

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Rekindle the Fire sheds light on men's challenges, responses

BY WILLIAM SCHMITT

A record-setting attendance of about 1,120 men and a lineup of nationally recognized speakers helped make the Feb. 16 diocesan "Rekindle the Fire" conference, which took place in South Bend, both compelling and countercultural.

The focus on confronting today's challenges to faith and family sparked tough talk as well as calls for personal conversion. Action items proposed during this ninth annual event were characterized by boldness and perseverance, alongside humility and sacrifice.

Guest presenters explored the spirituality of a man's role in the home, the Church and society. Noted theologian Dr. Scott Hahn drew unique insights on human and heavenly fatherhood from the Lord's Prayer. Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers put forward analysis and advice to keep today's

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Jonathan Acierto

Dr. Scott Hahn addresses men of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend at the ninth annual Rekindle the Fire Men's Conference, which took place in South Bend on Feb. 16. The well-known Catholic theologian and author encouraged the audience to learn from Jesus about the nature of God the Father.

McCarrick removed from the priesthood after being found guilty of abuse

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has confirmed the removal from the priesthood of Theodore E. McCarrick, the 88-year-old former cardinal and archbishop of Washington.

The Vatican announced the decision Feb. 16, saying he was found guilty of "solicitation in the sacrament of confession and sins against the Sixth Commandment with minors and with adults, with the aggravating factor of the abuse of power."

A panel of the Congregation for Doctrine of the Faith found him guilty Jan. 11, the Vatican said. McCarrick appealed the decision, but the appeal was rejected Feb. 13 by the congregation itself. McCarrick was informed of the decision Feb. 15 and Pope Francis "recognized the definitive nature of this decision made in accord



CNS photo/Paul Haring

Then-Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick attends a reception for new cardinals in Paul VI hall at the Vatican Nov. 20, 2010. Among the new cardinals was Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington, successor to Cardinal McCarrick as archbishop of Washington. The Vatican announced Feb. 16 McCarrick has been found guilty of abuse: The same day, the University of Notre Dame announced it was rescinding the honorary degree conferred on McCarrick in 2008.

with law," making a further appeal impossible.

By ordering McCarrick's "dismissal from the clerical state," the decision means that McCarrick loses all rights and duties associated with being a priest, cannot present himself as a priest and is forbidden to celebrate the sacraments, except to grant absolution for sins to a person in imminent danger of death.

The only Church penalty that is more severe is excommunication, which would have banned him from receiving the sacraments. The other possible punishment was to sentence him to a "life of prayer and penance," a penalty often imposed on elderly clerics; the penalty is similar to house arrest and usually includes banning the person from public ministry, limiting

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Great expectations: Vatican abuse summit has key, realistic goals

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — All eyes and ears will be on the Vatican during an unprecedented gathering Feb. 21-24 to discuss the protection of minors in the Catholic Church.

When Pope Francis announced the international meeting in September, it sparked an optimistic note that the global problem of abuse finally would be tackled with a concerted, coordinated, global effort.

The breadth of the potential impact seemed to be reflected in the list of those convoked to the meeting: the presidents of all the world's bishops' conferences, the heads of the Eastern Catholic churches, representatives of the leadership groups of men's and women's religious orders and the heads of major Vatican offices.

But the pope tried to dial down what he saw as "inflated expectations" for the meeting, telling reporters in January that "the problem of abuse will continue. It's a human problem" that exists everywhere.

Many survivors and experts, too, have cautioned that it was unrealistic to assume such a brief meeting could deliver a panacea for abuse and its cover-up.

So, what should people expect from the four-day meeting? The following five points hit the highlights:

1. It will be first and foremost about raising awareness, including that the scandal of abuse is not a "Western" problem, but happens in every country.

To make that point clear, the organizing committee asked every participating bishop to sit down with a survivor of abuse before coming to Rome and hear that "Me, too," from a person of his own country, culture and language.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, who is moderating the meeting, said there would be between 160 and 180 participants. He told reporters Feb. 12 to expect the presidents of about 115 bishops' conferences, a dozen heads of Eastern churches, prefects of Vatican congregations directly involved with Vatican norms regarding abuse and negligence, eight delegates from the men's Union of Superiors General, 10 delegates from the women's International Union of Superiors General, three members of the pope's Council of Cardinals who are not presidents of their bishops' conference and four members of the organizing committee.

Everyone invited will be expected to learn what his or her responsibilities are as a leader or a bishop and to know the Church laws and procedures that already exist to protect the young.

2. Organizers hope that by



CNS photo/Paul Haring

Jesuit Father Hans Zollner, a professor of psychology and president of the Centre for Child Protection at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, leads a briefing for journalists in Rome Feb. 12. The briefing was to prepare for the Feb. 21-24 Vatican meeting on the protection of minors in the Church. Father Zollner is on the organizing committee for the meeting.

listening to victims and leaders who have learned things the hard way, participants will be inspired to adopt a culture of accountability and transparency.

Hearing what abuse and negligence have done to people has the power to transform the listener, "to truly open the mind and heart," Jesuit Father Hans Zollner told reporters Feb. 12.

Just to be sure those voices are heard, the meeting will also feature testimonies from survivors from countries where the reality of abuse is still largely ignored, said the priest, an abuse expert who is part of the meeting's organizing committee.

He said the word "accountability" doesn't even exist in many languages, which often means that culture might lack a clear or coherent understanding of this key concept.

For that reason, the summit will devote a day to discussing accountability and "what structures, procedures and methods are effective" and viable in the Catholic Church, he said.

Church leaders must know what the norms are, he said, but the meeting also will stress that the procedures themselves "will not magically solve a problem."

For example, he said, it was "a source of delusion" for U.S. Catholics when the 2002 Dallas Charter did not fix everything.

In fact, the meeting will not be

about producing any documents, but pushing people to take the needed steps toward greater transparency and accountability, Father Lombardi said.

Those steps already are spelled out, he said, in Pope Francis' 2016 document, "As a Loving Mother," on the accountability of bishops and religious superiors.

"It must be put into practice effectively," he said, adding that he was "convinced and firmly hope that this meeting will give a push in that direction."

3. There will be a kind of "parallel assembly" as large numbers of survivors and advocacy groups converge on Rome to call for greater accountability, action and reform.

A variety of events are planned, including an evening "Vigil for Justice" near the Vatican and a "March for Zero Tolerance" to St. Peter's Square, but a major focus will be media outreach and getting the voice and recommendations of laypeople and victims — many who had gone unheard for years — listened to.

4. Pope Francis will be present throughout the meeting, which will include plenary sessions, working groups, prayer, a penitential liturgy and a closing Mass.

In letters to the bishops of Chile and the United States, Pope

Francis has made clear what he thinks the Church needs to do to respond to the abuse crisis.

Administrative solutions involving new policies and norms are not enough, he has said.

He told Chile's bishops that abuse and its cover-up "are indicators that something is bad in the church body."

Therefore, they must not only "address the concrete cases," but also "discover the dynamics that made it possible for such attitudes and evils to occur."

Those attitudes are driven by the temptation "to save ourselves, to save our reputation," he told the Chilean bishops.

In his letter to the U.S. bishops, he warned against the tendency to play the victim, to scold, discredit, disparage others and point fingers.

5. Expect the meeting to be one critical step along a very long journey that began decades ago and must continue.

Further measures will be taken after the meeting, Father Zollner has said. For instance, a task force made up of child protection experts "will probably be instituted in the various continents" to help bishops create, strengthen and implement guidelines.

The different "teams" of the task force should be able to help "for years to come to measure the success of this exercise of realizing one's own responsibility, even on the global level, in the face of public expectations," he told the Vatican newspaper in January.

Even though the Church is well aware of larger, related problems of abuses of power, conscience and abuse and violence against seminarians, religious women and other adults, the meeting will focus exclusively on protecting minors from abuse, Fathers Zollner and Lombardi said.

The idea is that the attitude and spirit needed to protect the most vulnerable of the Church's members are the same that will protect and promote respect for the integrity and dignity of everyone.

In fact, Father Lombardi said, "I see this as a test of the profundity of the reform" of the Church called for by Pope Francis.

In other words, the pope wants people "to examine how we live out our mission, with what coherence and how we can convert our attitudes, both in regard to our attention and compassion for those who suffer, as well as our consistent witness to the dignity of children, of women, and so on."

Contributing to this story was Cindy Wooden in Rome.

Report finds no evidence of racist statements from Covington students

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An independent investigation into the much-discussed encounter that went viral between Catholic high school students, a Native American tribal leader and members of another protest group on the Lincoln Memorial grounds in Washington in January found no evidence that the students of Kentucky's Covington Catholic High School issued "offensive or racist statements."

A report on the investigation was released by the Covington diocese Feb. 13.

Two days before releasing the report's findings, Covington Bishop Roger J. Foys wrote to parents of the high school students telling them he was pleased to let them know that his hope that an inquiry into the events of Jan. 18 would "exonerate our students so that they can move forward with their lives has been realized."

The investigation, conducted by Greater Cincinnati Investigation Inc., which has no connection with the high school or diocese, "demonstrated that our students did not instigate the incident that occurred at the Lincoln Memorial," the bishop said.

The four-page report signed Feb. 11 said that four investigators spent 240 hours looking into the events of Jan. 18 when the Covington Catholic High School students — in Washington for the annual March for Life — met up with other groups while waiting for their buses to pick them up. The investigators spoke with 43 students, 13 chaperones and a number of third-party witnesses. They also reviewed about 50 hours of internet footage or comments focused on the groups' exchange.

Investigators were unable to question Nathan Phillips, tribal elder for the Omaha Tribe, who was chanting and beating a drum by the students, or Nick Sandmann, the student most prominent in viral footage of the encounter.

The incident in question gained national attention from a viral video of it that showed students surrounding Phillips, who was chanting and beating a drum. The students appeared to be mocking him and Sandmann, inches away from the drummer, who never moved and was smiling, was accused of flagrant disrespect.

The clip caused immediate outrage, particularly on social media. But by the next day, extended footage of how the situation unfolded revealed that another group had taunted the students. Phillips had walked over to the group as a type of intervention.



CNS photo/Madelyn McGarvey, Reuters

A marquee for Covington Catholic High School is seen Jan. 23 in Park Hills, Ky. Days after an encounter took place between Covington Catholic High School students and a Native American tribal leader in Washington, the Diocese of Covington announced it would begin a third-party investigation into what happened at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial following the annual March for Life Jan. 18.

Just days after the video prompted rounds of criticism, Sandmann issued a statement saying he had "received physical and death threats via social media, as well as hateful insults."

In a Jan. 22 statement, the Covington diocese said the incident and the reaction to it was "a very serious matter that has already permanently altered the lives of many people. It is important for us to gather the facts that will allow us to determine what corrective actions, if any, are appropriate."

The investigators' report said it found no evidence of the students responding in an offensive manner to the black Hebrew Israelites who first addressed them nor did the students chant "build the wall" as some had speculated.

According to the report, the students asked their chaperones if they could perform a school cheer to drown out the remarks of the protest group. The students also said they felt "confused" by being approached by Phillips and although some performed a "tomahawk chop" none of the students said "racist or offensive statements" to Phillips.

Some students said chaperones had reminded them that if "they engaged in a verbal exchange with the black Hebrew Israelites, they would receive detention when returning to

school."

The investigators also noted that most of the students wearing the "Make America Great Again" hats had bought them in Washington during their visit. In previous years, chaperones said some students bought "Hope" hats in support of President Barack Obama. There is no school policy prohibiting political apparel on school-sponsored trips, the report said.

In his letter to the Covington Catholic High School community, Bishop Foys said that in the weeks since the original video went viral "two well-worn and oft-used adages have come to mind: Seeing is believing and perception is reality."

He said the immediate reaction to the initial video "led almost everyone to believe that our students had initiated the incident and the perception of those few minutes of video became reality."

"In truth, taking everything into account, our students were placed in a situation that was at once bizarre and even threatening. Their reaction to the situation was, given the circumstances, expected and one might even say laudatory," he wrote.

He said the students could "never have expected what they experienced on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial" and added that their "stance there was surely a pro-life stance."



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, February 24: 10 a.m. — Rite of Election, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame
 Sunday, February 24: 7 p.m. — Mass, Holy Spirit Chapel, Le Mans Hall, Saint Mary's College, University of Notre Dame
 Monday, February 25: 10 a.m. — Meeting of the Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
 Tuesday, February 26: 12:30 p.m. — Meeting of Diocesan Finance Council, Holiday Inn Express, Warsaw
 Thursday, February 28: 12:30 p.m. — Lunch Meeting with Keough School Students, Jenkins Nanovic Hall, University of Notre Dame
 Thursday, February 28: 5:45 p.m. — Dinner Meeting with Keough School Faculty and Administration, Legends of Notre Dame, University of Notre Dame
 Thursday, February 28: 8 p.m. — Remarks at Performance of "Holy Spirit Mass" by National Lutheran Choir, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame
 Friday, March 1: 11:30 a.m. — South Bend/Southwest Michigan You Can Lend a Hand Luncheon, Century Center, South Bend
 Saturday, March 2: 6 p.m. — Saints Alive! Dinner and Auction, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne



Priest appointment

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following appointment:

Reverend Brian Ching, C.S.C., to Rector, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame, effective July 1, 2019.

Catholic Charities expects healthy housing to ease chronic homelessness

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic Charities USA is partnering with five diocesan Catholic Charities agencies, local hospitals, housing developers and funders in a plan aiming to reduce chronic homelessness 20 percent by 2024. Called the Healthy Housing Initiative, the effort involves placing homeless people into stable housing and providing essential supportive services to reduce hospital readmissions while ensuring that basic needs are met. Collaboration is underway with diocesan Catholic Charities operations in Detroit; St. Louis; Las Vegas; Portland, Oregon; and Spokane, Washington, where such programs exist. "This is basically co-locating the services with the housing. We're taking a look at not only partnering with Catholic health associations but taking advantage of access to property that most of (Catholic Charities) members have," said Curtis Johnson, vice president of affordable housing at Catholic Charities USA. In some communities, structures being eyed include vacant buildings on parish land such as schools and convents that can be redeveloped into housing, Johnson told Catholic News Service. In other dioceses, apartments already have been developed in which key social services, mental health counseling and case management are offered.

This year's Lent could be just what struggling Church needs

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When Lent begins March 6, U.S. Catholics will likely be more than ready for it. This set-aside time for prayer and reflection — after all the Church has been through in recent months — could provide both a healing balm and a needed boost forward, some say. Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, is typically a big Catholic draw, filling churches with nearly Easter- or Christmas-size Mass crowds even through it is not a holy day of obligation. Conventual Franciscan Father Jude DeAngelo, director of campus ministry at The Catholic University of America in Washington, hopes this year is no exception. "We in the American Catholic Church have been through a year of tremendous suffering and tremendous upheaval and frustration" he told Catholic News Service, referring to the past months of allegations of sexual misconduct and cover-up by Church leaders. The priest said some Catholics stopped going to church, "scandalized by the actions of a few" but that he hopes and prays they come back on Ash Wednesday, a day he described as a strong "reminder that God is never finished with us."

Funds, volunteers sought for medical mission team

FORT WAYNE — “Charity for the poor is like a living flame; the drier the fuel, the brighter it burns. In your service to the poor do not give only your hands but also your hearts. Charity, to be fruitful, must cost us.” These beautiful words of St. Teresa of Kolkata are the inspiration for a new medical mission that has been formed in Fort Wayne.

For several years, Sister M. Austin Terese Esotu felt she was being called to form a nonprofit organization to serve the poorest of the poor by providing medical assistance and food. Sister Austin is from Nigeria, where she lived among the poor and saw the need to help those who were dying from malnutrition and lack of medical care. She belongs to the Daughters of Mary, Mother of Mercy, and came to Fort Wayne when Bishop John M. D’Arcy requested that Mother Superior Mary Paul Offiah send several sisters to help in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

When she was young, in the fifth grade, Sister Austin had been invited by some sisters of the order to spend a weekend at their local convent. Many of the sisters were good friends of her family, and this began her journey to become a member of the Daughters of Mary. She lived with the sisters from that weekend on and joined the congrega-



Provided by Nancy Torkeo

Sister M. Austin Terese Esotu of the Daughters of Mary, Mother of Mercy, is putting together a team of volunteers from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to serve the poorest of the poor via a nonprofit organization that provides medical assistance and food to those dying from malnutrition and lack of medical care in her home country of Nigeria.

tion after graduating from high school.

Mother Mary Paul saw a great need to help the poor who were unable to receive or afford

medical services and wanted a hospital to care for those in rural areas. She took it upon herself to care for the handicapped, the sick, the poor and abandoned children. “Mother Mary Paul is the Mother Teresa of Nigeria,” said Sister Austin. “She would never say no to anyone.”

Unfortunately, Mother Mary Paul was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer and was unable to continue her mission. Before she passed away in 2006, she asked Sister Austin to carry on her work and see that a hospital was built to take care of the poor. Mother Mary Paul also hoped to build a home where physically and mentally challenged children could live; often, these children are abandoned because of their disabilities.

In 2016 Sister Austin’s father provided land and built a hospital for those who could not pay for medical help. The hospital was named after Mother Mary Paul. In August 2018, Sister Austin, who is a nurse practitioner, felt God was calling her to form Divine Healer Medical Mission to continue the work of Mother Mary Paul in Nigeria.

The purpose of Divine Healer Medical Mission is near to the heart of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. That purpose is to share God’s love, compassion and healing power by improv-

ing health care for the poorest of the poor and providing aid to physically and mentally challenged children around the world. The first of two medical trips to provide this aid will be to rural Nigeria, where the Mother Paul Memorial Hospital is located. The trip is scheduled for March 20-30, with a second trip planned for October.

The vision of Divine Healer Medical Mission is to establish and support health clinics in rural areas throughout the world that focus on preventative health care and treat illnesses.

An additional goal is to establish food pantries and distribute food to low-income families and senior citizens. “Sometimes people come to the hospital for medical help, but the problem is they are malnourished,” said Sister Austin. A pantry was created at the hospital for needy people to receive food once a month, but more help is needed.

There is an ongoing need for medical and nonmedical volunteers for these and future trips.

Donations are also needed to pay for medical supplies and to supply the food pantries. Anyone who may be interested in assisting in one way or another should contact Sister Austin at 260-312-4557 or Nancy Torkeo at 260-402-4263. More information is also available at www.divinehealer.org.

It is the hope of Divine Healer to make the medical missions an ongoing Fort Wayne project. Sister Austin said she and her support team would hope to see the members of the community get involved with volunteering for the mission trips and

helping to raise money to buy medical supplies and food for the pantries. It is exciting, they feel, to have a Catholic medical mission located in Fort Wayne, and their hope is that together, local Catholics will make a wonderful impact throughout the world.

Donations will be gratefully accepted at Divine Healer Medical Mission, P.O. Box 10021, Fort Wayne, IN 46850.



Mary and Mercy Retreat offers transformative faith opportunity

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

Where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more. These memorable words from St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans remain equally true in the present day and life of the Church. While waves of confusion, disharmony and persecution may appear to threaten the unity of the faithful, God nevertheless continues to provide opportunities for the Church to become stronger and more hopeful than ever before.

This is the core message of Father Michael Gaitley, a priest of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception whose name has become synonymous with Marian Consecration and Divine Mercy. It was Father Gaitley’s popular book, “33 Days to Morning Glory,” which, at the encouragement of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, led over 12,000 members of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to make personal consecrations to Jesus through Mary in 2014. A few weeks from now, Father Gaitley will be returning to the diocese in order to lead a “Mary and Mercy Retreat” that seeks to bring men and women of varying faith levels into an even stronger relationship with Jesus and Mary through the examples of several famous saints.

The event will take place on March 8-9 at St. Pius X Church in Granger, with opportunities for Mass, eucharistic Adoration and praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet, along with personal testimonies, lunch, a book signing and more.

Since the conference will bring together men and women already familiar with his writings as well as individuals who have not yet encountered him, Father Gaitley emphasized that “This retreat is for anybody: for those who have read, it’s going to take them deeper; and for those who are new, it’s kind of an introduction that will give them the big picture of the spirituality that ‘Now is the Time of Mercy!’ as St. John Paul II taught.”

He explained: “This is a time of great and extraordinary grace, and the retreat is about how to tap into those graces that God is giving to the world and to the Church. This resonates with a lot of people because they see a lot of the challenges, struggles and difficulties that mark the modern world. It’s really a message of hope that people are excited to hear.”

Father Gaitley also shared his enthusiasm to visit the diocese because of the success of the previous Marian consecration. He believes Fort Wayne-South Bend “is particularly primed for a retreat like this because it



FATHER MICHAEL GAITLEY

had such a time of grace during the diocesanwide consecration, which saw a huge response from both parishioners and priests.”

While Father Gaitley will be the primary retreat master leading the discussions, he indicated that these are also unique experiences because of the involvement of the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy. These missionaries are men and women who live in community and commit to an intentional period of discernment, evangelization and outreach to the marginalized. Father Gaitley, who serves as the Missionaries’ formation director, exclaimed, “I

have the joy of bringing the missionaries with me, and those in attendance get to experience this spirituality. They don’t just hear some talks and leave and forget everything. Rather, they come, hear the talks, and have a lot of momentum for bringing it into their daily lives.” He explained that this occurs by providing “practical actionable items” that offer tangible ways of participating in this spirituality and even becoming missionaries in their own lives.

The retreat was coordinated by Barb Williams, a St. Pius X parishioner whose daughter works for the Marian Helper’s Association, the primary lay outreach apostolate of Father Gaitley’s religious community. She shared that “Father Gaitley expressed an interest in coming to the diocese, particularly because of Bishop Rhoades’ Marian consecration and the success it had.” Williams and fellow parishioner Lori Giovannini spoke with St. Pius X pastor Msgr. William Schooler, who indicated that he would be happy to host Father Gaitley and his team of Marian Missionaries.

Williams, who attended one of Father Gaitley’s conferences in another state to prepare for the event here, shared that “Father Gaitley has an incredible way of unpacking the complex teachings of saints, especially St. John

Paul II, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Mother Teresa and St. Thérèse, in a very relatable way. He really wants to reach out to people and communicate that Mary is our Mother and if we turn to her, she will help lead us to Jesus and His merciful love and help us grow in holiness to be the people God created us to be.”

Therese Hurford, who helped coordinate the retreat Williams attended, shared her own appreciation for Father Gaitley’s emphasis on concrete action. She explained that this occurs through a focus on “Mary, mercy and community” by which people come to know and trust in the mercy of Christ through a relationship with His mother and then go out to perform corporal and spiritual works of mercy. She further shared her confidence that people of various perspectives and positions of faith will be able to be enriched and “go deeper” through this retreat.

While registration is still open, spaces are filling quickly. In order to reserve attendance or to learn more, visit stpius.net/mercymaryretreat. The cost is \$50 per person for the Friday evening and all-day Saturday experience.

The event is sponsored by Redeemer Radio and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Office for Adult Faith Formation.

ICC opposes legal framework for gestational surrogacy

A bipartisan bill intended to protect the parties involved in gestational surrogacy cases is moving forward at the Indiana Statehouse amid serious concerns by the Catholic Church about this increasingly common reproductive method.

House Bill 1369 would create a framework of legal protections for both the intended parents in such cases and the surrogate carrying the child for them. In gestational surrogacy, a woman carries a baby for another couple but is not genetically related to the child. Instead, the baby is conceived using the egg and sperm of the intended parents or a donated source through in vitro fertilization and then transferred to the surrogate's uterus. The bill would address current ambiguities in Indiana law surrounding this type of assisted reproduction, including making contracts between the parties legally enforceable.

But reducing human reproduction to a business transaction is just one of the many grave moral issues raised by these types of practices, according to the Indiana Catholic Conference, which opposes House Bill 1369. Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the ICC — the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana — was the only witness testifying against the bill during

a committee hearing on the measure held Feb. 11.

"Surrogacy is, at its core, a practice of exploitation and commodification of human life — especially of women and children," Tebbe said. "This is true whether it is considered 'commercial' or 'altruistic.' It reduces reproduction down to an essentially economic exchange. Those who are interested in protecting and fostering the authentic interests of women would do well to avoid giving government sanction to a practice that clearly reduces women down to their biological parts and treats them as commodities."

Tebbe noted that countries including Ireland, France and Denmark ban surrogacy in all its forms. In the United States, most states have no law governing gestational surrogacy, while Arizona and New York legally forbid it.

Gestational surrogacy is legal in Indiana but open to dispute because of its lack of definition, according to Rep. Sean Eberhart (R-Shelbyville), the primary author of House Bill 1369.

"The issue that this bill attempts to address is that any agreement reached between the intended parents and the surrogate is not enforceable in a court of law," Eberhart said during last week's hearing of the House judiciary committee. "We're only

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

one of five states that doesn't allow the contract between those parties to be enforced, which can cause quite a few problems."

Eberhart and witnesses testifying in favor of the bill — which passed 9-1 during the hearing — cited numerous issues that can arise in such cases. Without enforceable provisions, a surrogate couldn't be required to keep the intended parents informed of the progress of her pregnancy, for example. The intended parents could decide to no longer compensate the surrogate for her services or continue paying for her medical expenses.

"(This bill) spells out everything required for a gestational surrogacy to take place," Eberhart said. "We talk about what each party has to do before they enter into an agreement and decide to go through with this act."

But the Catholic Church's concerns extend into other aspects of gestational surrogacy, Tebbe

noted. That includes IVF, which is required in this reproductive method and typically results in multiple embryos being discarded or frozen indefinitely.

"The Church opposes the commodification, manufacture, or sale of human beings and, consequently, any measure that expands or eases the abilities of private or public entities to engage in such socially damaging activities," Tebbe said. "House Bill 1369, notwithstanding its intended outcomes, has the effect of treating human beings as a commodity both in the in vitro process and through surrogacy. We therefore oppose the bill as dangerous and not in the best interest of society and the individuals involved."

Supporters of the bill argued that gestational surrogacy is already a widespread practice and a valid option for couples facing infertility.

"Over the last eight years that I have been working in this area of law, I have seen (gestational surrogacy) quadruple," said Amanda Sapp, an assisted reproductive technology attorney, during her testimony. "One in six couples deal with infertility, so this bill is very much needed in Indiana for people who are using donor gametes (sperm and/or egg) and who are interested in using a surrogate."

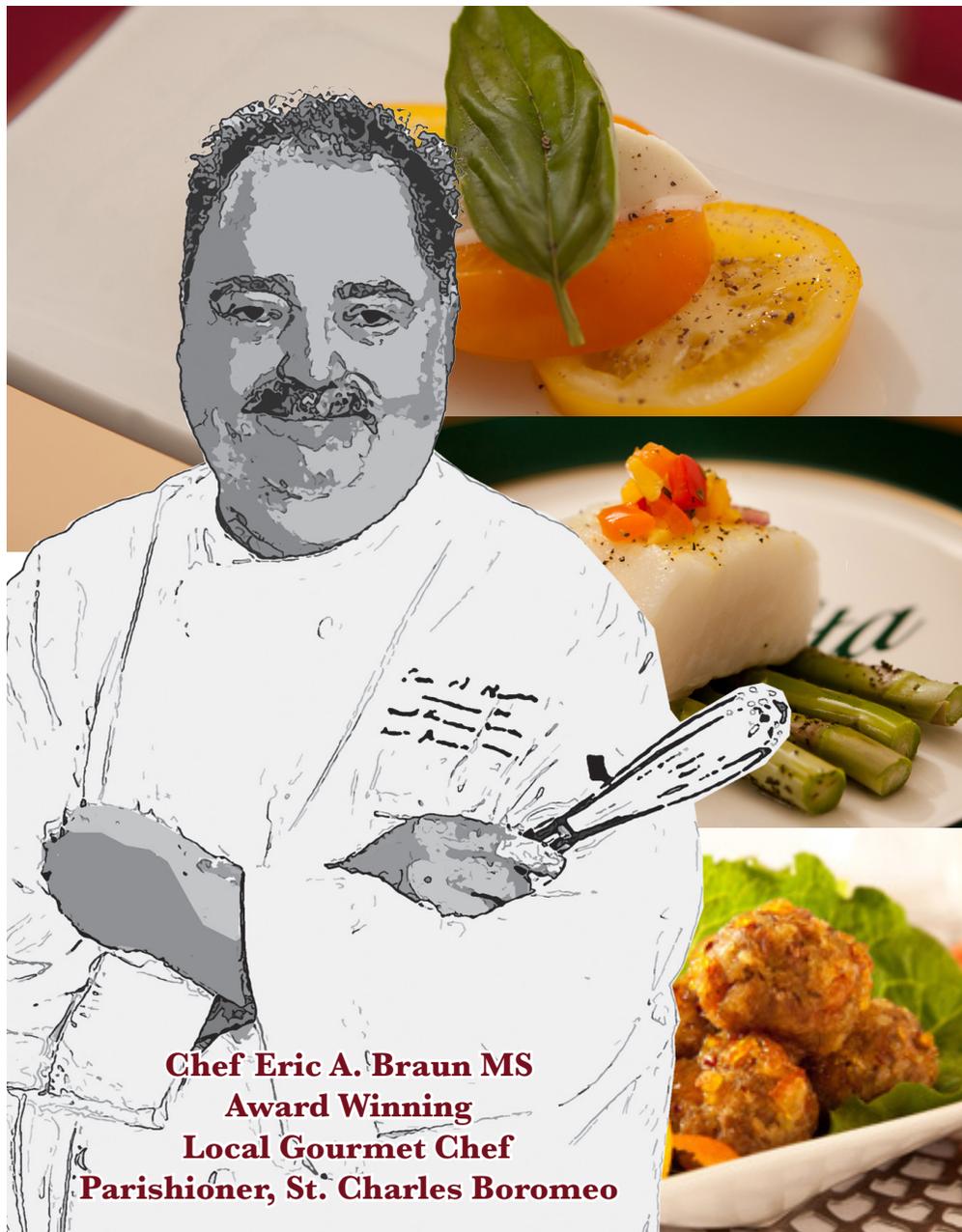
One of House Bill 1369's co-authors, Rep. Ryan Hatfield (D-Evansville), an attorney himself, cited an example from his own practice that he says underscores the need for this measure.

"I had a couple approach me over the summer for a surrogacy contract," Hatfield said. "When I dug into this, I was shocked at how little law and how few statutes pertain to this issue. Whether you support or oppose surrogacy, I think that this adds a better and more substantial framework around this issue to protect everybody involved. I believe this is a good step forward no matter how you view the overall issue."

Tebbe, however, offered a counterpoint to this argument.

"Some might say that surrogacy will happen regardless, so it is better for it to be a regulated process to ensure that the interests of each party are protected," he said. "This is like arguing that human trafficking will happen regardless of our laws banning it, so it is more pragmatic, then, to regulate it. Regulating a practice that debases and commodifies women and children does not and cannot transform it into something good and worthwhile."

At press time, the bill was scheduled to be considered by the full Indiana House of Representatives.



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Catholic bishops, groups oppose Trump's national emergency

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic bishops near the U.S.-Mexico border, joined by other U.S. prelates, voiced opposition just after President Donald Trump's Feb. 15 declaration of a national emergency so he can order construction of a barrier along parts of the border between the two countries. "In our view, a border wall is first and foremost a symbol of division and animosity between two friendly countries. Furthermore, the wall would be an ineffective use of resources at a time of financial austerity; it would also would destroy parts of the environment, disrupt the livelihoods of ranchers and farmers, weaken cooperation and commerce between border communities, and, at least in one instance, undermine the right to the freedom of worship," said the statement released just after Trump, in a news conference, said he was going to sign a national emergency declaration to stave off a flow of drugs, human trafficking, gang members and illegal immigration coming across the southern border. The president later sign a spending bill that provides \$1.375 billion for fencing and other measures along the border — a fraction of the \$5.7 billion he had been asking from Congress for construction of the structure — he announced the national emergency that could grant him up to \$8 billion for his project. In a separate bishops' statement fol-

NEWS BRIEFS

Churches work to help desperate Venezuelans



CNS photo/Manuel Rueda

Migrants line up outside the Divine Providence Soup Kitchen in Cucuta, Colombia, Feb. 9. For the past few years, Church groups have been calling on Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro to let humanitarian aid into the country to relieve the suffering of millions of vulnerable Venezuelans. The crowds seeking a free meal at the soup kitchen become bigger each month, as thousands flee food shortages, hyperinflation and crime in the South American country, with almost no savings to start their new life abroad.

lowing Trump's announcement, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration, said they were "deeply concerned about the president's action to fund the construction of a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, which circumvents the clear intent of Congress to limit funding of a wall."

New Mexico close to passing 'most extreme bill in nation' on abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Since the end of January, the legislatures of New York, Virginia and other states have made headlines by approving or introducing policies that relax abortion restrictions, even in the third trimester and during labor. Now New Mexico is one step closer to passing a similar bill that loosens the state's already liberal abortion laws and would erase virtually all abortion restrictions in the event that the landmark Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade* is overturned. The "Decriminalize Abortion Bill," or H.B. 51, has now made its way through the New Mexico House of Representatives, receiving the body's overall approval in a 40-29 floor vote Feb. 6 after being confirmed by several committees. It is now headed for the Senate, where it will be the subject of further debate and another vote.

McCARRICK, from page 1

his interactions with others and restricting his ability to leave the place he is assigned to live.

McCarrick's punishment is the toughest meted out to a cardinal by the Vatican in modern times.

McCarrick's initial suspension from ministry and removal from the College of Cardinals in 2018 came after a man alleged that McCarrick began sexually abusing him in 1971 when he was a 16-year-old altar server in New York; the Archdiocese of New York found the allegation "credible and substantiated" and turned the case over to the Vatican.

At that point, in June, then-Cardinal McCarrick said he would no longer exercise any public ministry "in obedience" to the Vatican, although he maintained he was innocent.

In late July, the pope accepted McCarrick's resignation from the College of Cardinals and ordered him to maintain "a life of prayer and penance" until the accusation that he had sexually abused a minor could be examined by a Vatican court.

In the weeks that followed the initial announcement, another man came forward claiming he was abused as a child by McCarrick, and several former seminarians spoke out about being sexually harassed by the cardinal at a beach house he had in New Jersey.

Since September, McCarrick has been living in a Capuchin friary in rural Kansas.

The allegations against McCarrick, including what appeared to be years of sexual harassment of seminarians, also led to serious questions about who may have known about his activities and how he was able to rise to the level of cardinal.

At least two former seminarians reported the sexual misconduct of McCarrick to their local bishops as far back as the 1990s. The Archdiocese of Newark and the dioceses of Metuchen and Trenton made a settlement with one man in 2005, and the Diocese of Metuchen settled with the other man in 2007.

A spokeswoman for the Diocese of Metuchen told Catholic News Service in August that both settlements were reported to the Vatican nuncio in Washington. The two archbishops who held the position of nuncio in 2004 and 2006 have since died.

Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, who served as nuncio in Washington from 2011-16, made headlines in mid-August when he called for Pope Francis to resign, claiming the pope had known of allegations against McCarrick and had lifted sanctions imposed on McCarrick by now-retired Pope Benedict XVI.

The former nuncio later clari-

fied that Pope Benedict issued the sanctions "privately" perhaps "due to the fact that he (McCarrick) was already retired, maybe due to the fact that he (Pope Benedict) was thinking he was ready to obey."

In an open letter to Archbishop Vigano released in October, Cardinal Marc Ouellet, prefect of the Congregation for Bishops since 2010, said that in 2011, "I told you verbally of the situation of the bishop emeritus (McCarrick) who was to observe certain conditions and restrictions because of rumors about his behavior in the past."

Then-Cardinal McCarrick "was strongly exhorted not to travel and not to appear in public so as not to provoke further rumors," Cardinal Ouellet said, but "it is false to present these measures taken in his regard as 'sanctions' decreed by Pope Benedict XVI and annulled by Pope Francis. After re-examining the archives, I certify that there are no such documents signed by either pope."

Cardinal Ouellet's letter was published a few days after the Vatican issued a statement saying that it would, "in due course, make known the conclusions of the matter regarding Archbishop McCarrick."

In addition, Pope Francis ordered "a further thorough study of the entire documentation present in the archives of

the dicasteries and offices of the Holy See regarding the former Cardinal McCarrick in order to ascertain all the relevant facts, to place them in their historical context and to evaluate them objectively."

The Vatican statement said it is aware "that, from the examination of the facts and of the circumstances, it may emerge that choices were made that would not be consonant with a contemporary approach to such issues. However, as Pope Francis has said: 'We will follow the path of truth wherever it may lead.' Both abuse and its cover-up can no longer be tolerated, and a different treatment for bishops who have committed or covered up abuse, in fact, represents a form of clericalism that is no longer acceptable."

McCarrick had been ordained to the priesthood in 1958 for the Archdiocese of New York. James, the first child he baptized after ordination, claimed that from the time he was 11 years old and for some 20 years, McCarrick sexually abused him.

In 1977, McCarrick was ordained an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of New York and, in 1981, St. John Paul II named him the first bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen, New Jersey. Five years later, he became the archbishop of Newark, New Jersey, and in

November 2000 St. John Paul named him archbishop of Washington, D.C., and made him a cardinal early in 2001. McCarrick retired in 2006.

At least three other cardinals have been accused of sexual abuse or impropriety in the past 25 years. In the 1990s Austrian Cardinal Hans Hermann Groer was forced to step down as archbishop of Vienna and eventually to relinquish all public ministry after allegations of the sexual abuse and harassment of seminarians and priests; he died in 2003 without having undergone a canonical trial.

Pope Benedict XVI forced Scottish Cardinal Keith O'Brien to step down as archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh in early 2013; after an investigation, Pope Francis withdrew his "rights and duties" as a cardinal, although he retained the title until his death in March 2018.

Australian Cardinal George Pell, facing charges of abusing minors, has been on leave from his post as head of the Vatican Secretariat for the Economy since mid-2017; he reportedly was found guilty of some charges in December, but the court has imposed an injunction on press coverage of the trial. Pope Francis told reporters he would not speak about the case until the court proceedings have run their course.

Rebuilding refugees' lives in Sri Lanka

MISHAWAKA — Decades of civil war forced many to flee Sri Lanka. When the war ended in 2009, people returned to their villages and cities, unsure of what they would find.

Sajith Silva, Catholic Relief Services program coordinator for Sri Lanka, will visit Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, to talk about the vulnerable people displaced by war and how Catholic Relief Services provides hope and support in their efforts to return to their native country and rebuild their lives.

The public is invited to attend the free presentation Feb. 19, from 7-8:30 p.m. in Driscoll Auditorium, 54515 S.R. 933 N. For more information contact Dianne Barlas at dbarlas@hcc-nd.edu. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is a co-sponsor of the event.

Symposium will help families find time for Christ

NORTH EASTON, MASS. — Families are under more pressure than ever today. School, work, social media, drugs, materialism and other issues challenge each member of the family and make it difficult to find a spiritual connection. The constraints on time alone make it tough for families to even have dinner together, and Catholic families are no different. Catholic families, however, are called to live differently.

These concerns will be addressed by leading experts at the Catholic Family Life Symposium July 19-21 at the University of Notre Dame. This major event is sponsored by Our Sunday Visitor, Holy Cross Family Ministries, Pastoral Solutions Institute and the University of Notre Dame.

More than 30 authorities in the fields of theology, social science and pastoral ministry to families will come together to discuss and answer these and other questions about Catholic family life. They will explore how families can encounter Christ in everyday relationships and how to express that experience with each other and in their community.

Among the several well-known Catholic family authorities scheduled to speak are Dr. Popcak and his wife, Lisa; Andrew and Terri Lyke; Tim and Sue Muldoon; Julie Rubio; Justin Bartkus; Pat Fagan; Darcia Narvaez; Mark Gray; Joe Atkinson; and Julia Dezeliski.

For more information, visit www.cflsymposium.org.

Rector of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart to retire

NOTRE DAME — After 23 years serving as rector of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Father Peter Rocca, CSC, will retire effective July 1. As rector of the basilica,

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Breakfast at Ave Maria University



Provided by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades enjoys breakfast with students from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend who attend Ave Maria University on Feb. 15 after celebrating Mass. Bishop Rhoades is a member of the board of trustees of the university, located in Naples, Fla.

Polar Plunge for charity



Provided by Eric Sheibley

Father Daniel Whelan, second from right, dean of mission and formation at Our Lady School and parochial vicar at Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne, poses with fellow members of team Padre's Knights before taking the plunge into a frigid pond at Metea County Park on Saturday, Feb. 9. Padre's Knights participated in the annual Polar Plunge, an event that raises money for Indiana athletes who will be competing in the Special Olympics.

Black History Month meal at Holy Cross



Jennifer Miller

On Feb. 6, Chef Calvin Metts from the Morris Inn at the University of Notre Dame prepared a special African-American lunch of fried chicken with hot sauce, waffles with butter and maple syrup and collard greens for the students of Holy Cross School, South Bend, and their parents. The special meal was shared in celebration of Black History Month. Chef Metts is pictured with kindergarten students.

Father Rocca has ministered to the spiritual and physical needs of the basilica. "I have had the joy and privilege," said Father Rocca, "to collaborate with countless students, faculty and staff, as well as members of the broader local community, in providing liturgical celebrations which, hopefully, have deepened and strengthened the faith life of all who have worshiped in the basilica."

Father Brian Ching, CSC, who currently serves as assistant rector, will succeed Father Rocca. "I am deeply honored and grateful to be asked to serve as the rector of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart," said Father Ching. "The basilica played an important part in my own faith journey as an undergraduate here at Notre Dame and now as an alumnus and member of the Congregation of Holy Cross. It has been a great blessing to work as the assistant rector and I am excited to serve as rector so that the basilica can continue to be the enduring spiritual home of Our Lady's University."

Following this transition, Father Rocca will remain a member of the formation staff at Moreau Seminary and chaplain to the ROTC program. He also will continue to teach at the seminary and to participate in the sacramental life of the university as rector emeritus.

In Panama, couple says series of 'yesses' led to vocation of marriage

BY KELLY SANKOWSKI

PANAMA CITY (CNS) A young Catholic couple told World Youth Day pilgrims about the series of "yesses" that transformed their lives.

"If you told me five years ago that I'd be on a stage in Panama talking to you about marriage, I would have said you're crazy," said Drew Dillingham, 28.

During the Jan. 23 Fiat Festival, sponsored by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, the Knights of Columbus and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Dillingham and his wife Kim, parishioners at Immaculate Conception Parish in Washington, D.C., took the stage.

Five years ago, Drew said, he had been working on a congressional campaign for a losing candidate and had asked his friend if he could sleep on his couch in Washington temporarily.

"I definitely wasn't close to marriage, and I wasn't close to God either," he said. "But God was always calling us. He was always calling Kim and I to the vocation of marriage."

At the same time, Kim, who is now 27, had just graduated and moved to Washington to start her first job, and by the world's standards she was doing well. She had a job that was making good money and had great friends, but "deep down I felt unfulfilled and a little lost," she said.

One of her friends encouraged her to start rediscovering the Catholic faith, and as she began to read and pray, she "started to slowly open myself up to God, and pretty much immediately he transformed my life."

She soon got an email from her former college chaplain inviting her to the new St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, an invitation she said she would have turned

down if it had come just a few months earlier. But because God had already been working on her heart, she decided to go.

Meanwhile, Drew's friends also invited him to that shrine. The couple met there and began to date. At the beginning of their relationship, Drew decided that he wanted to make sure God was at the center of their relationship, which he had never done before in other relationships. To do this, they committed to three main things, he said: putting prayer into all their dates, going to Mass every week together and remaining chaste.

Those three "yesses" to God "really strengthened our relationship and helped us discern our vocation to marriage," he said.

Ten months after they began dating, Drew and Kim got engaged, and soon started facing a lot of questions from people around them. Though these questions sometimes gave her some doubt, Kim said ultimately, "I knew that God was calling us to embrace our vocation."

Since they had met at the St. John Paul II National Shrine, they chose that saint's feast day, Oct. 22, 2016, as their wedding day.

"Marriage teaches you what the definition of love is," said Drew. "Love isn't just a feeling ... love is much deeper than that."

Love, he said, is about sacrificing for one another; about being on the same path to heaven and carrying out God's will on Earth.

Through the sacrament of marriage, they also received the grace to be open to life, and although the world told them to delay the sacrifices involved with having children, they now have a 9-month-old daughter.

Deciding to accept this invitation to speak at World Youth Day was another "yes" to God, because when they were asked to speak, Kim said her first reaction was to wonder "Why us? We are



Drew and Kim Dillingham, parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish in Washington, speak to World Youth Day pilgrims during the Jan. 23 Fiat Festival in Panama City. CNS photo/Jaclyn Lippelmann, Catholic Standard

just an average couple."

But as they thought about it, they realized, "God has given us so much," including each other and their daughter, and "it felt like an opportunity to give back to him and glorify him," Kim told the *Catholic Standard*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington.

Because he had noticed that a lot of people are afraid to get married, Drew said he felt the talk was an opportunity to share with others the reason why they should do so.

Though they were telling the story of their particular marriage, Kim said their hope was that the pilgrims would not learn just about her or Drew or their daughter, but instead about "how God has worked in our lives." She said she believes an important part of their story is how they both invited God into their lives before they met each other, which she thinks is "the most important step before you can fully embrace your vocation."

Though the times they said

"yes" to God did come with some sacrifices such as Kim staying home to raise their daughter and moving to a less-expensive apartment Kim said, "God has taught us that the more we give ourselves away in love, the more He fills us with His joy and His grace."

Kelly Sankowski is a reporter for Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington.

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Actor Gary Sinise describes his road to the Catholic Church

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Gary Sinise, the actor perhaps best known for playing Lieutenant Dan in the 1994 movie “Forrest Gump,” followed a rather unusual path to becoming a Catholic.

In a Feb. 4 telephone interview with Catholic News Service from Los Angeles, Sinise told his story.

“At one point in the late 90s, I remember my wife (Moir) was doing a play, ‘The Playboy of the Western World.’ She was playing a woman in a tavern. She had just gone through sobriety, and she was new to her sobriety as she was playing this woman defending her life in a tavern,” Sinise said.

“At one point, she went to a Catholic church looking for an AA meeting. This little French woman, she asked her, ‘Where’s the AA meeting?’ She looked at her (Moir) and said, ‘You should become a Catholic,’” he said. “Something happened to her at that moment — I don’t know, something that had been aligned within her. Her mother was Catholic, but she fell away from the Church and married a Methodist. She was not raised in any particular faith.”



CNS photo courtesy Gary Sinise

Gary Sinise, the actor perhaps best known for playing Lt. Dan in the 1994 movie “Forrest Gump,” is pictured in an undated publicity photo. Sinise, who converted to Catholicism in 2010, has a newly published book titled “Grateful American,” a memoir that details his life growing up in the Chicago suburbs.

After his wife finished the play, she met Sinise in North Carolina, where he was shooting a movie with Shirley MacLaine. “There was a hurricane

coming to Wilmington,” Sinise recalled. “Well, she was telling me this story, and I’m telling here we’ve gotta get out of here and drive to Charlotte and we’ll fly to Los Angeles. While we’re driving, the hurricane was blasting behind us. She turns around and says, ‘I’m going to the Catholic Church and I’m going to become a Catholic.’”

“I laughed and said, ‘Wait a minute. We just moved across the street from a public school.’ ‘Yes, and I’m going to send our kids to a Catholic school,’” he added. “Sure enough, when we go home she went to the RCIA program at our local Catholic church.”

For the next year, his wife was in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program. “We started going to Mass,” Sinise said. “My wife was confirmed in Easter 2000. ... The following year that little church became a sanctuary, a place of great comfort” following the 9/11 terror attacks in 2001.

Oh, and “our kids started attending the school there,” he added.

Sinise himself joined the Church in 2010.

“I surprised my family. I’d gone through the confirmation classes and whatnot myself behind everybody’s back and I

didn’t tell anybody that I was doing it,” he said.

“On Christmas Eve 2010 I told the family I was taking them to dinner at Morton’s Steakhouse and have Christmas Eve dinner,” he said. “And on the way there, I pulled into the church, and everybody asked, ‘What are we doing here?’ I said come on in. We walked into the church. The priest was there, and he confirmed me. It was beautiful.”

This is one of the many tales Sinise tells in his newly published book, “Grateful American.” In the memoir, he details his life growing up in the Chicago suburbs, from being a bratty kid to trying out for a play in high school and catching the acting bug, to helping establish the still-going-strong Steppenwolf Theater Company in the Windy City, as well as his many adventures in films and on stage.

“It’s an autobiography for

sure, but it’s a life-changing story,” Sinise told CNS. The 9/11 terror attacks were a pivot for him. “Something happened when I went from actor to advocate for our nation’s defenders,” he said.

A look at the Gary Sinise Foundation’s website, www.garysinisefoundation.org, includes a page listing his

appearances and visits at military bases and hospitals — a list so extensive that Sinise seems to be the Bob Hope for the current generation.

“That service to others was a great healer to a broken heart after that terrible day, when we saw that terrible thing happen and we were all afraid and we were all wondering what was going to happen to our country,” Sinise said. “There’s something to my book where I talk honestly and say that that particular day was turning a point for a life of service.”

“It’s an autobiography for sure, but it’s a life-changing story,”

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Challenges arise for Annual Bishop's Appeal at halfway mark

FORT WAYNE — The Annual Bishop's Appeal is about halfway through the collection season, and of the reporting 83 parishes or oratories, 59 have achieved or exceeded their parish goal.

Hopefully, in the next few months the remaining 24 parishes will be blessed with the generosity to exceed their goals as well. Within the group of 24 parishes, 18 parishes are within \$10,000 of their goal.

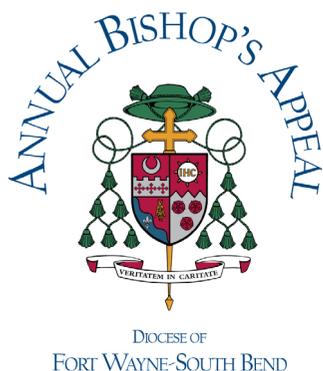
Specific information about how each parish is doing relative to its goal can be found in those parishes' bulletins.

Five parishes already demonstrating remarkable generosity, according to the Secretariat for Stewardship and Development, are St. Gaspar del Bufalo, Rome

City; St. Patrick, Ligonier; St. Francis Xavier, Piercetown; St. Patrick, Walkerton; and St. John the Baptist, New Haven. All five parishes have pledges and gifts that total more than 160 percent of their parish goal.

Another piece of good news is that the overall diocesan goal of \$5,433,655 has again been eclipsed, and several parishes of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will once again receive a refund for exceeding their parish goal.

A large concern is a sharp drop in the number of donors from last year to this year. A portion of the drop can be explained by three parishes capital campaigns happening concurrently with the Annual Bishop's



Annual Bishop's Appeal collection figures, current and previous two years

	30th ABA	31st ABA	32nd ABA
Number of donors	19,466	18,694	15,672
Total amount pledged, all donors	\$6,724,763	\$6,882,724	\$6,072,639*
Average gift per donor	\$345.46	\$373.90	\$371.83
Parishes who have met/exceeded goal	80	75	59

All figures are as of Feb. 13 of each respective year.
*Full goal of three campaign parishes added to total.

Appeal, so approximately 1,134 donors from those three parishes are excluded from the total for this year. Secondly, the timing of this year's appeal was unfortunate, as it took place in the wake of news about abuse scandals within the Catholic Church.

Continued operation of diocesan programs and facilities will depend on pledges being

fulfilled, and parishioners at the 24 parishes who have not yet reached goal perhaps reconsidering whether a more generous gift might be possible. All gifts of all sizes continue to be important and appreciated, though. Unfortunately, parishes that fall short of their goal will be asked to make up the difference from parish funds.

"I thank all who support the Annual Bishop's Appeal," Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades said. "Through the Appeal, we, as members of Christ's Body, together support the mission and ministries of our diocese. I pray that the Lord will bless all who make financial sacrifices for the building up of His Kingdom."

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Parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul

Former Vatican guard to deliver Servus Omnium lecture at USF

BY JANET PATTERSON

It's hard to believe that a young Andreas Widmer had no idea what to do with his life. But the former member of the papal Swiss Guard admitted that at one point, the idea of being a body-guard sounded like an adventure to him.

"I was a searching young man," said Widmer, who grew up in a small village in the mountains of Switzerland. After joining the Swiss army, he heard about an opportunity to go to Rome and guard the pope.

"They were looking for tall, strong guys, but faith was not a litmus test." At 6 foot, 9 inches, the young soldier fit the profile. In the fall of 1986, he found himself training to protect Pope John Paul II.

That post started Widmer on a path that led to an unexpected relationship with the pontiff over the next two years. He has chronicled their relationship in "The Pope & The CEO: Pope Saint John Paul II's Lessons to a Young Swiss Guard," published by Emmaus Road Publishing.

Now the co-founder of The SEVEN Fund, a philanthropic organization promoting enterprise solutions to poverty, Widmer will deliver the University of Saint Francis 2019 Servus Omnium Lecture on March 5 at the USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center, 431 W. Berry Street in Fort Wayne.

Widmer is assistant professor of entrepreneurship and director of the Art & Carlyse Ciocca Center for Principled Entrepreneurship at The Catholic University of America Busch School of Business and Economics in Washington, D.C. He will speak at the University of Saint Francis on "The Vocation of Business."

Recalling his service at the Vatican and his interactions with the pontiff, Widmer calls St. John Paul II "the most fully human person I ever knew. He lived holiness."

"If you're there 24/7, you're sort of the closest people to the pope — so he ministered to us. He started to notice insecurity and searching, and he reached out to me in a beautiful way."

Those two years of faith formation, working beside and observing the pontiff, has helped bring faith into the work that Widmer has done over the last 30 years in international business strategy, consulting and economic development.

St. John Paul II once said when we work, we not only

make more, but we become more. Widmer would add: "When we work, we imitate God. Work becomes our path to holiness. It's such a sublime thought. What we do here has eternal consequences."

The event begins at 7 a.m. with a blessing and prayer by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. A

Mardi Gras breakfast buffet will follow at 7:10 a.m., and Widmer's address takes place from 7:45 to 8:45 a.m.

The Servus Omnium Lecture series at the University of Saint Francis brings together concepts of business and philosophy in a message of

service for everyone.

Tickets are \$10 advance, \$15 at the door and \$80 per table.

To purchase tickets, go to www.eventbrite.com/e/servus-omnium-2019-the-vocation-of-business-tickets-52412399899.

"Work becomes our path to holiness. It's such a sublime thought. What we do here has eternal consequences."

ANDREAS WIDMER



Photos provided by Andreas Widmer

A former member of the Swiss Guard, Andreas Widmer is blessed by St. John Paul II as he leaves his service to the Vatican in 1988.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT FRANCIS PRESENTS

2019 | SERVUS OMNIUM LECTURE

THE VOCATION OF BUSINESS

KEYNOTE: ANDREAS WIDMER

Author of "The Pope & The CEO: Pope Saint John Paul II's Lessons to a Young Swiss Guard"

TUESDAY, MARCH 5
sf.edu/servus-omnium

UNIVERSITY of SAINT FRANCIS

In the winter of faith, keep working

As I write this, it is mid-winter in the Northern Hemisphere. Like each season, winter has its time, its three months. To many of us, there seems to be a metaphorical winter in the Church and in our culture, one that has lasted for years.

Those of us who are older probably remember a time when Masses were crowded. The church parking lots were packed full, and if you didn't arrive early enough you often had to park elsewhere and then stand during Mass. Catholic schools had long waiting lists, and parents made sure to put their children on the list long before they reached school age. If you put up four walls, Catholics would fill them.

Beginning in the mid-1960s, however, weekly Mass attendance by Catholics began to drop. According to some polls, nearly 80 percent of Catholics were regular attendees in the mid-1950s; today, that figure has dropped to as low as 20 percent (depending on the polling methodology). Open dissent from Church teaching grew among the faithful and the clergy, especially after Pope Paul VI's 1968 encyclical "Humanae Vitae," which reaffirmed the rejection of artificial contraception. The autumn of our discontent and the "falling leaves" of defection of clergy and religious sisters from their vows and the faithful from their pews ushered in a long winter from which we have yet to emerge. Added to this are scandals of the worst kind, rooted in a loss of faith by the very ones sent

to prophetically announce that faith. *Corruptio optimi pessima!*

What is evident in the Church is even more apparent in our culture. The West, which was once called Christendom, has descended into a cold and fierce secularism. The darkness and moral confusion grow deeper; opposition to once-widely held moral norms is outright celebrated. Artificial contraception, abortion, divorce, premarital sex, adultery, homosexual acts, euthanasia / physician-assisted suicide, and many other things we once considered shameful are now promoted and called "rights." Our culture has become crass, coarse, and angry.

Yes, it is the depths of winter in the Church and in our culture. Jesus once said, "False prophets will arise and mislead many. Because of the multiplication of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold" (Matthew 24:11-12).

Where is the plentiful catch of fish, the abundant harvest of which Jesus often spoke? What are we to do in this long winter when little seems to grow?

Perhaps the first step is to realize that there are seasons through which the Church must pass and that one day the seasons will change. Even in winter, farmers work to prepare for the next harvest. What does this mean for us? St. Paul wrote this to Timothy regarding the seasons:

"Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and encourage with every form of patient instruction. For the time will



MSGR. CHARLES POPE

COMMUNITY IN MISSION

come when men will not tolerate sound doctrine, but with itching ears they will gather around themselves teachers to suit their own desires. So, they will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry" (2 Tim 4:2-4).

Therefore, even in winter we must still work for that which will bring in the harvest when winter has passed. We are to preach and live the Word in season and out of season, whether popular or unpopular. We are to pray, to prune, and to accept pruning ourselves.

Back in November as climatic winter approached, I pruned my roses and crape myrtles. Pruning cuts away what is excessive and no longer fruitful in order to encourage future growth. Soon enough the warmth of spring will come; tender shoots will appear and then leaves and flowers. Similarly, the Church must prune and be pruned. The pruning has been severe and evidently quite necessary; much that was unhealthy is being cut away.

POPE, page 13

I know your vocation in life!

One of the privileges we have as seminarians is going to school visits with either high school or grade school students. It is always a lot of fun to answer their questions about life at seminary and why we want to be priests. But the purpose of our visit is typically to talk about the thing we are currently living and discerning: vocations.

The whole idea of vocations is a buzzword in the world of many young adult Catholics. In many cases, I have met folks who realize God is calling them to a particular way of life, and they become like actor Nicolas Cage going on some mysterious treasure hunt. While the call of God is indeed mysterious, it does not need to be something that causes distress and anxiety. In fact, these things are not from God. Instead, the reality is that you and I are an eternally loved son or daughter of a Father who desires nothing but the most unimaginable joy for our lives. Quite simply, He delights in us!

And, the good news is, I also have a gift of being able to infallibly tell you your vocation in life. So, here it goes: Your vocation in life is ...

To be a saint. Nothing more, nothing less.

The reality of God's calling in our life is fundamentally to bring us into the eternal beatitude of heaven – to be saints. This is the base and foundation of our entire Christian life. Every one of us is called to holiness, plain and



BRIAN ISENBARGER

A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

simple.

So, how do we become holy? Unfortunately, holiness is not a self-help project. In fact, if you try all by yourself, I can guarantee you will fail.

On the positive side, though, the Father has given His Son to be with you every moment of your life, and even allowed Him to experience death so that even in the grave you are not alone. In other words, Jesus wants to walk with you from your conception all the way to heaven. He wants you to be His saint.

What does this all have to do with discerning a state in life such as priesthood, marriage, or religious life?

Everything.

The call to holiness is primarily a call to friendship with Jesus – to walk with Him every step of our lives. In the most fundamental way, Jesus is our vocation.

He is the goal itself. It is out of this relationship with Jesus that we are led to a particular state in life. It cannot be otherwise. Our vocation is not a means to finding Jesus. Rather, Jesus is the

ISENBARGER, page 13

Love and compassion for all is essential to discipleship



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 6:27-38

The first book of Samuel supplies the first reading this weekend. Originally this book, and its companion, the Second Book of Samuel, were combined in one volume. In the third century B.C., scholars translated the ancient Hebrew Scriptures into Greek. Their translation is famous. It is called the "Septuagint," or 70 books.

These scholars took some liberties. One example was their division of Samuel into two parts.

The author of the books of Samuel is unknown. Experts cannot agree on the exact time

of the books' composition. The title proceeds from the name of a prophet mentioned in the account. The story concentrates on Saul and David, the first two kings of Israel.

In this reading, King Saul's fortunes are ebbing. David, the young shepherd from Bethlehem, eventually will replace the monarch. Armed conflict erupts. Under the cover of night, David steals into Saul's camp, but respecting Saul as God's choice for the kingship, David does not kill the ruler.

Believing, however, that he himself has been commissioned by God to lead in the place of Saul, David expresses his trust in the Almighty.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians is the source of the second reading. Here, the Apostle reminds the Christians of Corinth that they are creatures of the earth, but more importantly they have within themselves the spiritual life of God.

This reference to the spiritual component of humans set the stage for Paul's instruction that no believer should yield to merely earthly temptations.

St. Luke's Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is a call to what is at times the most demanding of Christian responsibilities. It summons followers of the Lord to love all people, and most especially to love their enemies, and, therefore, to be compassionate.

Jesus directed this message not to confirmed disciples, but rather to those thinking about becoming disciples. The Lord's message is basic, and it is radical. Love for all others, most certainly including love for enemies, and compassion are essential to discipleship.

The power of the message better is understood when balanced against Matthew 5:24a. Luke and Matthew took this scene in the life of Jesus from the same source, however, while Matthew only urged disciples to give to those who are in need, Luke in this passage expands the message. Luke notes that those with possessions have a special obligation. Also, Luke counsels followers of Jesus to give to those who wish to borrow. Finally, Luke tells disciples that they must not insist upon

repayment.

The details are important, but, as important, if not more so, is the final and extreme character of discipleship. It is absolute commitment to Jesus, and it is hard.

Reflection

Soon, the Church will begin the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is only 10 days away. The Church is preparing us for Lent.

For centuries, Catholics, and many other Christians, have looked upon Lent as a time to deny themselves. The popular stories are plentiful. Many adult Catholics today remember parochial school days when all the students pledged "to give up" candy or movies.

Self-denial is still very much a part of Christian life. In these readings, looking ahead to Lent, the Church reminds us that self-denial is much, much more than refusing a tasty chocolate.

Rather, the fundamental self-denial is rejecting temptation to sin. Since sin masquerades itself as something good for us, self-

denial means swimming against the tide, humanly speaking, and putting all trust in God. It is a process laden with reluctance and blinded by our instincts and assumptions.

Loving enemies is an example. Self-defense is part of human nature. So is resentment for injury. God calls us to love, to forgive and to be compassionate — as was Jesus.

READINGS

Sunday: 1Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23
Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13 1Cor 15:45-49
Lk 6:27-38

Monday: Sir 1:1-10 Ps 93:1-2, 5
Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11 Ps 37:3-4, 18-19,
27-28, 39-40 Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: Sir 4:11-19 Ps 119:165,
168, 171-172, 174-175 Mk 9:38-40

Thursday: Sir 5:1-8 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Mk
9:41-50

Friday: Sir 6:5-17 Ps 119:12, 16, 18,
27, 34-35 Mk 10:1-12

Saturday: Sir 17:1-15 Ps 103:13-18
Mk 10:13-16

The ever-present totalitarian temptation

First circulated underground in communist Czechoslovakia in October 1978, Vaclav Havel's brilliant dissection of totalitarianism, "The Power of the Powerless," retains its salience four decades later. It should be required reading for politicians given to describing the Knights of Columbus as an "extremist" organization because of the Knights' pro-life convictions and activism.

Havel began his essay with a homely but devastating vignette. A Czechoslovak greengrocer is arranging vegetables in his shop window. There, amidst the carrots and onions, he puts a small sign, "Workers of the World, Unite!" Why? Havel asks. What does that dreary Marxist slogan have to do with vegetables? Does the sign manifest the greengrocer's fervent political convictions? Does the greengrocer feel an irrepressible desire to share the communist gospel with all who pass by?

No, Havel answered, the greengrocer's sign is something else: It's a white flag. It's a signal to the authorities, including the secret police and the government wholesaler who provides the store with supplies, that this shopkeeper is reliable. He won't make trouble. He won't dissent from the official "truth" of things. The sign may read, "Workers of the World, Unite!" but what it really says is, "Please leave me alone."

The totalitarian impulse did not (and does not) express itself only through constant surveillance, the sharp knock on the door in the dead of night, the sudden disappearance, the slave labor camp. As the word implies and Havel's greengrocer analogy illustrates, totalitarianism demands something more than external obedience to the system. It demands that others concede

that they are wrong and that the totalitarians are right. To be socially acceptable, one must not just toe the line visibly; one must be converted.

When United States senators describe the Knights of Columbus as "extremist" — and by implication apply that epithet to all of us who think like the Knights on the life issues and the nature of marriage — those legislators are declaring us socially unacceptable: people whose commitments to democracy are suspect; people who should be shunned as morally unclean; people who are leprous.

One of the senators who indulged the totalitarian temptation in respect of the Knights of Columbus, California's Kamala Harris, is now running for the presidency. Sen. Harris is the daughter of an Indian mother and an African-American father. When the scribal guardians of political correctness began hassling her with questions about her "identity," the senator sensibly brushed off such impertinent and irrelevant inquiries by saying, simply, that she's "an American." That was exactly the right answer.

But isn't that answer in considerable tension with the attack on the "extremist" Knights of Columbus in which she had joined, during a Senate hearing on a federal judicial nominee who happened to be a Knight? If Senator Harris is free to reject P.C. shibboleths about race and identity and thereby call the nation to look at "the other" as a fellow-citizen rather than a racial category, why shouldn't the Knights of Columbus and all pro-lifers be free to register our vigorous dissent from the notion that an unborn child should have less moral and legal status in America than a protected species of bird in a national forest — and thereby call the nation



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

to relearn the truth about the inalienable right to life on which it once staked its claim to independence?

In several states, efforts are underway to drive pro-life Americans to the margins of public life and to coerce the consciences of pro-life physicians and nurses. Those initiatives illustrate a hard truth: The totalitarian impulse can rear its ugly head in well-established democracies like the United States. Yes, there are totalitarians on the alt-right. The far more consequential of today's totalitarians are the proponents of lifestyle libertinism, who are quite prepared to deplore as un-American anyone who disagrees that abortion up to the moment of birth is a basic human right; or anyone who believes that "marriage" is the permanent union of a man and a woman; or anyone who thinks it child abuse to "transgender" a pre-adolescent or adolescent.

This is the new McCarthyism of the left. And while it won't create a new Un-American Activities Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, its message will be similar: those who disagree with us are, well, un-American. That calumny must be stoutly resisted.

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

live to see the harvest for which we prepare, but others surely will. Jesus says,

"Thus the saying 'One sows, and another reaps' is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor" (John 4:37).

I have reaped harvests that others have sown. When someone comes to confession after 40 years away, I reap the harvest that others prepared — planting, watering, and fertilizing. I, too, will prepare so that others after may harvest.

Whatever the season, do your work. It will bear fruit in due time.

Msgr. Charles Pope is the pastor of Holy Comforter — St. Cyprian Roman Catholic Church, Washington, D.C.

ISENBARGER, from page 12

source and destiny of our vocation. Only in Him can we find lasting peace, and only in Him can we be led to our vocation.

In sum, God has called us to extraordinary freedom as His sons and daughters — not to a spirit of fear and timidity. So do not become discouraged with the process called discernment. Even if things seem cloudy and uncertain, you have a loving Father who sent His Son to guide you back home.

Brian Isenbarger is a seminarian of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. He is studying at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.

POPE, from page 12

Even in those times that the Lord designates for pruning or for the field to lie fallow, He is preparing for future growth. The Lord says, "The harvest is plentiful," but that doesn't mean that the harvest is necessarily right now.

The bottom line is this: Just do your work. Keep living the faith, passing it on to your children, and insisting on what is true. Obey what the Lord commands and know that the harvest He announced will be brought in someday. Yes, the harvest will come, and it will come with abundance. Scripture says, "Those who sow in tears will reap with shouts of joy. They go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown. But they will surely return with rejoicing carrying the harvest of grain" (Psalm 126:5-6).

Although it is winter, continue to do your work. We may not

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for February 24, 2019

Luke 6:27-38

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: a reversal of how people react. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

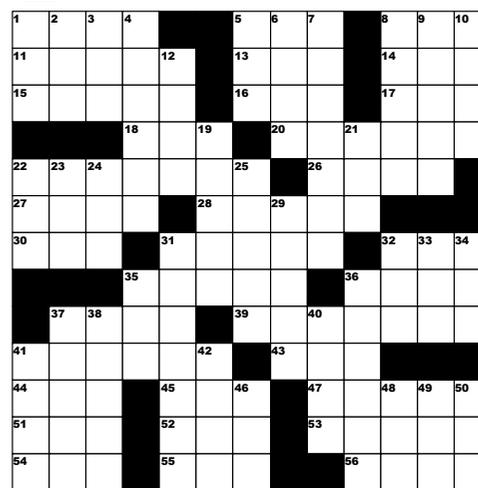
- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| LOVE | DO GOOD | CURSE |
| PRAY FOR | CHEEK | OFFER |
| TAKES | CREDIT | DO THE SAME |
| LEND | EXPECTING | NOTHING |
| REWARD | GREAT | UNGRATEFUL |
| SELFISH | MERCIFUL | JUDGED |
| CONDEMNED | MEASURE | SHAKEN |

BLESS OR CURSE

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

The CrossWord

February 17 and 24, 2019



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Readings: Jer 17:5-8; 1Cor 15:12, 16-20; Lk 6:17, 20-26 & 1Sm 26:2 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1Cor 15: 45-49; Lk 6:27-38

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sycamore trimmer prophet
 - 5 Explosive
 - 8 Wooden leg
 - 11 "Give and receive"
 - 13 "You shall not"
 - 14 Flightless bird
 - 15 More
 - 16 Cycles per second
 - 17 Able
 - 18 Not on
 - 20 Genesis the Bible
 - 22 Type of seasoning (2 wds.)
 - 26 Lazily
 - 27 Abbr. for Philippians
 - 28 Monte
 - 30 Traveler's aid
 - 31 Fake
 - 32 Epoch
 - 35 know you (2 wds)
 - 36 Botch
 - 37 Small lake
 - 39 "your cheek"
 - 41 Cleaning machine
 - 43 Bro.'s sibling
 - 44 Time zone
 - 45 Gives milk
 - 47 "Strikes you on one"
 - 51 Her
- DOWN**
- 1 "Until the end of the"
 - 2 Mingle
 - 3 Often poetically
 - 4 Walk
 - 5 Tender loving care
 - 6 Nibbles
 - 7 Snappishly
 - 8 "of great price"
 - 9 "A salt and earth"
 - 10 Intestines
 - 12 Secure
 - 19 Edge of diamond
 - 21 Hubbub
 - 22 Beats per minute
 - 23 Expression of surprise
 - 24 Shri! bark
 - 25 Truths
 - 29 Stretches to stream
 - 31 Subtracts
 - 32 Deer relative
 - 33 Regret
 - 34 Type of brakes
 - 35 African antelope
 - 36 Peter was one
 - 37 Turkish officer
 - 38 Eight
 - 40 "Woe to you"
 - 41 Veteran Employment Services Office
 - 42 Cow sounds
 - 46 "to you who laugh"
 - 48 Vane direction
 - 49 Sea eagle
 - 50 Fox's offspring

Answer Key can be found on page 15

New movie 'Across' tells story of Father Augustus Tolton

BY ROBERT ALAN GLOVER

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — Father Augustus Tolton, the first African-American priest ordained for a diocese in the United States, was born into slavery and endured myriad obstacles, both inside the Catholic Church and out, as he relentlessly followed his call from God.

Nashville filmmaker Chris Foley, inspired by the story of Father Tolton's life, has written and directed a short film, "Across," about the Tolton family's escape from slavery.

"I spent about three years developing and writing the film, beginning with a short article I read about Father Tolton, then I attended a talk on him in Chicago given by Bishop Joseph Perry in 2015," Foley told the *Tennessee Register*, newspaper of the Diocese of Nashville.

Bishop Perry, a Chicago auxiliary bishop who has family from Nashville, is postulator for Father Tolton's sainthood cause, which was opened in 2010 by Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, giving the priest the title "servant of God."

"It was at the talk that I first mentioned my goal of making a film about 'Gus' — as I now call him — to Bishop Perry, but I don't think he took me seriously," recalled Foley.

Serious he certainly was, because, said Foley, "this is a man who became a role model for priests — black and otherwise — in this country."

Augustus Tolton was born into slavery in 1854 on a plantation near Brush Creek, Missouri. He was baptized at St. Peter Church near Hannibal, Missouri.

His father left to try to join the Union Army during the Civil War; he later died of dysentery, according to accounts Father Tolton told friends and parishioners. In 1862, his mother, Martha, escaped with her children — Augustus, Charley, Samuel and Anne — by rowing them across the Mississippi River to the free state of Illinois. They settled in Quincy.

While the family was living in Quincy, a parish priest allowed young Augustus to attend the parish school over the objections of white parishioners. There he learned to read and write and was confirmed at age 16.

He was encouraged to discern his vocation to the priesthood by the Franciscan priests who taught him at St. Francis College, now Quincy University, but could not find a seminary in the United States that would accept him.

He eventually studied in Rome at Pontifical Urban University. He was ordained for the Propaganda Fidei

Congregation in 1886 at age 31 and was expecting to become a missionary in Africa. Instead, he was sent back to Quincy, where he served for three years before going to the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1889. He spearheaded the building of St. Monica Church for black Catholics. Dedicated in 1894, the parish grew from 30 parishioners to more than 600 under Father Tolton's energetic leadership. He died after suffering heat stroke on a Chicago street July 9, 1897.

"In the end, Father Tolton's story is a great example of suffering, because he never finished a church he was building in Chicago and died at age 43 from heat exhaustion during a heat wave in 1897," said Foley.

"After finishing my research, we finally started filming in 2017 — eight days total with seven of them in Nashville, and one day in Missouri," said Foley.

The final cast features all local professional actors, including Daylon Gordon, who was



CNS photo/courtesy Director Christopher Foley

Actress Nina Hibble-Webster, right, portrays Father Augustus Tolton's mother in the movie "Across," written and directed by filmmaker Chris Foley of Nashville, Tenn. The short film tells the story of Father Tolton, who was the first African-American priest ordained for a U.S. diocese and who is a candidate for sainthood.

9 at the time Foley chose him to play the young Augustus Tolton.

Foley hopes to secure enough financing to extend the short film into a full-length feature film that would cover all of Father Tolton's life.

"For one thing, we don't sugar-coat his persecution in the Church, and we talk about those people behind it, including (a priest) ... who is — let's face it — the bad guy," said Foley.

"If we can finally get his story out there, I think its message will be that the Church is calling you," said Foley.

Joan Watson, Nashville's diocesan director of faith formation, organized a Feb. 17 screening of Foley's film and a panel discussion to follow at the Catholic Pastoral Center.

More information about the film can be found at www.acrossmovie.com.

Robert Alan Glover writes for the *Tennessee Register*, newspaper of the Diocese of Nashville.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

French dinner and ancestry lesson
NEW HAVEN — St. Louis Besancon Historical Society will have a French dinner and ancestry lesson Saturday, Feb. 23, from 5:30-9:30 p.m. in Besancon Hall. Tickets are \$25 per person and reservations are needed by calling Julie Nolan at 260-460-0324.

Knights host breakfast at Queen of Angels
FORT WAYNE — St. Gaspar del Bufalo Council No. 11043 will serve breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 24, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Msgr. Faber Activities Center at Queen of Angels, 1500 West State Blvd. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 6-12, and \$20 per family. \$5 carryout packs will be available. Proceeds will help support diocesan and Franciscan seminarians. Visit www.kofc11043.org.

Lenten communal penance service
KENDALLVILLE — A communal penance service with four priests available to hear confessions will be Monday, Feb. 25, at 6 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Parish, 301 E. Diamond St. There will

be readings, music and time for reflection. This is a great opportunity to reflect on the gift Our Lord has given us to begin a Lenten journey with a clean heart.

Who is St. Paul and What Did He Write?
SOUTH BEND — Join St. Jude Parish, 19704 Johnson Rd., Feb. 25-27 from 7-8 p.m. for three evenings of presentations by Father Eugene Hensell, OSB, from St. Meinrad. He will uncover the three different versions of St. Paul and help participants to discover who is the real St. Paul.

Bridges of Hope: a panel discussion about mental health
FORT WAYNE — St. Vincent de Paul Parish's Respect Life Committee will offer a panel discussion on Thursday, Feb. 28, from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Msgr. John Kuzmich Life Center, 1502 E. Wallen Rd. Members of National Alliance on Mental Illness FaithNet for "Bridges of Hope" will consider mental health, mental health conditions and how faith plays a role. Visit www.saintv.org/.

The CrossWord

February 17 and 24, 2019



REST IN PEACE

Arcola
 Agnes Marie Schortgen, 91, St. Patrick

Auburn
 Mark Scheibelhut, 60, Immaculate Conception

Elkhart
 Robert Souder, 76, St. Thomas the Apostle

Fort Wayne
 Mary M. Racine, 70, St. Vincent de Paul

Doris M. Parriott, 84, St. Vincent de Paul

Huntington
 Kevin Shipbaugh, 45, SS. Peter and Paul

Mishawaka
 Timothy Price, 53, St. Bavo

Rose Robinson, 94, St. Bavo

South Bend
 Dannie L. Minder, 80, Christ the King

Dorothy Bidlack, 85, St. Anthony de Padua

Janet Daniels, 87, St. Anthony de Padua

Monica Himes, 77, Sacred Heart of Jesus

Carl Weisser, St. Jude



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Photos by Jonathan Acierto

Above, Rekindle the Fire attendees participate in a Q&A session with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Father Benjamin Muhlenkamp and moderator Kyle Heimann of Redeemer Radio. Below, men kneel during Mass with Bishop Rhoades.



At top, the Rekindle the Fire cross is carried in at the start of Mass. Below, participants take advantage of the opportunity to obtain the sacrament of reconciliation, which was offered throughout the day.



REKINDLE, from page 1

marriages strong.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass for the multigenerational group which, according to event organizers, constituted the largest turnout yet seen at South Bend's Century Center for the daylong experience.

After a time of prayer and reflection, Father Don Calloway kicked off the gathering by relating his personal conversion story, a depiction of hope arising amid tragedies.

"You're in a world right now that is really messed up and in a bad way," he told the men. A member of the Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, Father Calloway described his journey to young adulthood and later priesthood. His early days included a broken family, atheism, thoughts of suicide, stays in rehabilitation centers and immersion in sex, crime and drug abuse.

Calling his own story an "extreme" example of wounds from unacknowledged sin, he told the audience he was there to "give you a spiritual kick in the pants." He urged people to accept God's mercy, which can enable the ongoing conversion everyone needs.

Father Calloway's testimony affirmed comments from Father Benjamin Muhlenkamp, who served as master of ceremonies for the conference. He encouraged those present to partake in the sacrament of reconciliation. More than two dozen priests were on hand to hear confessions.

"Wouldn't it be great today if you received the Eucharist in a state of grace?" Father Muhlenkamp asked.

Deacon Burke-Sivers built his dynamic presentation around the theme of the conference, "Are You All In?" In light of Jesus' redemptive sacrifice for us, he said, we're called to "be great men of God by going all-in for Christ" and witnessing to Him in society and in the family.

"The greatest gift I can give to my children is to love my wife as Christ loved the Church and to die to myself, every day of my life, to live for them," the deacon said. He also warned attendees not to let today's culture "run roughshod over us" by redefining foundational concepts. Marriage, traditionally defended as a central, common-good institution, is changing based on rejection of the literal definition of "matrimony" — "the state or condition of motherhood," he said.

Regarding the need to confront the root causes of one's most destructive tendencies, the deacon cited David's battle with Goliath. "You cannot fight the Goliaths in your life with the weapons of man," he said, holding up a rosary as his spiritual weapon of choice.

"You want to defeat the power of sin in your life?" he asked. "Work the beads."

Prolific author Scott Hahn continued the theme of conversion in his talk, telling the audience that men must "reignite this fire" constantly so "we make it home to heaven and ... take as many along with us as we can." He urged pondering more deeply the Lord's Prayer to garner insights from Jesus about God as our Father and about our nature as His family. Jesus talked much more about God as "Father" than the Old Testament did, he said. The Our Father shows we are God's family.

Hahn also said that the prayer displays an order of priorities. Those who pray the Lord's Prayer pray that God will forgive, guide and deliver man from evil. But first, the person who prays focuses on His greatness and His Kingdom. This "puts all of our problems in perspective."

"I've got words for you, brothers," Hahn told the attendees.

"The next time the devil tells you about your past, remind him of his future. To hell with him. You rekindle the fire of God's love, and you will burn up the devil."

Father Muhlenkamp invited men of the audience to consider an ongoing pursuit of God's grace year-round, possibly by joining the St. Augustine Men's Group apostolate or Rekindle the Fire parish groups.

Phil Sang, who leads the RTF conference committee, confirmed South Bend attendance hit a record level this year, although the turnout still was a bit smaller than the maximum previously achieved in Fort Wayne.

Joe Brown, who leads the RTF core team, said planning already is underway for the 10th annual RTF conference in 2020 in Fort Wayne.

As always, Bishop Rhoades showed support for the Rekindle the Fire Men's Conference. He held a Q&A session and later celebrated Mass. Addressing the numerous young men in the audience, he said, "I've been so impressed by so many of our young adults who are active Catholics when many of their peers are not ... They have to make a conscious choice to be Catholic."

Addressing issues of the Church sex abuse crisis, he said

a mechanism is needed for holding bishops more accountable. Along with solid spiritual and human formation in seminaries, he said there must be a high standard of moral formation — "an adherence and belief and conviction that the Church's moral teachings in sexuality are the truth, and one is going to preach that and one is going to live that."

The conference concluded with Mass, at which Bishop Rhoades preached about Jesus' teaching of the Beatitudes, from the Sunday Gospel reading. Echoing the daylong theme of conversion, he noted that the Beatitudes are a roadmap from Jesus for true happiness and a "reversal" of typical worldly values. They call "blessed" those whom secular culture would dismiss as losers.

When affluence, power and prestige become idols, they entrap people, the bishop said. "You and I weren't made for comfort. We were made for greatness. We've been made to be like Jesus, to live like Jesus."

He concluded with hope for the Rekindle the Fire attendees: "May God help us to be men of the Beatitudes — in other words, saints."