in Mishawaka.

Father Augustino Torres is a priest with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal religious order in the Bronx, New York. Father Torres is an internationally known speaker who also works with youth formation through the ministries Corazon Puro, which encourages and mentors young leaders in areas of great need, and Latinos por la Vida (Latinos for Life). He is host of the EWTN television network show "Sunday Night Prime" and the EWTN Español network show "Clic con Corazón Puro."

Matt Faley, a Catholic singer/songwriter from Indianapolis, will provide music. His new single is "Jesus, I Trust." He also works as director of the Office of Young Adult and College Campus Ministry for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

**POPE, from page 1**

Abu Dhabi-based international Muslim Council of Elders and was promoted as a key part of the UAE's declaration of 2019 as the "Year of Tolerance."

In the presence of Abu Dhabi's crown prince, Sheik Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and Egyptian Sheik Ahmad el-Tayeb, the grand imam of al-Azhar and chair of the Muslim Council of Elders, Pope Francis thanked the emirates for the respect and tolerance shown toward Christians, but later in his speech he called for more.

"A justice addressed only to family members, compatriots (and) believers of the same faith is a limping justice; it is a disguised injustice," Pope Francis told the gathering.

"We cannot honor the Creator without cherishing the sacredness of every person and of every human life: Each person is equally precious in the eyes of God," the pope said.

Some 80 percent of the people living in the United Emirates, including almost all the Catholics, are foreign workers who have no right to citizenship, but are a key part of the country's booming economy.

While they are free to attend churches, which have been built on land donated by the emirates' ruling families, they must exercise care lest they be accused of proselytizing. The government also closely controls the practice of Islam to block the influence of groups it considers politically dangerous or related to terrorism.

Sheik el-Tayeb, speaking before the pope, told his fellow Muslims to "embrace your Christian brothers and sisters ... there are special bonds between us. Even the Quran speaks of these bonds."

The imam insisted all those who believe in God must believe in the obligation to respect human life, which God created, and, he said, "the name of God must not be used to justify violence. God did not create us to cause suffering."

Sheik el-Tayeb also insisted that Christians should be treated "as citizens with full rights."

Religious freedom, Pope Francis told the gathering, "is not limited only to freedom of worship but sees in the other truly a brother or sister, a child of my own humanity whom God leaves free and whom, therefore, no human institution can coerce, even in God's name."

Straying slightly from his prepared text, the pope said that differences of sex, race and language are all signs of "God's wisdom" and must never be a pretext to limit a person's freedom.

Followers of every religion continually "must be purified from the recurrent temptation to judge others as enemies and adversaries," he said. Instead, they must strive to adopt "the perspective of heaven," of God



CNS photo/Paul Haring

**Pope Francis speaks at an interreligious meeting at the Founder's Memorial in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Feb. 4.**

who does not discriminate between his children.

"Thus, to recognize the same rights for every human being is to glorify the name of God on earth," the pope said. "In the name of God the creator, therefore, every form of violence must be condemned without hesitation, because we gravely profane God's name when we use it to justify hatred and violence against a brother or sister."

But Pope Francis broadened that appeal as well, urging religious leaders to work together at "demilitarizing the human heart" and opposing all war.

"War cannot create anything but misery," he said, and "weapons bring nothing but death."

Pope Francis said he was not simply talking about war in theory, because "its miserable crudeness" and "its fateful consequences are before our eyes. I am thinking in particular of Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Libya."

The war in Yemen began in March 2015. The international coalition supporting the government troops there is led by Saudi Arabia, with strong support from the United Arab Emirates, and the Houthi rebels they are fighting are supported by Iran. Both sides have been accused of serious violations of humanitarian law, including the indiscriminate killing of civilians.

In early December, David Beasley, executive director of the World Food Program, called Yemen "the world's worst humanitarian disaster in 100 years." Half of Yemen's 28 million people are on the brink of starvation, and the country is suffering from the worst cholera epidemic in modern history.

"Together, as brothers and sisters in the one human family willed by God, let us commit ourselves against the logic of armed power, against the monetization of relations, the arming of borders, the raising of walls, the gagging of the poor," the pope said. "Let us oppose all this with the sweet power of prayer and daily commitment to dialogue."

The meeting ended with Pope Francis and Sheik el-Tayeb signing "A Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together."

Muslims and Catholics "of the East and West," it said, "declare

the adoption of a culture of dialogue as the path; mutual cooperation as the code of conduct; reciprocal understanding as the method and standard."

"We, who believe in God and in the final meeting with him and his judgment, on the basis of our religious and moral responsibility, and through this document, call upon ourselves, upon the leaders of the world as well as the architects of international policy and world economy, to work strenuously to spread the culture of tolerance and of living together in peace; to intervene at the earliest opportunity to stop the shedding of innocent blood and bring an end to wars, conflicts, environmental decay and the moral and cultural decline that the world is presently experiencing."

According to the Vatican press office, the pope and the imam also "inaugurated" the cornerstone for a church and mosque that will be built alongside each other in the United Arab Emirates; the UAE government will launch an international competition for the design.

Before going to the interreligious meeting, Pope Francis had visited Abu Dhabi's Sheik Zayed Grand Mosque, which can host more than 40,000 worshippers at a time and is one of the largest mosques in the world.

At the mosque, which was finished in 2007, the pope met privately with the Muslim Council of Elders for about 30 minutes, according to Alessandro Gisotti, interim director of the Vatican press office. "The importance of a culture of encounter to reinforce the commitment to dialogue and peace" was underlined during the meeting, he said.

Earlier in the day, at the new Presidential Palace, the pope was formally welcomed to the United Arab Emirates in a ceremony that included a flyby of air force jets trailing yellow and white smoke, the colors of the Vatican flag.

Signing the guestbook, the pope wrote: "With gratitude for your warm welcome and hospitality and with the assurance of a remembrance in my prayers, I invoke upon Your Highness and all the people of the United Arab Emirates the divine blessings of peace and fraternal solidarity."