

# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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## Easter is Church's greatest feast, 'solemnity of solemnities,' says bishop



John Martin

With the faith community of St. Francis Xavier, Pierceton, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrates Easter Mass April 21, and Father Charles Herman concelebrates. Because of the Resurrection, the cross that Christians bear in this life, "though heavy at times, is a triumphant and victorious one," the bishop said during his homily. "In the sorrows and sufferings of life, we can always grasp hold of the hand of Our Risen Lord." See story on page 16.

## Only risen Christ can bring peace to world at war, pope says at Easter

BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As the machine of warfare continues to churn out more dangerous weaponry, only the power and joy of Christ's resurrection can fill hearts with comfort and peace, Pope Francis said before giving his Easter blessing.

"May the one who gives us His peace end the roar of arms — both in areas of conflict and in

our cities — and inspire the leaders of nations to work for an end to the arms race and the troubling spread of weaponry, especially in the economically more advanced countries," the pope said as he prepared April 21 to give his Easter blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world).

Jesus' resurrection from the dead is not only the start of a true renewal that "begins from the heart, from the conscience" but also the beginning of a new

world "free from the slavery of sin and death" and now open to God's kingdom of "love, peace and fraternity," he said.

The pope's prayer for peace came a few hours after news broke of multiple bombs that exploded in several churches and hotels in Sri Lanka, killing and wounding hundreds in the capital city of Colombo and the neighboring cities of Negombo and Batticaloa.

After giving his blessing, the

pope expressed "sadness and pain" at the attack before leading the crowd in several moments of silent prayer for the victims.

"I wish to express my affectionate closeness to the Christian community, struck while it was gathered in prayer, and to all the victims of such cruel violence," the pope said. "I entrust to the Lord all those who have been tragically lost and I pray for the

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## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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# Massive Sri Lanka Easter bombings traced to little-known group

BY MICHAEL SAINSBURY

BANGKOK (CNS) — The Sri Lankan government blamed little-known Islamic group National Thowheeth Jama'ath for the Easter suicide bombings that targeted three churches and three luxury hotels across the country.

Authorities named the group April 22 and said 24 people had been arrested in connection with eight bombings that left at least 321 people dead and more than 500 injured.

The violence was the deadliest the country had seen since a 26-year civil war ended in 2009.

Two Catholic churches — St. Anthony's Shrine in Colombo and St. Sebastian's Church in Negombo — as well as an evangelical church in Batticaloa were targeted during Easter services. The Shangri-La, Kingsbury and Cinnamon Grand hotels in Colombo also were attacked.

"We do not believe these attacks were carried out by a group of people who were confined to this country," Health Minister Rajitha Senarathne said April 22. "There was an international network, without which these attacks could not have succeeded."

The majority of those killed and injured are believed to be Sri Lankan nationals, many of whom were attending church services. The government said those killed included at least 39 foreign nationals from the United States, United Kingdom, India, China, Japan, Australia, Turkey, Australia and other European countries.

Photos from the church bombings showed blood-spattered walls, broken glass and statues knocked on their sides.

Christians make up about 6%, or about 1.5 million, of Sri Lanka's population of 22 million, according to the country's 2012 census. About 85% of Christians are Catholic. The majority of the population, about 70.2%, is Buddhist, while Muslims make up 9.6% and Hindus 12.6% of the population.

Pope Francis used his Easter Mass at St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican to express his "loving closeness to the Christian community, targeted while they were gathered in prayer, and all the victims of such cruel violence."

"I entrust to the Lord all those who were tragically killed and pray for the injured and all those who are suffering as a result of this dramatic event," he said, expressing closeness to Sri Lanka's Christian community.

Cardinal Malcom Ranjith of Colombo visited St. Sebastian's Church to witness the recovery efforts of security forces, the BBC reported. Briefing reporters afterward, he condemned the violence



CNS photo/Athit Perawongmetha, Reuters

**Police officers work the scene at St. Sebastian Catholic Church in Negombo, Sri Lanka, April 22, after bomb blasts ripped through churches and luxury hotels the previous day. Sri Lankan officials reported 321 confirmed deaths from the eight blasts at churches and hotels in three cities.**



CNS photo/Dinuka Liyanawatte, Reuters

**Relatives of victims react at a police mortuary in Colombo, Sri Lanka.**

## U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issues statement on terrorist attacks on Easter Sunday

WASHINGTON—The following statement was issued by Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, April 21 regarding simultaneous explosions in Sri Lanka targeting the country's minority Christian community as well as luxury hotels around Colombo on Easter Sunday morning. At least 300 people were killed and more than 500 injured in the terrorist attacks.

"This morning in Sri Lanka a coordinated series of bombings killed hundreds of worshippers in Catholic Churches and others of all faiths in nearby hotels. The Churches were St. Sebastian's Church in Negombo, St. Anthony's Shrine in Colombo and Zion Church in the eastern city of Batticaloa. This great evil targeted these churches as they were packed full of worshippers who were celebrating Easter, the day in which Christians around the world celebrate the rising of the King of Peace from the dead. We offer our prayers for the victims and their families. And we join with all people of good will in condemning these acts of terrorism. This evil cannot overcome the hope found in our Savior's Resurrection. May the God of hope who has raised his Son, fill all hearts with the desire for peace."

"that has caused so much death and suffering to the people."

"It's a very, very sad day for all of us," he said. "I wish to, therefore, express my deepest sympathy to all those innocent families that have lost someone, and also to those who have been injured and rendered destitute."

The cardinal also called on the government to investigate the bombings as thoroughly as possible and to punish the perpetrators "mercilessly."

Bishops' conferences around the world, including those in the United States, Australia, Pakistan and Indonesia, extended their sympathy.

Damien Kingsbury, professor of international politics and a Sri Lankan expert at Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia, said there has been no history of Islamic terrorism in Sri Lanka. National Thowheeth Jama'ath surfaced on only a few occasions in recent years in relation to hate speech and property-related attacks on Buddhist temples, he said.

"It's likely that recent return of Islamic State fighters to Sri Lanka had strengthened their resolve," Kingsbury told Catholic News Service. Earlier in April, the Sri Lankan government had identified a number of Sri Lankans who had returned to the country following the collapse of the so-called IS caliphate in Syria.

Sri Lanka Police Chief Pujuth Jayasundara issued a warning about the organization carrying out suicide bombings of prominent churches 10 days before the attacks, reported Agence-France Presse. It was unclear what action security forces had taken ahead of Easter in response.

Sri Lanka Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe claimed he and other top government officials were not told and has said "we must look into why adequate precautions were not taken."

Experts noted that the precise coordination — six explosions went off within 20 minutes of each other — and the number of sites chosen for attack echoed the 2008 Mumbai assault on major hotels by an Islamic State-linked terrorist group.

The bombings have ended a decade of relative peace in Sri Lanka, a country with a long history of battling terrorism during civil war between government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

A curfew was imposed in Sri Lanka from 8 p.m. April 22 until 4 a.m. April 23 local time. A national day of mourning was declared for April 23.

# Holy oils blessed, consecrated at Chrism Masses



Joe Raymond

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, assisted by master of ceremonies Father Royce Gregerson, pours balsam into the oil for the holy chrism during the Chrism Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, April 15. He then stirred them together to make the oil that is consecrated as chrism.



Joe Raymond

Priests of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the Congregation of Holy Cross process during the South Bend Chrism Mass. At the Mass, the priests renewed their promises made at ordination.

At the Fort Wayne Chrism Mass on April 16, priests serving on the Fort Wayne side of the diocese concelebrate the eucharistic liturgy after renewing their priestly vows.



John Martin



## Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

- Sunday, April 28: 5 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Hungary Church, South Bend
- Monday, April 29: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Holy Family Church, South Bend
- Tuesday, April 30: 12:30 p.m. — Meeting of Priest Retirement Board, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
- Wednesday, May 1: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Immaculate Conception Church, Kendallville
- Friday, May 3: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Therese Church, Fort Wayne
- Saturday, May 4: 9:30 a.m. — Baccalaureate Mass for University of Saint Francis, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Saturday, May 4: 5:30 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Elkhart



## Deacon retirement

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, announces the retirement of Deacon Kevin M. Ranaghan, St. Bavo Parish, Mishawaka, from active ministry effective May 1, 2019.



John Martin

Representatives from area parishes come forward to present the oils to Bishop Rhoades at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Tuesday, April 16, at the Fort Wayne-area Chrism Mass.

# Protocols to address abuse in U.S. dioceses in place since 2002

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Surveys show that many Catholics are unaware of the steps that the bishops have taken since 2002 to prevent child abuse and to monitor its own performance.

In 2002, the U.S. bishops first approved their “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” to spell out protocols for how U.S. Catholic dioceses and eparchies must address sex abuse.

The charter, which is revised regularly, spells out strict procedures for removing from ministry those credibly accused of abusing minors. It also called for training children and all adults who work with them in church and school settings to recognize and appropriately handle possible sexual abuse, and created diocesan and national mechanisms for monitoring compliance.

The charter established the position of victim assistance coordinator in every diocese and eparchy “to coordinate assistance for the immediate pastoral care of persons who report having been sexually abused as minors by clergy or other church personnel.”

The charter directs action in: — Creating a safe environment for children and young people

— Healing and reconciliation of victims and survivors

— Making prompt and effective response to allegations

— Cooperating with civil authorities

— Disciplining offenders.

The charter mandated the creation of the Office (now Secretariat) of Child and Youth Protection, which assists “in the consistent application of principles” adopted by the charter and provides “a vehicle of accountability and assistance” to dioceses and eparchies.

In 2002, the bishops also established the lay-run National Review Board, to monitor implementation of the charter.

Francesco Cesareo has been the board’s chairman since 2013. He is president of Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts.

The full text of the U.S. bishops’ charter can be found in English and Spanish, respectively, at <https://bit.ly/2QNZgh5> and <https://bit.ly/2WwBnH4>.

Under the charter, each diocese and eparchy undergo an annual audit to ensure compliance with it. Each audit report includes recommendations for corrective action where shortcomings are discovered.

Last June, the 15th annual report on implementation of the charter showed a decrease in allegations of clergy sex abuse from the two previous years but also indicated the need for continued vigilance since charges were raised by more than 650 adults and 24 minors.

The audit also showed that dioceses/eparchies provided outreach and support to 1,905 victims/survivors; training on abuse prevention and safe environment was provided to more than 4.1 million children and more than 56,000 priests, deacons and candidates for ordination; and background checks have been administered to 97 percent to 99 percent of all adults serving in ministry with children.

“That’s no small feat,” Cesareo told attendees at the Child and Youth Protection Catholic Leadership Conference in New Orleans last June. “Yet, we are not finished. We can never be finished.”

During the U.S. bishops’ general fall assembly in Baltimore in November, Cesareo called for broadening the scope of the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” to include bishops. He also urged publishing complete lists of credibly accused clergy in all dioceses; improving the audit process; and enhancing accountability for bishops regarding cases of abuse.

## TALKING TO YOUR KIDS

### TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT DIGITAL SAFETY

The Internet provides an opportunity for children to learn, explore their world, and socialize with friends. By understanding the potential dangers your children face, you can educate them and help them have safer digital experiences.

#### General Tips and Guidance

- Make sure your youth serving organizations have and enforce communications policies that protect children. Teachers, instructors, and other youth workers should not be communicating privately with children. Instead, they should use group texts, messages, or other communications, and include parents.
- Do not underestimate the level of sophistication that an abuser will use to approach your child. Pay attention to all downloaded apps and their capabilities - even ones that do not seem to be chat-related.
- Smartphones and tablets have a “location services” feature which allows devices to broadcast their location to the users’ apps and contacts. Ensure this feature is turned off to ensure your child’s whereabouts remain private.
- If you discover questionable communications from your child to an adult or other youth, remain calm. Talk to your child without accusation and with the goal of resolving the situation.
- Report sexual solicitation, bullying, or child pornography immediately to your local law enforcement.

#### For Younger Children

- Children under eight should have direct supervision while using computers, smartphones, and devices. Know which games, apps, and learning tools have communication and chat capabilities.
- Keep children’s personal information off online profiles and talk to them about what information is private and shouldn’t be shared.
- Parents, use your name and email for when signing up for games or services. This ensures you are the primary contact rather than your child.
- Talk frankly with children about inappropriate questions and language. Use age-appropriate examples and tell them to come to you if anything uncomfortable or questionable is said.



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This information is intended only as a supplement to Darkness to Light’s Stewards of Children® training, which provides in-depth learning, tools, and practical guidelines to help adults prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. For more information on Stewards of Children, visit [www.D2L.org/Stewards](http://www.D2L.org/Stewards).

#### APPLYING THE 5 STEPS

Darkness to Light’s 5 Steps to Protecting Our Children™ is the foundation to everything we teach about prevention. You can also apply these steps to internet and device use to keep your children safe:

##### STEP 1: LEARN THE FACTS

Learn the access, privacy, and messaging policies of all digital games, social networks, and video games used by your children.

##### STEP 2: MINIMIZE OPPORTUNITY

Parental controls can help restrict accesses and monitor messaging. Privacy and language filters can also reduce kids’ risk of receiving solicitation.

##### STEP 3: TALK ABOUT IT

Spend time with children online and talk to them about potential dangers and what appropriate online conduct looks like.

##### STEP 4: RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS

Stay tuned to changes in behavior - secrecy about computer use, sites visited, or online “friends” should raise warning flags.

##### STEP 5: REACT RESPONSIBLY

Understand how, when, and where to report suspicious behavior online.

#### URBI ET ORBI, from page 1

wounded and all those who suffer because of this tragic event.”

According to the Vatican, an estimated 70,000 pilgrims attended the Easter morning Mass in St. Peter’s Square, where a vast floral arrangement adorning the steps leading to the basilica highlighted the festive atmosphere.

The display of flowers, imported from the Netherlands, featured more than 57,000 individual flowers, plants and trees, including tulips, daffodils, birch trees and more than 1,500 orange and blue strelitzia flowers that accented the joyful celebration of Christ’s resurrection.

Pope Francis did not deliver a homily during the Mass; instead, an announcer invited the crowd to remain in silent prayer for



CNS photo/Paul Haring  
**Pope Francis delivers his Easter blessing, “urbi et orbi” (to the city and the world), from the central balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican April 21.**

several minutes. As a hushed silence filled the packed square, Pope Francis remained with eyes closed, hands folded and head bowed in prayerful reflection.

Standing on the central balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica after celebrating the morning Mass, the pope prayed that the risen Christ shine His light upon “those experiencing hardship, pain and suffering,” especially in Syria, Yemen, Libya and the Holy Land.

“May the light of Easter illumine all government leaders and peoples in the Middle East, beginning with Israelis and Palestinians, and spur them to alleviate such great suffering and to pursue a future of peace and stability,” he said.

The pope prayed that Jesus would bring peace to the African continent, which he said was “still rife with social tensions,

conflicts and at times violent forms of extremism that leave in their wake insecurity, destruction and death, especially in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon.”

He also prayed for peace in Sudan as well as neighboring South Sudan, whose leaders were recently at the Vatican for a spiritual retreat.

“May a new page open in the history of that country, in which all political, social and religious components actively commit themselves to the pursuit of the common good and the reconciliation of the nation,” the pope said.

Turning his attention toward Latin America, Pope Francis prayed for peace in Nicaragua so that a “negotiated solution” would bring peace to its people.

He also remembered the suffering people of Venezuela who “lack the minimal conditions for

leading a dignified and secure life due to a crisis that endures and worsens.”

The pope prayed that political leaders in the country would put an “end to social injustices, abuses and acts of violence” while taking concrete steps “to heal divisions and offer the population the help they need.”

Before delivering his blessing, Pope Francis urged Christians to be renewed by the living Christ, who “is hope and youth for each of us and for the entire world.”

“May the risen Christ, who flung open the doors of the tomb, open our hearts to the needs of the disadvantaged, the vulnerable, the poor, the unemployed, the marginalized and all those who knock at our door in search of bread, refuge and the recognition of their dignity,” he said.

# Predatory lending opponents see payoff in final days of session

The Catholic Church was among the strongest voices in a chorus of opposition to a bill that would have dramatically expanded predatory lending in Indiana.

Senate Bill 613, which proposed new loan products that fell under the category of criminal loansharking under current state law, died before its scheduled third reading in the Indiana House of Representatives on April 15. The bill's sponsor in the House, Rep. Matt Lehman (R-Berne), declined to call it for a vote, sensing he would not have enough support for its passage following intense pressure from advocates for the working poor, including the Indiana Catholic Conference.

"This is a major victory for the most vulnerable people in our state and those who speak for them," said Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. "There was so much wrong with this bill, which would have targeted low-income working families and taken advantage of their circumstances, burdening them with a cycle of ever-increasing debt."

Senate Bill 613 would have greatly expanded the scope of the payday loan industry, which extends short-term credit to borrowers at high interest rates and fees. Payday loans, sometimes called cash advances, are so named because the loan's principal is typically a portion of the borrower's next paycheck.

Under its original provisions, Senate Bill 613 would have allowed payday lenders to offer

consumers installment loans up to \$1,500 with interest and fees up to 190 percent, as well as a new product with 99 percent interest for loans up to \$4,000. After the bill passed the Senate in February under the slimmest of margins, amendments in the House adjusted those rates: 167 percent instead of 190 percent interest on the installment loans, and 72 percent rather than 99 percent interest on the new loan product.

"Despite these changes, the basic character of the bill remained," Tebbe said. "We understand that families may need credit, but the interest and fees allowed by Senate Bill 613 were exploitative and would have resulted in further harm or debt for borrowers. Those who supported the bill claimed that there were no other alternatives for these families, but regardless of their intention to help, the ends do not justify the means. Furthermore, the Catholic Church, other religious institutions and countless social services agencies always stand ready to help people in need."

Sen. Andy Zay (R-Huntington), the bill's author, had argued that the proposed loan products offered better options for consumers with low credit scores — such as internet lenders — with even higher fees. But ultimately, the only supporters of the bill were leaders of the payday lending industry and their lobbyists.

In sharp contrast, a broad coalition of opponents — from churches to veterans' groups to public policy experts — ultimately

## INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

prevailed in convincing lawmakers that Senate Bill 613 was not in the best interest of Hoosiers.

"It was such a fight, and it really took every single voice," said Erin Macey, senior policy analyst for the Indiana Institute for Working Families. "This was a nail-biter until the very last minute. Some of us burst into tears when it was over."

"Fundamentally, Senate Bill 613 was about how we treat one another," Macey continued. "This bill would have allowed payday and other subprime lenders to extract even more profits from some of our most financially vulnerable families. We can — and must — do better than offering triple-digit APR loans to those who struggle to make ends meet."

For Tebbe, Macey and other opponents of predatory lending practices, the outcome of Senate Bill 613 was especially gratifying after another bill aimed at placing limits on the payday loan industry stalled earlier in the legislative session.

In a close vote in February, lawmakers defeated Senate Bill 104, authored by Sen. Greg Walker (R-Columbus), which would have capped the interest rate and fees that a payday

lender may charge to 36 percent APR, in line with 15 other states and the District of Columbia. Currently, payday lending institutions in Indiana can charge consumers an annual percentage rate of up to 391 percent on the short-term loans that they offer. The ICC and other members of the coalition that stood in opposition to Senate Bill 613 had supported Senate Bill 104.

Had Senate Bill 104 become law, policy experts say it likely would have driven the payday lending industry out of the state.

Beyond the working poor, older Americans also frequently fall prey to predatory lenders, according to Ambre Marr, state legislative director for AARP Indiana.

"High-interest loans hurt the financial future of Hoosiers and can prevent them from acquiring the financial security they need for retirement and to live independently," Marr said. "Unfortunately, households of all income levels have insufficient savings not only for retirement, but for any emergency that might arise. This is especially serious for older Hoosiers, as they have fewer working years to rebuild their savings after a financial shock. And when

they reach retirement, older Americans are more likely to be on a fixed income, so taking out one of these high-interest loans could trigger a continuing crisis."

AARP Indiana was a key component of the coalition that fought against Senate Bill 613. Marr applauds the efforts of everyone involved in opposing the bill.

"This was an amazing endeavor," Marr said. "The relentless efforts by coalition members to inform lawmakers of the potential impact of this legislation — through facts, examples, and constituent experiences — made all the difference."

Lawmakers are expected to continue studying issues surrounding the payday loan industry ahead of the 2020 legislative session.

**To follow priority legislation of the ICC,** visit [www.indianacc.org](http://www.indianacc.org). This website includes access to I-CAN, the Indiana Catholic Action Network, which offers the Church's position on key issues. Those who sign up for I-CAN receive alerts on legislation moving forward and ways to contact their elected representatives.

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# Catholic leaders nationwide react to Notre Dame Cathedral fire

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As U.S. Catholic leaders grappled with the enormity of the April 15 fire that ruined the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, the word “iconic” came to mind for many of them.

“Our prayers are with the people of Paris as the iconic Notre Dame Cathedral is burning,” said an April 15 statement by Archbishop Alexander K. Sample of Portland, Oregon; the blaze was put out after nine hours.

“As we enter this most Holy Week of the year in preparation of Easter,” he added, “we rest in the peace of the resurrection and know Christ will console us in our most tragic times.”

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, in an April 16 appearance on NBC’s “Today” show, said Notre Dame has “become an icon not only of faith ... it’s also an icon of art, poetry, literature, French pride and gratitude, French identity. ... It really is an icon for what’s best in human nature.”

He said of the fire, “There does seem to be a death in the family ... and not just the Catholic family, the world family. ... It’s almost like we are at a funeral parlor. We are seeing a loved one who has died.”

“Notre Dame has been an iconic house of worship for over 850 years and a prayer destination for faithful Catholics of Paris and from around the world,” said an April 16 statement from Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, New York.

“We give thanks to God for the firefighters who so bravely battled the devastating fire. And we look toward the future as this great Cathedral of Notre Dame is rebuilt.”

“Notre Dame has been one of the most iconic churches in Christendom — a testament to man’s desire to glorify God on earth and a beacon of hope for millions of pilgrims each year,” said an April 15 statement by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia. “The ongoing destruction being wrought by flames is doubly sorrowful as it comes during the holiest week of the Christian calendar.”

Archbishop Chaput added his prayers “that our Lord will bring comfort and peace to Archbishop Michael Aupetit (of Paris) as well as our brothers and sisters in the Archdiocese of Paris, and the people of France at this time. In the face of desolation and devastation, we find hope in the Resurrection.”

“Notre Dame Cathedral is more than a church — it’s a worldwide iconic symbol of our Catholic faith,” said an April 15 statement by Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki of Springfield, Illinois. “My thoughts and prayers are with Catholics around the world who love Notre Dame Cathedral and have lasting memories there, the people of France, and the



**New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan speaks to the media outside St. Patrick's Cathedral during a news conference following the devastating fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris April 15. At right is Msgr. Robert Ritchie, rector of St. Patrick's.**

CNS photo/Armando Machado, Catholic New York

first responders.”

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception announced April 15 the creation of a website, [www.supportnotredame.org](http://www.supportnotredame.org), where people could contribute money for Notre Dame’s rebuilding.

The national shrine, in a statement, “encourages those whose lives have been touched by this iconic cathedral, to support the effort to resurrect and rebuild this church which has touched the hearts and souls of the world.”

“Our hearts are with the firefighters and with the caretakers of the magnificent Cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris, said Archbishop Robert J. Carlson of St. Louis in an April 15 statement. “We ask for the intercession of Mary, Mother of God, and look to the promise of Easter hope and new life in the midst of this difficult loss,” he added.

The archdiocese has experienced cathedral problems of its own, though not nearly as severe as the Notre Dame fire. The Basilica of St. Louis, popularly known as “The Old Cathedral,” was closed following the April 12-14 windstorms that swept through the country’s midsection. Work on a permanent underlayment for a new roof began April 15, but all services there are canceled until the safety of the ceiling is secured.

“I join in the great sadness felt around the world over the fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in France,” tweeted Bishop Edward J. Burns of Dallas April 15.

“While we mourn the damage done, we are grateful there has been no loss of life.”

Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, in announcing the archdiocesan chrisem Mass for April 16, invited “Catholics and

*“But not only this church. Let us resolve to patiently ‘rebuild’ the Church, not with granite and mortar, but with living stones in the spirit of those earlier builders — with humility, penance and with gratitude for the miracle that God is still performing before our eyes.”*

CARL ANDERSON,  
CEO OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

people of all faiths” to “pray in solidarity with the people of the Archdiocese of Paris and all of France” in light of the cathedral fire.

In Atlanta, Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory said, “Paris would not be Paris without Notre Dame.”

He said Catholics of the archdiocese sent their prayers “and closeness in faith” to their brothers and sisters in France. “May the Lord’s passion, death and resurrection strengthen them as we celebrate these mysteries this week,” he said.

In Los Angeles, Archbishop Jose H. Gomez said Catholics there joined the world in mourning the devastation of Notre Dame and added: “These days reminds us that a church is not just a building of stone and wood, marble and glass. It is a temple to the living God, where God is present and comes to dwell with us, a place where we praise him and devote our lives to him in love.”

Bishop R. Walker Nickless of Sioux City, Iowa, on behalf of the faithful of the diocese expressed “profound sadness at the fire.” “Even here in Iowa, many of us have visited and prayed in this magnificent church named after our lady, the Mother of God,” the bishop posted on Facebook. “The destruction of such a notable piece of our shared Catholic heritage affects all of us.”

“My heart is sad, but I know it will be built up again on whatever remains of the original,” said Mary Brandt, a parishioner at St. Mary Church in Spirit Lake, Iowa. She visited Notre Dame in November with her sister Catie Becker Ehlert.

“It’s how Christianity has survived all over the world, building again and again on what has fallen,” Brandt told *The Catholic Globe*, newspaper of the Sioux

City diocese.

Francois Decoster, mayor of Saint-Omer in northern France — about three hours by car from Paris — and vice president for culture of the Hauts-de-France region, was scheduled to leave Maryland for France April 15. He and other officials had been in Baltimore and Washington for concerts by the 70-piece Saint-Omer Wind Orchestra to celebrate three centuries of cooperation between France and the U.S.

“It’s really a tragedy,” Decoster told the *Catholic Review*, media outlet of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, April 15 before returning to France. “The images are really terrifying.”

He added, “The French people and people all over the world are watching this. They see this burning.”

Noting that he and his associates had been in the U.S. to celebrate the shared history between France and the United States, Decoster said, “Our history, of course, shares the history of Paris. The Carroll family knew the capital city.” John Carroll, the first U.S. bishop, studied in Saint-Omer.

“At the same time, this tells us how important the patrimony is to the people,” he said of Paris’ heritage and culture. Notre Dame is especially important to these as a spiritual site and a site for visitors.

“The cathedral has welcomed so many historical events,” Decoster said, mentioning how so many events have marked the ends of wars, important funerals, coronations and other significant occasions.

“It’s an architecture that every person in Paris knows as part of every day. It’s a building really present in our lives,” Decoster said. “It’s amazing to think that this building may vanish.”

Carl Anderson, CEO of the Knights of Columbus, said in a message posted on the organization’s website that “the image of this burning cathedral seemed in a way to symbolize the devastation so many Catholics have felt as our church has been rocked by one crisis after another.”

“Fires have destroyed great cathedrals before, and they have been rebuilt. So let us hope this will be true again,” he said. “But not only this church. Let us resolve to patiently ‘rebuild’ the Church, not with granite and mortar, but with living stones in the spirit of those earlier builders — with humility, penance and with gratitude for the miracle that God is still performing before our eyes.”

Anderson concluded, “Let us do so with confidence in Mary, who ‘at that moment when everything collapsed’ does not hesitate to intervene for us.”

*Contributing to this story was Christopher Gunty in Baltimore.*

# NEWS BRIEFS

## Rwandan bishops apologize for letter urging release of old, ill convicts

KIGALI, Rwanda (CNS) — Rwanda's Catholic bishops apologized for urging the release of some prisoners convicted for roles in the 1994 genocide, saying they realized by the reaction that they had caused much hurt. The statement followed criticism of a pastoral letter that called for the release of old and ill convicts serving sentences for the mass killings. "We wrote to Christians, encouraging them to continue promoting unity and reconciliation, while also seeking forgiveness," the bishops said in a Swahili-language statement in mid-April. "This letter caused a lot of hurt, especially for what we requested on behalf of the elderly and sickest who are still in prison for the crime of genocide. We are saddened it offended people — this was not what we intended." The bishops said they especially regretted their appeal had caused anguish "at a great moment of mourning" and pledged the Catholic Church would continue supporting genocide survivors and those safeguarding the memory of victims. More than 800,000 people, mostly from Rwanda's Tutsi minority, were massacred from April to July 1994 with the connivance of the national army, police and Hutu tribal militias.

## Procession shows support for Texas chapel at center of border wall plan

MISSION, Texas (CNS) — After Palm Sunday Mass April 14 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Mission, over 1,000 parishioners participated in their annual Palm Sunday procession to a nearly century-old Catholic chapel on the U.S.-Mexico border. La Lomita chapel, in the Diocese of Brownsville, has been in the spotlight in the ongoing debate over a border wall. Father Roy Snipes, commonly known as the "Cowboy Priest," has been fighting for his entire congregation to maintain access to the chapel, and the procession illustrated the community's commitment to saving their church. If the wall is built, the government has proposed some sort of a gate or structure that would allow access to the chapel, but even a gate would prevent easy access and may deter worshippers since they can be subject to interrogation just to go into a religious space to pray, the lead counsel for the diocese told Catholic News Service in February. Diocesan officials believe if the government decides to take some property for the border wall, the action will violate its right to religious exercise under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Building a section of the wall near the chapel

## Earth Day conservation



CNS photo/Kham, Reuters

In this 2017 file photo, a woman near Hanoi, Vietnam, sorts recyclable plastic soft drink bottles. Earth Day was April 22.

would only impede those who frequent it for religious services and prayer. A judge in Texas ruled Feb. 6 that the Diocese of Brownsville must allow federal officials to survey some of its property for possible construction of a border wall on it. The action had been blocked by Brownsville Bishop Daniel E. Flores, who earlier said he could not consent to it because such a structure "would limit freedom of the church to exercise her mission." The judge ruled that doing a survey would not constitute a "substantial burden" for the church.

## Fire chaplain helped save religious artifacts from burning cathedral

PARIS (CNS) — A hero emerging from the Notre Dame Cathedral fire April 15 is Father Jean-Marc Fournier, chaplain of the Paris Fire Brigade, who is credited with saving a reliquary containing the crown of thorns and the Blessed Sacrament from the burning cathedral. The fire chaplain reportedly demanded to be allowed into the cathedral along with firefighters to retrieve the cathedral's relics. "Father Fournier is an absolute hero," a member of the Paris fire department told reporters April 16, add-

ing that the priest showed "no fear at all as he made straight for the relics inside the cathedral, and made sure they were saved. He deals with life and death every day and shows no fear." The priest was said to be at the top, or "hot end" of the human chain that included city workers and church caretakers who entered the burning cathedral to save irreplaceable religious items and pieces of art. French Culture Minister Franck Riester said the saved items include the crown of thorns said to have been worn by Jesus before his crucifixion and a tunic once worn by St. Louis in the 13th century. During the night of April 15, before the flames were extinguished, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo tweeted an image of the saved artifacts that were initially transferred to the city hall before being moved to the Louvre.

## Notre Dame to Notre Dame: University to donate to cathedral restoration

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (CNS) — Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame, has directed the university to donate \$100,000 toward the

renovation of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. "We are deeply saddened to see the damage to ... a church whose exquisite Gothic architecture has for centuries raised hearts and minds to God," the priest said in an April 16 statement. The horrific fire that engulfed the centuries-old Gothic cathedral began about 6:30 p.m. local time April 15. Authorities said much of the cathedral's wooden interior was destroyed and its masonry was seriously scorched. "We join in prayer with the faithful of the cathedral and all of France as they begin the work of rebuilding," Father Jenkins said. He quoted the university's founder, Holy Cross Father Edward Sorin, a French immigrant, who spoke to how the university would go forward after a fire destroyed the campus in 1879: "Tomorrow we will begin again and build it bigger, and when it is built, we will put a gold dome on top with a golden statue of the Mother of God so that everyone who comes this way will know to whom we owe whatever great future this place has." President Donald Trump tweeted early in the afternoon of April 17 that he had called Pope Francis to offer "condolences from the People of the United States for the horrible and destructive fire at Notre Dame Cathedral."

## College student's doughnut outing led to love and joining Catholic Church

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — In 1957, Sarah Wessel's great-grandmother, Isabella Brooks, hand-stitched a wedding gown for her daughter Mary Ann Kelsey. After the wedding, the satin gown was wrapped in blue paper and placed in a cedar chest, where it remained perfectly preserved. It was taken out again in 1985 for Sarah's mother, Carolyn Page Wessel, and now it's Sarah's turn to wear it this September. But before she wears the dress for her own wedding, there is another event the 21-year-old is eagerly counting down the days to — her entrance into the Catholic Church at this year's Easter Vigil April 20. "I just want the sacraments so badly," said Wessel, a senior math major at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg. "I am really looking forward to receiving Jesus' body, blood, soul and divinity," she told the *Arlington Catholic Herald*, newspaper of the Diocese of Arlington. Wessel was baptized in the Episcopal Church, which she said fostered a deep love of Jesus and a serving heart. "I remember going to the same church through my entire childhood and teenage years," said Wessel. "I felt like they were my family members. I truly love them and I see their love for God."

## Scammers pose as pastors in email, ask faithful to buy gift cards

JACKSON, Miss. (CNS) — Scammers have taken aim at pastors, parishes and even the bishop in the Diocese of Jackson in the past couple of months. Just after Christmas, parishioners at St. Richard Church in Jackson received a warning that someone pretending to be pastor Father John Bohn was using a fake email address to try to persuade people to buy gift cards for him. Father Lincoln Dall, pastor of St. Jude Parish in Pearl, and Father Alben Vatti, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Madison, had to warn their parishes of similar schemes. Most recently, the parishes served by the Priests of the Sacred Heart in north Mississippi sent out warnings to their members. Even Jackson Bishop Joseph R. Kopacz was not immune. Twice in the past four months, someone has created an email account using his name and sent messages asking for gift cards. The Federal Trade Commission and the Office of the Attorney General of Mississippi have both sent out alerts about scams just like these. Priests and pastors will never email parishioners looking for gift cards and would never send a business email from a private account such as AOL or Gmail.

# Jesus' love remembered on Holy Thursday

BY SARAH DUSTMAN

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades began the celebration of “the holiest three days of the year” with Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, on Holy Thursday, April 18. He was joined by Father Jacob Runyon, rector of the cathedral; Father Peter Dee De and Father Silvino Ndayambaje parochial vicars; and Father Thomas Lane, professor of Sacred Scripture at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, who concelebrated, as well as some of the seminarians of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, who assisted.

He also welcomed, during the Mass, the 12 young adults who would be participating in the washing of the feet after the homily. All were pilgrims who accompanied him on the World Youth Day pilgrimage to Panama in January.

The bishop explained that Holy Thursday begins the sacred Paschal Triduum, the “culmination of the entire liturgical year.” The celebration of the Triduum — Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday — reveals the mystery of God's love “its totality during these three days when we celebrate that dying, Christ destroyed our death, and rising, He restored our life.”

While the mystery of God's love is revealed during the three days, the story begins at the Last Supper with the washing of the disciples' feet and the institution of the Eucharist. The bishop reflected on these acts throughout his homily.

“When you think about it, the whole of Jesus' ministry is represented in the washing of the feet,” Bishop Rhoades said.

Before washing the disciples' feet, Jesus took off His outer garments. This might seem insignificant, but nothing is insignificant in St. John's Gospel. This action shows Jesus emptying Himself, just as “the Son of God did at the Incarnation, when He came down from His divinity into humanity,” he explained.

The bishop cited St. Paul's letter to the Philippians, which says that “Christ Jesus, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness.” Jesus took off his outer garments. He divested Himself of His divine splendor and became man” in the removal of those garments.

The bishop continued to explore the passage in St. Paul's letter, saying, “Christ humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” This passage is what the washing of the feet is all about, as Jesus emptied and humbled Himself to kneel before each disciple to wash their feet.

The washing of the feet also points to what would happen on Good Friday, the bishop said. Jesus wanted to wash away the disciples' sins, which He did not only by washing their feet but also by dying on the cross.

Just as He desired this for His disciples, the bishop continued, “this is what Jesus desires to do for us.”

Being able to join Jesus in heaven requires that we be cleansed first. “This cleansing, of course, takes place at baptism and every time we go to confession. We say ‘yes’ to Jesus' love and receive His mercy. It's His love on the cross that purifies and sanctifies us. Water and blood flowed from His pierced heart — the water that cleanses us, the blood that redeems us.”

He transitioned to the other important event of Holy Thursday, the institution of the Eucharist, noting that the washing of the feet and the sacrament of the Eucharist “are two expressions of one and the same mystery of love,” which is “Jesus' loving us to the end in His Passion and Death.”

The Eucharist was instituted as a pledge of Jesus' love. When offering the Eucharist and saying, “do this in remembrance of me,” Jesus is telling His followers to remember His love for them.

“And not only do we remember what Jesus did at the Last Supper and on Good Friday, we actually participate in His great sacrifice of love,” Bishop Rhoades said. “At every Mass, Christ gives us the very body which He gave up for us on the cross and the very blood which He poured out for us for the forgiveness of our sins.”

This institution of the Eucharist along with the washing of the feet are acts of humility, the bishop added. The Eucharist is “an act of incredible humility” as well as “the sacrament of divine humility” with Jesus becoming present in the forms of bread and wine.

The bishop ended his homily by emphasizing the connection between these acts of humility. “Jesus says: ‘If I, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet.’ Jesus is commanding us to practice the self-emptying humility and love that He shows us on the cross. This is the new commandment given by Jesus later in John's Gospel when He says: ‘Love one another as I have loved you.’”

“Jesus is commanding us to practice the self-emptying humility and love that He shows us on the cross,” Bishop Rhoades said. “Pope St. John Paul II wrote that our ability to go and do likewise in imitation of Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet is the ‘criterion by which the authenticity of our Eucharist celebrations is judged.’”

## The Triduum

*Given up unto death ... the Son of God brings new life to all mankind*



Photos by John Martin

**Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades incenses the crucifix at the start of Holy Thursday Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, April 18. Also, pictured, from left, are Deacon Daniel Niezer and Deacon José Arroyo.**



**Imitating the example of servant leadership demonstrated by Christ at the Last Supper, Bishop Rhoades washes the feet of young people who deepened their faith this winter by making a pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Panama.**



**The liturgy of the Eucharist is celebrated on Holy Thursday.**

# Christ's Passion



Bethany Beebe

Somber humility marked the beginning of Good Friday service at Immaculate Conception Church, Auburn.



Steve Conte

Veneration of the cross took place at parishes across the diocese on Good Friday, including at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne, where a figure kneels after the service.



Josh Schipper

Parishioners at St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne, venerate the cross on Good Friday.



Jennifer Miller

The Grupo Matrimonial of St. Adalbert and St. Casmir parishes, South Bend, also presented its annual, live Way of the Cross on Olive Street and throughout the surrounding neighborhood on Palm Sunday. Husbands and wives together worked to offer a moving and tear-filled presentation of Christ's Passion.



Kevin Kilbane

A woman kisses the feet of Jesus while venerating the crucifix during the Good Friday service at St. John Bosco Church in Churubusco.

# Easter Vigil

## Celebrating well: Divine Mercy Sunday

BY JENNIFER MILLER

A week after Easter Sunday, a full eight days (or octave) later, the great grace of the holy day is often faded or forgotten. The jellybeans harden; the chocolate bunny is stale and the lamb cake gone. "Alleluia" becomes a commonly used word again. But in fact, the Sunday after Easter is an opportunity to experience abundant mercy, in the person of the now-risen Lord.

Divine Mercy Sunday is the Second Sunday of Easter, proclaimed a universal feast for the whole Church by St. John Paul II in 2000. He stated: "Divine Mercy! This is the Easter gift that the Church receives from the risen Christ and offers to humanity at the dawn of the third millennium."

Divine Mercy is not a new idea; rather, it comes from the core of sacred Scripture. The heart of the Gospel is God's love and mercy for His people. It is this never-ending Divine Mercy and infinite love that is celebrated and emphasized on Divine Mercy Sunday.

"Be merciful even as your Father is merciful," (Lk 6:36) is the Gospel command that speaks to the heart of the feast day of Divine Mercy. The Canticle of Zechariah, prayed every day throughout the world at the close of Morning Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours, "speaks of the 'tender mercy of our God.'" The parable of the prodigal son, in the person of the forgiving Father, highlights well God's desire to be in relationship with His children. So Divine Mercy is not a new idea, but rather the core of the Gospel, spoken in a fresh way in the past century.

Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, explains it this way: "The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us — all of us. And, he wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy."

Divine Mercy Sunday is a great day of grace.

St. Maria Faustina Kolwaska, an uneducated Polish mystic and nun, had visions of Jesus. She was asked to write what she heard and saw in a book, which is called "The Diary of Sister Faustina."

In 1931, she experienced a particular vision of Jesus, now known as the Divine Mercy. He asked her to paint the image. "Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: 'Jesus, I trust in You.' I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory."



Steve Conte

Father David Voors, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, blesses the new fire at the start of the Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday.



Denise Fedorow

Father Andrew Nazareth, pastor of St. Martin de Porres Parish, Syracuse, lowers the Paschal candle into the baptismal water at the Easter Vigil.



Denise Fedorow

Father Nazareth baptizes catechumen David O'Connor as his sponsor, Maribeth Searer, looks on. O'Connor was baptized, confirmed and received his first holy Communion during the Easter Vigil Mass and entered into a convalidated marriage.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

I AM *love* AND  
*mercy* ITSELF.  
THERE IS NO  
MISERY THAT COULD  
BE A MATCH FOR  
MY MERCY, NEITHER  
WILL MISERY EXHAUST IT,  
BECAUSE AS IT IS  
BEING GRANTED,  
*it increases.*

Christ to Saint Faustina as recorded in the  
Diary of St. Faustina, 1273, page 459

WORD  
ON FIRE

Divine Mercy Sunday is April 28. Jesus reminded His followers, through St. Maria Faustina Kolwaska, that, "when a soul approaches Me with trust, I fill it with such an abundance of graces that it cannot contain them within itself."

Jesus' death is the source of new spiritual life. The image of Divine Mercy depicts this, with Jesus, in His resurrected body, walking forward toward the viewer. His left hand pulls back His brilliant, white robe, allowing the streams of blood and water — rays of red and white in the image — to flow from His heart. Understood as cleansing and enveloping the faithful in His mercy, the blood and water also symbolize the sacraments of Eucharist and baptism.

The red and white rays also hold Scriptural significance. Jesus is often understood as the new temple, a reference to the Book of Ezekiel, in which the living water flows — an Old Testament image.

The Gospel writer John also connected the Prophet Zechariah's words "they will look upon him who they have pierced," (Jn 19: 36-37) to the crucifixion.

Jesus' right hand is in a gesture of blessing, as His eyes gaze directly at the viewer. The hands and feet of Christ's resurrected body are pierced: wounds of the Cross, suffered in love. This image offers the viewer to respond to Jesus clearly reaching out to them.

There is also a novena and chaplet of Divine Mercy. Traditionally it begins on Good Friday and follows for the next nine days, in preparation for the feast day of Divine Mercy, but can be prayed at any time. Prayed on regular rosary beads, the chaplet of Divine Mercy follows the words of the Mass: "I offer you the body and blood, soul and divinity of your dearly beloved son, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world." Three o'clock in the afternoon is often a time the chaplet

is prayed, as it is a particular hour of mercy, the hour when Jesus expired on the cross after great suffering.

### A few simple, practical spiritual ways to celebrate are:

- Pray. Pray especially at 3 p.m. for God's great mercy.
- Offer a chaplet of Divine Mercy
- Sincerely repent of sin and attend the sacrament of confession beforehand
- Receive holy Communion at Mass
- Act with mercy towards others, in word deeds and prayer. Spiritual and corporal works of mercy are especially encouraged on Divine Mercy Sunday, to share in love the mercy given by God.
- Display and venerate an image of Divine Mercy. The image represents Jesus, who is love and mercy itself.
- Attend and pray at benediction and exposition of the Eucharist; contemplate He who was just received at Mass.
- Visit Jesus in adoration during Holy Hours. Jesus is the Divine Mercy incarnate and is truly present in the Eucharist.
- Focus and refocus and refocus as needed toward Jesus' merciful heart. Returning time and time again to God's heart is a choice, a deliberate act of will to come back to God.
- Those who are homebound might inquire at their parish if someone could bring Communion that day or make a special spiritual communion with great trust.

For more information, visit <https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/>.

# Saints give solace in coping with effects of sex abuse

BY ELEANOR KENNELLY GAETAN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Dawn Eden Goldstein overcame the “spiritually isolating” effects of childhood sexual abuse via the communion of saints, as she recounts in her unusual memoir “My Peace I Give You: Healing Sexual Wounds With the Help of the Saints.”

Published by Ave Maria Press in 2012, the book recently was translated into Italian. And Goldstein is a popular lecturer. Raised Jewish, she converted to Catholicism as an adult and was baptized in 1999.

The spirituality of redemptive suffering provides interpretative keys for making terrible experiences opportunities for transformation, explains the author, who was victimized as a kindergartner.

She was abused in the temple’s library, by the temple’s 73-year-old janitor, while her mother and sister attended Shabbat services on Friday nights.

She also lived in a “sexually porous” household that exacerbated early trauma.

Christ, Mary and the saints provide instructive solace when it comes to coping with the terrible things that can mutilate the human psyche: pain, abandonment, emotional neglect, shame, self-hatred.

“The beautiful truth is that even past sufferings, in the light of Christ, take on profound meaning, because they are part of the believer who is united to Jesus in the present moment,” writes the author.

Continuing, “memory does not have to be the enemy. On the contrary, our healing becomes possible when we admit that our memories are an integral part of who we are.”

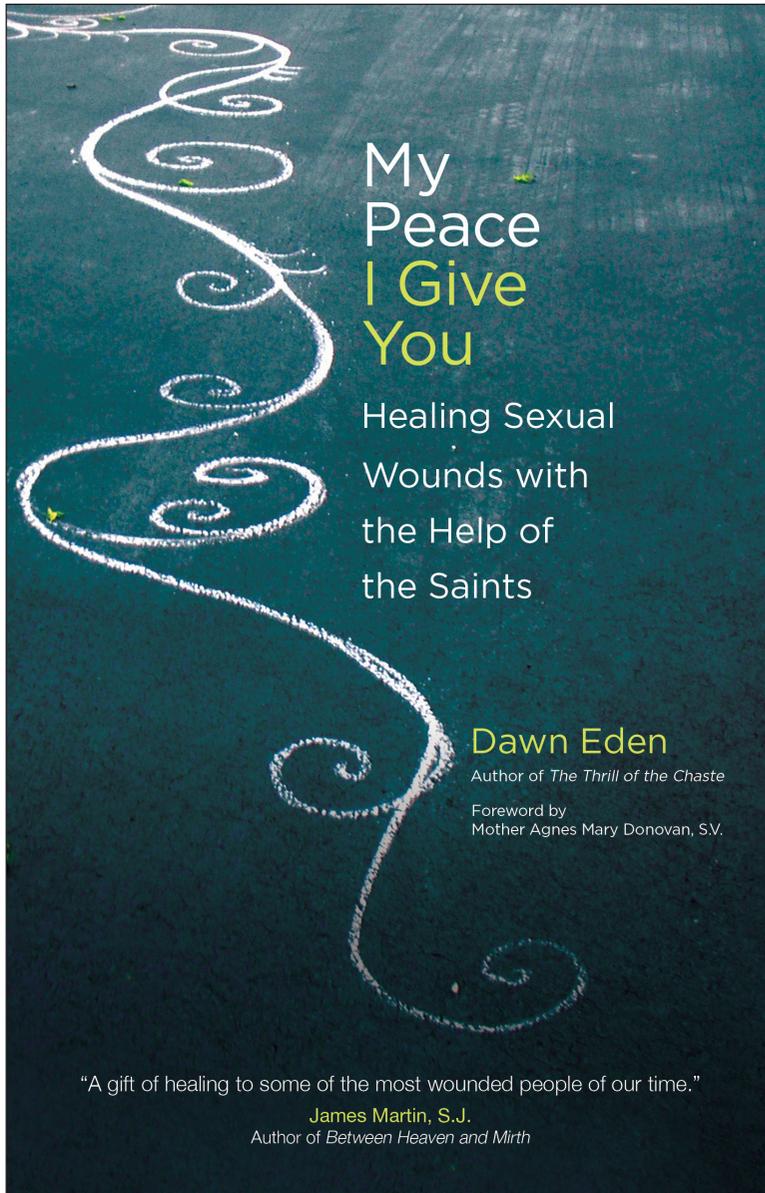
What makes Goldstein’s account especially authentic is her willingness to unfold the ongoing work of self-understanding, within Catholic theology, by revealing specific moments of trauma’s debilitating return.

While doing graduate work in theology at the Dominican House of Studies, listening to a history lecture, she was overcome by a flashback that triggered an anxiety attack — and the risk of bursting into tears in class.

She went on to become the first woman to be awarded a doctorate in sacred theology from the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois.

The reader accompanies Goldstein as she gets through the class, makes it to the Metro where she fully recalls the offending memory and briefly breaks down, and then makes sense of the trigger.

“If God was truly calling me to study — and I believe he



CNS

This is the cover of “My Peace I Give You: Healing Sexual Wounds with the Help of the Saints,” a memoir by Dawn Eden Goldstein, a survivor of child sexual abuse.

was — then he wanted me to try to absorb what was being taught in class, even if doing so had painful side effects,” she said, resolving that “offered up to God, my symptoms of post-traumatic stress would no longer be purposeless pain. They would be sacrifice.”

Highlighting the lives of saints who experienced abuse or neglect — always showing how the saints find redemptive value in suffering — Goldstein offers new interpretation of, for example, St. Thomas Aquinas’ response to his brother’s attempt to force a prostituted woman on him.

The saint used spiritually therapeutic techniques, relaxing and praying, to cope with a traumatic event. His story, Goldstein

writes, underscores how “that which humiliates us can heal us.”

When Goldstein presents her book, people “always” come up to her after to share experiences of sexual abuse.

“They just want to talk to someone who listens,” the theologian told Catholic News Service.

“One woman came up to me after a talk. She had been abused by a priest,” she recounted.

“The first thing I said was, ‘I’m sorry,’ and she said, ‘You’re the first person who has ever said, ‘I’m sorry’ to me.’”

Goldstein said she was aghast.

“I thought, ‘What is going on here?’ Something is very wrong



CNS photo/courtesy Dawn Eden Goldstein  
Dawn Eden Goldstein, pictured in an Aug. 9, 2014, photo, turned to the communion of saints to get through the “spiritually isolating” effects of childhood sexual abuse, as she recounts in her memoir “My Peace I Give You: Healing Sexual Wounds with the Help of the Saints.”

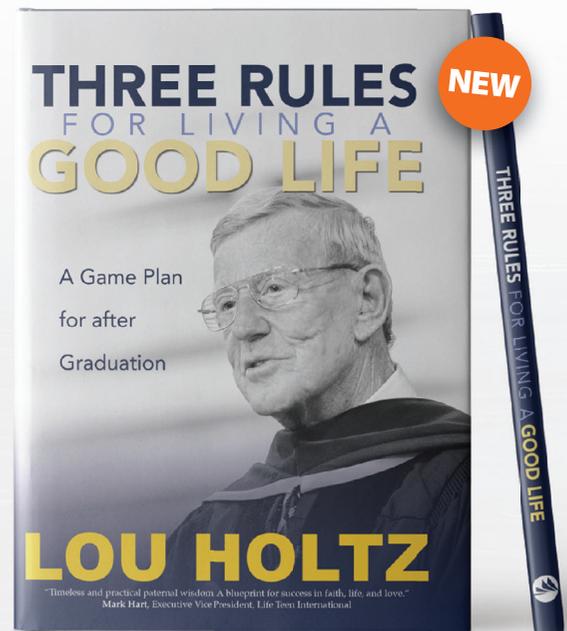


if this person, who said she talked to a bishop and others — lawyers, maybe a victim-assistance person — but no one ever just listened to her and said, ‘I’m sorry. That was wrong. It should never have happened to you.’”

She said she feels the Catholic bishops and the faithful at large need to see the reality of sexual abuse and its victims “through tears, through weeping.”

“Learn to weep,” she advised. “This is what Pope Francis has said again and again, that we as a Church need to learn to weep,” added Goldstein. “He says there are some realities that can be seen only with eyes cleansed with tears.”

## A Game Plan for after Graduation



Three Rules for Living a Good Life: A Game Plan for after Graduation offers a quick, sometimes humorous, and always practical formula for recent college graduates and other young adults to reach success in their business, personal, and spiritual lives.

96 pages, \$16.95 (Hardcover)

**“There is no one more qualified to offer advice to young (and not-so-young) people than Coach Holtz.”**

— Haley Scott DeMaria

Author, speaker, and former swimmer at the University of Notre Dame



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## Seeing abortion

We stand at a pivotal point in the great moral debate over abortion in our country — not because new arguments have emerged, but rather because laws so breathtaking in their barbarism have been passed and a film so visceral in its presentation of the reality of abortion has found a wide audience. As John Henry Newman reminded us, assent to a proposition is rarely a matter of acquiescing to rational demonstration alone; instead, it often has to do with the accumulation of argument, image, impression, experience and witness.

The legal protocols now in effect in New York, Delaware and a number of other states allowing for the butchering of a child in the womb at any point in his or her nine-month gestation — and indeed, on the clinic or hospital table, should the child by some miracle survive the abortion — have sickened much of the country. And they have allowed people to see, in unmistakably clear terms, the full implications of the twisted “pro-choice” ideology. If a mother chooses to bring her baby to term and to be born, that child is, somehow by that choice, the subject of dignity and worthy of the full protection of the law; and if a mother chooses otherwise, even a newborn baby struggling to breathe on an operating table can be murdered and discarded like so much garbage. Biology and metaphysics be damned: Our subjective decisions determine reality — and the result is state-

sanctioned infanticide. So obviously insane, so clearly dangerous, so unmistakably wicked are these laws that they are causing many people to reconsider their position on abortion.

“Unplanned,” the story of Abby Johnson’s wrenching transition from director of a Planned Parenthood clinic to vocal opponent of abortion, has proven to be a surprisingly popular film, despite its rather grim theme and despite considerable institutional opposition. As many have pointed out, Mrs. Johnson is playing a role analogous to that played by Harriet Beecher Stowe in the 19th century. While there were plenty of arguments on both sides of the slavery debate at the time, many advocates of slavery underwent a conversion to abolitionism, not because of rational demonstrations but precisely through the influence of Stowe’s vivid presentation of the concrete reality of slavery in *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. So today, arguments and slogans on both sides of the abortion controversy are well-known and most people seem more or less locked in their respective camps. But “Unplanned” doesn’t so much argue as show. “Abortion” becomes, accordingly, not an abstract issue, but an in-your-face, real and bloody fact.

The film opens with the event that proved decisive for Abby Johnson herself. As director and administrator of a Planned Parenthood clinic, she was certainly aware of what was happening on the premises, but she



### WORD ON FIRE

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

had rarely been involved in an actual abortion. One afternoon, she was summoned to the operating room and asked to hold the device that allowed the doctor to see the ultrasound image of the child in the womb. As the physician went about his work, Abby could clearly see the child resting comfortably and then reacting violently as a suctioning device was inserted into the womb. To her horror, she then saw a tiny arm sucked off, only to reappear, moments later, as a bloody soup in a catheter next to her. As she watched, unable to take her eyes off of the horrific display, she saw the severely wounded baby continuing to evade the device, until a leg disappeared, then another arm and finally the baby’s head. And again, the remains of the living child surged like slush into the catheter. With that, she ran from the room, vomited in the bathroom and resolved to dissociate herself forever from Planned Parenthood. The film makes clear that she had heard arguments against abortion all of her life, for her parents and husband

BARRON, page 13

## Look at this

I am so proud of our students. This month the student government association, the body that represents our undergraduates, passed a resolution asking the university to prohibit access through the campus network to the 200 most frequently visited pornography websites. I told them we’d be happy to.

Pornography is not what it used to be. It has changed in two ways. First, it’s more accessible. In the 19th century, it was found in leather-bound books in gentlemen’s clubs and private libraries.

By the mid-20th century, it was available in movie theaters, and in magazines and paperbacks at cigar stores and newsstands — outlets that could be closed off to young people.

Today, any 6-year-old can find it on a cellphone. In 2014, Pornhub — a website that works like YouTube, with user-uploaded videos — had 78 billion page views.

Second, it has become more graphic. The internet delivers live performances, not still pictures. And it sends them across borders so they are harder for the law to reach, even in the declining number of jurisdictions that make the effort.

I think that basic human urges are fairly constant from one generation to another. But technology can change our stimuli and the way we respond. That’s happening here.

Next time you walk down the street, watch how many of your fellow pedestrians are consulting their phones. When we dine out, my wife and I see young couples



### INTELLECT AND VIRTUE

JOHN GARVEY

seated around us looking down at Facebook rather than across the table at one another. Instead of living our own lives, we now play parts in a simulacrum that we create, touch up, preserve and revisit.

Modern pornography lets us extend this solipsism to our sex lives. We don’t need one another for sexual fulfillment. We can summon imaginary partners at the touch of a button.

As it happens, the digital revolution followed a revolution in reproductive technology, and their combined effect has augmented this trend.

The birth control pill allowed people to act on their sexual impulses without fear of pregnancy. So it separated sex from children, long-term commitment and love, and made it a form of recreation. If that’s all it is, any partner will do; even a virtual one.

Our students are right to be concerned about the trend in this direction, because the digital revolution’s ambition is to make virtual reality indistinguishable from life.

5G networks provide faster

GARVEY, page 13

## The merciful and good Son of God still lives



### THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### Second Sunday of Easter John 20:19-31

The Acts of the Apostles supplies this weekend’s first reading. The first several chapters of Acts are fascinating since they so well depict the life of the early Christian community in Jerusalem. This depiction begins with the story of the Lord’s Ascension and proceeds forward.

Vitally important in the life of the community in Jerusalem was the leadership of the Apostles, with Peter as their head. The people held them in the highest esteem. After all, Jesus had called the Apostles individually,

but commissioning them all to continue the work of salvation after the Ascension.

In this reading, the Apostles work many miracles. When Peter moved among the sick, merely to lie beneath his shadow was enough to be cured of sickness or infirmity. It is a very powerful description of Peter’s place in Christianity.

The Acts says that the Apostles, again with Peter as the leader, came together with the community for the “breaking of the bread,” for prayer, for providing aid to the needy and for healing the sick.

The message is clear. Jesus did not leave the Christian body without guidance nor without access to God’s grace.

For its second reading, the Church provides a passage from the Book of Revelation. In the reading, John, the author of Revelation — assumed by tradition to have been the Apostle John — said that on the Lord’s Day, or Sunday, the day of the Resurrection, he had a vision of Jesus. Jesus ordered John to write about what John saw.

St. John’s Gospel provides the last reading. It begins with an appearance of Jesus before the Apostles. First, the Lord brings them peace. He then empowers them literally to forgive sins.

Next comes the familiar story of the doubtful Thomas. Other Apostles had seen the Risen Lord, but Thomas had not yet seen Jesus. Thomas insisted that he would not believe until he personally could touch the wounds of Christ.

When Jesus appeared before the Apostles, Thomas saw the wounds. He proclaimed Jesus as “my lord and my God.”

The reading ends by stating that Jesus performed many other miracles. The crucified Lord lived.

### Reflection

This weekend is called Divine Mercy Sunday, a theme especially meaningful for the late Pope St. John Paul II.

Only a week ago, in celebrating the feast of Easter, the Church joyfully and excitedly proclaimed to us its belief that

Jesus was risen. He lives! To emphasize the meaning of this pronouncement, the Church gave us the magnificent liturgy of the Easter Vigil, the summit of the Church’s entire year of formal worship.

This weekend, just a week after Easter, the Church hurries to repeat that the Risen Christ is with us still, visibly, tangibly and dynamically, through the Apostles. They represented the Lord. They continued the work of salvation.

In the second reading, from the Book of Revelation, we are told of John’s extraordinary encounter with the Risen Lord.

John’s Gospel, in the third reading, continues this process of reporting the Lord’s granting to the Apostles the very power of God itself. Jesus gave them the ability to forgive sins. As sins affront God, only God can forgive sins, yet Jesus conveyed this power to the Apostles.

Thomas is important to the story. He doubted, not an unusual human reaction to the amazing assertion that Christ had risen from the dead. Then

Thomas saw Jesus and believed. Thomas is a model for us.

To bring the lesson home to us, Jesus, healing and forgiving sins, the Son of God, merciful and good, still lives, for us, through the Church, founded on the efforts of the Apostles.

The Lord’s plan to offer salvation to all people, in all places and at all times, is in itself Divine Mercy.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Acts 5:12-16 Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 Jn 20:19-31

**Monday:** Acts 4:23-31 Ps 2:1-9 Jn 3:1-8

**Tuesday:** Acts 4:32-37 Ps 93:1-2, 5 Jn 3:7b-15

**Wednesday:** Acts 5:17-26 Ps 34:2-9 Jn 3:16-21

**Thursday:** Acts 5:27-33 Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20 Jn 3:31-36

**Friday:** 1 Cor 15:1-8 Ps 19:2-5 Jn 14:6-14

**Saturday:** Acts 6:1-7 Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 Jn 6:16-21

# A letter to every young Catholic

Attention Catholic young people, by which I mean everyone under 30: Pope Francis has written you a letter.

Called "Christ Is Alive," it is a historic document in that it isn't just a letter about young people. It is to young people. Whether you are in high school or in college or in your 20s and trying to figure out what comes next, this letter, also called an apostolic exhortation, is for you.

And because Pope Francis is first and foremost a pastor, this letter has practical advice for the Church — its priests and teachers and youth ministers — about young people and practical advice for young people as they make their way into the world.

The letter was written to follow up on last year's two gatherings: The first consisted of young people who gathered at the pope's request to reflect on the Church, on their vocations as Christians, on their own needs and questions. The second was a gathering of bishops to contemplate the same issues.

For the pope, this topic is not about some distant tomorrow when the young will have matured and be running the world. "We cannot just say that young people are the future of our world. They are its present," he wrote. "Even now they are helping to enrich it."

The pope has a great deal to say about the abuse crisis, about sexuality and intimacy, about today's digital environment and its attractions and dangers.

But I think what is most valuable

is that he empathizes with and speaks directly to where many young people are at. Most especially, he talks about God's love and how important it is to see God not as a scold or a tyrant, but as a friend who wants what is best for us.

"Ti voglio bene," is how Italians say, "I love you." It translates literally as "I want good for you." "Ti voglio bene," God says to us.

The pope understands first of all that identity is important. He quotes approvingly the words of Carlo Acutis, a young Italian who may be on his way to sainthood after dying of leukemia at 15. "Everyone is born as an original," Carlo once said. "But many people end up dying as photocopies." Be yourself, not a copy of everyone else in our consumer society.

The pope understands the importance of community for all of us. Young adults long for real community that encourages the best in them. He warns against the isolation that makes it difficult to fight the snares of the devil and the selfishness of the world.

"Whenever you are united, you have marvelous strength," he writes. He quotes an African proverb: "If you want to go fast, walk by yourself. If you want to go far, walk with others."

Perhaps the best part of the letter is on discernment and decision-making.

He identifies that which often freezes young people: "Fear of the definitive" that "generates



GREG ERLANDSON

a kind of paralysis of decision-making." That can be true in choosing a college or a major or a career. "Keep following your hopes and dreams," he encourages, "but be careful about one temptation that can hold us back. It is anxiety."

Finally, the pope urges all who are young, in age or in spirit, to "make a ruckus!"

"Don't confuse happiness with an armchair or live your life behind a screen," he implores.

"Dear young people, please, do not be bystanders in life. Get involved" in struggles for the common good, for the poor, in the "revolution of charity and service."

It's a letter that all who are young in spirit should take to heart.

Greg Erlandson, director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service, can be reached at gerlandson@catholicnews.com.

a new baby. But then we realize that these medical professionals, these good friends of Abby, have spent their entire day killing the babies of other women. Indeed, the blood of those procedures is on their shoes and scrubs. How is this scene possible? The condition for its possibility is the lunatic ideology of "choice" referenced above: If the baby is desired, let's have a party; if the baby is unwanted, kill him and cast his remains in a dumpster. Pro-choice advocates must know that this is the implication of their philosophy, but "Unplanned" makes them see it. In 1850, lots of good and

thoughtful people defended the institution of slavery. Now, only insane people would. In 2019, lots of decent and thoughtful people defend the pro-choice position. One can only hope that these recent laws and this viscerally disturbing film will hasten the day when only insane people would.

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

And available — on your home or office computer, on your phone at the beach, in your car or in the library.

It's sad, what we have done to ourselves, and especially to the young people whose hormones are pulling them irresistibly to find love and play a part in God's creation. Instead, we offer them a diet of porn that they can binge on until they develop a virtual version of Prader-Willi syndrome.

Preventing access on the university system to 200 websites won't change this. Students can use their phones, and they can

visit other sites where smut can be found.

But it does communicate a point of view that our students say they want to hear. It says that this is not the sort of relationship they should be looking for, and we're not going to lend our system to help them find it.

John Garvey is president of The Catholic University of America in Washington. Catholic University's website is www.cua.edu.

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for April 28, 2019

John 20:19-31

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Easter, Cycle C, the evening appearances in the Upper Room. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

EVENING	DOORS	STOOD
PEACE	SHOWED	HIS HANDS
AS THE FATHER	SENT ME	BREATHED
FORGIVEN	RETAIN	DIDYMUS
TWELVE	NAILS	FINGER
A WEEK	MY GOD	BLESSED
WRITTEN	BACK	HIS NAME

### DIDYMUS DAY

```

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

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### BARRON, from page 12

were ardently and vocally pro-life, but she made the decision after she saw what it meant to end the life of an unborn child. Her hope, obviously, is that her film will have a similar effect on many others.

One of the most memorable scenes in "Unplanned" deals with an odd little party that took place at the clinic after hours. Abby, it turns out, was pregnant and her colleagues, all female, gathered to give her a baby shower. Out came the balloons, the thoughtful presents, the encouraging hugs — all meant to show their joy at the birth of

### GARVEY, from page 12

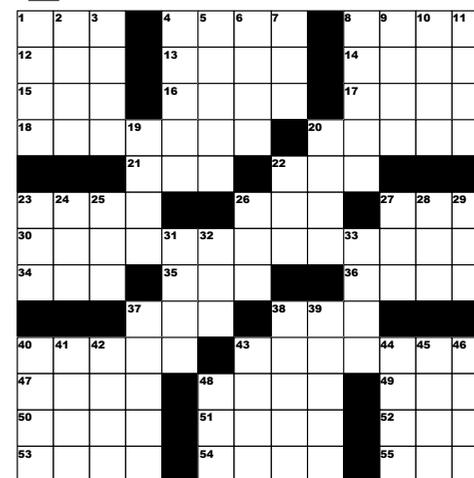
speeds and accommodate huge amounts of data. First-person video games and haptic systems draw players into the virtual world. Robots will bring the artificial world into ours.

These advances in graphic and tactile presentation in turn make contemporary pornography more addictive than it was 50, even 10, years ago. You can call up a sex partner as easily as a car on Carfax ("Show me red 1977 Corvettes").

No courtship is necessary. Your partner is always willing,

## The CrossWord

April 21 and 28, 2019



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Readings: Acts 10: 34a, 37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9 and Acts 5:12-16; Rev 1: 9-11a; 12-13; 17-19 Jn 20:19-31

### ACROSS

- 1 Second month
- 4 Jewish calendar month
- 8 Rushed
- 12 Time period
- 13 Ranch hand
- 14 French for "she"
- 15 Twitch
- 16 Type of tea
- 17 Jar
- 18 Greek
- 20 His shadow healed
- 21 Acorn
- 22 Japanese money
- 23 Mob activity
- 26 "To the right!"
- 27 The first \_ of the week
- 30 Clumsy
- 34 Peter fished with one
- 35 Referee
- 36 Book of the Apostles
- 37 Respiratory disease
- 38 Epiphany month
- 40 Easter month
- 43 Water rodent
- 47 Transgress
- 48 Idols
- 49 " \_ Father"
- 50 Expel
- 51 Meditation exercise
- 52 Risen Jesus \_ fish

- 53 Shade of black
- 54 Quarry
- 55 Fish eggs

### DOWN

- 1 Soft Greek cheese
- 2 Little Mermaid's love
- 3 Composer J.S. \_
- 4 Adios
- 5 A gold coin
- 6 A fox's hole (2 wds)
- 7 Pentecost color
- 8 Number of gold lamp stands
- 9 Small ground plot
- 10 Otherwise
- 11 Stag
- 19 Negative (prefix)
- 20 Baby bird noise
- 22 Still
- 23 Disciples did, to the tomb
- 24 Sorbet
- 25 Rosary month
- 26 Gross national product
- 27 Physician
- 28 Picnic visitor
- 29 Yea
- 31 Glassy
- 32 Flightless bird
- 33 Degree
- 37 Days of Easter season
- 38 \_ of the living and the dead
- 39 Analyze properties
- 40 Impatient
- 41 Spurt
- 42 Jesus did from dead
- 43 St. Benedict the \_
- 44 Menacing animal noise
- 45 Car
- 46 They hung Jesus on one
- 48 Swindle

Answer Key can be found on page 15

# Singer-songwriter presents Crucifixion in concert

BY JOANNE FOX

SIOUX CITY, Iowa (CNS) -- Singer-songwriter Tatiana "Tajci" Cameron confessed she didn't always like Holy Week.

"It always seemed to be full of sadness," she told the crowd of more than 500 who gathered April 14 at St. Michael Church, part of Holy Cross Parish in Sioux City. "Then, I saw how it was a beautiful connecting point between God and us," she said. "He was no longer the 'unapproachable' God, but the God who suffered and died for us."

The award-winning vocalist presented "I Thirst: The Crucifixion Story," on Palm Sunday, reinforcing the passion and death of Jesus evoked from the Gospel reading from Luke for that day. Cameron, who performed at the foot of the sanctuary, turned and gestured toward the larger-than-life crucifix above the altar. "When I look at the crucifix, I see myself suffering, too," she mused. "I realized it's OK to be afraid and ask, 'Why, God, did you abandon me?'"

By age 19, Cameron was a pop superstar in Croatia.

"Yes, my image was even made into a doll," she told *The Catholic Globe*, Sioux City's diocesan newspaper. "I had everything — clothes, a chauffeured limousine — yet I was empty."

A powerful encounter with God two years later compelled her to abruptly step away from her fame and embark on a spiritual journey that took her to the United States at age 21.

Despite her deep faith and powerful music ministry, Cameron struggled through years of depression, severe anxiety and panic attacks. Her healing came through years of contemplative prayer, inner work and action.

Soon after getting married in 1999, Cameron, along with her husband, Matthew, embarked on



CNS photo/Joanne Fox, The Catholic Globe

**Musician Tatiana "Tajci" Cameron performs April 14 at St. Michael Church in Sioux City, Iowa.**

what turned into a 15-year tour of America, during which she performed more than 1,000 "I Do Believe" concerts.

"It was this deeper conversion that helped me through the most difficult time of my life," she said. "That was my husband's diagnosis of and eventual death from cancer in 2017."

Father David Hemann, Holy Cross' pastor, met Cameron in 2000.

"I started doing missions out in Alhambra, California, at the Carmelite Sisters in Orange County," he said. "Tajci and I ended up doing a few concerts together, and when I connected with her recently in Nashville,

I invited her to perform at Holy Cross."

Father Hemann pointed out the concert was not a "social evening," but an evening of prayer.

"I have kept the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle," he said. "My prayer is that this evening deepens our relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, mending, healing and bringing wholeness to us."

The singer-songwriter interspersed the Crucifixion message with music, Scripture and insights about her life. Cameron's hands alternately glided over and pounded at the keyboard to evoke different

responses to her vocals.

Her blond hair practically glowed in the semi-darkness of the church. The upper range of her vocal register was as strong as Celine Dion's, and her occasional vibrato suggested Patsy Cline. A particularly moving moment was when she sang a cappella to "O Sacred Head Surrounded."

"Jesus didn't die to change God's mind about us," she said. "Jesus died to change our minds about God, and the biggest sin we can commit is a refusal of accepting God's love."

Cameron stretched out her hands, like Christ on the cross, several times during the concert

to emphasize songs or discernments on Scripture.

"My arms wide open like this feel best," she said. "When I do this, I am lifted up. It's Christ saying to me, 'I've got it. You are safe in my arms.'"

When she was in her late teens, a best friend brought her to church, and on her 21st birthday, Cameron discovered God was calling her to a different vocation.

"I told him I would go wherever he would lead me," she said.

"I felt something I had never felt before," Cameron said, then spread her arms wide open. "I experienced a love that loved me, and I wanted to live in that love."

Emotions overwhelmed the vocalist twice. She invited the audience to join her in "Were You There (When They Crucified My Lord?)" and ceased accompanying them on the final verse to wipe away tears. Cameron's soaring vocals on "You Raise Me Up" concluded with a few more tears from the vocalist.

"That's why I believe this journey (of life) is worth taking," she told the crowd. "I am excited, grateful and blessed to be here tonight."

Cameron lives in Nashville, Tennessee, with her three sons. She volunteers with Better Decisions, mentoring female inmates at a state prison in Nashville. She also serves as a board member of Nashville Peacemakers, an organization that works with at-risk youth in Nashville's low-income neighborhoods and as a presenter with EndSlaveryTN, which raises awareness of human trafficking while working toward preventing it and providing healing for those affected by it.

*Joanne Fox is managing editor of The Catholic Globe, newspaper of the Diocese of Sioux City.*

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Shotgun Start 1:30 pm

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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](http://www.todayscatholic.org/event). For additional listings of that event, please call the advertising sales staff at 260-399-1449 to purchase space.

**'God Put a Song In My Mouth': retreat for persons with disabilities and their caregivers**

**FORT WAYNE** — Any adult with physical, mental or emotional challenges is invited to a retreat on Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Msgr. John Kuzmich Life Center, 1502 E Wallen Rd. Lunch will be served. For more information or to register, contact the church office at 260-489-3537, ext. 207, or email [dschuerman@saintv.org](mailto:dschuerman@saintv.org).

**St. Vincent de Paul widows' retreat**

**FORT WAYNE** — St. Vincent de Paul Parish widows' grief support group, Safe Harbor, will host a widows' retreat on Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m. to noon at the parish, 1502 E Wallen Rd. Kay Cozad, certified grief educator, will present "The Ebb and Flow of Grief." You may attend Mass at 8 a.m. in the church — retreat begins at 9 a.m. with continental breakfast in the Spiritual Center. Reservations are required — contact Judy at 260-489-4875 or [judymockenhaupt@hotmail.com](mailto:judymockenhaupt@hotmail.com). Freewill donations will be accepted. Visit [www.saintv.org](http://www.saintv.org).

**Divine Mercy Sunday at St. Jude**

**FORT WAYNE** — St. Jude Parish, 2130 Pemberton Dr., will observe Divine Mercy Sunday on April 28 from 1-3:30 p.m. Adoration offered from 1-3 p.m., confessions offered from 2-3 p.m. and Divine Mercy devotion at 3 p.m.

**Divine Mercy Sunday events in Decatur**

**DECATUR** — St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, 414 Madison St., will offer Divine Mercy

Sunday adoration, confession, rosary, chaplet and Mass on Sunday, April 28, from 1-4 p.m. at the church. Remember to start the Divine Mercy Novena on Good Friday. Contact Richard Reilly at 260-724-9050.

**Divine Mercy Novena closing Mass**

**SOUTH BEND** — St. Matthew Cathedral, 1711 Miami St., will offer Divine Mercy devotions from 1:30-4 p.m. Confession and adoration offered from 1:30-3 p.m., chaplet from 2:30-3 p.m., and Mass at 3 p.m.

**FertilityCare Creighton Model introductory session offered**

**FORT WAYNE** — A Creighton Model introductory session will be offered Thursday, May 2, from 7:45-8:45 p.m. at Queen of Angels Parish, 1500 W. State Blvd., and provide the scientific background of the Creighton Model System and charting basics so that any women of reproductive age can begin charting the very next day for

health or fertility monitoring. Adolescents with mothers, single women and couples invited.

**Day of reflection**

**MISHAWAKA** — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent Wednesday, May 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "Followers of Jesus." Bring a Bible. The cost is \$20 and includes lunch. Register with Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at 574-259-5427.

**May crowning**

**NOTRE DAME** — Join the Notre Dame community on Saturday, May 4, at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto for a bilin-

## REST IN PEACE

<b>Arcola</b> Dolores C. Schuhler, 76, St. Patrick	Larry W. Runkel, 72, St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel	Richard Ankney, 92, St. John the Evangelist
<b>Bremen</b> Richard Monhaut, 89, St. Dominic	Eugene Hahaj, 72, Our Lady of Good Hope	<b>Granger</b> Daniel Marlatt, 53, St. Pius X
<b>Decatur</b> Alice O'Campo, 81, St. Mary of the Assumption	Margaret Lemish, 98, Our Lady of Good Hope	Roger Gurthet, 89, St. Pius X
<b>Fort Wayne</b> Marshall Weber, 97, Most Precious Blood	Cherry Dellinger, 70, Most Precious Blood	<b>South Bend</b> Richard Takach, 71, Holy Cross
Joseph Hake, Most Precious Blood	<b>Goshen</b> Margaret M. Schlobohm, 83, St. John the Evangelist	Elsie Leyba, 87, Holy Cross

gual Marian procession through campus and a May crowning at Geddes Hall. Families are welcome. Reception to follow. In case of rain, the event will be held at Geddes Hall.

**Mass for those affected by cancer**

**FORT WAYNE** — A special Mass for anyone affected by cancer

(those in remission, those currently in treatment, those who have passed away as well as family members) will be celebrated on Tuesday, April 30, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1502 E Wallen Rd. A reception in the gathering space will follow Mass.

**The CrossWord**  
April 21 and 28, 2019

FEB	ADAR	SPED
ERA	DUDE	ELLE
TIC	ICED	VASE
ACHAEAN	PETER	
	NUT	YEN
RIOT	GEE	DAY
ACCIDENT	PRONE	
NET	UMP	ACTS
	FLU	JAN
APRIL	MUSK	KRAT
GOOF	GODS	OUR
OUST	YOGA	ATE
GREY	PREY	ROE



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## Bishop Rhoades visits St. Francis Xavier for Easter morning Mass

BY JODI MARLIN

**M**orning sun streaming through stained glass illustrated the joy of the Resurrection at St. Francis Xavier Church, Pierceton, on Sunday, as the rural parish celebrated the presence of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades to celebrate the sacrifice of the holy Mass on Easter morning.

Worshippers filled the last seat of each pew for the solemnity. Led by the bishop and pastor Father Charles Herman, they renewed their baptismal promises during the Mass and proclaimed the miracle of their salvation throughout the liturgy with singing that testified to the faithfulness of the 150-year-old community.

"The tomb is empty!" ... "He is risen from the dead," the bishop proclaimed, just as the faithful had testified with choruses of "Alleluia" during the Gospel acclamation.

The Resurrection is the core teaching of the Church through the ages, Bishop Rhoades said.

"We proclaim this mystery of faith at every Mass when we sing after the consecration: 'We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.'

"After 40 days of Lent, a time in which we did not sing alleluia, today we again sing 'Alleluia,' a Hebrew word meaning 'God be praised.' We praise God with great joy today as we celebrate the resurrection of His Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, from the dead," he shared. "Easter is the Church's greatest feast, not just one feast among others, but the feast of feasts, the solemnity of solemnities. Without the Resurrection, we would not even be here. The Church would not exist. If the Resurrection had not happened, there would be no Christianity. As St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians: 'If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.'"

The resurrection of Jesus was a real, historical event, not a mythological story, he emphasized. "There was an empty tomb. That was enough for the beloved disciple, St. John, to believe. As the Gospel for the morning stated, when St. John entered the empty tomb, 'He saw and believed.'"

"Their hopes were dashed. They probably thought Jesus' mission was a failure, and that His message may not have been true. But the Resurrection confirmed their faith in all that Jesus had said and done while He was with them in His public ministry. Filled with joy in the resurrection, with faith that Jesus is the

Resurrection and the Life, they would go out to all the world and proclaim this Good News. They would also go out, as Jesus commanded them, to baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

"How can the Resurrection of Jesus reach us and touch us and transform and lift up our lives?" he asked. "The answer is 'Faith and Baptism.' The saving event of Christ's death and resurrection came to us in our Baptism, the sacrament of new life in Christ. According to St. Paul, the believer enters through Baptism into communion with Christ's death, is buried with Him, and rises with Him.

"Think of those powerful words of St. Paul to the Romans which were read last night at the Easter Vigil: 'Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.'

Because of baptism, in which Christians become one with Christ and His Body, the Church, we live in Christ, he continued.

"The Resurrection of Jesus seized us. We thus can live our life in Christ as a journey of faith. Amid the challenges and sufferings of life, and even in the midst of the greatest trials, including death, we live in hope.

"My brothers and sisters," he concluded, "the tomb is empty. The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our Christian faith. Easter is the Church's greatest feast.

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia!"

The bishop's visit at St. Francis Xavier was appreciated by many, including Austin and Lisa Mutchler and their daughter Madison, who worshipped in celebration of the Resurrection, the bishop's visit and Madison's 22nd birthday. Participation in the Mass by the Bishop Pursley Assembly 1974 Knights of Columbus, in full regalia, also acknowledged the honor of receiving the bishop.

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Photos by John Martin

**Pleased to say Easter Mass in a cozy parish church like Pierceton, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades speaks on the promise of the Resurrection and later prayed for Christians in the country of Sri Lanka, more than 300 of whom had died earlier that day while worshipping.**



**Before the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the gifts of bread and wine await transformation into the Body and Blood of Christ.**



**Bishop Rhoades blesses parishioners after they renewed their baptismal promises.**



**The Bishop Pursley Assembly 1974 Knights of Columbus honors the bishop's visit to St. Francis Xavier Parish during the recessional.**