Catechumens, candidates presented to bishop at Rite of Election

BY JENNIFER MILLER

On Sunday, March 10, at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, catechumens began the final step of conversion to the Catholic faith, and candidates — those who have already been baptized — were called to continue their journey. That morning they had been sent from their parishes on the western half of the diocese to the bishop for presentation, and during the Rite of Election of Catechumens and Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades received them and signed his name in a book of enrollment provided by each of their individual parishes.

Following this step in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the catechumens were then considered “illuminandi,” or “those who will be enlightened,” Bishop Rhoades explained in his homily. He spoke especially to them, explaining the beauty and mystery of this next step of their lives. “Approaching this great mystery in your life, I pray that you will have true fear of the Lord and great trust in Him, hope for good things, hope for lasting joy and mercy. This is the hope that does not disappoint.”

Widmer recalls blessings from pope, principles and profits

BY WILLIAM SCHMITT

A former Swiss Guard who served and learned from Pope St. John Paul II delivered the 2019 Servus Omnium Lecture at the University of Saint Francis on March 5.

Andreas Widmer, now a professor who teaches entrepreneurship at The Catholic University of America, described “the vocation of business” with reflections about St. John Paul’s fatherly guidance to him, America’s need to counter the current appeal of socialism and workaday-world perspectives from a personalparable about crayons.

Speaking in Fort Wayne to more than 300 attendees at the breakfast gathering, which is one of the university’s signature events, Widmer recalled how the now-canonized pontiff “ministered to me” with encouragement on Christmas Eve in 1986. Over time, St. John Paul became a role model for leadership and spiritual growth for his bodyguard by helping him see God’s presence and discern distinct answers to the question, “Lord, what would you have me do?”

That confidence-building, life-changing approach gained meaning for Widmer after he left Vatican City’s Swiss Guard force two years later and became an entrepreneur, husband and father.

Once, returning from a business trip, he brought his young son a huge box containing crayons of every color. Widmer related, “He asked, “What should I draw?” and “What color should I use?” but Widmer left his son free to choose, with only one request.

“I wanted him to use his gift and give [the final drawing] back to me,” he told the pre-Lenten gathering of leaders.

The speaker said he has discovered an analogy to God the Father’s love for us as we pursue our path in the world.

“God gives you a box of crayons — a gift, everything you have and don’t have, everything you are and you aren’t,” Widmer said. When He asks us to draw and we ask which circumstances or talents we should use, He responds, “All of it.” Everyone receives such gifts, including bright, joyful colors as well as dark colors, representing life’s sorrows, illnesses, unkind people, and other factors we might see as stumbling blocks or things to avoid. But, “we’re supposed to use every crayon, no matter how dark it is, and use it for the glory of God.”

One’s defining decisions are the intentions behind the drawing and the desire to present positive end-results, Widmer said.
Four CRS staffers, humanitarian workers aboard Ethiopian jet that crashed

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Four Catholic Relief Service staffers, humanitarian workers aboard an Ethiopian Airlines flight that crashed moments after takeoff in the East African nation.

The accident March 10 claimed the lives of 157 people on board, many of them from humanitarian agencies. Others at the jetliner included a Georgetown University law school student who was serving as a campus minister and 19 staff members of U.N. agencies.

Pope Francis offered prayers for the passengers from 35 countries in a telegram March 11.

“Having learned with sadness of the Ethiopian Airlines plane crash, His Holiness Pope Francis offers prayers for the deceased from various countries and commands their souls to the mercy of almighty God,” the telegram said.

The accident March 10 near Bishoftu, Ethiopia, claimed the lives of 157 people from 35 countries.

Among the dead were four Catholic Relief Services staffers: Getnet Alemayehu, Mulusew Alemu, Sintayehu Aymeku and Sara Chalachew.

The dead include Getnet Alemayehu, Mulusew Alemu, Sintayehu Aymeku and Sara Chalachew. They worked in various administrative positions for CRS.

“Although we are in mourning, we celebrate the lives of these colleagues and the selfless contributions they made to our mission, despite the risks and sacrifices that humanitarian work can often entail,” CRS said.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and all of those who lost loved one as a result of this tragedy,” Catholic Relief Services is the U.S. bishops’ international relief and development agency.

In Washington, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, expressed sadness at the “deaths of four of our esteemed colleagues.”

In a letter to Maronite Bishop Gregory Mansour, chairman of the board of CRS, the cardinal said he had asked all bishops in the U.S. to pray for the repose of the souls of the four workers.

“May the consolation of the Savior embrace be now a source of comfort to their loved ones and co-workers on this difficult and painful day,” Cardinal DiNardo wrote March 11.

Cedric Asiavugwa, a third-year law student at Georgetown University and campus minister, was among the passengers.

A letter sent to the Georgetown community late March 10 said he was on his way home to Nairobi because of the death of his fiancée’s mother.

“With his passing, the Georgetown family has lost a stellar student, a great friend to many, and a dedicated champion for social justice across East Africa and the world,” the letter said from Jesuit Father Mark Bosco, executive vice president and dean at Georgetown’s law school.

Asiavugwa was a residential minister at Georgetown. He had served as assistant director of advancement at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School, a free high school for orphans with HIV/AIDS in Nairobi, before enrolling at the law school. He also had served refugees and marginalized people in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania and Zimbabwe before enrolling at Georgetown, the letter said.

During the current semester at Georgetown, Asiavugwa was enrolled in the Center for Applied Legal Studies clinic, working with refugees seeking asylum in the U.S.

“Cedric’s goal was to return to Kenya after his studies to pursue a career promoting the rights of refugees in East Africa and beyond,” Father Bosco wrote.

David Beasley, World Food Program executive director, mourned the loss of his agency’s seven staffers in a March 10 statement.

“...as we mourn, let us reflect that each of these WFP colleagues were willing to travel and work far from their homes and loved ones to help make the world a better place to live. That was their calling, as it is for the rest of the WFP family,” he said.

A list of the dead released by Ethiopian Airlines included 32 Kenyans, 18 Canadians, eight from the United States and others from China, India, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Somalia.

Aviation officials from Ethiopia were investigating the accident, the second in recent months involving the brand-new Boeing 737 Max jet. In October, a Lion Air flight killed 189 people in Indonesia.

The plane has been the workhorse for airlines worldwide and has been the company’s best-selling aircraft.

Bishop Rhoades asks for prayers for crash victims

Following the crash of Ethiopian Airlines Flight ET 302 on March 10, Bishop Rhoades asks the following of the faithful of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend:

“Please remember in your prayers the victims of the plane crash in Ethiopia this past Sunday. Four of the victims were staff members of our Catholic Relief Services. Last year at this time I was on a CRS trip in Ethiopia where I met these staff members and enjoyed their hospitality. They were very dedicated to the mission of CRS, particularly in our food security programs and in helping the internally displaced in that country. May God grant them eternal peace! May the Lord also grant comfort to their families and friends, including their CRS colleagues in Ethiopia.”

People watch a tractor excavate Ethiopian Airlines Flight ET 302 plane crash March 10 near Bishoftu, Ethiopia. The crash killed 157 people from 35 countries.
If you have a gift well-suited to the for-profit business world, “you ought to use it,” he added. “The question becomes, whom do you make the profit for? What do you do with it?” Widmer gave the audience a suggestion for Lent: “Meditate upon whether there are crayons you haven’t used, or crayons you’ve used selfishly.”

Recalling how his learning began in Vatican City, Widmer noted that the spiritual shepherd he worked for had recognized — and canonized — numerous, diverse people who used their distinctive gifts to bear fruit for others. Widmer said St. John Paul II inspired him to emulate new saints where Catholics could find role models.

“As we go through Lent, we should think about the perfect model for us — the perfect person who ever lived, which is Jesus Christ,” he said. A person’s intentions as they utilize their talents and life circumstances must be driven to yield beneficial outcomes for God, in business or any other field.

As a professor at Catholic University’s Busch School of Business, Widmer said, “I lived the American dream.” He led successful business startups in the U.S. following his Vatican City service. He said the successes of the free enterprise system in the U.S. need to be communicated better.

“The free market system, we have reduced poverty like it has never been reduced in the world. We need to show the stories of the American entrepreneur, the story of the American business person, the story of small- and medium-sized businesses,” demonstrating sources of prosperity that have improved living conditions internationally.

In response to a question about the growing popularity of socialism as a concept in the United States political arena, Widmer said, “John Paul would certainly be very concerned about this.”

The current trend reveals a low level of understanding about socialism and is more a result of emotion than of reason, Widmer commented, adding that the response must “fight emotion with emotion.”

The lecture by Widmer, who is the co-founder and director of the Arthur & Carlyle Ciecca Center for Principled Entrepreneurship at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., was this year’s installment of the University of Saint Francis lecture series named for the Latin phrase “Servus Servorum Omnium,” or “servant of all.” The term comes from a letter in which St. Francis of Assisi wrote, “Being the servant of all, I am bound to serve all and to administer the balm-bearing words of my Lord.”

Among those present were representatives from regional businesses: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who offered a morning prayer; and USF president Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, the Mishawaka-based order that promotes the school’s Franciscan values.

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**Spring confirmation Mass schedule**

The following is a schedule of the spring Masses at which Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will confer the sacrament of confirmation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Dominic, Bremen</td>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Patrick, Ligonier</td>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
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<td>St. Joseph, Garrett</td>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immaculate Conception, Auburn</td>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queen of Peace, Mishawaka</td>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart</td>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne</td>
<td>April 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Joseph, Hessen - Casel</td>
<td>April 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Aloysius, Yoder</td>
<td>April 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Patrick, Arcola</td>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Mary of the Lake, Culver</td>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Culver Academy Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Hungary, South Bend</td>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holy Family, South Bend</td>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>St. John the Baptist, South Bend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immaculate Conception, Kendallville</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Mary of the Assumption, Avila</td>
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<td>Blessed Sacrament, Akron</td>
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<td>St. Gaspar del Bufalo, Rome City</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Theresa, Fort Wayne</td>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart</td>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>St. Pius X, Granger</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. John the Baptist, New Haven</td>
<td>May 7</td>
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<td>St. Louis, Besancon, New Haven</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Paul of the Cross, Columbia City</td>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>St. John Bosco, Orland Park</td>
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<td>Immaculate Conception, Ege</td>
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<td>Sacred Heart, Warsaw</td>
<td>May 10</td>
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<td>St. Martin de Porres, Syracuse</td>
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<td>St. Francis Xavier, Pierceton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne</td>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
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<td>St. Mary, Mother of God, Fort Wayne</td>
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<td>St. Peter, Fort Wayne</td>
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<td>Our Lady of Good Hope, Fort Wayne</td>
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<td>St. Henry, Fort Wayne</td>
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<td>St. Joseph, Fort Wayne</td>
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<td>St. Anthony of Padua, Angola</td>
<td>May 11</td>
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<td>St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne</td>
<td>May 12</td>
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<td>St. Mary of the Assumption, Decatur</td>
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<td>St. Joseph, Bluffton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne</td>
<td>May 15</td>
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<td>St. Mary, Huntington</td>
<td>May 16</td>
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<td>SS. Peter and Paul, Huntington</td>
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<td>St. Joseph, Roanoke</td>
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<td>St. Catherine of Alexandria, Nix Settlement</td>
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<td>St. Bernard, Wabash</td>
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<td>St. Robert Bellarmine, North Manchester</td>
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<td>St. Adalbert, South Bend</td>
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<td>St. Casimir, South Bend</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Michael, Plymouth</td>
<td>May 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Therese, Little Flower South Bend</td>
<td>May 25</td>
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<td>St. Augustine, South Bend</td>
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<td>St. Patrick, South Bend</td>
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<td>St. Hedwig, South Bend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sacred Heart, Notre Dame</td>
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<td>St. Patrick, Walkerton</td>
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<td>St. Stanislaus Kostka, New Carlisle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Guadalupe, Warsaw</td>
<td>May 26</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne</td>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult confirmations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult confirmations</td>
<td>June 16</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
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**Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades**

**Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend**

**Regarding the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act**

Ash Wednesday 2019

Dear Friends in Christ,

It was not only very disappointing, but horrifying, that the U.S. Senate recently failed to pass the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. Those who voted against this bill extended Roe v. Wade’s license for killing unborn children to killing newborn babies born alive following an attempted abortion. It is hard to believe that our nation allows infanticide. It was horrifying that weeks earlier the legislature of New York state, with the support of the governor, had removed the protections of their laws for infants born during an abortion.

I am grateful that our two Indiana senators voted in favor of the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Act. The vote to advance the bill was 55 to 44, with three not voting. The bill did not advance since 60 votes were needed to overcome a filibuster and pass the bill.

Where do we go from here? I am hoping that this vote will be a wake-up call to the American people. A recent poll showed that 77 percent of Americans agree that babies born during an abortion attempt should be given medical treatment like other babies. Hopefully, more people will be motivated to let their legislators know of their abhorrence that our laws do not require basic medical or humanitarian care for infants born alive following an attempted abortion. It is hard to believe that our nation allows infanticide.

I ask that we join in prayer throughout our diocese for an end to infanticide, using this simple prayer:

*Jesus, Lord of Life, transform the hearts of all elected leaders to recognize that infanticide is wrong and must not be tolerated. Open hearts and minds to recognize and defend the precious gift of every human life.*

Lent is a season in which we do battle against evil through prayer and works of penance and charity. Let us do battle against the culture of death and let us work and pray for a new culture of life.

We are journeying toward Easter. In the Sequence that the Church sings before the Gospel on Easter Sunday, one of the verses says: *Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous: The Prince of Life, who died, reigns immortal.* These words assure us that in Christ the forces of death are defeated.

*Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Kevin C. Rhoades
Makeover of Montreal oratory to give visitors ‘a new experience’

BY FRANCOIS GLOUTNAY

MONTREAL (CNS) — St. Joseph Oratory is about to get a $110 million (U.S. $82 million) makeover under a plan to make the popular site more attractive to tourists.

“The oratory is Quebec’s best-kept secrets,” said Guy Cormier, president and CEO of Desjardins Group, who is leading the fundraising campaign for the project.

The renovation is intended to modernize many of its infrastructures and, in 2022, after extensive work, “give a new experience” to the 2 million visitors who visit the oratory each year, Cormier said during a March 1 media conference.

The Reaching New Heights campaign has set a goal of raising $15 million from religious communities and business owners.

“I am proud to announce that we have already reached more than 70 percent of our target, more than $11 million,” Cormier said.

By 2022, planners envision a new reception pavilion with a shop and a restaurant, reconfigured gardens and renovated museum. The dome of the oratory’s basilica will be transformed into an observation center.

“We hope this project will help attract more tourists,” Cormier said.

The governments of Quebec and Canada and the city of Montreal have already announced grants totaling $65 million for the renovation.

Cormier is confident the campaign will reach able to raise the additional funding needed to complete the project.

The Quebec government has committed $31 million to the project.

The oratory remains “in the heart of the city,” a place where people of all ages, cultures, conditions and religions can meet in a context favorable to contemplation,” Father Grou said.

Recognizing that “on the slopes of Mount Royal, our ancestors have erected remarkable buildings, including this imposing edifice,” Montreal Mayor Valerie Plante reflected that “the population is attached to this emblem, a dominant figure in our landscape.”

She said she considers the oratory a unique place that must be “preserved, cajled, enhanced so that future generations may also enjoy it.”

Franois Goutnay is on the staff of Presence Info in Montreal.

St. Joseph Oratory in Montreal, Canada, is about to get a $110 million (U.S. $82 million) makeover under a plan to make the popular site more attractive to tourists.

Lockwood made ‘singular contribution’ to Catholic publishing

FORT WAYNE (CNS) — Robert P. Lockwood, former president of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, was remembered by for a brilliant writer with an intuitive sense of how to touch the hearts of salt-of-the-earth parishioners.

FORT WAYNE (CNS) — Robert P. Lockwood, former president of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, was remembered by those who knew him as “Bob” for his “gentle touch. He will be greatly missed.”

A native of Yonkers, New York, Lockwood joined the staff of Our Sunday Visitor, based in Huntington, Indiana, shortly after graduating from Fairfield University in 1971.

After working in various editorial positions, he was named editor of the magazine section of the newspaper in 1977 and editor-in-chief of the newspaper in 1985. He was the first lay editor-in-chief. Lockwood also was appointed director of Our Sunday Visitor’s religious books division.

In 1990, Lockwood was appointed president of Our Sunday Visitor. During his tenure as editor in chief and president, Our Sunday Visitor expanded its periodical line. Lockwood developed three new magazines — The Catholic Answer, Catholic Heritage and Catholic Parent — while adding New Covenant and U.S. Catholic Historian to its line of periodicals.

He also expanded Our Sunday Visitor’s religious books line into major reference works, including Our Sunday Visitor’s Catholic Encyclopedia and Our Sunday Visitor’s Encyclopedia of Catholic Doctrine.

He resigned from Our Sunday Visitor in November 1999 and for a brief period was director of research for the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, operating out of Fort Wayne.

In August 2001, he was named director of communications for the Diocese of Pittsburgh and also became general manager of the Pittsburgh Catholic, the diocesan newspaper. He headed a three-person communications department.

Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl, retired archbishop of Washington and currently apostolic administrator of the archdiocese, was Pittsburgh’s bishop when Lockwood took the position.

“I first came to know and recognize Bob Lockwood’s abilities during his long and highly successful career at Our Sunday Visitor,” he said, and as Pittsburgh bishop, he “was delighted to be able to welcome him” to diocesan communications.

“Bob was a master of many communication activities and he generously brought his skills to reach people through his clear, convincing and colloquial style,” the cardinal said in a March 3 statement. That day, Ash Wednesday, he remembered Lockwood at Mass at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, he said, “and thanked God for Bob’s great service to the world of Catholic publications and to the Church.”

Among his gifts was the capacity to reach many, many people and help the rest of us who relied on his guidance to try to do the same,” Cardinal Wuerl added. “Personally, I have lost a friend and a gifted colleague. May he rest in peace.”

In 2014, Lockwood retired and moved back to Indiana and continued to write about the Catholic Church.

“Every other week for the past 30 years,” Lockwood “consistently and brilliantly” wrote a column for OSV Newsweekly, Gretchen R. Crowe, editor-in-chief, wrote about his death March 5. He was scheduled to write his next column when he died, she noted.

“As it turns out, however, his final column appeared in the March 3 issue, in which he was reflecting on a recent hospital stay. His final two paragraphs say so much about his character, and even about his suffering during his final weeks of life,” she continued.

He wrote: “Jesus said to the crowds: ‘Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart, and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light’ (Mt 11:28-30). Have a blessed Lent. Live those traditional practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving for the whole season. And we will meet in joy at Easter morning.’”

“How beautiful and fitting that those were his final published words,” Crowe said.

Lockwood, she said, “had a way of bringing the reader back to a time gone by while still remaining relevant today. That is not easy.”

In a March 4 statement, Ann Rodgers, a veteran of daily journalism who succeeded Lockwood in Pittsburgh, said: “Those of us who serve in the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, and many who work in the Catholic press, are mourning the death of Bob earlier today.”

Lockwood was a storied career at Our Sunday Visitor before becoming director for communications at the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, he said.

“Bob was a brilliant writer with an intuitive sense of how to touch the hearts of salt-of-the-earth parishioners. He was my source when I worked in secular journalism, my mentor and friend when I succeeded him at the diocese, I am doing my best to walk in his footsteps, but I will never fill his shoes. RIP Bob. Pray for us.”

Lockwood was the author of numerous books, including “A Good Life: The God of Virtues for Men,” published by Servant Books in 2009.

Off his 2004 book publishing Our Sunday Visitor’s Good Faith for Grown-Ups: A Midlife Conversation About What Really Matters,” one reviewer said that “with great wit and keen understanding,” Lockwood explored the “common experience of growing up Catholic from the 1950s through the 1970s and invites fallen-away Catholics to return to the Catholic faith and experience an adult spirituality, rich and rewarding.”

Lockwood is survived by his wife, Cindy; a son, Ryan; and a daughter, Theresa; and three grandchildren.
More Indiana families have the opportunity to send their children to the school of their choice under the proposed biennial state budget that recently passed in the Indiana House of Representatives.

Changes to income eligibility requirements for private school vouchers and an increase in the current scholarship tax credit cap are among the provisions in the House budget supported by the Indiana Catholic Conference and other advocates for school choice. These small but significant adjustments would address gaps that have existed since the groundbreaking school choice legislation that led to the School Scholarship Tax Credit and the Indiana Choice Scholarship (voucher) programs in 2009 and 2011, respectively.

“Indiana has embraced a culture in which the opportunity to attend any school of their choice is the creation of a third level of funding for the state’s voucher program in between the two tiers that are now in place. Currently, a family whose household income is up to 100 percent of the guidelines for free or reduced lunch is eligible to receive a voucher covering 90 percent of what the state would spend to educate the child at the public school corporation in which he or she resides. The voucher then may be applied toward tuition and fees at the private school the family selects. A family with a household income of up to 150 percent of reduced-lunch eligibility receives a 50 percent voucher.

Under the proposed budget, the state’s voucher program provides the student with a household income of 125 percent of reduced-lunch eligibility requirements would receive a 70 percent voucher. This addition would offer new possibilities for middle-income parents who find themselves caught in the wide disparity between the two current levels, according to John Elcesser, executive director of the Indiana Non-Public Education Association.

“Some families are getting lost in the middle,” said Elcesser, whose organization represents the more than 7,000 teachers and close to 100,000 students at the state’s 400 private schools. The majority of those schools are religious, whether Catholic, Lutheran or nondenominational. “For many parents, the 50 percent voucher is not enough to make the school of their choice affordable.”

Elcesser also shares the concern of House members who say that the current voucher eligibility structure actually punishes parents for even modest gains in their income levels.

“In some regards, the current guidelines create a disincentive to move up in life,” said Rep. Robert Behning (R-Indianapolis), chairman of the House education committee and a longtime leader in school choice initiatives. “I frequently hear from parents who, because of a raise or a better job, suddenly are slightly over the threshold for the 90 percent voucher and then have to take a pretty big hit in the value of their children’s vouchers. These proposed changes would minimize the cliff effect that is a very real factor for many families.”

Creation of the new tier would cost approximately $4 million – a fraction of the $7.5 billion proposed budget, according to the budget’s primary author, Rep. Todd Huston (R-Fishers). Many House Democrats are calling for $611 million more in spending on schools over the next two years.

In final discussion leading to the Feb. 25 vote on the House floor, Rep. Vernon Smith (D-Gary), challenged the need for any enhancements to the voucher program, saying that urban public schools should be the primary beneficiaries of additional funds.

“This is not equitable,” Smith said. “You should put the money where students need it the most, so that this becomes the land of opportunity that we say it is.”

Huston countered that 93.3 percent of the state’s K-12 dollars go to traditional public schools, which educate 92.2 percent of the state’s students. By contrast, he said, only 2.5 percent of the budget goes to students receiving vouchers, although they represent 3.6 percent of students statewide.

In addition, opponents of school choice should consider the overall savings that the voucher program provides the state, according to Caitlin Bell, vice president of policy and government affairs for the Institute for Quality Education. She points to figures released by the Indiana Department of Education, which reveals that in 2018-19, the state awarded $161.4 million in school vouchers. Bell said that if each of the 36,209 voucher students would have attended their local public school instead of a private school, the state would have spent more than $231.4 million in tuition support for those students.

“That’s a savings of $70 million for Indiana,” Bell said. “A school voucher is always less than what the state would have paid if the student attended their traditional public school.”

The House budget, which passed Feb. 25 by a vote of 65-32, included another incentive for school choice: an increase in the scholarship tax credit cap to $15 million from the current $14 million, with the possibility of additional increases in subsequent years. Indiana now leads the country in tax credits for individuals and corporations contributing to Scholarship Granting Organizations – nonprofits that distribute private school scholarships.

Tebbe and other advocates anticipate other possible developments before the end of the legislative session in late April. These include the addition of a second-semester window to allow families to apply for vouchers later in a school year, as well as changes in the sibling and foster children qualifications for voucher eligibility.
**New York court rules prelate’s remains should be transferred to Peoria**

PEORIA, Ill. (CNS) — Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria announced “with great joy” March 5 that the New York Appellate Court ruled 5-0 that the remains of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen should be transferred from New York to the Peoria Diocese. Bishop Jenky is promoter of the canonization cause of Archbishop Sheen, a Peoria diocesan priest, who gained fame in the 1950s with a prime-time television series called “Life Is Worth Living.” He died in New York Dec. 9, 1979, and was entombed in the crypt at St. Patrick’s Cathedral. In 2016, Joan Sheen Cunningham, who is Archbishop Sheen’s eldest living relative, filed a petition with the courts in New York asking that his body be moved to the Peoria cathedral. She said her uncle would not have objected to his remains being transferred to his home diocese from St. Patrick’s Cathedral. The unanimous decision from the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, was the third time the New York court system has ruled in Cunningham’s favor, the diocese noted in a statement, urging an end to the appeals. In response to the ruling, Joseph Zwillling, spokesman for the New York archdiocese, told Catholic News Service in an email March 8: “The trustees of St. Patrick’s Cathedral disagreed with the court’s decision, and their attorneys are reviewing the ruling as they contemplate possible next steps.”

**Guatemalans hit by three years of drought among those CRS Rice Bowl helps**

HOUSTON (CNS) — These past three years of drought in Central America have destroyed crops of corn and beans, leaving families starving and causing Guatemala to declare a true state of emergency, said Catholic Relief Services officials. These families are among the “poorest of the poor” who are helped by U.S. parishes participating in CRS’ Lenten Rice Bowl campaign, said Monica Rodriguez, project manager of CRS’ SEGAMIL, a program in Guatemala that trains women how to earn funds and provide nutritious food for their children. SEGAMIL is the Spanish acronym for Food Security Focused on the First Thousand Days. The annual campaign run by CRS’ U.S. bishops’ overseas relief and development agency, raises awareness and funds to combat hunger and poverty. Schoolchildren, parishioners and families are encouraged to put savings from their Lenten fasting into a cardboard “rice bowl.” Rodriguez recently visited several Houston parishes and schools. She thanked them for past participation and encouraged them to start a new Lenten project through the Rice Bowl campaign whether individually, classes or churchwide. “This project really makes a difference. We are partners in change,” said Rodriguez, accompanied on her visits by CRS colleague Anna Huth and Hilda Ochoa, director of the Mission Office of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

**Notre Dame president says crisis ‘demands prayer’ but ‘we must also act’**

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (CNS) — Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame, said he has heard from many in the campus community that “deeply disturbing” stories of clergy sexual abuse have “disheartened and challenged their faith.” “This time has been a real dark night of the soul for many of us,” he said in a March 4 open letter to the campus. “The great mystic and spiritual writer St. John of the Cross, who coined the phrase ‘dark night of the soul’ for the spiritual desolation we sometimes feel, emphasized, as all great spiritual masters do, that such dark nights are sent to purify and deepen our faith, hope and love.” “Our response, then, demands prayer and reflection, but we must also act,” Father Jenkins said, laying out the steps Notre Dame, as a Catholic university, will take “to assist in a response to the current crisis.” Following the recommendations of two task forces he established to examine aspects of the abuse crisis, he said Notre Dame will convene experts and foster discussion of the issues facing the Church, starting with the fall 2019 Notre Dame Forum. His office also will offer presidential research grants, providing up to $1 million in the next three years to fund research projects that address issues emerging from the crisis, and the university, he said, is committed to fostering and sharing relevant research and training graduates for effective Church leadership.

**Congregation’s concern leads bank to end private prison financing**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A campaign by faith-based investors and investment networks, spearheaded by a New York congregation of women religious, led the nation’s largest consumer bank to announce it intended to stop investing in private prison firms. Starting with an October 2017 letter, the effort resulted in JPMorgan Chase announcing March 5 that it would cease financing two of the leading private prison corporations, Geo Group Inc. and CoreCivic. The corporations’ role in the detention of immigrants in facilities along the U.S.-Mexico border, pose a concern for people such as Sister Pat Mahoney, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood, New York, whose signature was at the bottom of the letter. “We’re thrilled,” Sister Mahoney told Catholic News Service a day after the bank’s announcement. “It’s a step and it gives you a sense of momentum too. If you can work with (Chase CEO) Jamie Dimon, maybe you can work with other places that need to take a careful look at where they’re going.” Sister Mahoney’s letter included the names of dozens of religious congregations, investment groups and regional shareholder networks concerned about the bank’s investment practices.

**In times of crisis, Church returns to basics of faith, Bishop Barron says**

ROME (CNS) — In times of crisis, the good Church and its faithful must return to the basics of the Christian faith, said Auxiliary Bishop Robert E. Barron of Los Angeles. Bishop Barron, who was ordained to the priesthood in 1986, told reporters in Rome March 7 that he has lived most of his priesthood in the context of the Church’s sexual abuse crisis and is convinced that the only way forward is to focus on what it really means to be Christian. “The Franciscans, Dominicans and other religious orders were formed at ‘times of real crisis,’ he said. “That’s when great figures like St. Dominic said, ‘Back to the basics, which for him meant poverty, trust in God’s providence, preaching the Gospel.’” The bishop’s recent book was an honorary doctorate in theology from the Dominican-run Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, commonly called the Angelicum. Bishop Barron’s “Word on Fire” multimedia ministry, his famous video series on the Church and his homilies, responded to a desire “to tell the story of Catholicism again; let’s tell the story of the great saints again.”

**Actress calls her deafness ‘a gift’; remembers Catholic school as ‘family’**

Actress Lauren Teruel Ridloff visits her elementary school alma mater in Chicago Feb. 22. The deaf actress graduated in 1991 from Holy Trinity School for the Deaf, now called Children of Peace School. She was born in Chicago, the second child of hearing parents, and was 2 years old before she was diagnosed as being deaf. A year later, she started preschool at Holy Trinity. “This school is family,” she said, before stepping into the gym where she was born. Riding is best known for playing Connie on “The Walking Dead,” a post-apocalyptic horror show that gained fame in the 1950s with a cause of Archbishop Sheen, a Dominican priest. He died in New York Dec. 9, 1979, at age 84, and the Franciscans, Dominicans and other religious orders were formed at “times of real crisis,” he said. “That’s when great figures like St. Dominic said, ‘Back to the basics, which for him meant poverty, trust in God’s providence, preaching the Gospel.’” The bishop’s recent book was an honorary doctorate in theology from the Dominican-run Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, commonly called the Angelicum. Bishop Barron’s “Word on Fire” multimedia ministry, his famous video series on the Church and his homilies, responded to a desire “to tell the story of Catholicism again; let’s tell the story of the great saints again.”

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Joe Farris, featured speaker at St. Therese parish mission

FORT WAYNE — St. Therese Church, 2304 Lower Huntington Rd., Fort Wayne, will conduct a parish mission Sunday, March 24, through Wednesday, March 27, for all parishioners, their family members, friends and guests. The public also is welcome.

The theme of the mission is “Church Fully Alive.” The four-evening event will feature keynote speaker Joe Farris and his faith-sharing talks on Sunday and Monday, a reconciliation service on Tuesday and a closing Mass on Wednesday celebrated by Father Lawrence Teteh, CSSp, pastor. Child care is available for children ages 10 and younger March 24 and 25. Anyone needing transportation should call the parish office at 260-747-9139.

After brief presentations after all weekend masses at St. Therese, the mission will begin at 7 p.m. on Sunday with Farris’ initial keynote address in the church. His talk is expected to be filled with personal stories and challenging concepts as he digs deeply into the parish community and asks, “What would you look like if you were fully alive?” The talk will be followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall.

On Monday Farris will conduct a Bible study at 9:30 a.m. during a brunch at the parish hall. Anyone interested in attending should call the parish office at 260-747-9139. At 7 p.m. in the church, Farris will present a follow-up talk to his keynote address. His quick wit, sense of humor and vision for the future is expected to both motivate and encourage listeners.

On Tuesday, after an opening song and prayer led by Father Teteh at 7 p.m., a reconciliation service will take place with an opportunity for individual confessions and several priests present. The parish mission will close on Wednesday with a Mass at 7 p.m. with Father Teteh, pastor, as celebrant.

Farris has been speaking to Catholic audiences throughout North America for more than 20 years, offering a consistent message of inspiration and hope. He has a reputation for being incredibly easy to work with and has been called an eclectic blend of storyteller, comedian and motivator. He says his most important work is 24 years of marriage to his wife, Ashley, and his six children.

Notre Dame catechumens, candidates presented

Fourteen students at the University of Notre Dame participated in the Rite of Election of Catechumens and Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates administered by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Feb. 24 in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. By being declared ready to receive or complete the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil, the men and women draw near to the end of their journey of discernment.

Around the Diocese

St. Vincent de Paul and partner provide beds to children

SOUTH BEND — The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County, Inc. is partnering with Comfort Sleep of Mishawaka to distribute 40 beds in 40 days to local children in need.

The St. Vincent de Paul Sweet Dreams Ministry was founded in 2017 to end childhood bedlessness in St. Joseph County, and 68 beds were provided through the program this past year. Children between the ages of 5 and 17 who do not have their own bed may be referred to the program by social workers or other social service agencies. Each child receives a new mattress, bed frame, pillow, linens and a handmade blanket.

“Every child deserves a good night’s sleep,” said Anne Watson, executive director. “More children in our community than you can imagine are sharing beds with several siblings or sleeping on the couch or the floor. We are proud to be able to assist families in our area provide a safe and clean bed for their children.”

Anyone who wishes to volunteer or donate toward the Sweet Dreams Ministry may learn more by visiting the program website at svdpsb.org/sweet-dreams-ministry.

Correction

Due to an editing error, the last name of Elizabeth Jones, a new diocesan employee in the Office of Development, incorrectly appeared as “Long” in the March 7 edition of Today’s Catholic. We apologize for the mistake.

‘Turn from your sin and embrace the cross of Christ’

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades receives ashes, at left, from Father Jacob Runyon, rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, on the morning of Ash Wednesday, March 6. In his homily, the bishop encouraged the adoption of Lenten practices that are “authentic,” so that we might feel “deep in our hearts the call to conversion, to return to God with all our heart.”
Mercy of Christ and love of Mary draws crowd to St. Pius X

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

What time is it? Now is the time of Mercy! This was the enthusiastic message of Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, during his weekend retreat at St. Pius X Parish on March 8-9, which brought together over 700 people for an encounter with the mercy of Christ and the love of Mary.

Father Gaitley, popular for his books explaining the mystery of God’s Divine Mercy and how to become consecrated to Jesus through Mary in the example of great saints, encouraged those present to be missionaries of mercy by displaying trust, little¬ness, courage and compassion.

In his opening remarks, Father Gaitley expressed, “While we are living in a time of unprecedented evils, for that very reason God wants to give us even greater graces. In the Diary of St. Faustina, Jesus tells her “the greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy.” Acknowledging that there might be initial skepticism to such an optimistic view in the face of tremendous suffering, Father Gaitley shared his personal testimony of how he came to believe in the truth of Divine Mercy through gentle moments of encounter with the Lord and by seeing his father’s conversion and healing from cancer through the power of the Divine Mercy Chaplet and image.

He continued by emphasizing the power of the Mass as the most perfect response to all sin and suffering, specifically in the Concluding Doxology of the Eucharistic Prayer, during which we unite ourselves to Him, allowing us to truly become perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect.” Furthermore, he explained, “the Chaplet of Divine Mercy is such a powerful prayer because it allows us to enter into that supercharged moment of the Mass, which has the ability to change our lives and the whole world.”

To begin the second day of the retreat, Father Gaitley spoke about the spirituality of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. He stated, “I am going to make a bold claim, that you and I really, truly can become saints! St. Thérèse’s “Little Way” offers all souls, especially “little souls,” the power to overcome potential discouragements and attain the heights of perfection. This is possible through coming to Jesus in humility, realizing our broken¬ness and allowing Him to raise us up. However, it requires the continual effort of trusting and trying to advance in the spiritual life, even in the times when it feels absolutely useless. As St. Mother Teresa said, “God doesn’t demand success, only faithfulness.” Jesus likes to keep little souls little, which means they often are not going to see their progress and don’t feel like super saints. Don’t get discouraged!”

Next, Father Gaitley transitioned to what he calls the “Second Greatest Story Ever Told,” which centers on Divine Mercy in the life of St. John Paul II. He revealed the connection between Poland’s unique history of upholding the Catholic faith in Europe amidst tremendous per¬secution, as well as the impor¬tance of St. Faustina, Our Lady of Fatima, Marian Consecration, and the witness of many 20th- and 21st-century martyrs in the pope’s life.

“After recovering from the assassination attempt on his life in 1981, the first place he went to was to the Italian Shrine of Merciful Love and stated, “It could be said that precisely this situation assigned the message of Divine Mercy to me as my special task before God.” Then on April 30, 2000, the day of St. Faustina’s canonization and the institution of Divine Mercy Sunday as an official liturgical feast, John Paul II said, “today is the happiest day of my life.” Why? I suggest that the hap¬piest day of our lives is the day we complete the mission God has given to us.”

Father Gaitley also spoke at length about the importance of Mar¬ian Consecration and relying on Mary’s mediation at all times. He demonstrated how St. Maximilian Kolbe had become so conform¬ed to the Immaculate as his special prayer ministering to her spring of life. Why? I suggest that the happiest day of our lives is the day we complete the mission God has given to us.”

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The retreat was co-sponsored by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Office of Adult Faith Formation and Redeemer Radio.

Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, speaks on the theology of Marian Consecration, through which we become intimately united to Mary and faithfully promise to stand alongside the cross of Christ with her, during the Mercy and Mary Retreat at St. Pius X Parish, Granger, March 9.

Father Michael Gaitley stands at the ambo to deliver the homily during Mass at the Mercy and Mary Retreat. He emphasized that Christians are able to partici¬pate in the divine life of the Trinity through the redemptive action of Christ, if we allow Him to encounter us in our brokenness and be reconciled to Him.
Adorers undeterred during extreme winter weather

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Although the groundhog may have predicted that spring would come early, frigid temperatures plagued the Midwest until late last week. While many desired to relax under a warm blanket, some hardy Catholics in the Fort Wayne area continued to make uncomfortably cold journeys to the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament at St. Jude Parish’s Perpetual Adoration Chapel.

As someone must always be present before the exposed sacrament, even when temperatures dropped into the negative double digits and road conditions were treacherous, the adoration chapel remained a place of active prayer.

Dan Fogarty, a regular adorer at the chapel, considered the cold weather only a minor inconvenience to fulfilling his holy hour, a commitment he has honored for the past few years. “We hear much about having a relationship with our Lord,” he said. “As with any relationship, a relationship with Jesus is built on time together, and my time with Him is important to building and maintaining that relationship. I can pray to Jesus anywhere, and I do, but there is something very special about being in His presence in the adoration chapel.”

Fogarty added that he went through the Called and Gifted program at his parish, St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne. Through this parish program, he learned that his primary charism is intercessory prayer.

“A special role I have in the Body of Christ, His Church, is to pray for the needs of others — individuals, the Church, groups, Church organizations, and so on. I take that role seriously and pray for those intentions daily, and on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. I bring them with me to the adoration chapel and present them in person to Jesus.”

Another Catholic who braved record-breaking cold temperatures to visit the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament recently was Thomas Koehl, a senior at Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne. Koehl recently began making occasional visits to the adoration chapel to pray the rosary for his friends, after study sessions at Purdue Fort Wayne.

“As of recent, I have begun to study and do homework at the Walb Student Union at PFW.” Koehl said. “At the same time, I also have been trying to get in a daily rosary, because I want to strengthen my devotion to Mary. I also want to pray for my friends, who I love so much. I’ve been trying to get in my daily rosary in front of the Blessed Sacrament, and thankfully, because of the close proximity of the chapel to PFW, I can do just that. Despite the cold, it’s been worth it to make the trip.”

Perpetual eucharistic adoration has been available at St. Jude since 1984, when parishioners approached the parish pastor with the idea. A chapel used by the Sisters of Notre Dame was remodeled and, on Oct. 28, 1984, the feast day of St. Jude, the Perpetual Adoration Chapel opened.

Almost 25 years later, the faithful of Fort Wayne seem undeterred by the frigid weather in fulfilling their scheduled holy hours, like Dan Fogarty, or simply visiting the Lord on occasion, like Thomas Koehl. Even when the chapel’s heating system stopped working for a number of days this past January, the exposed Eucharist was never alone — despite the fact that adorers could see their breath. Their witness to the faith, even in below-freezing temperatures, was, in their words, a small sacrifice.

The opportunity to participate in eucharistic adoration drew several worshippers to the St. Jude Parish Perpetual Adoration Chapel, Fort Wayne, even during dangerously cold and icy or snowy conditions this winter.
Advocacy centers help abuse victims tell their story, regain trust, heal

BY ELEANOR KENNELLY GAETAN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — On a long, low shelf at Safe Shores in downtown Washington, colorful figurines of wild animals, army soldiers, a winged dragon and an angel appear to be the toy collection of an overly neat child.

It’s the “sand tray room,” where young survivors of sexual assault arrange figures in a tray of sand to tell stories about their experiences, often, too difficult to put into words.

One 10-year-old girl, abused by her father, remained silent through five sessions of therapy. Only after arranging figures in the sand tray, creating a tableau depicting a child separated from adults by a bridge, did she open up and talk at length.

“We’ve used sand play in this field for about 25 years,” remarked Lisa Dominguez, director of clinical services at Safe Shores, one of 854 children’s advocacy centers located across the nation.

One out of every 10 Americans will suffer sexual abuse, involving physical contact, before turning 18 years old. An astonishing 90 percent of child victims personally know their abuser. Of those offenders, approximately 30 percent are family members — a tragic statistic that climbs to 50 percent when you look at who perpetuates abuse against children under age 6.

“Sexual victimization of children is a serious and pervasive issue in society. It is present in families, and it is not uncommon in institutions where adults form mentoring and nurturing relationships with adolescents, including schools and religious, sports and social organizations,” according to a report on the causes and context of abuse that was prepared by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

“Sexual abuse children are strategic,” said Ashley Harrell, director for family advocacy, prevention and outreach at Safe Shores.

“They groom the whole family. Often, family members will say, ‘This is the person I trusted the most!’”

As a result, a child who reports abuse within the family’s trust circle may not be believed — a further traumatizing experience.

As well, when the abuse is finally confirmed, innocent members of the family may feel horrified and heart-broken. Reconstructing trust within the family — absent abusers and those who deny it happened — is major task.

In addition to long-term mental health treatment, Safe Shores provides a variety of other support services for families, including a weekly caregiver support group, offered both in English and Spanish, where dinner and child care are provided. CAC provide services without charge.

Therapy is one part of the CAC mission, providing evidence for investigations is another. Safe Shores conducted close to 800 forensic interviews last year.

Down the hall from the CAC, a small room thought of as “the room” is outfitted with ceiling cameras and a tank, is a room dedicated to interviewing child victims, outfitted with ceiling cameras and microphones. Children are told exactly where all the equipment is.

To avoid the once common practice of repetitious interviews of child victims by police, prosecutors, social workers, doctors and judges — a procedure that was unduly traumatizing in itself — CAC forensic teams conduct a fact-finding interview in a “developmentally sensitive and legally sound manner” as part of a larger investigative process, explained Leyla Sandler, Safe Shores’ forensic services director.

The process results in one conclusive interview shared with all parties, a document that often becomes part of criminal proceedings against a perpetrator. Typically, law enforcement observes a forensic interview from another room.

In fact, members of the multidisciplinary team are located in the same building with Safe Shores, based in a renovated elementary school. Together under one roof are: officers with the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department; staff from the DC Child and Family Services Child Protective Services unit; attorneys with the U.S. Attorney’s Office and Office of the Attorney General for D.C.; and medical staff from the Child and Adolescent Protection Center, which is part of a unit of Children’s National Medical Center.

Again, the purpose is to minimize trauma on the child, and to maximize efficiency for the justice system to make perpetrators accountable.

Most important, Safe Shores staff sees tangible proof that victimized children heal.

“We see as healing is a reduction in trauma symptoms, so kids can tolerate normal stresses and frustrations that we all encounter day to day. We see a decrease in nightmares. We see better academic performance. We see enhanced communication with caregivers. We see re-engagement in activities that used to bring them pleasure — a team activity or Cub Scouts. We see children better able to tolerate their emotions,” said Dominguez.

She added, “Having a renewed sense of trust and safety, that is key. Because that’s the biggest thing lost when a trusted adult abuses you: You’re left asking, ‘Who can I trust?’”

Lisa Dominguez, director of clinical services at Safe Shores in Washington, is pictured in a Dec. 19, 2018, photo. Safe Shores is one of 854 children’s advocacy centers located across the nation.
Blessing and grand reopening of Diocesan Museum

Following a rite of blessing on March 5, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades is the first to sign the new guestbook of Diocesan Museum. The museum reopened for business Tuesday, March 12, in a new location on the northwest corner of Cathedral Square in downtown Fort Wayne.

Bishop Rhoades sprinkles holy water on the expanded exhibit areas afforded to Diocesan Museum by the former chancery building.

Diocesan and museum staff members and the media gather as Bishop Rhoades welcomes them to the blessing of the museum’s new location on March 5.

Early visitors admire the exhibits. Many of the museum’s treasures are on display for the first time in decades because of the larger space.
Are you ready to change?

"P"ut off the old man who is corrupted according to the desire of the flesh. Be renewed in the spirit of your mind: and put on the new man, which according to God is created in justice and holiness of truth. These words in Ephesians 4:22-24 are what Dietrich von Hildebrand describes as “inscribed above the gate, through which all must pass who want to reach the goal set us by God.” Further, he says in his book, “Transformation in Christ.” “All true Christian life, therefore, must begin with a deep yearning to become a new man in Christ, and an inner readiness to “put off the old man” — a readiness to become something fundamentally different.”

What does it mean for the Christian to become fundamentally different? It is a call to be something wholly other: to throw off the old man, who is a slave to our narrow world view, our prejudices, our vices, to sin and to self. It is a change in us that draws us out from bondage to sin into the glory of the Lord who has created us in love.

What allows this difference to happen? The answer is key, because often we want to change ourselves.

Recently I was listening to a podcast about forming new habits. One of the points the speaker made was that when we go about forming new habits, it’s easier if we think of the new habit in a new mindset. So rather than thinking, “I don’t do that anymore” when it comes to, say, watching six hours of Netflix, it is more effective to think, “the type of person I want to be does not watch six hours of Netflix on a Tuesday night.”

I think this points to a reality that is deeper than wanting to change and more fundamental. The truth is that Christ Jesus effected in the world by His passion was clear, effective and permanent. The world can never be the same. God has suffered, died and rose from the dead. Sin has lost, the battle won.

We are called to live in Christ, to an encounter with a living God who desires us all for ourselves. Because of the victory won for us, we cannot just simply say things like, “I don’t do that sin anymore,” or even “the saint I want to be wouldn’t do that sin.” The fact that God has suffered, died and risen from death to life is why Christ might live in us. We know when this doesn’t happen in ourselves, and we certainly know when it isn’t happening in others. But we are presented with a great opportunity in the season of Lent to foster this readiness to change. That is the beauty: God does the changing, we just have to be ready.

Through self-denial, exercises of temperance and changes in our daily routine, we are not trying to earn holiness or even do penance, in the strictest sense although yes, they are penitential practices. Rather, I think it is more helpful to see all of the things we do during Lent as ways that stretch us to be ready, like the wine vinters, for the coming of the Lord into our life, a readiness to remove the old man and a readiness to be something different.

Patrick was a saint, I ain’t

"M"ost folks generally know that St. Patrick is a saint of the Catholic Church, and that his feast day is observed on March 17, the day he died. And many may have heard about what made St. Patrick a saint in the eyes of the Church. He converted the pagans of Ireland to Christianity, drove the snakes out of Ireland and used the shamrock to preach about the Holy Trinity.

For most, however, St. Patrick’s Day is a celebration for adults to drink green beer and eat corned beef and cabbage. Around the world, in fact, millions of pints of beer are consumed on St. Patrick’s Day, amounting to more than $245 million. Guinness sales also soar on St. Patrick’s Day. Recent figures show that 5.5 million pints of the black stuff are drowned around the world every day, but on St. Patrick’s Day that figure is doubled.

As you sip an emerald brew, here are some little-known facts about St. Patrick you can use to impress your friends.

• St. Patrick wasn’t Irish. He was British, born in A.D. 385 to Roman parents in Scotland or Wales. Scholars cannot agree on which.
• He was born “Maewyn Succat” but changed his name to “Patrick” when he was consecrated a priest. If he hadn’t, we’d be wishing everyone “Happy St. Maewyn Day” on March 17.
• St. Patrick was a slave. At age 16, he was kidnapped by Irish traders and sold as a slave. He spent several years in Ireland herding sheep and learning about the people there.

At age 22, he managed to escape to England, where he spent 12 years studying religion in a monastery.

• According to the fossil record, Ireland never has been home to snakes. It was too cold to host amphibians during the Ice Age. Scholars suggest the term “snakes” may be figurative and refer to pagan religious beliefs and practices rather than reptiles.
• The shamrock is not the symbol of Ireland. As early as the medieval period, the harp appeared on Irish gravestones and manuscripts.

• The original color associated with St. Patrick is blue, not green. In several pieces of artwork depicting the saint, he’s shown wearing blue vestments.

Green was associated with the country later. Presumably because of the greenness of the countryside, Ireland is known as the Emerald Isle.

There are more Irish in the U.S. than Ireland. An estimated 34 million Americans have Irish ancestry. Some are pure-blooded Irish, but many have mixed ancestry. By contrast, there are 4.2 million people living...
Causes of sudden cardiac death in the young

In last month’s article, I discussed the amazing recovery of a young man who was resuscitated from a cardiac arrest. He had a congenital coronary artery anomaly as the cause. This article will explore other etiologies of why young men or women suddenly die, or what doctors call “Sudden Cardiac Death Syndrome.”

Every few years we hear about the tragic death of a young athlete who collapses and dies during a sporting activity. One of the most common causes of this is Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy. This is usually familial. In this disease process, the left ventricle becomes too thick (hypertrophied), and this thick muscle can obstruct the flow of blood out of the heart.

Areas of scar in the heart muscle can develop and be the source of electrical abnormalities leading to fatal cardiac arrhythmias like ventricular fibrillation or ventricular tachycardia. This is more likely to occur during high levels of exercise, as in competitive athletics. Usually there is an abnormal EKG or a murmur on a physical exam, and it is hoped that this might be picked up during a sports physical. An echo-cardiogram usually will give a definitive diagnosis or exclusion, if needed.

Another cause of sudden death is the Long QT Syndrome. This is a hereditary cardiac disease which is manifested by a significant chance of fatal arrhythmias (polymorphic ventricular tachycardia). It is usually easily picked up by a standard EKG. Until 1957 this fairly rare disease process was not yet discovered and defined. Certain families that had a history of losing some of their young women and men suddenly had no idea why. Many of these families recognized that a sudden startle could trigger their loved one’s demise. There were actual families who had made the right call.

A few years ago, I diagnosed Long QT Syndrome in a 22-year-old woman. Her aunt had died suddenly at age 26. When there is a family history of sudden death, it means there is a higher chance for all family members with the same diagnosis to die suddenly as well. There are medications used to reduce the chance of these fatal cardiac arrhythmias in this syndrome, but they are a long way from being foolproof. Therefore, to protect these people some times an Implantable Cardiac Defibrillator is recommended.

In the case of this particular lady, my colleagues and I struggled to decide if we should recommend an ICD for her at such a young age. ICDs can get infected, malfunction and even give inappropriate shocks, so it is a big decision. After much shared decision-making, we decided to place an ICD to be sure we would prevent this young lady from dying suddenly of a ventricular arrhythmia. Several years later I received a phone call from her family doctor, who told me she had passed out and had been successfully shocked out of a polymorphic ventricular tachycardia without any significant other thing. The chance of a cardiac arrest occurring in a young man or women participating in athletics is about 1/100,000 per year. None the less, I strongly recommend that Automated External Defibrillators be available at every major sporting event to reduce the chance that there could be a fatal event in one of our young loved ones. The book of Ecclesiastes reminds us: “Why should you die before your time?”

The Catholic Doctor is In

Dr. David Kaminski

I was at Notre Dame, “The Band of the Fighting Irish” was invited to march in the Chicago St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Plumbers Local 110 dyes the Chicago River Kelly green, which lasts for around five hours, just enough time to hold the parade downtown.

- Due to some delays, the band got separated from the units ahead of it, made a wrong turn and ended up on a dead-end street — with an Irish pub nearby. Let’s just say we made the day for some Irish revelers in the bar. One of them, in fact, offered to pay to send the then-120-piece marching band to Ireland.

In 2006, my wife, Marty, and I were privileged to go on a pilgrimage to Italy. Our last night in Rome was on St. Patrick’s Day, so we celebrated the occasion with song, merriment and Italian beer. The hotel allowed us to party in a rooftop lounge with us wearing green veils and a group ever witnessed the religious sisters who were traveling with us wearing green veils and green-accessorized Franciscan habits.

May the blessings and love of St. Patrick fall on yourself, on your home, on your dear ones and all.

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

Saint of the Week

St. Patrick

c. 389-461
Feast March 17

The patron of Ireland, this bishop was born in Roman Britain, kidnaped at 16 by Irish raiders and sold into slavery in Ireland. He was a lonely shepherd for six years before escaping and returning home. But his dream of converting the Irish pagans propelled him to priestly studies in Gaul (now France), and about 432 Pope Celestine I consecrated him bishop and sent him to Ireland. For nearly 30 years he preached tirelessly, made countless converts, founded monasteries and established the primatial see at Armagh. Toward the end of his life he made a 40-day retreat in Mayo that gave rise to the famous songing Croagh Patrick pilgrimages. Stories of him using the shamrock to explain the Trinity and driving snakes from the island are legend.
Legendary Lou Holtz shares three rules for a good life

BY BOB WIENEKE

NOTRE DAME — Legendary former Notre Dame football coach Lou Holtz may be 82 years old, but he can relate to the challenges many young adults face today. And he has a simple and logical formula that can help: Do what is right. Do everything to the best of your ability.

Show people that you care. “I have been your age, whether you are 21, or 25, or even 18,” offered Holtz, the author of a new book, “Three Rules For Living a Good Life: A Game Plan for after Graduation.” “But most of you have not lived in your ninth decade like me! The Hall of Fame coach wants to help young adults avoid mistakes that he’s made by sharing his experiences. “Life’s a matter of choices,” Holtz said. “Whoever you are, good or bad, it’s going to be because of the choices you make.”

The idea for “Three Rules For Living a Good Life” came from a commencement address Holtz gave at Franciscan University of Steubenville a few years ago.

In addition to his legendary status on the sidelines, Holtz is a husband, father, broadcaster, philanthropist and motivational speaker who uses a combination of one-liners and serious anecdotes to make his points. He quips: “Don’t go through life so bitter that you die at 55; it’s not your fault. But the thing is, you always make good choices. Those three rules will help you up every day,” he said. “It’s true that everything starts with a dream or a goal or a purpose. It doesn’t have to be big, lofty things.”

Holtz interperses faith throughout the 96-page book, with examples ranging from quoting the Bible (“Do to others whatever you have them do to you”) to utilizing the talents that God gave him. “I don’t know how people function without faith,” he said.

Holtz goes to great lengths to make sure he’s simply sharing his life experiences. No preaching. No lecturing. Just relating things that he has experienced and believes. And he believes that what’s contained in the book can be put to work to help readers live a better life.

“I think learning how to make good choices is the secret to success in everything you do,” Holtz said. “Those three rules will help you always make good choices. You’ll never need a fourth.”

Bob Wieneke is the curriculum sales and marketing manager at Ave Maria Press. He covered Notre Dame football as a sports reporter at the South Bend Tribune for many years.
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.

Fish fry at Our Lady of Hungary
SOUTH BEND — The Our Lady of Hungary Holy Name Society will have a fish fry on Friday, March 15, from 4-6:30 p.m. in the school gym, 735 W. Calvert St. Tickets at the door are $10 for adults, $5 for children 6-12 and children under 6 free. Carryouts available. In observance of Lent, please bring a voluntary donation to the food pantry of a non-perishable food item.

Jonah fish fry dinner
SOUTH BEND — St. Anthony de Padua, 2310 E. Jefferson Blvd., will host a parish fish fry on Friday, March 15, from 4-7 p.m. in the gymnasium. Adult carryout will be available. Tickets are available for purchase online, via printable form, after weekend Masses and at the parish office. Pre-sale tickets are adults: $9; seniors: $8; children 5-10 $5. Tickets at the door are: $10; seniors: $9; children 5-10 $6. Website: https://school.stasb.org/events/parish-fish-fry.

St. Jude Lenten fish fry
FORT WAYNE — St. Jude Church will have a Lenten fish fry on Friday, March 15, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at 2130 Pemberton Dr. Tickets are adults $10; children ages 6-10 $5; children 5 and under are free. PBJ sandwiches for younger kids under five not wanting fish. Carryout is also available.

St. Patrick’s Day Mass
LAGRO — Mass will be celebrated at 1 p.m. by Father Levi Nkwocha in the St. Patrick Oratory, 950 Main St. Mass will be followed by meditation, lights and prayer with harpist Sarah Wall at 2:30 p.m. Fellowship and refreshments will conclude the celebration at 5:30 p.m. Friends of St. Patrick’s members will be available to answer any questions visitors may have about the history of St. Patrick Church.

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For more information, go to diocesefwsb.org/Job-Openings-Administrator-Positions
He explained how the fear of the Lord is not being afraid of God, but rather “approaching God with deep reverence,” recognizing how great He is and how small we are before Him. “So allow yourselves to be conquered by God’s love! This is what really happens in baptism.”

The candidates preparing for entrance into full communion in Christ’s Church were about to enter into their final preparation, he noted.

“They will be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of confirmation. They will also become united with us at the table of the Lord, strengthened and nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ as our fellow pilgrims, brothers and sisters in the Catholic faith, journeying together to the house of the Father.”

The bishop encouraged both the catechumens and candidates “to be really spiritually focused during this upcoming season of Lent. Through prayer and reflection, be focused on what is about to happen in your life. You are preparing for something amazing, an encounter with God that is life-changing.”

“Catechumens and candidates, after receiving the sacraments of initiation, you will not be freed of afflictions or become exempt from suffering. But you will have the grace from God to endure suffering, the grace of the sacraments to sustain you and help you. You will have what St. Paul calls ‘the hope that does not disappoint.’ Hope has this confidence because the hearts of believers have been filled with the love of God. As St. Paul writes: ‘Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

“May every step we take be a step closer and closer to God and to our neighbor!” he told them. “May Mary our mother and all the saints be at our side and pray for us as we strive to walk with Jesus to the Father’s house!”

Songs such as “Christ Be Our Light” were sung during the rite, reminding all of the source from whom all blessings flow. The readings were proclaimed bilingually, as many of the elect spoke primarily Spanish.