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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

Teens discern vocations at stateside World Youth Day celebration

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, hosted a stateside World Youth Day celebration this past weekend, Feb. 8-10. Teens from all corners of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend turned out for the event, which included witness from those who participated in World Youth Day in Panama as well as praise and worship music performed by Ohio band 2+One. The conference reflected a similar structure to World Youth Day in Panama in that it was based around the theme of Mary's fiat, or "yes" to God's will for her to become the mother of the Messiah.

During the first session of the conference, Father Daniel Scheidt talked about his experiences with vocational discernment. Among the stories he shared was one about World Youth Day 2002 in Toronto, which he thought



Joshua Schipper

Teens participate in praise and worship during a World Youth Day stateside celebration Feb. 8-10 in Fort Wayne. A lineup of powerful speakers, from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades to pilgrims who traveled to World Youth Day in Panama, shared testimonies and inspiration for determining and embracing one's vocation in life.

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Bishop outlines past, present and future of sexual abuse crisis at Theology on Tap

BY WILLIAM SCHMITT

A series of informal conversations about Catholicism among young adults took a somber, though energetic and ultimately hopeful turn Feb. 5 when Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades attended Theology on Tap to discuss what he called "a scourge in the Church"—the clergy sexual abuse crisis.

Bishop Rhoades offered his insights into official documents and policies and news and trends that have spanned decades and gave the approximately 120 attendees a history of the crisis. His spontaneous remarks and the lively questions and answers were interspersed with candid reflections, a look at the current situation locally and globally and glimpses of the future, including suggestions for the audience's next steps.



Peter Ringenberg

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades speaks to young adults about the recent clergy sexual abuse scandal on Feb. 5. "How did it happen — this sinful, criminal behavior, this evil that caused so much harm, pain and suffering to victims?" he asked rhetorically.

He began with a question: "How did it happen—this sinful, criminal behavior, this evil that caused so much harm, pain and suffering to victims?"

Studies show incidents of sexual abuse of children and young people in the Catholic Church started growing in the 1960s, reached their peak in the early 1970s and declined steadily in the 1980s and beyond.

Bishops of the United States "started to have an idea that there was a problem back around 1985," he said. Prior to that, they did not know its prevalence, largely because many victims of such incidents do not come forward quickly. Credible allegations compiled later outlined the problem: Some 4 percent of priests, a majority of whom were ordained between 1950 and 1979, committed acts

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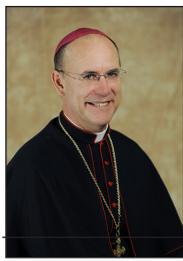
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'The beautiful lady'



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

It was 161 years ago today, on Feb. 11, 1858, that the Blessed Virgin Mary first appeared to the 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous at the grotto of Massabielle near the village of Lourdes in France. It was the first of 18 apparitions. Bernadette did not know who she was until later. She described her to others as 'the beautiful lady.' She was beautiful in every way, not just physically. She was beautiful in the way she smiled at Bernadette, beautiful in the way she spoke to her with such tenderness and love.

In that first apparition on Feb. 11, Bernadette first saw a light, then she saw the young lady who she said was "beautiful, more beautiful than any other." She said that the lady was looking at her "as one person who speaks to another." It was in this conversation that the lady instructed Bernadette to deliver certain very simple messages on prayer, penance and conversion.

It is hardly surprising that Mary should be beautiful, given that during the last apparition on March 25, 1858, she revealed her name in this way: "I am the Immaculate Conception." Is this not the greatest beauty of Mary of Nazareth, the Mother of Jesus? She was without sin from the first moment of her existence. She was preserved by God at the first moment of her conception from every stain of original sin. We call her Mary most holy. Her holiness was perfect. That's why she's the greatest of all the saints, the Queen of All Saints. That's the patron title I gave to Bishop Dwenger High School some years ago, when I gave the patron title "Our Lady of Lourdes" to this high school. Marian already had Mary as its patroness, but I wanted you to have a particular title of Mary and a particular feast day to celebrate – so I chose today, Feb. 11, when the whole Church celebrates Our Lady of Lourdes. I'll tell you later in the homily why I chose Our Lady of Lourdes to be your patroness.

The young Bernadette saw the beauty of Mary. She experienced the beauty of her love. Bernadette was from a very poor family and had very little, if any, education. So, when the beautiful lady said to her: "I am the Immaculate Conception," Bernadette had no idea what that meant. She had asked her who she was since the parish priest instructed her to do so. When she went back to him and told him that the lady said she was the Immaculate Conception, the priest was shocked. He then believed that Bernadette's apparitions were true. He knew Bernadette could not have made this up.

What is beauty? Our culture tries to convince us so often that beauty is primarily physical, that people are beautiful if they have the best body figures, physique, hair styles, the coolest and most expensive clothes, whatever. Bernadette had none of those things. And she was the young woman Mary chose to reveal true beauty. God is the origin of all beauty and He made Mary beautiful by preserving her from original sin. Mary, the lowly handmaid of the Lord, was resplendent with the glory of her Son and the beauty of holiness. Mary invites us to walk with her along the path of true beauty, the way of the Gospel. She helps us to turn away from the ugliness of sin and to love the



CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

This stained-glass window at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Malverne, N.Y., depicts Mary appearing to St. Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France, as the Immaculate Conception in 1858. The feast of Our Lady of Lourdes is celebrated Feb. 11.

beauty that comes from the Holy Spirit, the beauty of living in God's grace.

We heard in our first reading from the book of Genesis the famous Proto-Evangelium, the first Gospel, the first announcement of the Good News of salvation. God says to the serpent: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; her offspring will strike at your head, while you strike at their heel." There is this eternal enmity, absolute hostility, between the woman and her offspring, on the one hand, and the serpent and his offspring, on the other. Mary and her Son are the irreconcilable enemy of Satan and his minions. This wouldn't be if she had in her any stain of sin. The absolute hostility put between the woman and the devil demands in Mary the Immaculate Conception, that is, a total absence of sin, from the beginning of her life.

It was Mary's offspring, Jesus, who struck at the serpent's head when He conquered sin by His death on the cross. That was the definitive victory over Satan. And His mother was there when that happened, as we heard in today's Gospel. Mary stood at the foot of the cross. We can only imagine her pain. She wasn't just a bystander on Calvary. She shared in her Son's suffering. She participated in it. And it was there at the cross that Jesus gave His mother to us as our mother. In the very act of our redemption, He gave us the special gift of His mother, to help us to renounce Satan and all his works and empty

promises. He gave us His mother to help us by her example and prayers of intercession to be His faithful disciples, to reject the ugliness of sin and to live in His love and grace.

It's interesting when I have spoken to exorcists about their experiences during exorcisms. They tell me that the demons hate Mary and are afraid of her. And her intercession is very powerful during exorcisms. In the ritual of exorcism, the priest says to the demon or demons: "The mystery of the cross commands you, and the power of all mysteries of the Christian faith. The exalted Virgin Mary, Mother of God, commands you, she who in her lowliness crushed your proud head from the first moment of her Immaculate Conception." Exorcists tell me that the demons react very strongly and angrily, especially if they invoke Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Lourdes, or Our Lady of Fatima. One exorcist said that he finds it very effective when he does this. It seems that Satan panics at Mary's appearances because of all the good and holy fruits of those appearances.

Mary's holiness, her friendship with God, makes her Satan's No. 1 enemy because there is this profound enmity between her and the serpent. We read about this not only in the first book of the Bible, but also in the last book of the Bible, the book of Revelation. In the second reading at this Mass, we heard about the woman clothed with the sun. The woman of

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of abuse during the second half of the 20th century. More than 80 percent of the cases now known had occurred by 1985.

"Most diocesan leaders did respond" once the accusations multiplied in the 1980s and 1990s, Bishop Rhoades said. "But how they responded left a lot to be desired." Leaders generally sent accused priests away temporarily for treatment and rehabilitation; they often focused on the abusive priests rather than the victims.

"That breaks my heart when I hear that," he told the young adults at the evening gathering in Mishawaka. He acknowledged he more fully understood abuse victims' suffering only after he received his first episcopal appointment in 2004 to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. As bishop in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, he said he has reached out to victims as "part of the body of Christ." He has learned that much healing is possible, he said, and also that the wounds are serious and need to be understood. The abuse by priests has led to damaged relationships with God, troubled marriages, alcoholism and even suicide.

The awareness of accusations that started growing in the mid-1980s prompted the United States bishops to prepare a "Five Principles" document, issued in 1992. The principles included responding promptly to all abuse allegations, relieving credibly accused priests of their ministerial functions and reaching out to victims and families to care for their emotional well-being. But the principles' implementation "was uneven across the country," partly because they did not carry the force of Church law, Bishop Rhoades said.

Clergy abuse issues entered the public spotlight in 2002 when *The Boston Globe* revealed the accusations against priests in the Boston archdiocese. That year, the country's bishops established the "Dallas Charter," or the Charter for the Protection



Photos by Peter Ringenberg

The bishop cautioned against any tendency to focus on the Catholic Church as a sole target of abuse concerns.

of Children and Young People, for the protection of children from clerical abuse. Among other actions, these norms based in canon law established a zero-tolerance policy: One credible accusation required cessation of priestly functions, and a finding of guilt required removal from the priesthood or assignment to a private life of "prayer and penance."

The bishops also commissioned the John Jay College of Criminal Justice to analyze the nationwide files on clerical abuse from 1950 to 2002. This tally, whose release in 2004 yielded the statistic that 4 percent of priests were involved, also found that a large majority of those abused were teenagers and 81 percent of the abuse cases had male victims.

New cases of abuse have been rare since the Dallas charter's norms took effect, but the subject came back into the news in 2018 with several events. They included the release of a Pennsylvania grand jury report detailing 70 years of abuse cases from six dioceses in the state, as well as reports on long-standing

abuse charges — focused on sexual misconduct with seminarians — against Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington, D.C. Also, Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, former papal representative to the United States, issued three open letters containing a range of allegations.

"There was no new wave of sex abuse scandals" found in the Pennsylvania report, despite media headlines to the contrary, Bishop Rhoades said. The report compiled old and more recent cases that were already known, involving priests who were by then removed from their duties or retired or deceased. But it did paint a detailed picture of abuse. "It just makes you want to throw up. That was part of the shock."

The bishop cautioned against any tendency to focus on the Catholic Church as a sole target of abuse concerns.

"This is a societal problem," he said. "We want to protect all kids, not just from Catholic priests who are predators but

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About 120 young people attended the bishop's presentation at the Mishawaka Columbus Club to better understand the Church, how decisions are being made and what might be possible for the future in light of recent Church scandals.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, February 17: 10 a.m. — Byzantine Mass, Malloy Chapel, University of Notre Dame
 Sunday, February 17: 5 p.m. — Vespers and Dinner, Old College, University of Notre Dame
 Monday, February 18: 12 p.m. — Talk at Monthly Men's Luncheon, Towne House Retirement Community, Fort Wayne
 Wednesday, February 20: 11:30 a.m. — Mass for Diocesan Principals, Sacred Heart Church, Warsaw
 Thursday, February 21: 12 p.m. — Meeting of Board of Directors of Saint Anne Communities, Randallia Place, Fort Wayne
 Friday, February 22: 8:15 a.m. — Mass and Blessing of New Gymnasium, St. Mary of the Assumption, Avilla
 Saturday, February 23: 10:30 a.m. — Mass with Blessing of Windmoor Chapel and Dedication of Altar, Windmoor Study Center, South Bend

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the Apocalypse reflects the radiance of God, the divine splendor. Light emanates from her, like in the apparition at Lourdes, because she is filled with God's light, with her Son's grace. She wears on her head a crown of 12 stars which represent the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 apostles, the entire people of God, the whole communion of saints. Remember she is our queen as well as our mother. At her feet is the moon, the image of death and mortality. The huge dragon in the book of Revelation is the ancient serpent in the book of Genesis, the devil returned. He tries to devour her newborn Son, but is unsuccessful.

We also then heard in the reading about the war that broke out in heaven. The dragon and its angels were defeated by Michael and his angels. Satan and his angels were thrown down to earth. And then there was a celebration in heaven, where they rejoiced that the accuser was cast out and conquered by the blood of the Lamb. But notice the words at the end of the celebration. The voice said: "Woe to you, earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great fury, for he knows he has but a short time."

We live in that time — the time between Christ's resurrection and His return in glory. Though the dragon has been defeated by Christ, he is far from harmless and is capable of making things very difficult for disciples of Jesus. We must battle against evil. The conflict between Satan and the human race continues throughout human history. The disciples of Jesus are still pursued by the dragon. We heard at the end of today's reading: "Then the dragon became angry with the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring, those who keep God's commandments and bear witness to Jesus." That's us!! That's why I encourage our parishes and schools to pray the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel to defend us in battle and to be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil.

And I encourage all to be devoted to Mary, our perfect model of holiness. It is important that we ask her to help us to persevere in the grace of God. We say to her: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death."

Finally, I said I would share with you why I designated Our Lady of Lourdes as your patroness here at Marian. There are many titles of Our Lady, as you know. I chose this title and this apparition for a number of reasons. No. 1 — There's no other institution in our diocese with this patronage. No. 2 — It's very connected to the patroness of our diocese, the Immaculate Conception. No. 3 — St. Bernadette was a teenager, like you, when she received the apparitions. No. 4 — I think Lourdes is one of the holiest places on earth; not only a place of many miracles and favors, but a place of great spiritual fruit, where so many pilgrims experience God's love and mercy and tender care through Mary and her loving intercession. No. 5 — Every time I've been to Lourdes, four times, I see not only hundreds or thousands of sick and disabled people, but also many, many young people who go there to pray and to serve and help the sick and the suffering and the poor. They are following the example of Christ the servant, something that you are learning to do here at Marian High School. And No. 6, I chose Our Lady of Lourdes because I want you to learn, like St. Bernadette learned from the beautiful Lady, that none of you are unimportant in God's eyes. He directs His loving gaze upon each one of you and He calls you to a life that is happy and full of meaning. Mary will help you, like she helped Bernadette, not to be discouraged by life's difficulties. And Mary teaches you, like she taught Bernadette, not to be afraid to say yes to the Lord's call, like she did, and to walk in the footsteps of her Son. She shows us what is truly beautiful, living the Gospel of her Son. She teaches us to believe, to hope, and to love.

May Our Lady of Lourdes watch over each one of you and the Marian community with her love!

Crucifix brings its holy history to men's conference

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

The Rekindle the Fire Diocesan Men's Conference annually encourages participants to live out their Catholic faith with passion and authenticity. This one-day retreat, which also calls men to a deeper fraternity through participation in regular parish meetings, often features prominent speakers who are deeply in love with Jesus Christ and desire to see a more committed and unified Catholic Church.

This year, in addition to featuring world-renowned speakers Dr. Scott Hahn, Father Donald Calloway, Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, the conference stage also will display a relatively unknown piece of local Catholic history that similarly offers inspiration for participants to be courageous followers of Christ.

This item is a large centuries-old crucifix, which had been prominently displayed for many years in Indianapolis' St. Brigid Catholic Church until its official closing in 1994. Behind the body of Jesus, inscribed on the wood of the cross are the words: "He that perseveres to the end will be saved."

Before coming to Rekindle the Fire, it was in the possession of Esther Pafford, a pious Filipino Catholic woman who for many years ran a large healing ministry out of her home in Indianapolis. From notes recorded in her personal journal, which also details personal mystical experiences, Pafford recounted that the crucifix was "the original pioneer cross brought to America in 1880 by Franciscan Missionary nuns from Ireland."

Pafford shared it was "by the grace and in the plan of God" that she acquired the crucifix. She was put in touch with the parish office by the providential mistake of a telephone operator when attempting to contact her alma mater of St. Brigid's College in Batangas City, Philippines. Instead she found herself speaking with Lillian Hughes, the parish secretary of St. Brigid Church in the heart of Indianapolis.

Upon learning that Pafford was interested in obtaining a small cross, Hughes encouraged her to consider taking the much larger 2-foot tall crucifix which stood in the soon-to-be demolished church. Seeing the crucifix, Pafford shared that she was drawn to it because of "the compassionate face of Jesus, [which] although sad, was reflecting His Love." She also added that the words written on the cross were somewhat obscured by the corpus, potentially indicating that the two may have been paired together after its original construction. While Pafford initially objected to taking such a large crucifix home, Hughes joyfully insisted. When Pafford inquired



Today's Catholic file photo

of the price, she was further told "since it was blessed, it could not be sold."

She then faced the challenge of removing the crucifix from its permanently mounted position in the church. After the first man she asked for help refused, Pafford prayed, "Lord Jesus, You showed me Your crucifix, I question where to put it in my house, [yet] I agreed to do it. But how, Lord?"

Once again, God provided. At that moment, she had the inspiration to call John Pozek, a construction worker at IUPUI whom she had met two weeks prior. Although she was uncertain he would be able or willing to help, he was providentially only about five minutes from the church at the time and agreed to meet her there. Immediately after, she contacted her husband to see if he could also assist, and learned that he had been granted an unexpected early release from work that day. "We seemed to be called to St. Bridget's at that time," she exclaimed.

Once it was removed and brought to her home, it became a center piece of her prayer room, where people would regularly gather for monthly healing services, Scripture discussions, and catechesis. Pafford led the group,

which often included more than 50 people, and incorporated other holy items, including more than 20 relics, blessed oil and tears from a weeping icon of the Blessed Mother. These prayers invoked Christ's mercy for physical, mental or spiritual healings, which at times brought miraculous results.

As Pafford aged, she hoped that the crucifix could still be put to good use within the Church. In 2017 her friend Maria Stebbins, a parishioner at Fort Wayne's Our Lady of Good Hope, connected her with Barry Lamont, a volunteer leader with Rekindle the Fire. He told her that the conference would love to use the crucifix and thus have it shared with the parishioners of the diocese. Pafford agreed on the condition that it be kept somewhere where people could also regularly access it and show reverence. Lamont agreed, and after having it professionally restored, found it a home at the St. Felix Retreat Center in Huntington. There it remains year-round, other than its one-day appearance at the annual conference.

The crucifix first debuted at last year's event, which offered Pafford a sense of joy and completeness regarding its new home. This reassurance providentially came less than a month

A crucifix brought from Ireland to the U.S. in 1880 by missionaries will lead men from across the diocese in prayer, reflection and worship during the Rekindle the Fire Diocesan Men's Conference at the Century Center in South Bend Saturday.

before she passed away at the age of 81.

Reflecting the loving mercy and salvation of Christ for nearly 140 years, this crucifix uniquely fits the mission and design of Rekindle the Fire. As a prominent sign of God's being "all-in" to save each human being from sin and death, it offers men a witness of healing, renewal, and persevering courage — culminating with the Eucharist — to go forth and serve in His example, throughout both their parishes and homes.

Father Jacob Meyer, pastor of St. Monica Parish, Mishawaka, and frequent host of the conference emphasized: "Scripture reminds us that the cross is always and ever-present to us because of the holy sacrifice of the Mass, which is the saving love of our Lord. So when we look at this crucifix, we realize He is always ready to have His blood flow down upon us and wash us clean."

Father Meyer further emphasized that "at the core of it, every man has to look at the cross and realize it is his particular duty as a man to die for his bride. No matter their state in life, that is the goal of every man: to give our lives."

All men high school-aged and older are invited to attend this year's conference and explore how to deepen faith in Christ and emulate this "beautiful sign of God's greatest love for us," as Father Meyer described. To register, please visit: www.rekindlethefire.net. On-site registration also will be accepted.

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Senate bill aims to modernize program for families in poverty

The year was 1988. In world news, the Iron Curtain was on the verge of collapsing. The World Wide Web was first discussed as a concept. "Rain Man" topped the box office in the United States — and it cost a moviegoer about \$4 to see it. Nationwide, gas was 96 cents a gallon and rent an average of \$420.

The price of nearly everything has increased dramatically over the past three decades. But in Indiana, one thing hasn't changed since 1988: The monthly payout that families in poverty receive to help them temporarily through the hardest times. The amount was set at \$288 that year, and so it remains to this day.

Proposed legislation in the Indiana General Assembly aims to change that. Senate Bill 440, authored by Sen. Jon Ford (R-Terre Haute), would bring the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program in line with current economic realities. Among other provisions, the bill



SEN. JON FORD

would increase monthly payment amounts and modify them annually using Social Security cost-of-living adjustment rates. It also would update eligibility guidelines to enable more Hoosiers to take advantage of the program, which includes intensive job training assistance to help lift people out of poverty.

"Modernizing this program would help a lot of Hoosiers," Ford said. "The point of TANF is to help people help themselves. More than just an outlay of cash, it provides workforce training to get people out of poverty for good. This is the best program for that, but it is currently underutilized in our state."

According to the Indiana Institute for Working Families, only 6 percent of families in poverty statewide take advantage of TANF, which is a federal block grant program largely implemented by individual states. One of the reasons is that Indiana set its income requirements to qualify for TANF in the mid-1990s, when welfare reform was signed into law by then-President Bill Clinton. Those eligibility guidelines have not been adjusted for

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

inflation since then.

The result is that the vast majority of Hoosiers who meet the current definition of poverty no longer qualify for the program under the original rules as written more than two decades ago.

"You have to be very, very poor — at 16 percent of the national poverty guidelines — to be eligible for this program," said Jessica Fraser, program manager for the Indiana Institute for Working Families. "Our caseload is down nearly 80 percent in the last two decades because of these outdated guidelines. Indiana has

the fourth-lowest eligibility (for TANF) in the country. There are so many missed opportunities to help super-vulnerable Hoosiers and put them on a trajectory for self-sufficiency."

Fraser clarified that TANF is separate from food stamps and other programs for the needy. Instead, she calls it a "lifeline" for those facing financial crises and other difficulties, both providing them an extra cash benefit until their situation improves and helping with job training for the long term.

The Indiana Catholic Conference supports Senate Bill 440.

"Catholic social teaching calls us to come to the aid of the poorest and most vulnerable among us," said Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. "We applaud this effort to update our laws so that the TANF program can reach many more people in Indiana and help them break

the cycle of poverty."

Tebbe and Fraser will be among those testifying in favor of the bill in the coming week.

The Feb. 18 hearing will be held before the Senate Committee on Family and Children's Services.

For Fraser, a lifelong Catholic, the mission is not only professional but personal.

"My job feels like a vocation to me, and I have always felt like my work at the Institute is connected to what I've learned from Catholic social teaching," said Fraser, a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis. "One thing the Catholic Church has always done well is fighting for the least among us. Families in this modern world face so many challenges and barriers to self-sufficiency, and we must do everything we can to make life better for them."

The author of Senate Bill 440 said that advocates will present a strong case for its passage during the Feb. 18 hearing.

"This bill is truly needed in Indiana," Ford said. "I feel optimistic that it will move out of committee and then go to the Senate floor."

To follow Senate Bill 440 and other priority legislation of the ICC, visit www.indianacc.org.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Women religious organization issues statement on abuse of sisters

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Days after the pope acknowledged abuse of nuns and sisters by priests and bishops, the largest U.S. organization of women religious thanked the pontiff for shedding “light on a reality that has been largely hidden from the public,” but the group also called for measures to address the issue. “We hope that Pope Francis’ acknowledgement is a motivating force for all of us in the Catholic Church to rectify the issue of sexual abuse by clergy thoroughly and swiftly,” said the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in a Feb. 7 statement. It acknowledged that “the sexual harassment and rape of Catholic sisters by priests and bishops has been discussed in meetings of leaders of orders of Catholic sisters from around the world for almost 20 years.” But while the abuse had been discussed, the group said, the information hadn’t always been acted on. LCWR, an association of the leaders of congregations of Catholic women religious in U.S., has about 1,350 members and represents about 80 percent of women religious in the United States. “We acknowledge that, as sisters, we did not always provide environments that encouraged our members to come forward and report their experiences to proper authorities,” the statement said. “We regret that when we did know of instances of abuse, we did not speak out more forcefully for an end to the culture of secrecy and cover-ups within the Catholic Church that have discouraged victims from coming forward.”

Supreme Court blocks Louisiana law that would restrict abortion providers

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court blocked a Louisiana law requiring abortion providers to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals Feb. 7. In the court’s 5-4 vote, Chief Justice John Roberts sided with four justices in favor of blocking this regulation for now. Since the decision was a brief order, it did not contain an explanation. The court is likely to hear a challenge to the law’s constitutionality during its next term. Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh sided with the state law, but Kavanaugh also wrote a dissent from the order, noting he would have preferred more information on the specific impact of the state’s restrictions. In his four-page dissent, he wrote that the main issue is if the admitting-privileges requirement puts an “undue burden” on a woman’s ability to have an abortion. Kavanaugh said the state’s doc-

Feast day of St. Paul VI added to universal calendar



CNS files

Pope Paul VI is pictured in a June 29, 1968, photo at the Vatican. Documents in the Vatican Secret Archives and the archives of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith prove it was a “myth” that St. Paul VI largely set out on his own in writing “Humanae Vitae,” the 1968 encyclical on married love and the regulation of births. Having considered the holiness of St. Paul VI and the influence of his ministry for the Church worldwide, Pope Francis has approved putting the saint on the Church’s universal calendar of feast days as an optional — not obligatory — memorial. The celebration of the late pope is May 29 on the General Roman Calendar, the universal schedule of holy days and feast days for the Latin rite of the Catholic Church.

tors and hospitals should first aim to resolve the admitting-privileges question and if they can’t, the case should return to court. If they do resolve this issue and the doctors continue to perform abortions, he said the law would not impose an undue burden. In reaction, Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, who is chairman of the U.S. bishops’ pro-life committee, said: “The abortion industry’s objection to such a reasonable law, and this court’s decision to temporarily prevent it from going into effect, is further evidence of how abortion extremism actively works against the welfare of women.”

Vermont bishop says abortion bill ‘goes too far’ by allowing infanticide

BURLINGTON, Vt. (CNS) — The bishop of the Diocese of Burlington said an abortion bill working its way through the Vermont Legislature “goes too far.” Bishop Christopher J. Coyne said the proposal, H. 57, “goes far beyond Roe v. Wade,” the U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, by “guaranteeing unrestricted abortion through all nine months of pregnancy.” This, he

added, “means that a baby in the womb can be terminated right up to the moment of natural birth. My friends, that is not abortion. That is infanticide.” The House Human Services Committee passed the bill out of its committee Feb. 7 after only making what Vermont Right to Life called “cosmetic changes.” It now moves to the House Judiciary Committee. The bill’s sponsors say it isn’t intended to change or pre-empt abortion law but simply “codify current access.” Bishop Coyne said the Catholic faith teaches that all human life is sacred, “meaning ‘of God’” — from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death

and that Catholics are called to embrace and protect that sacred gift.

Trump defends rights of faith-based adoption agencies at prayer breakfast

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Touting efforts to protect religious freedom, President Donald Trump told the National Prayer Breakfast that his administration would defend the right of faith-based adoption agencies to place children in families based on firmly held religious beliefs. “We will always protect our country’s proud tradition of faith-based adoption,” Trump said. “My administration is working to ensure that faith-based adoption agencies are able to help vulnerable children find their forever families while following their deeply held beliefs.” His comments came after introducing Melissa and Chad Buck, a Catholic couple from Holt, Michigan, who have adopted five children with special needs through St. Vincent Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Lansing. Two of the Hols’ children — Max, 10, and Liz, 9 — joined the couple at the Feb. 7 breakfast. Trump alluded to an American Civil Liberties Union federal lawsuit against the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services that challenges a state law that protects child-placing agencies that deny adoption services because of a conflict with the agency’s religious beliefs. The lawsuit argues that state-contracted, taxpayer-funded child placement agencies unconstitutionally discriminate by disqualifying same-sex couples from consideration for adoption or foster care.

Vatican commemorates 90th anniversary of Lateran Pacts

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The historic signing of the Lateran Pacts between the Holy See and Italy 90 years ago is an important example of cooperation and peace that is needed in today’s world, a Vatican official said. Norbertine Father Bernard Ardura, president of the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences, told journalists Feb. 8 that the Lateran Pacts, which ended decades of tension between Italy and the Holy See, shows that reconciliation between former foes is an achievable goal. Ninety years later, he said, “the effective cooperation between the Holy See and the Italian state that still exists today, especially in these years of economic and social precariousness and more recently of humanitarian crisis, demonstrates the goodness of the Lateran Pacts.” Signed in 1929, the Lateran Pacts settled what was known as the “Roman question,” a dispute that lasted nearly 60 years after Italy’s seizure of the Papal States.

McGrath Institute for Church Life to be honored at NCEA

NOTRE DAME — The McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame will receive a 2019 "Lead. Learn. Proclaim." award from the National Catholic Educational Association for dedication and commitment to excellence in Catholic education. The annual award honors those whose ministry is Catholic school education and who have demonstrated a strong Catholic educational philosophy as well as exceptional efforts, dedication and achievements.



JOHN C. CAVADINI

The McGrath Institute for Church Life was chosen from more than 150,000 teachers and administrators, as well as diocesan leaders and organizations dedicated to the nation's Catholic schools. John C. Cavadini, professor of theology and director of the institute, will accept the award during the annual NCEA Convention & Expo that will take place April 23-25 in Chicago.

"On behalf of all of us who work at the McGrath Institute, I am profoundly grateful for this recognition," Cavadini said. "It provides an inspiration to work even harder towards the goal of strengthening the educational ministries of the Church."

Barbara McGraw Edmondson, NCEA chief leadership and program officer, said: "The LLP award is a celebration of all that is good in Catholic schools. Our awardees are those individuals whose dedication, commitment, enthusiasm and care help to build dynamic communities where students are challenged and inspired to explore, to enjoy and to reach their potential as young people of faith and endless possibilities."

Braun achieves Eagle Scout rank

FORT WAYNE — Paul Braun, the son of Mark and Kathy Braun, was recognized Feb. 3 for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Paul completed all the requirements for Boy Scouts of America's highest rank, which included an Eagle Scout Service Project. His project was a more than 60-foot circular stepping-stone rosary walk, which he designed and installed at St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel School courtyard. It consisted of Our Father stones and stones engraved with the mysteries of the rosary.

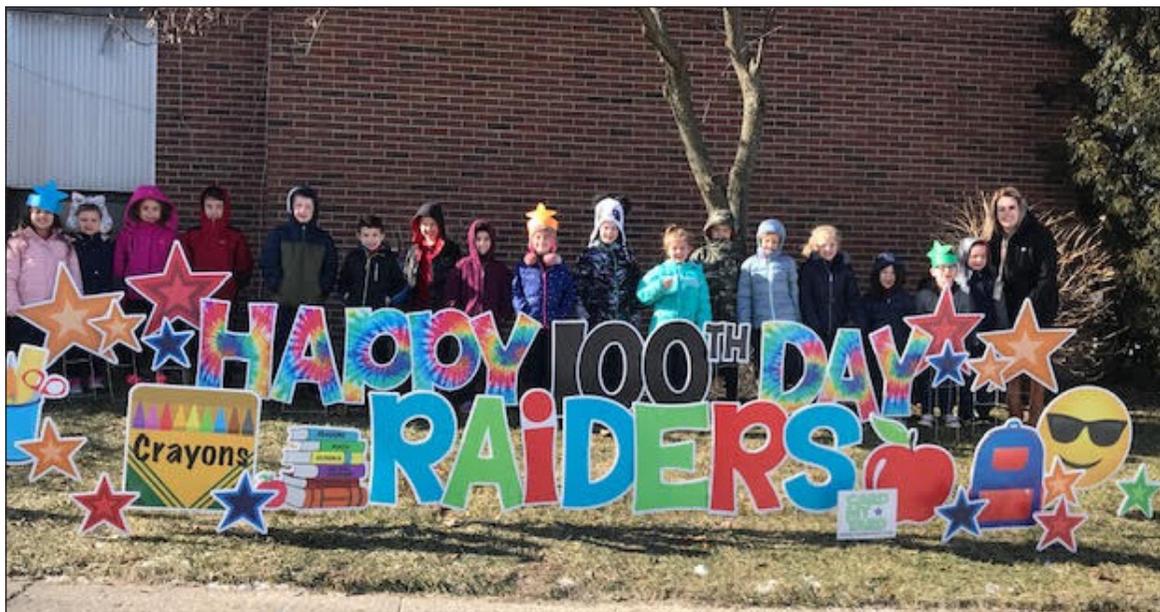


PAUL BRAUN

Paul is a member of Boy Scout Troop No. 19 at St. John the Baptist Church, Fort Wayne.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

'100th Day' in New Haven



Provided by Sandy Weikel

Students at St. John the Baptist School, New Haven, celebrated the 100th day of the current academic year on Jan. 19, during which the school was treated to a 'Happy 100th' welcome message from Card My Yard. The students, staff and parents enjoyed the day's festivities.

CYO coach honors promise to team



Provided by Mary Black

Last year, St. Louis Academy, New Haven, formed its first girls basketball team. Sean Black, music and physical education teacher at the school, coached them, along with his dad, Aaron Black. Most in the small group of grades-three-to-six girls had never touched a basketball. The team lost its first game 55 to 4. This year, on Sunday, Feb. 3, they won the Catholic Youth Organization basketball championship, and Sean kept a promise that the girls could cut his hair if they were victorious.

Redeemer Radio launches 'Lent Radio Challenge'

FORT WAYNE — Redeemer Radio has launched an awareness campaign for its upcoming "Lent Radio Challenge," which encourages listeners to reset all of the dials in their car radios to 95.7 (Michiana) or 106.3 (Northeast Indiana) for the 40 days of Lent.

Throughout the duration of the 40 days of Lent, listeners who commit to the challenge will listen only to Redeemer Radio and will receive a daily e-boost, a meditation via email written by local contributors.

"Every year, it's so easy for many of us to just find a penance and deny our body of some pleasure," said Cindy Black, executive director of Redeemer Radio. "We forget that we also need to fill up our souls with the things of God."

The challenge encourages a more fruitful and inspiring Lenten journey through the dynamic Catholic content offered on the air and in the meditations sent each morning.

Sign up for the Lent Radio Challenge online at www.LentRadio.com.

Celebrating Black History Month



Joe Raymond

In celebration of Black History Month, recording artist Amanda Vernon visited Holy Cross School in South Bend on Feb. 7, provided worship vocals and performed for the students following an all-school Mass. She shared her genre of "soulful pop" music, as she calls it, and gave a presentation to older students.

Bishop prays Luers students will 'live in faith and love'

BY DEB WAGNER

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades visited Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne on Friday, Feb. 8. While it was a cold and blustery winter day, nothing but respect and a warm welcome permeated the building.

It is a family atmosphere at Bishop Luers. Photographs of graduates who have dedicated their lives to being priests, sisters and brothers hang on the wall, as they often do in families' homes. The Chapel of St. Francis, beautiful and simple as was the life of its namesake, invites students and guests with doors open and the tabernacle clearly visible in the distance as soon as a person enters the school.

Bishop Luers continues to be a school rooted in Catholic faith and high academic standards. The diverse student body of nearly 600 young adults, 78 percent of whom are Catholic, learn about the beliefs and traditions of the Catholic Church through the classes and faith-related activities offered. They also come to understand the importance of incorporating service to their local and global communities.

Bishop Rhoades witnessed many of the students sharing their faith openly, enthusiastically and proudly as he visited several classrooms. In many of the classrooms, students rose to their feet to show respect when he entered the classroom. They remained standing until the bishop began speaking. Each class period throughout the day began with a prayer, after the students mentioned any special intentions.

He spoke to them of the memorial of St. Josephine Bakhita, celebrated on the day of his visit. He related her non-Christian upbringing, the slavery and suffering she endured, how her coming to know of Christ filled her with love, and that she received the "dynamis," the power of the Holy Spirit, when she was baptized and confirmed. With excitement in his voice, he connected her story to the pinnacle of his visit — the first Communion and confirmation of two students and the confirmation of three others at the all-school Mass later in the day.

The junior-level morality class focused on following God's will. The question was posed, "What are you look-

ing for?" Students shared with Bishop Rhoades their concern regarding recent changes in abortion laws and the prevalence of human trafficking in today's society.

The bishop was happy to answer questions or help solidify the Church's teaching. Ethan Linker, a freshman from SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Huntington, asked him what sacrament was his favorite to administer and to receive. Bishop Rhoades said his favorite was the holy Eucharist, because the substance changes and in receiving the Eucharist we are united in Christ, which is a foretaste of heaven.

Freshmen at Bishop Luers are learning about Jesus and who He is by studying the Trinity. The bishop explained that we are sons and daughters of the Son, and that we can pray to all three — the Father, Son and Holy Spirit — or just one of the three, because the difference is in our relationship with each of the Three Persons.

A class in ecclesiology allowed the sophomore students to learn a little more about the process of Bishop Rhoades' having been appointed a bishop by Pope Benedict XVI, his vocation journey, some of his responsibilities as bishop and his upcoming visit with Pope Francis in December. When asked for advice on how to stay strong in faith beyond high school, he advised the students to choose friends of the same moral standards, to always pray and participate in the Mass, to not be taken in by a culture that does not adhere to Church teaching, and to continue to grow in faith.

Student leaders spoke with Bishop Rhoades over lunch about their experiences. Many students had traveled abroad, participated in sports or the arts. Some were already catechists in their parishes. The culture at Bishop Luers encourages students to lift each other up. There is great diversity in those who are Catholic and non-Catholic at the school. Students appreciate and value the students' differences because it contributes to the small, supportive community as a whole.

Father Benjamin Muhlenkamp, co-chaplain at the school along with Father Thomas Zehr, noted students do not put emphasis on physical appearances, but rather students just enjoy being with one



Bishop Rhoades sits in on a class, Application of Social Teaching, taught by Jeanine Skordos at Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne during a pastoral visit to the school Feb. 8.



Photos by John Martin
Above, Bishop Rhoades celebrates an all-school Mass. Concelebrating are, from left, Deacon José Arroyo and co-chaplains Father Benjamin Muhlenkamp and Father Thomas Zehr.

At right, principal James Huth surveys the Bishop Luers High School gymnasium prior to the Mass.



another.

During the Mass celebrated by Bishop Rhoades for the student body, he spoke again about the power of the Holy Spirit, and the inner freedom found by St. Josephine Bakhita, which comes from knowledge of Christ and His love. He also acknowledged the deep commitment to service that exists at Bishop Luers.

"In today's first reading, we heard from the prophet Isaiah about the fasting that God desires: to let the oppressed go free, to share our bread with the hungry, to shelter the homeless, and to clothe the naked. Isaiah makes it clear that God condemns the hypocrisy of a religion in which people just go through the motions of religious observance while being unjust in their dealings with others and ignoring those in need. Love of neighbor and works of mercy are proof of a person's love for God and are a touchstone of true religion. Your love of neighbor and works of mercy here at Bishop Luers High School are proof that you are truly a Catholic school, an authentic commu-

nity of disciples of Jesus Christ."

Finally, he encouraged the students in their mission. "With St. Paul, I pray that the Lord will bless our brother and sisters about to be confirmed and all of you, 'that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith' and that you will live that faith through love."

The students were excited to witness Guadalupe Cruz, Alexis Ditmars, Jonathan Gomez, Michelle Lopez and Yahaira Parra be anointed with the chrism of confirmation during the Mass. Gomez and Parra also received their first holy Communion at the Mass, which concluded the school day.

Family and friends of the confirmed students, students from St. Joseph School who are temporarily studying in a building across the street from the high school, and the entire Bishop Luers student body took part.

"It was really nice to see them confirmed. It feels like they are family now," said senior Maddie Dunn of her classmates who received the sacraments.



Photos by John Martin
Students Guadalupe Cruz, Alexis Ditmars, Jonathan Gomez, Michelle Lopez and Yahaira Parra were confirmed during a Mass celebrated by Bishop Rhoades. Gomez and Parra also received their first holy Communion.

Pastoral visit coincides with patroness' feast day

BY DENISE FEDOROW

There were multiple reasons to celebrate as Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades visited Marian High School in Mishawaka on Monday. His visit coincided with the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the patroness of the school and a student received his first holy Communion and confirmation from the bishop as well.

As he greeted the students and staff, Bishop Rhoades said: "It's great to be with you today. It's always great to come, whenever possible, on Feb. 11, the feast day of your patroness."

He said they had a special reason to rejoice as Armel Iradukunda would be entering into full communion with the Church. "We'll pray in a special way today for Armel," he said.

Mass was concelebrated by the school's chaplain, Father Eric Burgener, and Father Terrence Coonan, who is pastor at St. Therese, Little Flower, Iradukunda's parish.

Before the bishop began his homily, he shared with students that he was wearing vestments given to him at World Youth Day in Panama. Pope Francis and all the bishops wore vestments like it, he said, and this was his first opportunity to wear them in the U.S. He explained the blue-and-white design, sharing that it was symbolic abstract art and included the head of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the continent broken by the Panama Canal, and five dots representing the five continents that participate in World Youth Day.

He began his homily by recounting for the students the appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary 161 years ago that day, Feb. 11, 1858, to the 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous at the grotto of Massabielle near the village of Lourdes in France. It was the first of 18 apparitions.

"At this first apparition, Bernadette first saw a light, then she saw a young lady who she said was 'beautiful, more beautiful than any other.' She did not know it was the Virgin Mary. Bernadette said that the lady smiled at her and spoke to her with much tenderness and love. She described the woman to others as 'the beautiful lady.' She was beautiful in every way, not just physically."

He told the students while Marian already had Mary as its patroness, "I wanted you to have a particular title of Mary and a particular feast day to celebrate so I chose today, Feb. 11, when the whole Church celebrates Our Lady of Lourdes."

He shared with the students that when speaking to exorcists about their experiences they've said that the demons react very strongly and angrily when Mary's name is invoked, especially if they invoke Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Fatima or Our Lady of Lourdes.

"It seems that Satan panics at Mary's appearances because of all the good and holy fruits of those appearances," he said.

Bishop Rhoades shared with the students the reasons he designated Our Lady of Lourdes as Marian's patroness including that no other institution in the diocese has this patronage, it's very connected to the patroness of our diocese — the Immaculate Conception,

St. Bernadette was a teenager like the students at Marian when she received the apparitions, he believes Lourdes is one of the holiest place on earth that includes many youth pilgrims and lastly he said, "I chose Our Lady of Lourdes because I want you to learn like St. Bernadette learned from the beautiful lady that none of you are unimportant in God's eyes."

Bishop Rhoades then confirmed Iradukunda, who later also received his first Communion. Prior to Mass, Armel shared that he is from Rwanda and has been in the United States for three years and at Marian for two years. When asked what the day meant to him, he said it would help him "be closer to God — the One who helped me get through my grief." Iradukunda lost his mother a couple of years ago.

At the end of the Mass, principal Mark Kirzeder said it was his "honor to present to the entire Marian community for the first time our top students for 2019."

The Marian salutatorian for the Class of 2018 will be Maggie Cook, daughter of Tom and Kathy Cook. She is a member of St. Matthew Cathedral. The valedictorian is Mackenzie Mencias, daughter of Dr. A.J. Mencias and Dr. Elizabeth Mencias. Mencias is also a member of St. Matthew Cathedral.

Bishop Rhoades had a gift for the students and those present at the Mass. He passed out prayer cards with a mosaic of Our Lady of Lourdes on one side, and on the other, "The oldest prayer we know of to the Blessed Mother — Sub Tuum Praesidium." It states, "We fly to thy protection O Holy Mother of God. Despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all danger O glorious and blessed Virgin." Bishop Rhoades added: "Our Lady of Lourdes pray for us."

He then invited Chris Godfrey to speak. Godfrey is a former football player at the University of Michigan who went on to the NFL and played in a Super Bowl game for the New York Giants.

"He's a champion football player but he's also a champion for the faith via Our Lady of Lourdes and the Order of Malta," Bishop Rhoades said.

Godfrey told the students he was the area chairperson for the Order of Malta and every year they charter a plane out of New York and bring sick people to Our Lady of Lourdes. He told the students in the chapel upstairs you'll see crutches and medical equipment left behind by people who've been healed, "But the real work is done in the Rosary Basilica where there's healing of hearts."

He told students as the area chair he wanted to bring the Lourdes experience here to the sick in the area — some of whom students met on their service day.

"I'm here on a recruiting trip to bring that grace to nursing homes," he told them, but he also wants to follow up with prayer groups who'll say the rosary. "The rosary is a weapon. I want to create prayer fortresses," and he asked the students to entertain the option of being involved.

The bishop visited a couple of classes after the Mass, including Tom Dlugosz' sophomore theology class. The students asked a lot of questions and requested that he describe a day in the life of a bishop. They also asked deeper ques-



Peter Ringenberg

Bishop Rhoades talks with Marian High School students during an all-school Mass on Feb. 11.



Denise Fedorow

Students in Tom Dlugosz' theology class ask questions of the bishop.



Denise Fedorow

Marian student Armel Iradukunda was brought into full communion with the Church during the all-school Mass on Monday. From left are Bishop Rhoades, Iradukunda, chaplain Father Eric Burgener, and Iradukunda's sponsor.

tions like his opinion on the apparitions at Medjugorje and how to answer a Protestant friend's question.

Visiting a morality class of juniors who'd just been given an assignment on freedom and what they'd like to be free from, Bishop Rhoades said they could connect the assignment to the first reading in Genesis. Adam and Eve were totally free but the serpent made

Eve suspicious of God. Because of their disobedience they became slaves to passion and sin, caused disruption in families, rivalry, alienation and more.

"I'll never forget what Pope John Paul II said once: 'True freedom is not doing whatever you want, but to do what we ought.'"

Child sex abuse called 'a serious and pervasive' issue in U.S. society

BY JULIE ASHER

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Child sexual abuse in the United States is at epidemic levels.

More than 60,000 children are reported to have been abused every year, outnumbering those killed by guns or cars. Those who survive are often left not only with physical wounds, but also with psychological wounds that may never heal. These wounds exact both a profound personal and social cost.

Much attention has been focused on the issue of child sexual abuse and the Catholic Church, and rightly so. Allegations of abuse by clergy and Church workers as well as cover-ups and bureaucratic mishandling by bishops, dioceses and religious orders have caused terrible pain for survivors of such abuse and their families. It also has resulted in disillusionment on the part of ordinary Catholics. The cost of this abuse and its aftermath totals more than \$4 billion so far, according to the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection.

While the Catholic Church continues to struggle with this legacy, it has instituted a wide variety of steps to improve oversight, identify abusers and protect children.

One under-reported fact from the recent, highly publicized Pennsylvania grand jury report is that for all of the many horrors it identified, the good news was that it appeared to document the decline in current cases.

As Jesuit Father Tom Reese told *America* magazine in its Dec. 24 issue, every one of the accused priests in the report was either deceased or had been removed from ministry, "and only two had been accused of abusing a child in the last 20 years."

During these same 20 years, however, an estimated 1.2 mil-

lion children in this country were abused nationwide in schools, organizations, churches and families.

Understanding the plague of sexual abuse in this country means going beyond the immediate headlines and understanding what experts are saying about this scourge. It also means looking not only at the Catholic Church but at all institutions and societal structures where abuse can take place.

So far, no grand jury, congressional committee or law enforcement organization has undertaken a broad societal investigation of what is happening to children in public schools as well as private, in sports and other youth-oriented programs and organizations, in pediatric facilities and perhaps most common, in families. (In Australia, a Royal Commission investigation of child abuse in nongovernmental organizations took five years.)

"Sexual victimization of children is a serious and pervasive issue in society. It is present in families, and it is not uncommon in institutions where adults form mentoring and nurturing relationships with adolescents, including schools and religious, sports and social organizations," said the John Jay report issued in May 2011 on "The Causes and Context of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests in the United States, 1950-2010."

"If you want to talk about sexual abuse of minors, you're talking about families, foster care programs, public schools," New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan said in a recent Sirius XM interview. "You're talking about organizations, every religion, you're talking about public schools, it is a societal, cultural problem. There is no occupation that is freed from it."

The U.S. Catholic Church "is no greater (an) offender than anybody else. In fact, some of the statistics would say that



CNS illustration/Todd Habiger, The Leaven

priestly abuse among minors is less than other professions," the cardinal said.

He made the remarks in late January after the New York legislature passed a measure to ease the statute of limitations on civil abuse cases. The state's Catholic bishops agreed to support the bill after it was broadened to include not just the Catholic Church but public institutions.

Over the years, highly touted organizations such as the Boy Scouts, U.S.A. Gymnastics and Penn State have had abuse scandals.

Often such organizations are accused of behavior similar to what the Catholic Church has been accused of: denials, cover-ups, relocation of predators and unwillingness to tell authorities.

In July 2018, shortly before the Pennsylvania grand jury report was released, a team of *Chicago Tribune* reporters turned out a special series on abuse in Chicago's public-school system: "Betrayed: Chicago schools fail to protect students from sexual abuse and assault, leaving lasting damage."

"Whether the sexual attacks were brutal rapes, frightening verbal come-ons or 'creepy,' groping touches, the students often felt betrayed by school officials and wounded for years," the paper reported.

"When students summoned the courage to disclose abuse, teachers and principals failed to alert child welfare investigators or police despite the state's mandated reporter law," it said.

The *Tribune* is hardly the first media outlet to examine abuse in the nation's public schools. In December 2016, *USA Today* published its own series.

"Despite decades of repeated sex abuse scandals — from the Roman Catholic Church to the Boy Scouts to scores of news media reports identifying problem teachers — America's public schools continue to conceal the actions of dangerous educators in ways that allow them to stay in the classroom," it said.

USA Today's network of media outlets conducted a year-

long investigation and "found that education officials put children in harm's way by covering up evidence of abuse, keeping allegations secret and making it easy for abusive teachers to find jobs elsewhere."

"As a result, schoolchildren across the nation continue to be beaten, raped and harassed by their teachers while government officials at every level stand by and do nothing," the paper reported.

How bad may it be in our schools? According to an Associated Press 2017 investigative report, abuse cases are underreported, but what is tallied is staggering.

The yearlong investigation "uncovered roughly 17,000 official reports of sex assaults by students over a four-year period, from fall 2011 to spring 2015."

"Though that figure represents the most complete tally yet of sexual assaults among the nation's 50 million K-12 students," AP said, "it does not fully capture the problem because such attacks are greatly underreported, some states don't track them and those that do vary widely in how they classify and catalog sexual violence. A number of academic estimates range sharply higher."

What happens when abuse is reported varies widely from school district to school district, but what *The Associated Press* found was not encouraging.

"Elementary and secondary schools have no national requirement to track or disclose sexual violence, and they feel tremendous pressure to hide it," AP reported. "Even under varying state laws, acknowledging an incident can trigger liabilities and requirements to act. And when schools don't act — or when their efforts to root out abuse are ineffectual — justice is not served."

2018 began with sentencing of Larry Nassar, the former U.S.A. Gymnastics and Michigan State University sports doctor who was world famous because he treated the top U.S. Olympic women gymnasts. He was con-

victed and sentenced to 40 to 175 years in prison after pleading guilty to seven counts of criminal sexual conduct. More than 150 women and girls testified during the court proceedings that he sexually abused them over the past two decades.

The U.S. Olympic Committee has launched an investigation on the inaction of then-USOC CEO Scott Blackmun and chief of sport performance Alan Ashley in the roughly yearlong period after they were informed of the allegations against Nassar. In late 2018, another medical doctor was in the abuse spotlight over sexual misconduct that allegedly occurred from the 1950s through the 1970s: Dr. Reginald Archibald, who ran a prestigious clinic for about 30 years at Rockefeller University Hospital in New York, where he treated children who were small for their age.

The New York Times reported Oct. 18, 2018, that "parents sought him out" to get help for their children with this condition. The hospital, according to the story, sent a letter to as many as 1,000 of his former patients in September 2018 asking if Archibald had had inappropriate contact with them. The story said the hospital knew about the possible abuse in 2004; Archibald died in 2007.

As 2019 began, yet more news broke about sexual abuse. This time the alleged abuser is one of the biggest names in music and has been for over 20 years: R. Kelly.

In January a documentary series titled "Surviving R. Kelly" detailed decades of sexual abuse allegations against him. The multiplatinum R&B idol has repeatedly denied the claims, but many interviewed in the series alleged Kelly had been sexually inappropriate with them when they were underage.

Interviewees included Kelly's ex-wife and the singer's two brothers "as well as parents of women who say their daughters

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CHILD, from page 10

are currently being mistreated by Kelly," *USA Today* reported.

While doctors, teachers, clergy and other authority figures can be abusers, they also "can be neighbors, friends and family members," according to Darkness to Light (www.d2l.org), a South Carolina-based nonprofit organization dedicated to child abuse prevention. "Significantly, abusers can be and often are other children."

About 90 percent of children who are victims of sexual abuse know their abuser, and only 10 percent are abused by a stranger, Darkness to Light says: About

60 percent of those victims are sexually abused by people the family trusts; approximately 30 percent of them are sexually abused by family members.

The younger the victim, the more likely it is that the abuser is a family member. Of those molesting a child under 6, 50 percent were family members. Family members also accounted for 23 percent of those abusing children ages 12 to 17.

About one in 10 children will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday, according to Darkness to Light. "About one in seven girls and one in 25 boys will be sexually abused before

they turn 18."

Because of underreporting and a lack of systematic, nationwide data collection, estimates of sexual abuse can vary.

"Child sexual abuse is far more prevalent than most people realize," according to Darkness to Light. "Child sexual abuse is likely the most prevalent health problem children face with the most serious array of consequences."

Understanding the scope and scale of child sexual abuse in this country is only the start.

Greg Erlandson contributed to this story.

TOT, from page 3

priests who are predators but from all predators." Balanced news coverage of the problem — existing in public schools and various other organizations — would bolster that broader aim.

He added that, during his nine years leading the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, credible abuse cases have prompted the removal of three active priests from their duties. The process requires working closely with the Diocesan Review Board that includes lay experts in such fields as law, psychology and law enforcement. If a case is determined to be credible a report is sent to Vatican officials, who decide on the response.

Regarding the McCarrick issues, which sprang from cases prior to his appointment to the Archdiocese of Washington, "we're all scratching our heads about how he rose through the ranks" from leadership roles elsewhere, Bishop Rhoades said. "We still haven't gotten to the bottom of this," he added, in regard to the Church's internal inquiries. Archbishop Vigano's range of allegations also remains under study by dioceses and the Vatican, he said.

One key factor in the return of Church abuse in news headlines has been the fact that the 2002 Dallas Charter did not address behavior by bishops, he said. "There was no mechanism for holding bishops accountable." Efforts to correct that are among the topics pending for the Vatican's Feb. 21-24 meeting of presidents of bishops' conferences from around the world to discuss issues of sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults.

Besides the history of official actions within the Church, Bishop Rhoades highlighted the importance of understanding the roots of the Church's problems of sexual abuse. He said a follow-up study by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, released in 2011, concluded there were multiple causes.

Social factors in the 1960s and 1970s played a big part, he said, noting "there were increased levels of deviant behaviors" that included sexual abuse; the Church's problems were correlated with increases

in premarital sex, crime, divorce, and other trends in the culture.

Before and during the "societal upheaval" of that time, those discerning a vocation to the priesthood generally received a seminary education which "didn't really include [the] aspect we call human formation," Bishop Rhoades said. "There wasn't really attention to the growth of the person, the human side of things, especially human sexuality."

The 2011 John Jay College probe into the psychology of abusers found that they generally lacked close relationships with peers. They grew up in families that spoke negatively, or not at all, about sexuality, he said. "I would say there was a stunting of their psycho-sexual development."

Bishop Rhoades recalled his own seminary formation and some excellent mentors and friends who shared a belief and commitment to the Church's moral teachings and the chaste celibacy required of priests. At the same time, the bishop also shared that not all seminary formators and seminarians shared that belief and commitment. He heard of stories of homosexual subcultures at some seminaries back in the 1970s and was disturbed by the dissent on Catholic sexual moral teaching among some priests when he was in graduate school in the 1980s.

As a bishop whose background includes seminary leadership — he was rector of Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, between 1997 and 2004 — he discussed concerns about today's seminarians. Much reform has taken place in the schools overall since the 1970s, he said. Fort Wayne-South Bend diocesan seminarians don't encounter a problematic subculture because "there's just no tolerance for it."

Healthy relationships with peers are seen as very important, and aspiring seminarians are encouraged to become involved in social groups and parish activities before entering, Bishop Rhoades said. He added that safeguards against improprieties include oversight of conditions by the bishop himself and the diocesan vocations director, plus

strong connections with the rector and others influencing the formation process.

Regarding the overall battle against sexual victimization, he noted the Church has implemented many policies. These include Safe Environment programs to train all those who work with children in places like parish schools, as well as victim assistance coordinators who can be reached at the diocesan level in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and around the country.

Bishop Rhoades proposed the following approach for those attending the "Theology on Tap" event, which was sponsored by the diocese, the Mishawaka Columbus Club and the Knights of Columbus. He suggested several steps:

Check multiple sources of news about Church abuse issues, seeking out and spreading a whole story that is accurate and fair.

"If you know a survivor of clergy sexual abuse, please encourage them to come forward for help and support," he said. "I do see the healing that takes place."

Pray for the victims and for "the Lord's strength and peace in the midst of this crisis." Fasting, penance and reparation are appropriate for all Catholics, he said.

Assist with practices that discourage sexual abuse, such as the Safe Environment programs in parishes and schools.

"We need committed disciples, we need good holy priests, we need holiness," he said. The new norms are vital but must be complemented by "true renewal," and that "begins with you as laity and me." He added, "There needs to be intolerance for unchaste activity. When there is problematic, suspicious behavior, we need to correct it."

"Our faith has to be in Christ," Bishop Rhoades said in conclusion. "Don't let it be shaken by the sins of some." He praised ideas for increased roles by the laity, and he told the young-adult attendees they're needed amid the challenges. "It's a Church of saints and sinners; remember that. What we can do is be on the saints' side as much as we can."

Put marriage back on a lampstand, retreat presenters encourage

BY JENNIFER MILLER

In celebration of National Marriage Week, Feb. 7-14, and Worldwide Marriage Sunday, celebrated Feb. 10, the diocesan office of Marriage and Family Ministry and the Black Catholic Advisory Board collaborated to offer an outstanding afternoon of marital support, refreshment and focus at St. Augustine Parish, South Bend, on Saturday, Feb. 9.

Quoting Luke 8:16-18, "No one who lights a lamp conceals it with a vessel or sets it under a bed; rather, he places it on a lampstand so that those who enter may see the light," the event was meant to be a support for marriages that already exist and an encouragement for those considering the vocation of marriage as well as civil marriages that will be blessed in the Church. The couples present could be ambassadors for those not present and for the good of the family, organizers Lisa Everett and Deacon Mel Tardy suggested.

Andrew and Terri Lyke of Joliet, Illinois, presented a dynamic, research-based and reflective Catholic-based program, engaging the participants with song and small- and large-group discussions. They are national leaders in Catholic marriage preparation, education and enrichment. Since 1982 they have served thousands of married couples and presented programs, keynote addresses, workshops, retreats and seminars on marriage and family issues to church, community and business audiences. They have been married for 43 years, since "right after kindergarten," they joked. They are especially grateful for



Jennifer Miller

Andrew and Terri Lyke presented a dynamic afternoon supporting Catholic marriage to renew those in the vocation and to call them forth to shine their light to the world.

their parish, they said, and the faith community who walked with them and helped keep them in the vocation of marriage. Together, they sang and spoke about living as a follower of Christ in the married state.

Their strong, well-designed presentation flowed from their own life experiences, complete with relatable, true examples. Their words rang true both theologically and practically. Andrew explained, "As God's ambassadors, can you do something with what you have left? Can you trust God, that He will magnify and bless and multiply it? Or will you complain? How many of you got married because you liked the way your spouse argued? You loved their attitude? Take the losses but roll with what you got. Trust what God will give you ... in fact, trust that God's plan is better than your plan."

MARRIAGE, page 14

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Sudden cardiac death in the young

I was once called, “stat,” to the emergency room to see a 17-year-old young man who collapsed while playing a pickup football game with friends at a local high school. The school day had ended and there were just a few teachers left at the school. Minutes went by before a teacher got to the scene to find the student lying lifelessly. She called 911 and did her best to begin CPR.

When the medics arrived, it had been nearly 10 minutes since he had crumbled to the ground. They took over doing CPR, hooked up the EKG and found his heart was in ventricular fibrillation. On the third shock his heart began to beat again and they could feel a weak pulse. He was not breathing, so he was intubated and bagged vigorously to deliver oxygen to vital organs, but most importantly to the brain.

On my arrival at the emergency room I found his pulse and blood pressure to be getting stronger. As I examined him from head to toe, I reviewed in my mind the differential diagnosis (causes) for such a catastrophic event. He was comatose as we took him up to the intensive care unit.

Days turned into weeks and he remained deeply comatose. The neurologist was not very optimistic and told me there was less than a 5 percent chance of recovery to a functional state and almost no chance of recovery to an independent living status. After six weeks he remained in a coma and was not capable of breathing on his own. Several of the doctors on the case with

me suggested it might be time to consider withdrawing his ventilator support.

His mother was steadfast in giving her son every opportunity to recover, no matter the odds. She was certainly not going to give up. Being the attending physician, I committed to caring for her son as long as she wanted.

After eight weeks in the ICU, the nurses called me to tell me he had opened his eyes. Several days later, the nurses believed his eyes were tracking them in the room. A few more days went by and when I placed my hand into his I thought I felt a slight squeeze. The nurses and I saw some progress every day after that. I could soon tell he recognized his mother. The critical day came where we withdrew his ventilator and he was able to breathe on his own. One week later he said his first words. Several more weeks went by and with lots of help he began to take his first steps. He was going to recover and return home. Praise the Lord!

I then realized that I had to find the cause of his sudden cardiac death syndrome or this could happen again. All our testing so far had not come up with any answers. I hypothesized that he might have a coronary anomaly: This is where the arteries that supply blood flow to the heart are not hooked up in the normal fashion. His mother reluctantly gave me permission to do a heart catheterization. Being an adult cardiologist, I rarely have done a heart catheterization on a teenager and I have to admit, I was a little nervous. I began the procedure



DR. DAVID KAMINSKAS

THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

in normal fashion, entering the right femoral artery and carefully threading my catheter up the aorta to the heart. My normal routine was to study the left coronary artery first. Usually this takes one or two minutes to find and engage the artery.

After one hour and trying multiple catheters my frustration grew. I could not find it. I decided to move on to the right coronary artery angiogram. I easily engaged the artery and carefully injected dye as our video equipment documented the findings. The mystery was solved: As the dye traveled down the right coronary artery there were collaterals (small feeder vessels that the heart can grow) that filled the left coronary artery. I watched with amazement as the dye slowly filled the left coronary and then began to fill the pulmonary artery where it was hooked up.

This is a very rare coronary anomaly. The coronary arteries should originate off the aorta just above the heart and therefore carry oxygenated blood into the heart muscle. This young man had his left coronary artery originate from the pulmonary artery (which would then carry

KAMINSKAS, page 13

What everybody didn't know

When the Pennsylvania grand jury issued its report last August chronicling the sexual abuse cases in six Pennsylvania dioceses, everybody thought they knew the whole story. After all, this was a grand jury, and the attorney general of Pennsylvania was presenting its 1,356-page report to the world as evidence of a grand conspiracy by the leaders of the Catholic Church in his state to cover up abuse allegations and ignore victims.

Everybody knew that the Church hadn't changed its spots. And the crushing weight of all those pages and 301 priests and Church workers and 1,000 victims was enough to throw Catholics into despair and light fires under other ambitious attorneys general who wanted to do similar investigations.

Most people, even journalists, never read the full report. The truth is that short-staffed, working on deadline and having to do social media as well as writing traditional stories, journalists rarely have the time to delve deeply into a document like this. And after all, “everybody knew” this was the real story anyway.

One journalist did take the time to look, however. Peter Steinfels, a former editor at *Commonweal*, a Catholic magazine, and a former religion writer for *The New York Times*, said his original impulse was simply to learn more about the report, the conclusions of which he found as appalling as everybody else.

In his desire to learn more, he started closely examining the report's allegations. What he found disturbed him enough to



GREG ERLANDSON

AMID THE FRAY

publish a 12,000-word analysis in *Commonweal* that was sharply critical of the report's assertion that “priests were raping little boys and girls, and the men of God who were responsible for them not only did nothing; they hid it all.”

“This ugly, indiscriminate and inflammatory charge, unsubstantiated by the report's own evidence, to say nothing of the evidence the report ignores, is truly unworthy of a judicial body responsible for impartial justice,” Steinfels wrote.

Steinfels' original article can be found at <https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/pa-grand-jury-report-not-what-it-seems> and a summary of his findings as well as an interview with the author can be found at <https://cnstopstories.com>.

For Steinfels, as for the Church itself, the goal is not to “acquit the Catholic hierarchy of all sins, past or present.” His goal, he wrote, “is to restore some fact-based reality to the instant mythology that the Pennsylvania report has created.”

I call attention to Steinfels' report not because it exonerates the Church. He takes a nuanced

ERLANDSON, page 13

The blessed are those who trust on the Lord



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 6:17, 20-26

For its first reading, this weekend's liturgy presents a selection from the Book of Jeremiah. Jeremiah must have been intense in his personality. First of all, he was committed strongly to his calling to be a prophet. He keenly felt that God had called him, by name, to this role, and he believed that as a prophet he made real God's protection of the Chosen People.

Upsetting him was the spiritual sluggishness, if not the downright sinfulness, of the people. Instead of following

God's will, they followed the fads of the time or the demands and thoughts of earthly leaders.

Jeremiah continually and eloquently insisted that true peace and well-being exist only by obeying God and by listening to God's word in making decisions about life.

To use a simile, life may seem to be standing alone in a wasteland. Knowing God, and following God's will, provides an oasis.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians supplies the second reading. Paul's two existing letters to them, both of which are in the New Testament, show us how challenging he found their tendency to accept the Gospel half-heartedly or with reservations.

In a way, it is understandable that they were difficult to convince and to convert. They lived in a city renowned across the Roman Empire for its material excesses. The name of Corinth was a synonym for a place where sexual promiscuity was rampant and celebrated. Being in such surroundings surely made atten-

tion to the spiritual foundations of the Christian Gospel anything but quick and easy.

Paul calls the Corinthians to spiritual values, insisting that these values alone endure and truly satisfy.

For its last reading, the Church this weekend gives us a reading from St. Luke's Gospel. This passage is part of the Synoptic Tradition. Similar readings are in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark.

Luke's approach to religion was very similar to that of Jeremiah. Luke's approach was urgent and bold. He minced no words. He cut to the chase, in modern-day terms. The situations in the life of Jesus that appealed to him were those in which the Lord was emphatic and the most direct. Such directness at times took the form of warnings, as is the case in the latter part of this reading, or on other occasions it appeared in a lesson or in a compliment.

Jesus makes very clear that true discipleship involves the spirit. The things of this earth

come and go. They may well be a mirage, with no permanent reward in them. People who set their sights on material goals, or live only for material advancements, play a fool's game.

Reflection

The Church in this liturgy, and through these readings, is beginning to prepare us for Lent, just more than two weeks in the future. By definition, Lent will be a time of reflection, but to benefit us, our reflection must be completely focused and starkly realistic.

It will be useless if we do not face facts. In these three readings, ending with the words of Jesus, the Church presents as the most fundamental facts the reality that earthly incentives are fleeting in survival and rest on quicksand.

Only the spirit is everlastingly alive. Thus, only judgments based on spiritual motives have lasting effects. In these quite somber teachings, the Church leads us down no primrose path.

Instead, very honestly, it warns us that we are of this world, so the enticements of the world are especially appealing to us. Nevertheless, they ultimately bring us only emptiness and maybe eternal death. What is our hope? Our only assurance? It is the Lord Jesus.

Choosing our future is our decision. The Church, through these readings, calls us to decide, thinking about reality.

READINGS

Sunday: Jer 17:5-8 Ps 1:1-4, 6 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20 Lk 6:17, 20-26

Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25 Ps 50:1, 8, 16bc-17, 20-21

Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10 Ps 29:1a, 2, 3-4, 9c-10 Mk 8:11-13

Wednesday: Gn 8:6-13, 20-22 Ps 116: 12-15, 18-19 Mk 8:22-26

Thursday: Gn 9:1-13 Ps 102:16-18, 19-23, 29 Mk 8:27-33

Friday: 1 Pt 5:1-4 Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6 Mt 16:13-19

Saturday: Heb 11:1-7 Ps 145:2-5, 10-11 Mk 9:2-13

Encountering the gaze of the Father

Like too many people in a post-fall world, I am someone with a deep father wound that, despite the immense love I have been surrounded with throughout my life, results in me living most days out of a lie. This lie takes on different forms and consequences: It sounds something like “I am not ...” “I am just ...” “I’ll never ...” and worst of all, “I am not lovable.”

When I step outside of myself and remove myself from those interior feelings, I recognize how little sense they make. But like all attacks from the enemy, there is no sense to be had because the devil is the father of lies and confusion.

The months leading up to January of 2019 were flat-out difficult. Prior to leaving for World Youth Day in Panama, I was in a low place, struggling with prayer, belief in my own goodness, my vocation and hoping in my salvation. I boarded the plane with the hope of experiencing some vocational clarity, but little expectation of this actually occurring.

On Wednesday our group spent the afternoon and evening at the Fiat Festival organized by the U.S. bishops, Fellowship of Catholic University Students and Knights of Columbus for English-speaking pilgrims. During this event, myself and two fellow seminarians went to the back of the expo hall to pray Evening Prayer. As we were about to begin, our bishop walked up and asked if he could join us. It was so ordinary, yet so remarkable. As we finished praying, I walked back to my seat and remarked to one of the other guys, “Wow. That was really cool. It was just like our dad asking to spend time in prayer with us.” It was both an odd experience and statement for me, because prayer was not something I experienced with my biological father.

Later that day, a group of us ended up wandering around a market and eating dinner with our bishop. This was a rare opportunity to spend quality time with the person who God has ordained to be my spiritual father. The person of the bishop is the one whose role as successor to the Apostles does not just guarantee valid sacraments but sustains the love of the Father made known through Jesus Christ in the Church for all of time. In this moment, God the Father had lavished His love on me through the bishop. On the surface this was not a grand experience of prayer, but don’t most fathers love in ordinary

ways every day?

Saturday night, after a long and stressful journey to join hundreds of thousands of other pilgrims at Campo San Juan Pablo II for the prayer vigil with Pope Francis, myself and another seminarian journeyed off to find a priest for confession. “I’m going to go find a priest who I will never see again to hear my confession,” I told the other seminarian. Even in this simple statement I was speaking out of the lie that “I am not lovable.”

After a while we met Father Dan, who happily agreed to hear our confessions. I gave my sins to Jesus Christ, and acting in the person of Christ this priest raised his hands over me and began to pray the prayer of absolution. As this was happening Pope Francis stood up on stage and I was looking directly at Peter as the mercy of the Father first poured out on the cross was pouring over me and purifying my soul. As St. Peter’s successor, the Holy Father leads the Church on earth all because the Father knew man needed the sacraments found in the Church and wanted to leave us a safe vessel back to Him all for the sake of love. I returned to my seat, but the Father was not done.

Later, as I was walking around I ran into Father Dan again. He asked, “Could I come into your guys’ section and hang out for a little bit?” He talked with us and eventually knelt down next to me in adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist for an hour. A priest, seminarians and pilgrims at World Youth Day kneeling in adoration of Jesus: Pretty expected, maybe. Yet, it hit me: God the Father had attacked the lie I had been living in this simple gesture. I thought this priest would only look at me and see my sins, yet here he was spending time with me worshipping our God together. The Father was showing me that even as sinners He desires to be with us. Our time with the Father does not have to be some emotional mountaintop experience but can occur in the most ordinary of exercises.

Having reflected on these experiences and many others throughout the week, I returned to the hotel. It was our last night in Panama and the pilgrimage had come to an end. Following dinner another seminarian and I had plans to pray with two religious sisters. At 10 p.m. on the floor of a hot banquet room in the hotel, I found myself surrounded in prayer by them and three lay people from the sisters’ community. They prayed over me, calling



WORLD YOUTH DAY

JOSEPH KNEPPER

on the Holy Spirit, and others joined the group. As the others who I barely knew laid hands on me, the Holy Spirit spoke through them. The man in the group who I knew the least began to speak directly to me about the love of the Father for me and attacking the lies that I live out of. He even quoted the very Scripture that I had prayed with just hours before, in private. The Father was speaking directly to me. I lack the words to adequately express the truths that were spoken to me, the feeling of love that swelled up in my heart and the gratitude that I have for them but above all the Father, who had arranged my entire pilgrimage for this moment.

There are many lessons in this experience. First, we need the Holy Spirit. We cannot ignore Him! Just as God sent Jesus Christ on that first Christmas to reveal His great love for us, He sent the Holy Spirit down at Pentecost to continually strengthen us and draw us back to Himself. We must not neglect this great gift.

Secondly, we need each other. We cannot be afraid to pray for and with one another. One of the most important moments of my pilgrimage occurred because I was open to an invitation to pray with others and accepted the reality that I cannot do this alone and that I am not alone.

Finally, the Father is one who never stops loving: He will reveal His love to us in whatever way possible, even when you are exhausted and sweating like never before on the floor of a hotel in Panama.

In his homily at the official opening Mass of World Youth Day, Archbishop José Domingo said: “This meeting of you young people with Jesus Christ should lead you to confrontation with yourselves.” In Panama I confronted myself not with eyes infected with the cataracts of lies placed there by Satan, but the eyes of the Father, who looks at me and says, “You are good.”

Joseph Knepper is a seminarian in first-year theology at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

ERLANDSON, from page 12

and critical view of both abusers and those who had authority over them, and his heart is first and foremost with the victims of these crimes.

I call attention to it because Steinfelds’ investigation of the investigation is a model of what

good journalism can do and what good Catholic journalism can do. A well-educated, well-trained Catholic journalist writing for a Catholic magazine exposed the serious flaws in a report that “everybody knew” to be true.

Some people want Catholic journalism to simply be propa-

ganda for the defense. Some people don’t see any value in Catholic journalism. They want Church communication efforts to be inspirational or provide social media sound bites. But there is still a need, a crying need, for professional journalism that allows the voices of the Church to be heard, that models both a

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for February 17, 2019
Luke 6:17; 20-26

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: Jesus’s Sermon on the Plain. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

CAME DOWN	STOOD	GREAT
CROWD	DISCIPLES	PEOPLE
JUDEA	SIDON	HIS EYES
POOR	KINGDOM OF GOD	HATE YOU
REJOICE	BEHOLD	REWARD
HEAVEN	WOE TO YOU	WEEP
SPEAK	WELL OF YOU	PROPHETS

WOE AND REWARD

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D O G F O M O D G N I K
I W E E P U O Y E T A H
S H E A V E N T A E R G
C S S L O L W K P O O R
I T J E L P B S T J R E
P O U O Y O T E O W N W
L O D C C E F Y H O A A
E D E J H P S Y D O T R
S W A P C H O I O I L D
R O O J M F S J H U P D
P R E J O I C E N A N A
P C A M E D O W N I L Y
    
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KAMINSKAS, from page 12

venous or deoxygenated blood down the artery to the heart muscle). This explained why he had a fatal arrhythmia while playing with his friends. This is somewhat analogous to having a severe blockage in a coronary artery which leads to a heart attack in an adult.

His mother anxiously awaited my arrival to the conference room to hear the results of the procedure. The good news was that we now knew why he had a cardiac arrest and we could fix the problem. The bad news was that he would need open-heart surgery to correct this congenital anomaly.

About two weeks after successful surgery, the young man left the hospital to return home. With intensive physical and cognitive therapy he made dramatic progress over the following year. His mother had been at his bedside daily and prayed to God with great determination and purpose. She understood the meaning of Matthew 7:7-8: “Ask and you will receive. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and it

will be opened to you. For the one who asks receives. The one who seeks, finds. The one who knocks, enters.”

Postscript: There may be some readers who noticed that I referenced the pulmonary artery and said that it carries deoxygenated blood. This is indeed true. It is the only blood vessel in the body designated an artery when it really is a vein. The pulmonary artery carries deoxygenated blood to the lungs to become oxygenated, only then to return to the heart.

I must also inform the readers that there were a few purposeful changes made to this young man’s story for confidentiality purposes. Permission was granted to share his remarkable story. In my next column, I will discuss the other more common causes of sudden cardiac death in the young, especially in athletes.

Dr. David Kaminskas is a board-certified cardiologist and member of The Dr. Jerome Lejeune Catholic Medical Guild of Northeast Indiana, www.fortwaynecma.com.

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love for the Church and a dedication to truth.

Only journalism of honesty and substance will be trusted in these dark times. And in an age when trust — of institutions and of authorities of any sort — is in short supply, Catholic journalism can play an indispensable role in recovering this trust.

MARRIAGE, from page 11

"God works in us," he continued. "The people of God hold us together... If I'm looking for the devil, I'll find what I'm looking for! Look for God in marriage. You will find God. God is not elusive. Look for the good things! God never stops being good."

This combination of rich Catholic voices speaking the Truth of the faith along with joy-filled and realistic witness to the vacation of marriage. Tongue in cheek, they showed the three rings of marriage, engagement ring, marriage ring and suffering. Without skipping a beat, the Lykes then shared their recent state in marriage, where Andrew suffered with cancer and Terri suffered with him, as his primary caretaker. They spoke about joy and suffering present at the same time, a reality one can only describe once experienced.

"Embrace that suffering! Spend time and truly be happy together — the fact that we have each other... Putting the other person's needs over what you want. The outcome is something you can be proud of together.

Marriage has the mysteries of the Paschal Mystery itself ... how both holy orders and marriage are both a vocation of service," Andrew encouraged. After contrasting the fulfillment and commitment models of marriage, he added seriously, "This is a faithful, flawed person married to a faithful, flawed person: Because of our issues, not despite of our issues, I am a more loving person because of her." He encouraged couples to "not be afraid of our differences — we might grow from it!"

The couple spoke of grit and



Jennifer Miller

Couples from various parishes, such as St. Pius X, Granger, and St. Augustine and St. Joseph, South Bend, gather in small groups to discuss essential components of marriage. Presenter Terri Lyke facilitated the animated and enjoyable conversation.

grace of marriage, how to make room for each other's differences. "Let's not be afraid of our differences — we might grow from it," they suggested." We are, in marriage, a witness to and reflection of God's magnanimous love and mercy. When I think of how much God loves Terri, my love pales, but that is what I'm shooting for," Andrew reflected. "It is worth it."

Their sincere, Catholic and humorous words touched the hearts of many present. Jude Pean, from St. Pius X Parish,

Granger, shared: "I love how Terri and Andrew used real-life situations prevalent in their marriage to connect with the audience. It made the message they were communicating relatable and easy to understand. They were authentic and transparent." Her husband, Emmanuel, agreed. "The retreat was a great experience for my wife and I! We learned a lot and would recommend their book "Marriage on a Lampstand" to our friends and family."

David and Janel Charlton of

St. Joseph Parish, South Bend, concurred. "The speakers were passionate, funny, comfortable with the audience, engaging, committed to helping married couples. St Augustine's is a very welcoming community and the food was delicious. This topic is an important one and it was done well. It had a better turnout than we had figured there would be and it was energizing to see so many people committed to this topic."

Everett and Deacon Tardy intentionally supported that

which the Charltons' found. "We intentionally sought a diverse audience since modern Christian marriage crosses racial and religious boundaries, and facilitators capable of presenting to such an audience. Our event attracted 30 couples — diverse racially, but also from nine different parishes and several cities," Deacon Tardy explained. "We believe that marriage and relationships are best supported in community. We hope that by focusing primarily on couples and culminating with a candlelit dinner, this unique event will provide an informative, a fun and (maybe even) a romantic opportunity to provide participants with the communal support needed to sustain and enrich their marriages and relationships."

He shared that the impetus for the event was a recollection of prayer from recent data. "In our 2015 Strategic Plan, the Black Catholic Advisory Board of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend set a goal to "increase vocations to — and improve the health and longevity of — marriage within the black community." Marriage as a vocation has been declining in society, but dramatically so within the African-American community. Among Catholics, the notion of marriage as a sacrament is also declining. To counter this, we sought to partner with the diocesan Office of Marriage and Family Ministry to both identify barriers to the sacrament of marriage and to promote African-American participation in relationship- and marriage-enrichment programs. This event marks our first such collaboration."

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Pro-life legislative forum

FORT WAYNE — A pro-life legislative forum will be Saturday, Feb. 16, at Magee-O'Connor Theater at Indiana Tech, 1600 E Washington Blvd. Doors open at 8:30 a.m., with the event running from 9-10 a.m. Invited panelists include: Sen. Liz Brown, Sen. Travis Holdman, Rep. Matt Lehman, Rep. Ben Smaltz, Rep. Christy Stutzman and Vice President for Public Affairs for Indiana Right to Life Sue Swayze Liebel. Breakfast provided. This event is free, but registration is requested. Visit ichooselife.org/pro-life-legislative-forum/.

Saints Alive! dinner and auction

FORT WAYNE — The Saints Alive! dinner and auction will be Saturday, March 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the Bishop Dwenger main gym. Tickets are \$350 per couple. A live auction, four interactive silent auction booths and the Tuition Assistance Challenge will be offered. Enjoy a cocktail reception, elegant dinner, delicious dessert and a late-night snack.

Theology on Tap — Why Does God Allow Suffering?

MISHAWAKA — Theology on Tap, a Catholic speaker series where young adults in their 20s and 30s can share in food, fellowship and faith will continue 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 or contact Sean Allen at 574-234-0687 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 March 5 through April 23, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the parish library, 1502 E Wallen Rd. The hope is 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.

REST IN PEACE

Arcola

Robert Schortgen, 91, St. Patrick

Decatur

Thomas F. Braun, 67, St. Mary of the Assumption

Esther M. Eguia, 67, St. Mary of the Assumption

Elkhart

Dorothy Berger, 94, St. Thomas the Apostle

Fort Wayne

Jeanne Franken, 97, Most Precious Blood

Marie Nowlan, 83, St. Vincent de Paul

Carl White, 88,

St. Charles Borromeo

Goshen

Eugene Grise, 92, St John the Evangelist

Granger

Emma Berridge, 82, St. Pius X

June Ann Vascil-Trippel, 55, St. Pius X

Robert Wilson, 89, St. Pius X

Ethel Kiemnec, 93, St. Pius X

Huntington

Kevin Shipbaugh, 45, SS Peter and Paul

Mishawaka

Larry Lovechio, 69, St. Joseph

Mary Ann Gradeless, 94, St. Joseph

South Bend

Catherine Kluszczynski, St. Jude

Winifred Libertowski, 67, Holy Cross

Joseph Vance, 94, Holy Cross

Frank Held, 69, St. Anthony de Padua



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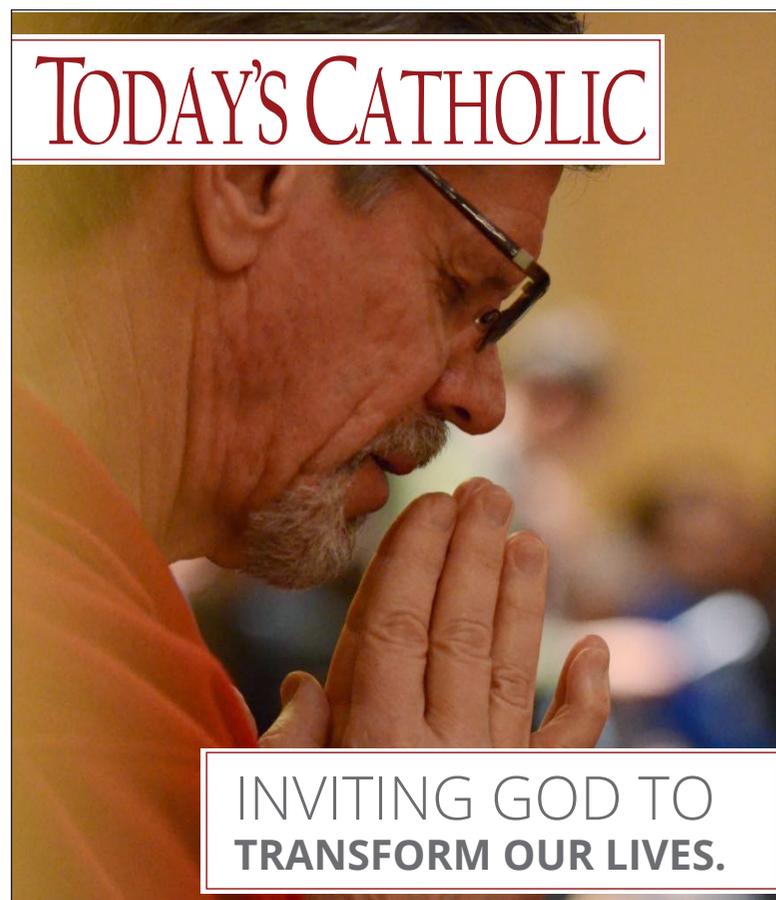
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YOUTH, from page 1

would be his last time making that pilgrimage. He said he had such a good experience that he did not want to attend another because it would not live up to the experience he had there. However, a few years later, then-Bishop John M. D'Arcy instructed him to attend World Youth Day again, with some teens. He met a used-Toyota salesman named Ben and the two talked about vocations throughout the pilgrimage: and by the end of World Youth Day, Ben decided to enter the seminary. Father Scheidt revealed that the young man was none other than Father Benjamin Muhlenkamp, pastor of St. Louis, Besançon Parish, New Haven. Father Scheidt said that the Lord knew his World Youth Day Toronto experience of many years before was part of Father Muhlenkamp's preparation to become a priest. He drew a parallel with the Virgin Mary, saying that, she, similarly, lived each mystery without knowing all the details of what was to happen; yet she trusted God's will.

Following Father Scheidt, Father Thomas Shoemaker enumerated several saints who at first, probably did not know God's will for them, but who through prayer discerned God's plan for their lives. After celebrating Mass, followed by more praise and worship, the teens prayed the night prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours before heading to sleep.

The next day, teens heard witness from pilgrims who traveled to Panama for the World Youth Day celebration with Pope Francis. They not only told stories about the beauty of Panama City, but they also talked about the faith-scope of the pilgrimage. Between speakers, conference emcee and World Youth Day pilgrim Jennifer Litchfield would lead her fellow teens in various Catholic chants she heard on the pilgrimage, and they repeated enthusiastically.

After meeting in small groups to discuss what they took from the teen witnesses, the participants celebrated Mass with Father Royce Gregerson. During his homily, Father Gregerson told them that Jesus wants them to think of prayer as an "invitation" rather than an "obligation." Drawing a parallel with the Apostles whom Jesus brought to a deserted place to pray, he said this is what the teens were doing by participating in the conference: taking themselves away from the distractions of everyday life to focus on God.

Father Gregerson finished by saying that God "delights" when we ask for things, but that they should not make that their only conversation with God. Prayer

should instead focus on "resting with Jesus." By practicing these three aspects of prayer, he noted, Mary was able to say "yes" to God.

Throughout the weekend the sacrament of confession was available, as was first-hand advice on vocational discernment. Seminarians, priests, married couples and the Sisters of Divine Mercy were available to help participants understand and discern their own vocation in hopes that one day, like the Virgin Mary, they will say "Yes!" to God's will for their lives.

Later, teens listened to a talk from Dr. Timothy O'Malley about how people tend to "become what they behold." Dr. O'Malley talked about how if people "behold" vices, which, he says, social media amplifies, then they do not become what God intended. However, if they behold God, Jesus — the right things — then they become what God intended.

Following numerous other speakers, including Msgr. William Schooler, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades spoke on the beauty of adoration. He said that, as Catholics, "We also have the wonderful opportunity to contemplate the mystery of the Eucharist in eucharistic adoration."

"Adoration outside Mass prolongs and intensifies what has taken place at Mass," he continued. "We can be nourished with His peace and love when we adore Him who is present in the Sacred Host."

Following his talk, Bishop Rhoades led the teens in a holy hour with exposition of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

On Sunday, the teens listened to a talk from Sister Veritas. She told them they need to know themselves, before they could give themselves to a vocation. She finished by saying that they needed to "be real with Jesus." She said God does not want "scripted talk," but that he wants the teens to talk to Him "like a friend."

Bishop Rhoades closed the weekend by celebrating Sunday Mass with the teens. In his homily he touched again on the central message of the weekend.

"It was when I was praying in front of the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes at Mount St. Mary's in Maryland, where I was a college student, that I heard the call to be a priest. No angel appeared to me. No seraphim came down and touched my lips with an ember. But I believe that through the intercession of Mary, the Lord put into my heart a tremendous peace and serenity about entering the seminary to pursue a priestly vocation." He advised the teens, "Don't be too anxious about it. Just pray. Be open. Allow the Lord to speak to your heart."

*...through the intercession of Mary,
the Lord put into my heart a
tremendous peace and serenity...*

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

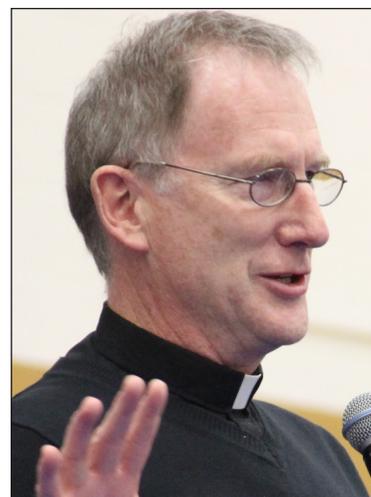


Photos by Joshua Schipper

High school youth prepare to join in songs of praise during the World Youth Day stateside celebration held at Bishop Dwenger High School Feb. 8-10.



FATHER DANIEL SCHEIDT



FATHER THOMAS SHOEMAKER



PILGRIM JENNIFER LITCHFIELD



SISTER GAUDIA SKASS



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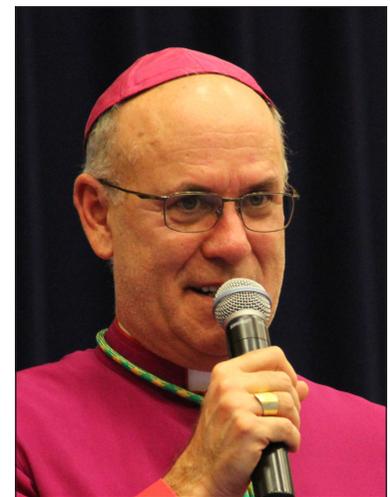
DR. TIMOTHY O'MALLEY



MSGR. WILLIAM SCHOOLER



SISTER VERITAS



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