



CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz
Jesus the Good Shepherd

**Good Shepherd
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Day and World
Day of Prayer for
Vocations are May 12**

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*Digital issue next week;
next print issue May 26*

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 93 No. 19

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TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

After offering instruction, pope gives first Communion to 245 children

BY CINDY WOODEN



CNS photo/Paul Haring

Pope Francis gives first Communion to children during a Mass at the Church of the Sacred Heart in Rakovski, Bulgaria, May 6.

RAKOVSKI, Bulgaria (CNS) — In the Catholic heart of Bulgaria, Pope Francis celebrated a special Mass for 245 children receiving their first Communion and thanked them for helping him, their parents and grandparents remember their own first Communion.

"Today you have made it possible for us to relive that joy and to celebrate Jesus, present in the bread of life," the pope told the children May 6 in Rakovski's Church of the Sacred Heart.

While only about 1 percent of Bulgaria's population is Catholic, in Rakovski the vast majority of the city's 27,000 people are Catholic.

"Jesus is alive and here with us; that is why we can encounter Him today in the Eucharist," the pope said. "We do not see Him with our physical eyes, but we do see Him with the eyes of faith."

After he read his prepared homily, Pope Francis focused on the first communicants, dressed in white robes and seated in the front rows.

"Are you happy to receive your first Communion?" he asked them. "Yes," the braver ones said out loud. "Are you sure?" the

POPE, page 3

Mexico celebrates beatification of first laywoman

BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As the sounds of music and applause echoed throughout the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, the Catholic Church in Mexico celebrated the first beatification of a laywoman in the country.

The beatification Mass of Blessed Maria Concepcion Cabrera was celebrated May 4 by Cardinal Angelo Becciu, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, at the famed basilica.

The life of Blessed Cabrera, affectionately known as "Conchita," gave witness to living Christian life as "a wife, mother, widow, and an inspiration for

religious institutes and apostolic initiatives," Cardinal Becciu said.

"The beauty and strength of her witness consists in having chosen, from her adolescence, to consecrate herself to the absolute love: God," he continued.

Thousands packed the basilica that houses St. Juan Diego's tilma, which bears the image of Mary, who appeared to the indigenous saint in 1531. To the left of the historic image hung a portrait of Blessed Cabrera.

The portrait of the newly beatified laywoman was unveiled as her granddaughter, Sister Consuela Armida, and Jorge Guillermo Trevino, the man miraculously healed of multiple sclerosis through her intercession, carried a relic of Blessed

Cabrera to the main altar.

Born in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, Blessed Cabrera married Francisco Armida in 1884 and had nine children. Before her husband's death in 1901, she had already founded and received pontifical approval for the Apostolate of the Cross.

Through her writings and way of life, she inspired the founding of several religious congregations for men and women before her death March 3, 1937.

Throughout her life, Cardinal Becciu said in his homily, Blessed Cabrera "spoke about God in a convincing and natural way, which proved her ardent love for him." That same love, he added, was also visible in her love for others, especially the poor.

"Her concern for the poor was unceasing, she wanted to be poor among the poor, adapting herself to them externally in order to share in the difficulties of their lives and help them better," the cardinal said.

Cardinal Becciu said that Blessed Cabrera stands out as an example for all Christians, especially women, "as a model of apostolic life" who kept her eyes fixed on heaven while caring for the sufferings of those most in need.

"Through her intercession, may we listen to the supplicant voices of those who experience spiritual or material poverty and respond to that voice with the charity that distinguishes the faithful disciples of the Gospel," the cardinal said.

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Bishops hear pain and hope at racism listening session in Baltimore

BY CHRISTOPHER GUNTY

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Participants in a racism listening session sponsored by the Archdiocese of Baltimore April 29 brought a variety of experiences to the attention of Baltimore's bishops and an audience of more than 250.

Speakers gave examples of being questioned about their presence on church property simply for being black, of having difficulty entering the seminary because of race, being called the N-word when distributing holy Communion at a hospital and feeling unwelcome in the Church.

The listening session was prompted by the U.S. bishops' 2018 pastoral "Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love — A Pastoral Letter Against Racism," which calls racist acts sinful because they violate justice.

The event — held at Notre Dame of Maryland University — also followed the January 2019 publication of Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori's second pastoral reflection on the topic: "The Journey to Racial Justice: Repentance, Healing and Action."

Bishop Shelton J. Fabre of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism, told the audience in his opening remarks that these listening sessions help the bishops understand the "aching pain" of people affected by racism.

The Baltimore event was the sixth such session he had attended. Other sessions took place in St. Louis; St. Petersburg, Florida; Cincinnati; Philadelphia; and Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana. More sessions are scheduled to take place in upcoming weeks and months.

Other bishops at the Baltimore event were: Bishop John H. Ricard, bishop emeritus of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Florida, who was a former auxiliary bishop of Baltimore, and Baltimore Auxiliary Bishops Mark E. Brennan, Denis J. Madden and Adam J. Parker.

Redemptorist Father William Guri, a priest from Zimbabwe who is studying at Loyola University of Maryland and lives and assists with ministry at St. Mary Parish, Annapolis, recounted how he had been walking in the gardens behind the rectory — not wearing his clerical garb — when he noticed a couple taking wedding photos. He deliberately stayed at the opposite end of the gardens so as not to disturb them.

A white man whom Father Guri did not recognize as a parishioner confronted him,



CNS photo/Kevin J. Parks, Catholic Review

Carol Rice, Deborah Reddy and Joan Stine stand in solidarity during the closing song, "Let There Be Peace on Earth," during a listening session on racism at Notre Dame of Maryland University in Baltimore April 29.

asked him what he was doing in the gardens and told him he should leave immediately because he was on private property and his presence was not welcome.

The priest said he explained that he was a priest who lived on the grounds and the man was shocked.

Father Guri said, "I asked him: 'What were you going to do, to call the police on me or simply to draw and shoot at me? Is this how you treat people like me?'" He said he "wondered that if my black presence was such a threat in a private garden area, how much of a threat is my blackness perceived by one like this man on the sanctuary while I am celebrating the Eucharist?"

He said the fact that this incident occurred in the backyard of the rectory where he lives "awakened me to the reality that there are some people to whom I can never be good enough for the simple reason of being black."

Deacon Seigfried Presberry, director of the archdiocesan Prison Ministry Program, recalled a time when he was bringing Communion to a man in a hospital intensive care unit. When he introduced himself and offered

the Eucharist, the man ripped off his oxygen mask and yelled: "Oh my God, we have n*****s in the Church."

The deacon said he left the room, wanting to tell the man he was not that epithet, but a servant of God, but did not. He left the hospital feeling dejected and rejected.

His wife encouraged him to return the following week because that's what he was called to do.

The next week, the man was still in the hospital but out of the intensive care unit. The man and his son, who had also been there the week before, apologized and when the deacon offered the Eucharist, he took it. Over the weeks, they struck up conversations and after the man's release from the hospital, they even became friends.

The man said he had never met or talked to anyone of color before Deacon Presberry and he regretted that.

The deacon said his "dear friend" passed away several months later but had asked him to preside at his funeral rites, which he did.

Several other speakers at the event also spoke of difficult expe-

riences.

Archbishop Lori thanked them for sharing "personal, and often very painful, stories" and added that he was "so very sorry for what you have endured, and for the ways explicitly and implicitly that the Church played a role in your experiences."

Prior to the listening session, Bishop Fabre told the *Catholic Review*, Baltimore's archdiocesan newspaper, that in previous sessions he had attended he had heard people's pain and hope. The sessions are a model for what the bishops want to see in society. "We want people to get together, dialogue, have a conversation," he said, noting that Pope Francis calls for the same thing — to hear people's pain and accompany them in their journey.

"The question we are asking is how can we address this together with the richness of the teachings of the church and the sacraments? ... We want to bring people to a greater understanding, bring people to action."

Christopher Guntz is associate publisher/editor of Catholic Review Media, the media arm of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Catholic officials pleased with new conscience protection rule

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The announcement of a new conscience protection rule May 2 protecting health care workers who object to abortion procedures on religious grounds was welcome news to U.S. Catholic bishops and the president of the Catholic Health Association.

President Donald Trump announced the rule at the White House Rose Garden during a speech on the National Day of Prayer.

"Just today we finalized new protections of conscience rights for physicians, pharmacists, nurses, teachers, students and faith-based charities," Trump said.

The rule, issued by the Department of Health and Human Services and enforced by that department's Office of Civil Rights, is more than 400 pages long with specific guidelines requiring hospitals, clinics and universities that receive federal funding through Medicare or Medicaid to certify that they comply with laws protecting conscience rights regarding abortion, sterilization and assisted suicide.

Under the rule, medical workers or institutions would not have to provide, participate in or pay for procedures they object to on moral or religious grounds.

"Laws prohibiting government funded discrimination against conscience and religious freedom will be enforced like every other civil rights law," said Roger Severino, director of the Office of Civil Rights in a May 2 statement.

"This rule ensures that health care entities and professionals won't be bullied out of the health care field because they decline to

participate in actions that violate their conscience, including the taking of human life. Protecting conscience and religious freedom not only fosters greater diversity in health care, it's the law," he said.

Last year, the department of Health and Human Services received more than 1,300 complaints alleging discrimination in a health care setting based on religious beliefs or conscience issues.

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, chairman of the bishops' Committee for Religious Liberty, issued a joint statement May 2 commending the adoption of these new regulations to ensure existing laws protecting conscience rights in health care are enforced and followed.

The statement said these laws have been policy for years, but "the previous administration did not fully enforce them and now they are increasingly being violated."

The bishops said health care providers such as nurses and medical trainees "have been coerced into participating in the brutal act of abortion against their core beliefs, while churches and others who oppose abortion are being compelled by states like California to cover elective abortion — including late-term abortion — in their health plans."

"We are grateful that this administration is taking seriously its duty to enforce these fundamental civil rights laws, and we look forward to swift action by HHS to remedy current

violations in several states," they added.

The bishops also pointed out that "conscience protection should not fluctuate as administrations change" and stressed that Congress should provide "permanent legislative relief through passage of the Conscience Protection Act."

Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity and president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association of the United States, said her organization "welcomes efforts to implement and enforce existing federal laws providing conscience protections."

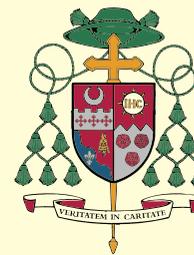
In a May 2 statement, she said the Catholic Health Association is currently reviewing the final regulation.

She stressed that "Catholic hospitals and long-term care facilities welcome and serve all persons in need of care. Our mission and our ethical standards in health care are rooted in and inseparable from the Catholic Church's teachings about the dignity of the human person and the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. These are the source of both the work we do and the limits on what we will do," she said.

"Every individual seeking health care is welcome and will be treated with dignity and respect in our facilities," she added.

Critics of the rule have argued that it will limit women's health care access. The same day the rule was announced, San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera sued the Trump administration, saying the rule sacrificed patients' health.

The rule takes effect 60 days after publication in the *Federal Register*.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, May 12: 2 p.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Fort Wayne
 Monday, May 13: 10 a.m. Meeting of the Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
 Monday, May 13: 7 p.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Decatur
 Tuesday, May 14: 3:30 p.m. Meeting of Indiana Bishops, Indianapolis
 Wednesday, May 15: 10 a.m. Meeting of Indiana Catholic Conference, Indianapolis
 Wednesday, May 15: 7 p.m. Confirmation Mass, Queen of Angels Church, Fort Wayne
 Thursday, May 16: 12 p.m. Meeting of Board of Directors of Saint Anne Communities, Randallia Place, Fort Wayne
 Thursday, May 16: 7 p.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Church, Huntington
 Friday, May 17: 10:30 a.m. Meeting of Hispanic Apostolate, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw
 Friday, May 17: 4 p.m. Baccalaureate Mass for Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame
 Saturday, May 18: 11 Diaconate Ordination, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
 Saturday, May 18: 5 p.m. Commencement Mass for University of Notre Dame, Purcell Pavilion, University of Notre Dame
 Sunday, May 19: 9:30 a.m. Commencement Ceremony for University of Notre Dame, University of Notre Dame Stadium
 Sunday, May 19: 5 p.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Adalbert Church, South Bend
 Tuesday, May 21: 12:30 p.m. Meeting of Diocesan Finance Council, Holiday Inn Express, Warsaw
 Wednesday, May 22: 11 a.m. Meeting with Catholic Leadership Institute for Next Generation Pastors, Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, Fort Wayne
 Wednesday, May 22: 5:30 p.m. Baccalaureate Mass for Bishop Dwenger High School, St. Charles Borromeo Church, Fort Wayne
 Friday, May 24: 10 a.m. Baccalaureate Mass for Bishop Luers High School, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
 Friday, May 24: 7 p.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Michael Church, Plymouth
 Saturday, May 25: 10 a.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Therese, Little Flower Church, South Bend

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pope asked. "Yes!" they all shouted.

"In the homily I said something I want you to remember forever," the pope told the children. "I spoke of the ID card of a Christian. I said our ID card is this: God is our father. Jesus is our brother. The Church is our family, and we are brothers and sisters. Our law is love."

To drive the points home, Pope Francis had the children repeat each line after him — or rather, after the translator who was telling the children in Bulgarian what the pope had said in Italian.

At one point, either to test the translator or the children, the pope said, "We are enemies." When it was about to be repeated, he said, "Are we enemies?" Of course, they shouted, "No."

After the recitation of the Lord's Prayer, the pope had more

words for the children. "Now you will receive Jesus," he told them. "Do not let yourselves be distracted; think only of Jesus. Come to the altar to receive Jesus in silence; silence your hearts."

The pope, dipping the consecrated host in the consecrated wine, personally gave Communion to each of the children, while other priests brought the Eucharist to another 500 people inside the church and an estimated 10,000 people gathered on the church grounds for the Mass.

The Vatican press office said it was the first time on a papal trip that Pope Francis had administered first Communion.

At the Church of St. Michael the Archangel later in the day, Pope Francis urged the region's Catholics to be bold and creative in handing on the faith to new generations.

"We have to ask how we can translate the love God has for us

into concrete and understandable languages for the younger generations," the pope said.

The key is "finding ways to touch their hearts, to learn about their expectations and to encourage their dreams as a community-family that supports, accompanies and points to the future with hope," Pope Francis said.

First communicants kneel as Pope Francis celebrates a Mass with first Communion at the Church of the Sacred Heart in Rakovski, Bulgaria, May 6.



CNS photo/Paul Haring

Pope to Bulgarians: Treasure identity as crossroads of cultures

BY CINDY WOODEN

SOFIA, Bulgaria (CNS) — In a country that has seen many of its citizens emigrate in search of work and a better life, Pope Francis asked Bulgarians to be welcoming of and sympathetic to the migrants and refugees who arrive in their country hoping to get to Western Europe.

Strengthening Bulgaria's traditional role as "a bridge between East and West" and a place where different religions and cultures meet in peace also could be the key to "economic and civil development" for the nation, the pope told Bulgarian leaders May 5.

The pope arrived in the Balkan nation after a two-hour, early morning flight from Rome and was welcomed at the airport by two little girls and two little boys wearing traditional costumes and offering bouquets of flowers.

Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borissov, during a brief meeting with Pope Francis at the airport, gave him a container of Bulgarian yogurt. The pope told Borissov that the first time he ever heard the word "Bulgarian" was when he was a child and his grandmother gave him Bulgarian yogurt.

After a private meeting in presidential palace with President Rumen Radev, Pope Francis spoke to government officials, civic and religious leaders and members of the diplomatic corps about building a more peaceful and prosperous world.

Thirty years after the end of Soviet domination over Bulgaria and the region, the pope said, "Bulgaria faces the effects of the

emigration in recent decades of over 2 million of her citizens in search of new opportunities for employment." The numbers of citizens leaving increased especially after Bulgaria joined the European Union in 2007, making emigration easier.

In Bulgaria the emigration rate, combined with a drastic drop in the birth rate, he said, has meant that a "demographic winter" has descended on Bulgaria and other Central European countries like an "ice curtain" running through the continent and not only where the Iron Curtain ran until 1989.

"The depopulation and abandonment of many villages" provides one set of challenges, he said, while the arrival, especially since 2015, of tens of thousands of migrants and refugees from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and other nations has created others in a country that is among the poorest of the European Union and has one of the highest unemployment rates.

Pope Francis encouraged the government to continue finding ways to create the conditions where young people can stay in the country, thrive and start families.

And, he said, "to all Bulgarians, who are familiar with the drama of emigration, I respectfully suggest that you not close your eyes, your hearts or your hands — in accordance with your best tradition — to those who knock at your door."

The development of Bulgaria, economically and civilly, he said, requires a rediscovering and strengthening of the nation's openness to and exchange with others.



CNS photo/Paul Haring

Pope Francis greets children in traditional dress as he arrives at the airport in Sofia, Bulgaria, May 5.

As execution looms, case for clemency hinges on an act of forgiveness

BY THERESA LAURENCE

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — Don Johnson, set to be executed May 16 by the state of Tennessee for the brutal 1984 murder of his wife Connie Johnson, has several people in his corner advocating clemency for him.

His supporters include the three Catholic bishops of Tennessee. But now, Johnson's stepdaughter Cynthia Vaughn, who once supported his execution, has forgiven him and publicly spoken out against his execution.

During a talk at Vanderbilt Divinity School earlier this year, Vaughn described the long and painful journey between the time Johnson killed her mother to coming face-to-face with him inside Riverbend Maximum Security Institution nearly 30 years later.

"I had waited almost 30 years, confined to my own internal house of hell, and he had caused it," she said, describing her attitude going to visit Johnson for the first time: "I had one mission, to tell him what I thought of him. ... I blamed him for all my troubles and pain over the last three decades."

But then, "I realized it wasn't the man on the other side of the

thick prison glass that caused me so much heartache, it was me. I realized it was time for everything to end, that's enough, let it go," she said. "I looked at him and told him, 'I have to tell you something, I can't keep hating you. It's not doing anything to you, but it's killing me, so I forgive you.'"

Vaughn then describes racing away from Riverbend to meet a friend: "I couldn't wait to tell him, I was free and I could feel it," she said. "Ever since then, I can't hate him (Johnson). I don't have it any more. Life changed."

Vaughn said she can now find peace and happiness at home in Mississippi with her children and among her friends in her church community. "I love my life now," she said.

The state's bishops, in a hand-delivered April 23 letter to Gov. Bill Lee, asked him to spare Johnson's life. "As we approach the Easter season and its celebration of redemption through Jesus Christ's victory over sin and death, it is within your power to establish your legacy as a governor of Tennessee who does not preside over an execution on your watch," it said.

"I've seen he's a man of faith," Johnson himself said of Lee in a video message to the governor. "I would ask that he

does what God leads him to do. I would ask him to do what he feels in his heart is the right thing to do."

At this point, Lee, who took office in January, has the sole authority to commute Johnson's sentence from death to life in prison. He has said that he is actively reviewing Johnson's request for clemency but has not made a decision yet.

Deacon James Booth, director of prison ministry for the Diocese of Nashville, said he is in awe of Vaughn's act of forgiveness. "It really is a Christ-like response," he told the *Tennessee Register*, newspaper of the Diocese of Nashville. "Her strength of character is stunning."

"For Don, that restoration of a relationship with his daughter, and her willingness to be a public advocate for his life, is a tremendous source of consolation," Deacon Booth said.

Deacon Booth leads a Catholic Scripture-based discussion group at the prison on Saturday mornings, and has gotten to know Johnson, who is a regular participant. Johnson is an ordained elder in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, but "he is an active and respectful member of our group," Deacon Booth said.

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CNS photo/Paul Haring

A clergyman listens as Pope Francis attends a meeting for peace with Bulgarian representatives of various religions in Nezavisimost Square in Sofia, Bulgaria, May 6.

Sri Lankan bombings impact US parish with ties to seminarian

BY GINA CHRISTIAN

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — The fallout from the Easter Sunday bombings in three Sri Lankan cities has reached a Philadelphia parish.

“Our whole parish is shaken,” said Father Joseph Kelley, pastor of St. Monica in Philadelphia.

Father Kelley was set to travel to Sri Lanka to attend the planned May 4 ordination of Sheron Fernando, a seminarian who had served at St. Monica for four years while studying at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood.

The Cinnamon Grand Hotel, where Father Kelley had intended to stay, was among the structures targeted in eight April 21 Islamic State group-linked attacks that destroyed two Catholic churches, an evangelical church and three luxury hotels. More than 250 people were killed, with some 500 injured.

For two weeks since Easter, Catholic leaders canceled Masses. Father Kelley said not being able to attend Mass has been “a big, big shake-up” for Fernando and his fellow seminarian Shalindra Kotikwatte, who had also returned to Sri Lanka for ordination after serving at nearby St. Richard Parish in Philadelphia.

Neither seminarian lost family members in the attacks, but their ordinations and their futures remain on hold for now. Meanwhile, parishioners at St. Monica have been anxiously inquiring after the well-being of their former seminarian.



Sheron Fernando, shown in this Dec. 10, 2017, file photo, was a seminarian for four years at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and served at St. Monica Parish in

“He was so loved,” said Father Kelley. “You know Italians; they fall in love with you. I have stockpiles of cards that I was going to take with me for his ordination.”

The parish embraced Fernando all the more tightly since Cardinal Ranjith had stipulated that his seminarians were to remain in the U.S. for the duration of their studies even during holidays and summer recess.

“I think the fact that he

couldn't see his mother for four years was hard and the whole parish became his mother,” said Father Kelley, who regularly invited the seminarian to his own family's holiday gatherings.

Given the uncertainty in Sri Lanka and his own pastoral obligations, Father Kelley is not sure that he will be able to travel there to attend Fernando's ordination when it is ultimately rescheduled.

Although he remains in contact with the seminarian via cell-phone, Father Kelley said it was Fernando's daily presence at St. Monica, rather than communications technology, that expanded his parish's worldview.

“It changed the parish so much, because we tend to be so parochial, and we say, “These are my parish boundaries and it doesn't go beyond here,” said Father Kelley. “But we had a guy here from half a planet away, and we shared the same kind of faith, which is a cement bond.”

Gina Christian is the senior content producer at CatholicPhilly.com, the news outlet of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

CNS photo/Sarah Webb, CatholicPhilly.com

As you seek for ways to share Christ's love within you, please consider leaving a part of your legacy to the Church.

For more information about how you can include your parish or the Diocese in your will or estate plan, contact Michael Shade, executive director of the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana at 260.949.2441.

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NEWS BRIEFS

No 'Hesburgh' picture without 'Catholics vs. Convicts,' filmmaker says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Patrick Creadon, who made the new documentary "Hesburgh" about Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, the priest who led the University of Notre Dame for 35 years, said that film wouldn't have been possible had it not been for a feature he made three years earlier for ESPN, "Catholics vs. Convicts." The latter documentary chronicled the buildup to a legendary Notre Dame vs. Miami football game played at Notre Dame in 1988. Both teams were undefeated, Notre Dame won 31-30, and the infamous T-shirt that gave the film and the rivalry its nickname had been made by Creadon's roommate at Notre Dame, where both were seniors. The show debuted on ESPN in 2016. Father Hesburgh had died the year before. "I was on campus a lot. I started thinking a lot about him, and what his life was and what his life means," Creadon told CNS in an April 25 telephone interview from Chicago. "I started thinking this is the kind of movie that might never get told." Instead, Creadon and his crew spent two and a half years making "Hesburgh," which opens May 3 in 35 U.S. cities with the promise of more cities in following weeks. "I never thought of his story as just a Notre Dame story. I always thought of it as an American story." Creadon said: "I think the fact that we had made the ESPN film really helped us." He described it as "an olive branch" to the two schools, even getting a handwritten thank-you note from Jimmy Johnson, then the Miami coach, who is now a studio analyst on the Fox network for pro football.

NCEA convention offered financial and leadership tips with teaching ideas

CHICAGO (CNS) — Rocio Carballo came all the way from Belize to attend the National Catholic Education Conference April 23-25 at McCormick Place Convention Center in downtown Chicago. It was her seventh year attending the convention. "In my first year, I thought it would be aimed only to teachers, but it's more than that. I've appreciated the focus on leadership skills and financial oversight for people like me," said Carballo, who is president of Sacred Heart College, a high school and junior high school with 1,550 students and 135 staff. More than 9,000 educators and leaders from dioceses around the country and beyond attended this year's conference, along with 700 vendors. They took part in hundreds of sessions on topics focused on religion, technology, leadership, curriculum devel-

Venezuelan political protest



CNS photo/Ueslei Marcelino, Reuters

Supporters of Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido throw stones at riot police in front of images of Mary and the Christ Child and Michael the Archangel May 1 in Caracas. While protests against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro raged across the country, National Guard forces loyal to the embattled head of state launched tear gas at churchgoers attending Mass at a local parish.

opment, trauma, finances and prayer. There are 1.8 million students enrolled in Catholic schools across the country, according to the National Catholic Education Association. Carballo said she is taking home information about both marketing Catholic schools and effectively using digital media in the classroom. "I attended sessions that showed us how to retain our students and, most importantly, how to market our Catholic institutions and continue to uphold the institutional excellence," she said.

Symposium considers future with Roe v. Wade decision repealed

WASHINGTON (CNS) — What would American society look like if the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade ruling, which legalized abortion on demand, were overturned? Panelists at a May 1 symposium sponsored by Americans United for Life stopped short of predicting when that would happen to the 1973 ruling, even with two new conservative justices, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, on the Supreme Court. But all agreed that the language of the decision — based on the medical knowledge about fetal development in the early 1970s and lacking a

strong constitutional foundation while asserting a constitutional right to terminate a pregnancy — has rendered it obsolete. "The Supreme Court needs to wake up," said Catherine Foster, president of Americans United for Life. "Roe is long past its expiration date and the American public knows it." Americans United for Life, formed in 1971, has adopted an approach chipping away at the ruling. Last year, Clarke Forsythe, senior counsel of the organization, published a draft opinion for overruling Roe. Charmaine Yoest, vice president of the Institute for Family, Community, and Opportunity at the Heritage Foundation, said the symposium's goal in part was to rebut the idea of "reliance interest," meaning, "American women have to come to believe that they

need to rely on abortion in order to ensure their place in society."

Quebec considering Canada's strictest law governing religious symbols

QUEBEC CITY (CNS) — The Quebec government is preparing to adopt what would become the most stringent secularism legislation in Canada, hoping to end more than a decade of acrimonious debates about religion's place in the public space. Religious groups fear, however, that the legislation will be detrimental to their fundamental rights regarding freedom of worship. Simon Jolin-Barrette, minister of immigration, diversity and inclusion, introduced Bill 21 in the National Assembly of Quebec March 28. The draft prohibits wearing religious symbols, such as a cross, a veil or a kippah, for some people "in the performance of their duties." School teachers, as well as persons with authoritative power, such as judges or police officers, will not be allowed to wear a religious symbol. Jolin-Barrette indicated, however, that the prohibition does not apply to persons already "in office at the time of the presentation of the new piece of legislation." He explained that the bill requires every government employee to not cover his or her face and says that any citizen who wishes to obtain a service must have their face uncovered to allow for verification of identity or for safety reasons. The draft is based on four principles: the separation of the state and religions, the religious neutrality of the state, the equality of all citizens and freedom of conscience and religion.

Christians' first mission is to witness that God is love, pope says

SOFIA, Bulgaria (CNS) — God is love, but too many Christians live their faith in a way that undermines any attempt to communicate that essential fact to others, Pope Francis said. Celebrating a late afternoon Mass May 5 in Sofia's Battenberg Square, the pope wore over his chasuble a gold-embroidered, Byzantine-style stole given to him that morning by Prime Minister Boyko Borissov. The pope's homily focused on the day's Gospel reading about the disciples' miraculous catch of fish after the risen Jesus told them to try again even though they had caught nothing all night. After the resurrection, the pope noted, "Peter goes back to his former life" as a fisherman and the other disciples go with him. "The weight of suffering, disappointment and of betrayal had become like a stone blocking the hearts of the disciples," he said. "They were still burdened with pain and guilt, and the good news of the Resurrection had not taken root in their hearts."

Cor Jesu: Heart of Jesus

FORT WAYNE — Young adults of all ages and states in life, especially those living near or in Fort Wayne, are invited to Cor Jesu (Latin for "heart of Jesus"), taking place every Wednesday at St. John the Baptist Church, 4500 Fairfield Ave., Fort Wayne.

The evenings begin at 6:30 p.m. with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, along with the opportunity for the sacrament of confession. Benediction takes place at 7:20 p.m., with holy Mass following at 7:30 p.m., celebrated by different priests each week. There is a small gathering after Mass.

Everyone is invited to attend. The Sacred Heart of Jesus — pierced for all — awaits.

St. Peter Parish Germanfest Mass

FORT WAYNE — St. Peter Church, 518 E. DeWald St., will host a Mass to open the city of Fort Wayne's annual celebration of Germanfest Sunday, June 2, at 11 a.m., featuring the music of the Maennerchor/Damenchor chorus conducted by Thomas Remenschneider. The group also will sing at 4:30 p.m. at Park Edelweiss, 3355 Elmhurst Dr., for the annual concert accompanied by a live band, followed by Heimatabend Dinner at 6 p.m. serving traditional Kasseler Rippchen (smoked pork chops) and all the trimmings.

Local Jacintas and Franciscos sought

FORT WAYNE — The World Apostolate of Fatima, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend division, would like to contact the families of children who are named Jacinta and Francisco.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Partners in Clean Air Award



Provided by The Center at Donaldson

The Center at Donaldson co-workers, from left, Dee Anspaugh, Barbara Allison, James Wolf, and Dia Cooper, accept the Partners in Clean Air Award from MACOG in Elkhart Wednesday, April 24.

As the world marks the 100th anniversary of the deaths of St. Jacinta and St. Francisco Marto, two of the three visionaries of Our Lady of Fatima, the local WAF chapter is considering ways

to incorporate such children and families into its annual October Mass and breakfast in remembrance of the apparition.

The World Apostolate of Fatima is a public association of

the faithful under the Pontifical Council for the Laity. Contact division president Theresa Schortgen at 260-749-6706 or theresa@fatimafwsb.org.

The Center at Donaldson wins clean air award

PLYMOUTH — The Center at Donaldson, along with three other recipients, won the Partners in Clean Air Award Wednesday, April 24, at the Matterhorn Conference Center in Elkhart. The award is presented annually by MACOG Partners for Clean Air, which recognized The Center for its leadership in clean energy initiatives.

Michiana Area Council of Governments lauded The Center for implementing clean energy initiatives through the construction of green buildings, the use of electric vehicles, and charging infrastructure, among other sustainability efforts to promote clean air. After reducing electricity-related emissions by 15 percent through an LED lighting retrofit in 2017, The Center commissioned the first phase of a campuswide solar project in 2018 with 83 kilowatts of solar panels. The second phase will be installed this summer in both ground-mounted and rooftop systems, totaling 550 kW, equivalent to about 60 Hoosier households. The solar arrays power the transportation fleet as The Center transitions to electric vehicles. Early adopters of hybrid vehicles, The Center now has two plug-in hybrids and one fully electric vehicle. A public charging station allows guests, residents, and co-workers access to electric transportation as well. As a part of The Center, MoonTree Studios is a LEED Gold facility that features small-scale wind, solar, and native prairie landscaping.

Other area winners included Keystone RV of Elkhart, Habitat for Humanity of Mishawaka and South Bend Fire Department Station No. 4.



Daniel Koehl will be ordained to the Diaconate May 18, 2019

With God's help, you will continue to succeed in your leadership and in your duties, because Our Lord's work is accomplished not so much by the multitude of workers as by the fidelity of the small number whom He calls.

-St. Vincent de Paul

A parish son who makes us proud. We wish both you and Stephen Felicichia a Diaconal ministry of heartfelt service after the Heart of Christ the Servant.

FATHER DANIEL SCHEIDT

FATHER JAY HORNING

FATHER POLYCARP FERNANDO

AND THE ENTIRE

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, FORT WAYNE PARISH FAMILY

Koehl anticipates ordination to Sacred Order of the Diaconate

BY DEB WAGNER

Daniel Koehl is prayerfully anticipating his ordination to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate May 18 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

He was raised Catholic in his home parish of St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne. After eight years attending the parish grade school, he attended Bishop Dwenger High School. Upon graduation in 2011, he began to study engineering at Purdue University, West Lafayette, but after two years discerned God's call to enter the seminary.

After being accepted as a seminarian for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, he transferred to Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. He completed his theological studies at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Maryland.

His family had an impact on his decision to enter the seminary, he said. "I have a very supportive family. They have always been there for me and have been behind me through these many years of seminary formation. I can't thank them enough."

Koehl's mother and father both are practicing Catholics, which he said played a critical role in his upbringing.

"One of the really beautiful aspects of this upbringing is that



DANIEL KOEHL

the Catholicism in our family was just a given. It was never any question of whether or not we were going to go to Mass on

Sunday, or if we were going to pray before meals and bedtime. I was never asked if I would like to go to the public school instead. My parents knew what was best for me and taught me to live accordingly.

"The faith was seemingly always the backdrop on my life," he continued. "My younger brothers have always shown me the greatest support.

Both are young adults now and our friendship only continues to grow. It is especially edifying when they, though younger than me, teach me something about being a faithful Christian man. This seems to happen more and

more. I am certainly proud of the men they are becoming, and I have received so much affirmation and support from them over these years I've been in seminary. They make it pretty easy to be a big brother."

He says he also owes many thanks to extended family members who have frequently encouraged him in his journey and "share my joy as I approach holy orders."

Koehl also is grateful for the leaders of his parish youth group, because they taught him that Jesus was alive and a person who wanted a relationship with him.

"As many vocation stories go, there were perhaps many small signs, or at least influences, which led to a greater level of discernment in the seminary. For example, when I was in middle school, I learned to serve at Mass. On Sundays, I would very frequently stop at the sacristy to ask the priest if he needed any more servers. As a result, I began to serve Mass so frequently that many friends and family began to call me 'Father Danny.' At the time, I just laughed at them, but today I realize the importance that serving Mass, being in the sanctuary with the priest, really had on me. It taught me the beauty of holiness and gave me a special insight into what it meant to be a priest.

"As I grew up, I was particularly blessed with numerous excellent priestly examples. Each taught me different aspects of being a priest through my interaction with them, for which I am thoroughly grateful.

"There was one priest who was perhaps only a spark to my discernment, but it only takes a spark to start a fire. The late Bishop John M. D'Arcy was the first person I ever heard say the word 'vocation.' He set forth in my very young mind the idea that God is calling me to holiness in a certain way of life. I hope that that initial message will bear great fruit in my life as a deacon and priest, may he rest in peace.

Another priestly example was while in high school while on a retreat. Like most retreats, there was time set aside for the sacrament of reconciliation.

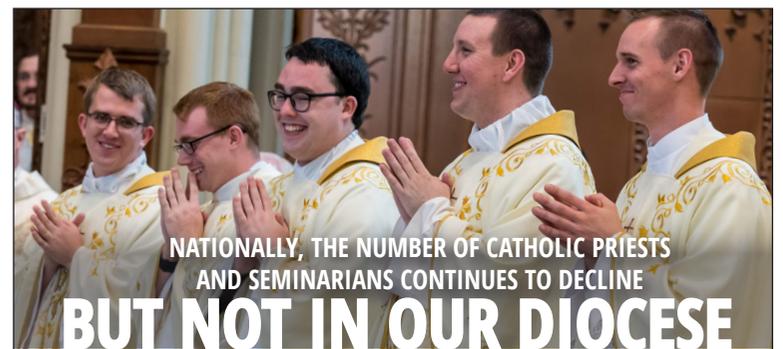
Koehl remembered making a

very good examination of conscience, to the extent of picking through his life and finding all the sins and habits that put up barriers between the Lord and him. He recalled that when the priest was saying the words of absolution, he had a very clear sense of the presence of Christ in the priest. Koehl reflected that, "In that moment, it was as if Christ was offering me the seat on the other side of the confessional, to be an instrument of mercy for others as His priest. A great peace washed over me and, from that point on, I always sort of knew that I would be a priest, even if I made it there by an indirect route."

"The late Bishop John M. D'Arcy was the first person I ever heard say the word 'vocation.'"

He set forth in my very young mind the idea that God is calling me to holiness in a certain way of life."

SEMINARIAN DANIEL KOEHL



NATIONALLY, THE NUMBER OF CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND SEMINARIANS CONTINUES TO DECLINE
BUT NOT IN OUR DIOCESE

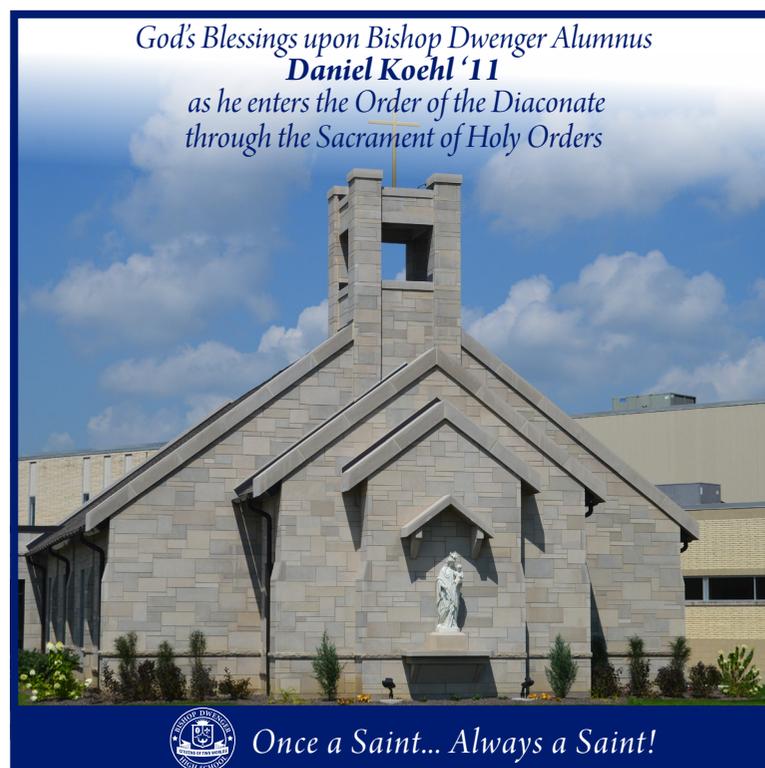


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*God's Blessings upon Bishop Dwenger Alumnus
Daniel Koehl '11
as he enters the Order of the Diaconate
through the Sacrament of Holy Orders*



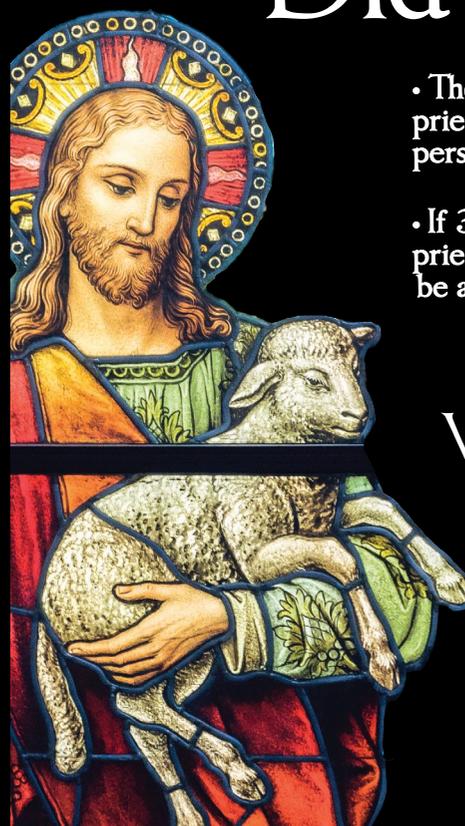
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Vocation call answered by Felicichia

BY VINCE LABARBERA

When Stephen Felicichia was in third grade at St. Therese School, Fort Wayne, he first heard the calling to become a priest.

"It was like someone tapped me in my brain. I just knew I was supposed to be a priest. I didn't do anything about it, because I was in third grade playing with my Ninja Turtles," said Felicichia.

"It literally never went away though," he continued, "so I gave God some time."

Born in Fort Wayne, Felicichia is the son of Bob and Joan Felicichia. He has two older sisters, Barbara and Sarah.

By the time he reached eighth grade, Felicichia said he was "service-oriented," probably because both parents had worked as police officers. He thought that maybe he, too, would be a police officer or serve in the Army. "Later in life, I'll go to the priesthood," he mused.

Felicichia was a sophomore at Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, when the 9/11 attacks occurred.

"My dad had raised me to love our country, so I took those attacks personally," he said. "I asked him what he thought of my joining the Army right out of high school." "That would be fine," Bob said, "but you probably would make a better officer than an enlisted man."

"I thought about that, and then it was my junior year. I had reasonably good grades and was a decent athlete at the time," Felicichia related. "I knew about West Point and the ROTC program, and thought 'I bet I could do this.' But even as I applied, the call to the priesthood never went away. It just resonated," he said. "It was like God saying, 'This is what you should do at some point.' I didn't hear or see anything, but it was as clear as day that my calling was to be a priest. I put it off!"

As he was filling out the paperwork for West Point, Felicichia asked his mom if he should just quit the forms and apply to the priesthood. Or should he pursue West Point and think about becoming a priest later? Joan said, "It's easier to go from being a soldier to a priest than it is going from a priest to a soldier."

"After that, although she never told me at the time, Mom started praying to St. Maximilian Kolbe, asking him to watch over me. The saint wanted to be a soldier, but his mother talked him into being a priest," said Felicichia.

The Polish Conventual Franciscan friar volunteered to die in place of a stranger in the German death camp of Auschwitz. He was canonized in 1982 by St. Pope John Paul II.

"I already had a devotion to the saint since St. Therese has a sister parish in Honduras named after him. And my Eagle project was to arrange to have medical supplies sent there," he said. In addition, he has a piece of the saint's robe — a second-class relic — given him by a friend who became a religious brother.

After graduating from Bishop Luers in 2004, Felicichia was accepted at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He graduated in 2008 as a second lieutenant, U.S. Army Field Artillery, and was stationed at Fort Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska. He served two tours in Afghanistan and completed his five years of service, attaining the rank of captain.

Six months into his first deployment in Afghanistan near the Pakistan border, his unit experienced its first casualty when a mortar round tore through the roof and killed a fellow soldier. Felicichia awoke, sat up in his cot and began thinking about his own mortality, realizing that at any moment he could be killed. In was in that frightening moment he knew he really did want to be a priest. "So, I

said a very honest prayer, sort of a negotiation prayer, saying if you get me out of this in one piece with all of my fingers and toes, I will look into the priesthood as soon as my remaining four-and-a-half year commitment is up. But I can do You no good maimed or dead," he concluded. "I thought I had a good position."



STEPHEN FELICICHIA

class. "But later, after we met, it was like the wheels were greased," he said. "Everything went smoothly, like it was supposed to be. The psychological evaluations, letters of recommendation and so forth, were much like applying to West Point. In fact," he advised, "if you want to get into a seminary you really couldn't do better than applying to a military academy first. My mother's words were so prophetic," he recollected.

Accepted into the 2014 class, Felicichia attended Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, for five years. After serving as a deacon for a year, he will be ordained a priest by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

After his ordination to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, he's looking forward to giving his first homily at the 5 p.m. Mass at St. Therese Saturday, May 18. When he's assigned to a parish for the summer, Felicichia will

fulfill his role of service — baptizing, preaching, witnessing marriages, praying with families for their deceased relatives and whatever else the pastor needs him to do.

As a priest, he said what he will enjoy most is celebrating Mass. "Being able to hold God in my hands is a thought that blows my mind. One second it's a piece of bread and the next it's Someone; it's The Someone," he emphasized. "My biggest challenge probably will be finding time to pray. It's easy to fool yourself, thinking, 'I've got to do all this important priestly work,' but you can't do the work without prayer. If you lose your prayer life, you lose your ability to minister to people."

Now there's no voice speaking to him; there's fulfillment. "I feel I am doing what I am supposed to do. Everything that came before this calling had its place. God has made it work perfectly," he concluded.

The Mass of Ordination to the Diaconate will be celebrated Saturday, May 18, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 1122 S. Clinton St., at 11 a.m.

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How to raise a priest: Clergy recall mothers' influence on vocations

BY JENNIFER MILLER

In May, the month of Mary, mothers are honored and thanked. A few of the priests of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the Congregation of Holy Cross reflected on their mothers' care recently, and they especially remembered their influence as they discerned a calling from God to serve His people as an ordained priest.

A common denominator resounded through the priests' lives growing up: the gift of prayer. Not like a clashing cymbal or noisy gong, but filled with love, the prayers of their mothers supported and interceded for their sons. Like St. Monica, whose prayers shaped St. Augustine, the mothers daily offered their sons back to God.

"The best way my mom contributed to my vocation was the way she has contributed to all of our vocations in our family, and that's through prayer. I think she took literally what St. Paul exhorted, 'pray ceaselessly,' Father Neil Wack, CSC, director of the Office for Vocations of Congregation of the Holy Cross, shared about his mother, Alice.

"When we were growing up, she tried to keep track of where everyone was and what they were doing, so she could keep us in mind and in prayer. ... If anything, that's only increased over time. Now she can look on technology and see where we are and keep lifting us up to the Lord."

"Of course, we all prayed the family rosary each day growing up, and that example of my mom and my dad in prayer helped me to build my relationship with God on a foundation that was begun in the family home," Father Wack said. "Both of my parents let us know early on that no matter what our vocation ended up being, as long as it was done with the Lord, we could not go wrong."

The importance of listening to God's call and following it, to do God's will, was also vital to the priesthood of Father Nathan O'Halloran, SJ, Doctoral Candidate of Theology, University of Notre Dame.

"Where would I be in my vocation without the help and guidance of my mom? She and my dad dedicated all of us at birth to the Lord. They took us to a chapel on the way home from delivery to dedicate our lives to the service of God before the Blessed Sacrament. There was never anything more important to my mom than that all of her children served the Lord. This is the first and most important gift she gave me after the gift of life," Father O'Halloran said of his mother, Mary Ann.

"She would remind us constantly: 'I don't care what you do with your life, how much money you make or don't make.

I just want you to serve the Lord.'" We knew she meant it because that was what she was doing with her life as a full-time missionary. My mom never mentioned anything to me about being a priest, and for that I am grateful. She knew that it was not her job to encourage me to be a priest. That was up to priests and others, and if I had heard it from her, I might have felt pressured in some way. Her job was to raise a son who loved the Lord, and she put all her efforts in that direction. She gave me the gift of a morning prayer time. She would send us all outside every morning for 15 minutes to pray in silence. Of course, a lot of that wasn't prayer for a while, but a lot of it was, and it would eventually become the bedrock of my own prayer habits to this day.

"She was a powerful prayer support throughout my formation as a Jesuit, and I can remember specifically the day that I received the call approv-



Provided by Father O'Halloran, SJ

Father Nathan O'Halloran, SJ, and his mother, Mary Ann, enjoy a home game at the new University of Notre Dame football stadium last year. Father O'Halloran is a doctoral candidate of systematic theology.



Provided by the Wack family

Father Neil Wack, CSC, his older brother, Kevin Wack, his younger brother, Bishop William Wack, CSC, and their mother, Alice Wack.

ing me to be ordained a priest," Father O'Halloran said. "I was at home on The Lord's Ranch in Vado, New Mexico, at the time, visiting my family. I got the call in the evening and ran home from the guesthouse I was staying in. As soon as I told my mom and dad, my mom broke into tears. It was a wonderful moment of joy."

Father O'Halloran remembers her influence in his spiritual life to this day.

"A few days before my diaconate ordination, I had a dream of driving in a car with her. She told me we needed to pull over for gas, but I told her we had plenty. Suddenly we came to a huge canyon right in the middle of the highway, and we had to take a long dirt road around the canyon. Now the gas situation was dire; I should have listened to her. I have often taken that dream to prayer. I know it came from the Lord, and I know that he spoke through my mom to remind me never to let up on

"Both of my parents let us know early on that no matter what our vocation ended up being, as long as it was done with the Lord, we could not go wrong."

FATHER NEIL WACK, CSC

my life of prayer. Unless I am grounded in the love of the Lord, I cannot make this journey. She passed on to me a deep love for the Lord, and a love for prayer, and I know that it is her prayers that sustain me to this day."

The daily journey, praying to God as a family, was also essen-

tial to the calling of Father Kevin Russeau, CSC, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, South Bend. The oldest of four children, he grew up in St. Joseph Parish in Erie, Michigan, in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

"My pastor preached about families encouraging vocations when I was young and he challenged families to make some kind of commitment. Our family (parents) decided to pray a rosary a day. We added this rosary after grace before supper. Once a month or so, my parents would ask us kids if we remembered why we prayed the rosary. One of us would answer that it was for religious vocations. That allowed my dad to say "your mother and I would be proud if God is calling any of you to the priesthood or religious life. We pray every day that you discover your vocation and live your life for God whether that be as a priest, nun, married or single person." Then we'd go back to eating." Father Russeau shared with a smile.

The nourishment of their

sons, in physical and spiritual ways, was on many mother's minds. Growing up near Fort Wayne, Father David Ruppert, pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption, Decatur, reminisced, "My mother worried about me as I was praying about going to seminary. She worried about the busyness and loneliness of priesthood. She told, 'You're just a boy with your whole life ahead of you; maybe you should take more time.' I said, 'Mom, I'm 35 years old!' But as she learned more about ordination to the priesthood and the life of a priest, she reconsidered.

"There is a tradition for the parents of a priest. There is a small white cloth: That cloth is given to the priest's mother to be buried with. For the priest's father, the stole that he wears for hearing his first confession is given to him for his burial. My mom and dad have instructions for their funerals to be buried with these. My mom will have the cloth used to wipe my hands in her own hands, and my dad will hold the stole from my first reconciliation. And it is their hope that at the resurrection they can show these to Jesus and say, 'Look, we gave you our son to continue your priesthood.'"

When Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades first visited every parish and school after being installed in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in 2010, he spoke of supporting and increasing vocations. He asked the young men to consider vocations to the priesthood, as well as to the parents, to pray and encourage their children.

There are many ways to support and foster vocations in one's children for today's mothers. Daily prayer combined with fasting, as described in Holy Scripture, remains the most efficacious method. Living one's baptismal call to Catholic life faithfully is also vital, as children are led by example. Preaching the Good News with lives filled with daily love speaks more than hundreds of wise words.

"I'd say make sure they pray as a family regularly and talk about the different ways that God might be calling them, Father Wack offered. "A reminder about just sitting and listening to God would be a good thing as well, though admittedly that's pretty tough for little ones."

Simply seeing and meeting religious men and woman can be helpful as well.

"I believe allowing children get to know a priest in order to see that priests are normal people with normal lives is a way to promote priestly and religious vocations," said Father Ruppert. "Inviting a priest over for a dinner or dessert or game of cards is a good way to introduce children to priesthood outside of the Church and Mass."

Modlins keep Catholic Scouting in the family

BY JANET PATTERSON

You might say that Scouting roots run deep in the Modlin family.

First there was Matt Modlin, who rose to the Boy Scouts of America rank of Eagle Scout during his years at Mishawaka's St. Monica School and Mishawaka High School.

Then there was Stephanie, his high school sweetheart and classmate at St. Monica, who learned that if she was going to spend any time with the love of her life during summer breaks from college, Scouting would be involved.

"I became involved with the Venture program, which is coed, so that I could be with him at Camp Tamarack in Michigan City," Stephanie said. She ran the camp trading post, and her future husband was the waterfront director when the two were in college.

After they married in 2005 and started their family, Scouting continued to play a part in the life of their family.

Son Christopher, who is 11 and in fifth grade, started in Scouting when he was in first

grade and recently earned his Parvuli Dei award. "It means children of God," he explained proudly.

During the same Mass at St. Monica Parish, Father Jacob Meyer awarded younger sister Anna, who is 7, the Light of Christ emblem, making her the first female in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to earn the Catholic Scouting badge for first- and second-grade Scouts.

Last fall, Boy Scouts of America began welcoming girls into its ranks and has turned to calling the program Scouts BSA. While programs like Venture that Stephanie Modlin joined back in her college days have been open to females for a number of years, Scouting badges and the rank of Eagle Scout weren't available.

Anna, a second-grader, thinks this was the perfect time in her life to work on the faith formation award, since she also was preparing to receive her first holy Communion at St. Monica May 5.

She showed off the workbook that guides Scouts through the Light of Christ program, stopping at the drawing of her family.

"Father Jacob added the halos," she noted.



Christopher Modlin, left, and younger sister Anna, who is 7, received awards and emblems at a recent Mass at St. Monica Church this spring. Anna is the first female in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to earn the Catholic Scouting emblem for first- and second-grade Scouts.

Anna enjoyed learning about her faith and its sacraments. "I learned about Jesus' family and how it was like my family." One of her favorite activities was learning about the different features of a church, like the tabernacle and the baptistry.

Christopher talked about doing a Scouting activity with his family when each person talked about the special gifts of the others. He especially liked

that his mother, a math and science teacher, noted his aptitude for math. He also enjoyed accompanying his grandmother, Beth Horban, on her rounds as a eucharistic minister to homebound parishioners as part of his service to the parish community.

After each Scout completes the program with his or her family, they meet with their parish priest to review what they have learned.

Father Meyer has worked with Scouts since his days in the seminary, Laura Ray of the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting said. "He's an old hand at the work of the DCCS."

"With Scouts BSA being such a new program, we are still trying to get the word out to new female Cubs that they are eligible to earn these Catholic emblems," Ray said. "The parents don't always realize the programs exist, but when their children work on them with the family, they are mostly amazed at the fun they all have sharing their Scout's faith journey."

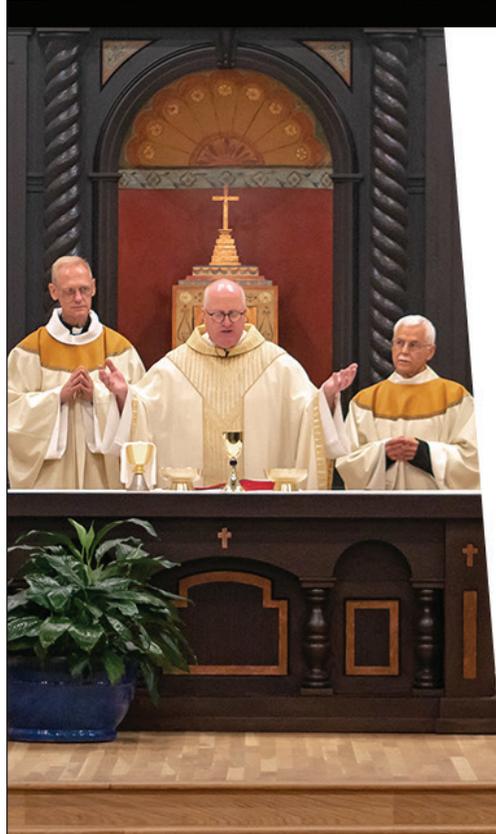
Anna seems unfazed by her status as the first girl in the diocese to earn a Scouts BSA religious emblem. She liked doing the work, she said, and learning more about her faith. She also likes being part of something that her parents and her brother treasure.

"Scouting has always been family-oriented," her mother added. While Matt, an administrator with South Bend city schools, has retired as a cubmaster, the family plans to continue activities like the family camping trips with Scouts BSA.



Photos provided by Laura Ray

Anna carries on a Scouting tradition established by her parents, Matt and Stephanie Modlin.



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Sodalitas group helps community and Bishop Luers school

BY DEB WAGNER

On Tuesday, April 30, all Bishop Luers High School students and faculty took a break from their normal school morning activities to give back to their community. The service-learning initiative is called Sodalitas. This is the fourth year for the event.

When participating in Sodalitas, students meet in groups of 18-20 with representatives from every grade level. The student groups are peer-led by faculty-selected student leaders and explore social justice issues, plan service activities and contribute to ongoing community needs. These half-day events occur twice a year, in the fall and spring. In the fall, students perform service projects around their school, and in the spring, they give back to the local community.

Many of the 25 organizations at which the students volunteered had outdoor projects planned for them, but the cold and rainy weather brought many inside for the day. Catholic Charities, Christ Child Society, Community Harvest Food Bank,

Franciscan Center and several area Catholic parishes received assistance from the student groups. Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana, the Project Linus warehouse, Saint Anne Retirement Communities were also popular service locations.

Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana had students, under the leadership of seniors Abbey Grabner and Noah Green, receive a brief tour of the center. The students then helped label envelopes for an upcoming mailing of the organization's newsletter.

Students at the Project Linus warehouse, led by Cheyenne Estoppenhagen and Joshua Dippold, began working on blankets during their at-school Sodalitas meetings, beginning in December. They brought 10 completed blankets to the warehouse and worked on others while there. The blankets will be donated to local hospitals to comfort young patients. Student leaders for next year's Project Linus already have been selected and are interested in carrying on the tradition of the project.

For Saint Anne Retirement Communities in Fort Wayne, the students helped at nearby St. Joachim Building, which serves



Every fall Bishop Luers High School students engage in a day of service to their school, and in the spring give a day of service to the community. From left, Shiraz Hassan Musa, Gretchen Spenn and Gavin DeLaGrange sort toys for Lutheran Hospital patients on April 30.

and papers from one floor to the other so that the papers could be shredded.

Senior Saint Anne Sodalitas leader Myk'Angel Gaston said that serving others is a large part of the student body's Catholic identity. She said by "using teamwork and determination, our team was glad to help carry all of those boxes." The Sodalitas events over the last four years have helped her grow as an individual and learn to put others first. Clark University in Atlanta, Georgia, is where she will study mass media communications later this fall, she said, and she chose the university in part because of its community service outreach. That value was seeded and cultivated while attending Bishop Luers.

"To our knowledge, public schools do not have an organized day like Sodalitas for community service," Gaston said. Maybe other schools will create such a day for their community in the future."

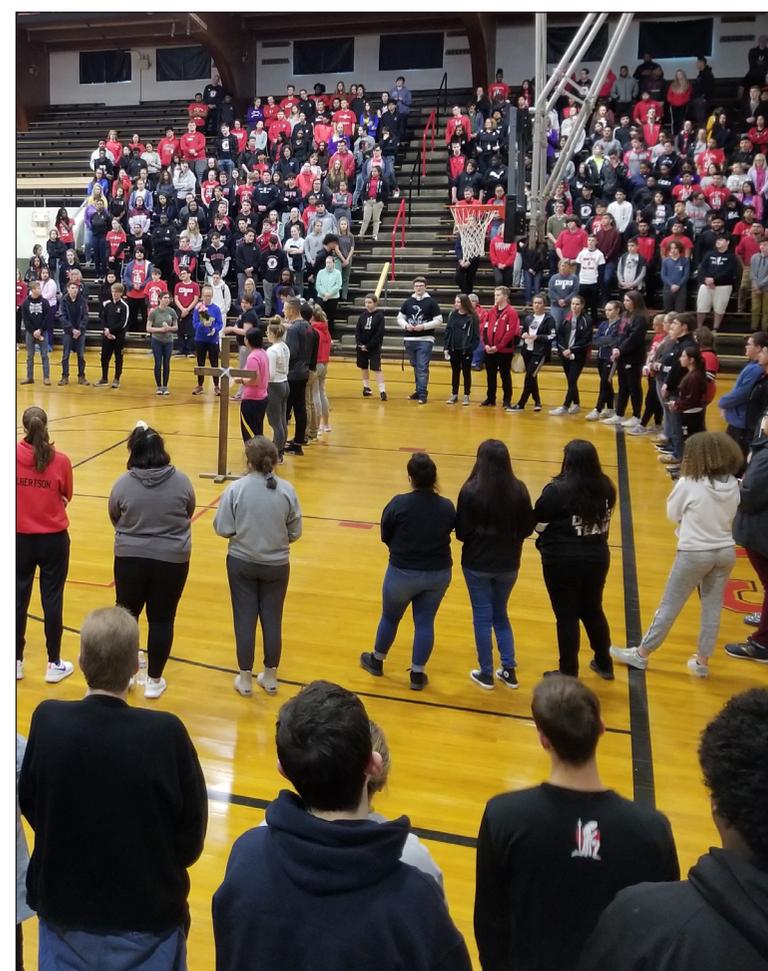
A living rosary was prayed in the school gymnasium to conclude the day of service.

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to obedience
to promote equality
to God
to community
to defend human dignity

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Photos provided by Bishop Luers High School

Students and faculty at Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, prayed a living rosary in the school gymnasium at the conclusion of the fourth annual Sodalitas day of service community service April 30.

Violi brothers, St. Monica Parish; a legacy intertwined

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

For nearly a century, St. Monica Parish in Mishawaka has been a fixture on the north side of the St. Joseph River and served as a proud home for numerous generations of Catholics. Consecrated in 1927 by Archbishop John Francis Noll, St. Monica soon after became the hometown parish for many immigrants from southern Italy.

For one family, the Violis, who arrived over 80 years ago, Mishawaka and St. Monica represented opportunities not only to begin a new life, but also to become rooted in a lasting community of faith, which continues in their families to this day.

Originally from Plati, Italy, a mountainous region in the province of Reggio Calabria prone to flooding, landslides and earthquakes, the Violis sought more stable lands with greater economic opportunity. In 1933, Frank, the eldest of three brothers, departed for the United States and eventually settled in Mishawaka. Having served as a shoemaker's apprentice in Calabria from the age of 10, he opened a shoe repair shop on East Mishawaka Avenue, which still remains in operation today, although now under new ownership. A lifelong Catholic, Frank also found a new parish home in St. Monica's, where he would remain an active, lifelong member.

By 1936, he had saved up enough money to bring his 17-year-old brother Saverio (Sam) to America, where they worked together at Violi Shoes. They closed the store when they went to serve during World War II; Sam's unit provided supplies for Patton's 3rd Army in Europe, while Frank was stationed in Texas, where he kept busy repairing soldier's shoes. After the war the brothers returned home, rejoined their families and resumed their lives.

Frank married had Catherine "Kitty" Arata at St. Monica in 1939 before the war. Her father, Alphonsus Arata, had originally emigrated from Genoa, Italy, and eventually settled in Mishawaka. Frank and Kitty's daughter MaryAnna Violi shared that her grandfather "found particular delight in the fact people here were able to have their own front yards."

The entire family became parishioners at St. Monica, which served as the center of faith and community for many on the north side. When the parish installed new stained glass windows, Alphonsus sought to provide a contribution. He asked everyone in the family to give something, even if it was only a nickel. From this donation, the window depicting the fifth Joyful Mystery, the Finding of Jesus in the Temple, was dedicated in the Arata family's name.



Provided by Violi family

The Violi brothers, lifelong parishioners at St. Monica Parish, Mishawaka, who emigrated from Plati, Italy, stand together in celebration after a family member's first Communion in 1999. From left to right: Dominic, Frank and Saverio (Sam) Violi.

From an early age, Frank felt very close to St. Christopher, the patron saint of travelers. MaryAnna shared that "my father prayed through the intercession of St. Christopher that he might one day be able to come to America." After settling in Mishawaka, in thanksgiving for safe passage and the start of a family, Frank and Kitty donated a statue of St. Christopher to St. Monica, which is visible in the rear of the Church.

MaryAnna Violi also revealed the extent of her parents' involvement in the life of the parish and community. "My father was on the parish finance committee, served as an usher and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. In addition, he was also on the board of a local bank and the Chamber of Commerce for the City of Mishawaka. My mother was a member and president of the Rosary Society, chaired the ice cream socials, was president of the PTA and served as a playground monitor at St. Monica School. She also headed up the famous St. Monica spaghetti suppers."

The Violis' youngest brother Dominic joined them in 1956 at the age of 34, working at Notre Dame for several years as a tailor, serving many of the priests and professors there. In 1960, he ventured back to Plati to marry his sweetheart, Maria. Two years later, Dominic returned to Mishawaka making preparations for the arrival of his wife and their son Tony, who would be born in the United States the following year.

This son, Tony, now serves as

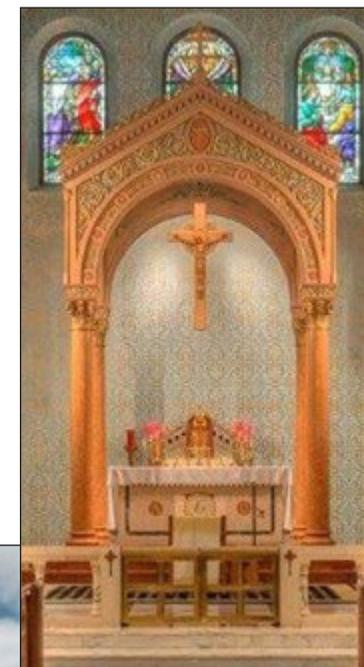
athletic director of Mishawaka Catholic, president of the Inter City Catholic League and remains a proud member of St. Monica. With joyful gratitude, he indicated that the parish and school "made me who I am," and that it was his second-grade teacher, Sister Christine, a Poor Handmaid of Jesus Christ, who first gave him confidence in his abilities as a student. "Talk about a teacher who changed your life! Her patience, guidance, and encouragement, as I was adjusting from speaking only Italian at home to having classes

completely in English, gave me hope and totally changed the course of my life."

Frank, Sam and Dominic also belonged to the DiLoreto Club, a Mishawaka Italian-American social space founded in 1933. Named for Maria SS. DI Loreto, otherwise known as Our Lady of Loreto, the club famously hosted a celebration each August that featured a Marian procession leading to St. Monica. The centerpiece of this Marian tribute was a large statue of the Blessed Virgin holding the Christ Child, which was pro-

cessed into the church and set in a place of honor during Mass. It was later donated to the parish and blessed by Father Joseph Hennes in 1954. The statue now resides in the side entranceway at St. Monica, where all can see and pay tribute to its beauty. For the Violis, it serves as an additional living memorial of their family's legacy within the parish.

While Dominic passed away in 1999 at the age of 77 and Frank in 2006 at 96, Sam remains alive today at 100 years old. He and his extended family remain active members of St. Monica and are grateful to see the resurgence in parish attendance and activity within recent years. His daughter, Marianne Govorko, and other family members similarly expressed heartfelt gratitude for the renewal the parish has seen Father Jacob Meyer as pastor regarding finances, involvement, increased participation of young people and more. Thankfully, the Violi family's legacy and contributions continue to live on and benefit new generations of Catholics in Mishawaka and beyond.



File photos

St. Monica Parish, located on the north side of the St. Joseph River in Mishawaka, became in every sense, a home for the Violi family and many other Italian emigrants during the early years of the parish.

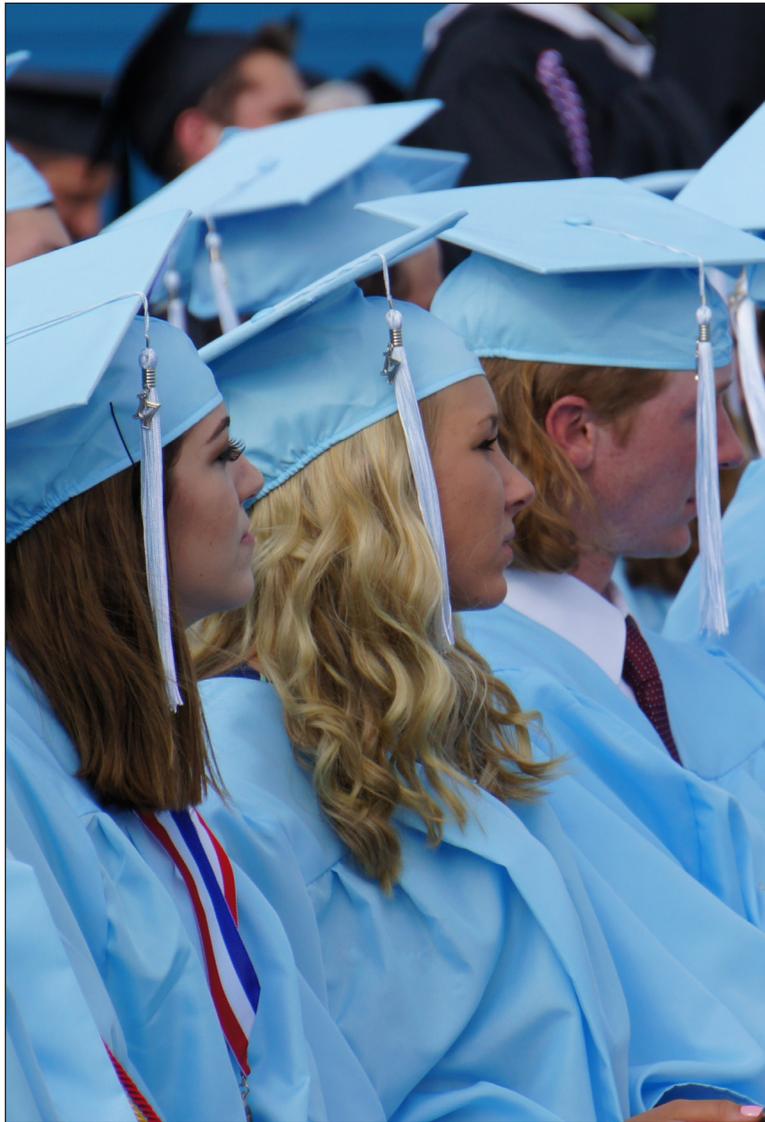
Catholic high schools set to graduate future saints

BY BETHANY BEEBE

Facing the future with both faith and excitement, 770 students are preparing to graduate in May and June from the four Catholic high schools of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Their respective Baccalaureate Masses and graduation ceremonies will be a time to reflect on the formation they have received from their priests, teachers, principals and coaches, as well as to set their intentions for a life of faith and service.

"The Catholic schools of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend have as our mission to offer both a superior academic education with practical application, and formation in their identity as children of God and the mission of Jesus Christ," said Associate Superintendent Amy Johns. "While parents are the primary educators of their children, we strive to assist them in their responsibility, sharing the teachings of the Catholic Church and providing role models for living a Catholic way of life.

"We're proud and excited for our graduates and for their families; for the legacy they leave at our Catholic high schools, and for the opportunities that lay before them. They're about to embark on a very exciting time in their lives."



File photo

Bishop Dwenger

Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne has a graduating class of 264 students. Its baccalaureate Mass will be at 5:30 p.m. May 22 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne with celebrant Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. A graduation ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. May 24 at the Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne.

The school valedictorian is Christopher Wilkins. He is a member of St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne. The salutatorian will be Tavehon McGarry, also of St. Jude Parish.

Bishop Luers

Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne has a graduating class of 129 students. Its baccalaureate Mass is scheduled for 10 a.m. May 24 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne. The celebrant will be Bishop Rhoades. A graduation ceremony will take place at 4 p.m. on May 24 at the University of Saint Francis Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center, Fort Wayne.

The school valedictorian is Joshua Dippold. He is a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne. The salutatorian will be Olivia Neher of St. John the

Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne.

Marian

Marian High School in Mishawaka is set to graduate a class of 160 students. Its baccalaureate Mass will be at 7 p.m. May 30 at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, with Bishop Rhoades celebrating. A graduation ceremony will begin 7 p.m. May 31 at the Morris Performing Arts Center, South Bend.

The school valedictorian will be Maggie Cook, the daughter of Tom and Kathy Cook of St. Matthew Cathedral Parish. Salutatorian will be Mackenzie Mencias, daughter of Drs. A.J. and Elizabeth Mencias, also of St. Matthew Cathedral.

Saint Joseph

Saint Joseph High School in South Bend is set to graduate 217 students. A baccalaureate Mass will take place at 2 p.m. on June 2 at St. Pius X Church in Granger, with Bishop Rhoades celebrating. The graduation ceremony will be at 2 p.m. June 3 at Purcell Pavilion in South Bend.

The school valedictorian is Tomás Aguilar-Fraga, a member of Holy Cross Parish, South Bend. The salutatorian will be Isabel Ortiz of St. Joseph Parish, South Bend.

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Ministry puts the poor on road to self-sufficiency

BY KEVIN KILBANE

Sometimes the difference between self-sufficiency and struggle can be reliable transportation.

The founders of AIM Services recognized this reality, and the nonprofit ministry based at St. Mary, Mother of God Church in Fort Wayne has been working since 2002 to provide low-cost, reliable vehicles to people and families in need.

"To me, it really is an extension of our faith," said Ken Yahne, AIM Services president. The ministry draws inspiration from the Gospels' "Good Samaritan" parable, he explained, and from Matthew 25, in which Jesus calls people to care for "the least of these;" those who are experiencing poverty and suffering.

AIM Services has helped 15-20 people a year, said Yahne, a retired Fort Wayne attorney. The buyers receive a no-interest loan from the ministry covering the cost of a vehicle and fees, and must pay \$50 per month — or a lesser amount if they can't afford that total — toward the cost of their vehicle.

Yahne sets the sale price at the market value of the vehicle for a private party sale, based on the vehicle's age, mileage and condition. Buyers typically pay from \$1,500 to \$2,500, he said.

The biggest challenge has been generating enough donations of well-maintained, older vehicles to meet the demand from eligible clients, he said. Donated vehicles can have minor problems that AIM Services will repair before selling the vehicle to a client.

"It's easy," Yahne said of vehicle donation. "All they have to do is make the decision."

He handles all paperwork, and donors receive a tax deduction equal to the market value of



Kevin Kilbane

Denise Andorfer, executive director of Vincent Village in Fort Wayne, and Ken Yahne, president of AIM Services, stand next to a car that AIM Services made available to a Vincent Village client. The AIM Services ministry works to provide low-cost, reliable vehicles to people in financial need.

the vehicle.

Owners typically don't receive full market value for a vehicle, he noted, if they trade it in at an auto dealership or donate it to other nonprofits; the latter of which must value the vehicle at the amount they receive from selling it at an auto auction.

Yahne works with local social service agencies, especially Vincent Village, to identify people in need of a vehicle. On a recent day, for example, six of the 10 families living in the Vincent House portion of Vincent Village didn't have transportation, said Denise Andorfer, the nonprofit organization's executive director.

Vincent Village helps homeless families learn to manage their finances and lives as they gradually move toward living on their own again.

Having reliable transportation

allows people to get to and from work without a vehicle breakdown and to pursue potentially higher-paying jobs located off local Citilink bus routes, Andorfer said. They also can participate in their children's school programs and events, attend church services and support group meetings, and connect with a support system of family or friends.

"My car was kind of falling apart. I was very scared to drive it," said Amber, a Vincent Village client and mother who now drives a reliable vehicle from AIM Services. "When I got the (AIM Services) car, it was a blessing. I was walking and people were taking me to work."

The \$50 per month payments have been very affordable, she said.

Vincent Village makes it easy for families by allowing them

to make AIM Services vehicle payments at the same time they make their payments for living in Vincent Village housing, Andorfer said. Her staff also screens the families who need a vehicle to make sure members have a valid driver's license and can afford to buy gasoline and vehicle insurance.

To assist additional clients with transportation, Vincent Village also started a Care Car program with funding help from the city of Fort Wayne, Andorfer said. A Care Car driver will take Vincent Village clients to medical and mental health appointments, job opportunities and child care providers.

Yahne said the AIM Services ministry can be replicated easily in other areas of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and he's willing to help groups get

How to help

The nonprofit AIM Services ministry seeks donations of well-maintained, older vehicles so they can be made available to people in need who lack transportation of their own. AIM Services will make minor repairs, if needed, before placing the vehicle with a client.

Donors will receive a tax deduction for the current, private-party sale value of the vehicle.

People who receive a vehicle through AIM Services buy the vehicle on a no-interest loan and normally must pay \$50 per month toward what they owe. AIM Services uses the loan payments to prepare other donated vehicles for use by additional clients.

To donate a vehicle, call Ken Yahne at 260-438-9216.

started. The need is great, and so is the program's impact.

"It's a life-changing event for one person," Yahne said. "You help one, and then you help two."

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Two nuggets for commencement season

It is commencement season, and I am collecting my thoughts for upcoming speeches. Because of space, let me share two of five nuggets harvested from experiences that span both professional setbacks and achievements as well as personal joys and losses.

First, it is good to make plans and set goals. Use these as markers for growth and for developing gifts, which are God-given.

Honor the goals with our best efforts and demonstrate that we can stand behind our priorities. If we do not respect ourselves, why would others? Having acknowledged the above, I also think it is very important to be open to surprises, detours and discoveries about ourselves.

Many young people and their parents agonize rather early, sometimes even in elementary school, over the distinguishing accomplishments needed for the best colleges, selection of the optimal majors, accessorizing with the right service engagements and eventually landing promising career starts.

Believe me, as someone who has spent most of her career in academia, such zeal and pre-occupations are overplayed, out of proportion and neither necessary nor sufficient.

Gut-wrenching rejection letters are exactly that: gut wrenching. But these are also growth triggers that help us develop resiliency, a new imagination about ourselves and what is out there, and a willingness to engage the unplanned.

We have to leave room for the Holy Spirit, to whom we can turn when the paths for our plans seem to come to an abrupt end. Many people would readily offer that their lives took off because of the unplanned directions, from push and pull, which eventually gave them deep satisfaction.

So make plans and honor them with commitment, but also know that in setbacks we encounter the invitation of the Holy Spirit who always leads us to something more deserving of our gifts and calling.

Second, holiness is lived out in relationships. Relationships ultimately define our character, treasures and salvation. God is in everyone, so the manner we relate to people is how we relate to God.

In our relationships, we build and demonstrate our integrity. It starts in daily instances of keeping promises. For many students, this requires honoring prior commitments when "something better" comes along, catching up when we say we will catch up, giving proper credit to others or doing our part in team projects with quality and punctual outputs.

C.S. Lewis reminds us that, short of the Eucharist, the holiest object we behold is the person next to us. When God promises that He would not leave us orphans, He sends us each other. It took me awhile to realize that we are God's answers to each other's prayer.

A friend who completed a successful career told me that in retirement she would like



CAROLYN WOO

OUR GLOBAL FAMILY

to work hard on her salvation. Later, she revised her goal by noting that it is not enough just to work on her own salvation, as we must work for everyone to get to heaven.

Franciscan Father Richard Rohr suggests that only in community can we bear the weight of God's glory and the burden of sin. He also makes it clear that if we are holy alone, we are not holy at all!

Friends and family are special gifts because of our intimacy with them and access to them. Their devotion is a glimpse of God's goodness and generosity, and a reminder of how we, with warts and failings, are loved beyond the futile attempts to be perfect or deserving.

Indeed, take a second look at each person you meet, as you are meeting God in person.

Carolyn Woo is the distinguished president's fellow for global development at Purdue University and served as the CEO and president of Catholic Relief Services from 2012 to 2016.

Sometimes you have to throw a 'Hail Mary'

Let me share the story of a special lady I had the honor of taking care of. Quite a few years ago, I met this woman when she was in her late 60s. She presented with unstable chest pain. She first began to have symptoms of chest pressure and tightness with activity. She also had difficulty carrying the groceries into her home and noticed chest pressure when climbing a flight of stairs.

By the time she saw me, she was having episodes of chest discomfort without even exerting. Her history alone told me she had a critical coronary lesion and we moved quickly to catheterization, which documented multiple severe blockages. The best treatment for this finding, at that time, was bypass surgery. She underwent a quadruple bypass.

She recovered very well, and I began to see her in the office once or twice per year in follow-up. She was always accompanied by one of her multiple daughters. She had lost her husband several years before her bypass surgery. She was a very happy lady, loved life, and I think it would be fair to describe her as gregarious. I would always leave the exam room with a smile on my face. She was a great pleasure to see, and her daughters were very much like her — always kidding around with lots of laughter.

About a dozen years after her bypass surgery, she presented to the hospital once again with similar symptoms of angina.



DR. DAVID KAMINSKAS

THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

Coronary arteriography showed us that two out of her four bypasses had closed and that she now had diffuse disease in her coronary arteries. This means there are multiple blockages throughout the heart arteries from beginning to end, with no good options for intervention such as stenting or repeat bypass surgery. She also had deterioration of her heart function, or what is termed an ischemic cardiomyopathy (reduced left ventricular function).

We were able to stabilize her by adding multiple antianginal medicines, and she was able to return home and enjoy life once again with some restrictions. I continued to enjoy our interactions in the office and always looked forward to seeing her again.

One morning while making hospital rounds, I was notified of her admission the previous night for a prolonged episode of angina. The very next night I was the cardiologist on call, and I was called "stat" to see her. She was having severe chest pain. She

KAMINSKAS, page 17

Jesus is still with us, caring for us



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Fourth Sunday of Easter John 10:27-30

The Acts of the Apostles supplies the first reading. It gives a glimpse into the *modus vivendi* of St. Paul as he moved across Asia Minor in his proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus.

Paul, evidently, first went to synagogues. It is not surprising. After all, he was of Jewish descent and background, and he was well-educated in the Jewish culture and religion of the time. He would have been comfortable among Jews, but also more likely to be heard when he spoke to them.

Even so, he obviously was

not always met by universal acceptance, although it would not be accurate to say that he attracted no converts from among the Jews whom he met. He drew many of them into the ranks of Christians, and he attracted Gentiles as well.

These details are only secondary to the story. The point of this reading is that the word of God, pronounced by Jesus, continued to be spoken and received long after the Ascension. It was proclaimed by an Apostle, whom Jesus personally had called, and by Barnabas, a disciple of this Apostle.

So, salvation continued through the Apostles. Jesus still spoke.

The Book of Revelation furnishes the next reading. It is very symbolic in its language, but its meaning is clear.

Among those saved by Jesus are people from every nation. Their number is great. They are baptized, wearing the white robes of baptism. Their sins have been washed away from Lord, precisely by the sacrificial blood shed by the Lord on Calvary. They carry the palm branches of

martyrs, as they have kept their faith despite persecution.

The Good Shepherd leads them. He rescues them from the heat of the day and the dryness of earthly life.

St. John's Gospel provides the last reading. This Gospel reading again presents Jesus as the Good Shepherd. For an audience overwhelmingly agrarian, as was the audience to which Jesus preached, imagery built on shepherding, sheep and shepherds was very familiar and instantly understood.

This reading states that the sheep know the shepherd. In turn, the shepherd knows them. It implies a relationship of closeness, total devotion and of trust. The readings say that this shepherd gives eternal life. Following the shepherd, the sheep will never perish.

No one can snatch them away from the shepherd. The shepherd will protect them from all predators, because the sheep belong to Him. It is the will of the Father.

In a great testament of self-identity, Jesus proclaims oneness with the Father.

This weekend, the Church calls us to celebrate the Resurrection once again. It begins the fourth week of proclaiming the excited news that it first pronounced at Easter. He lives.

Reflection

With the readings this weekend, and with those of the preceding weeks of Easter, the Church essentially makes two points.

The first point is that Jesus lives, literally, and the sublime act of Resurrection gives us evidence that Jesus is God, the Son of God, the eternal Father. As risen, Jesus is totally unique among humans. As God, Jesus is the bearer of life, truth, peace and joy. There is no substitute for the Lord.

The second point, made this weekend and in past weeks, is that the word of Jesus, and the salvation given by Jesus, continue. They did not cease with the Ascension. Jesus lived in the preaching and the good works of the Apostles and lives in their followers and successors.

As an example, through Paul, and then through Barnabas, Jesus touched people needing hope and salvation, needing to know God.

By emphasizing these points, the Church presents us with its basic belief, Jesus is God. In Jesus are truth and life. The Church reassures us that Jesus is with us still.

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 13:14, 43-52 Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5 Rv 7:9, 14b-17 Jn 10:27-30

Monday: Acts 11:1-18 Ps 42:2-3, 43:3-4 Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26 Ps 113:1-8 Jn 15:9-17

Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8 Jn 12:44-50

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25 Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27 Jn 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33 Ps 2:6-11b Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 14:7-14

KAMINSKAS, from page 16

was pale, sweating profusely and looked awful. Her blood pressure was critically low. An EKG showed a heart attack. She was in cardiogenic shock, and it looked to me like she would likely not survive the night.

I was surprised that despite her low blood pressure she continued to be coherent and able to talk with me and participate in the decision process. I knew that taking her to the catheterization lab would be of marginal benefit, since she had the diffuse blockages that I probably could not fix.

I remember kneeling at her bedside to be eye to eye with her. I told her we were in big trouble and admitted I didn't have good options. I asked her if she was ready to meet the Lord, and in typical fashion for this lady she gave me a quick definitive answer: "No."

I did have one long shot, a "Hail Mary" idea. The very last thing that happens when people have an acute myocardial infarction is that a clot forms at the sight of a severe cholesterol blockage. If I gave her a strong clot buster and opened the artery up, we might be able to restore blood flow and save enough heart muscle that she might survive.

I explained the risks and benefits of giving tissue plasminogen activator to her. The most feared complication is that a small percentage of people receiving this have a fatal brain hemorrhage. In her case, her cardiac mortality was so high it made every sense to give it a try despite this risk. She quickly gave me permission to give the intravenous tPA. It was about 4:30 a.m., and I was exhausted from being up all night, so I went to lay down in one of the call rooms as the medicine was being dripped into her IV. I woke up startled at 6:30 a.m. with the phone ringing just inches from my head. The nurse who had

cared for her the rest of the night wanted to know if she could have breakfast.

I thought that was somewhat of an odd question for a lady who was near death when I left her bedside just a few hours ago. I immediately asked about her vital signs and clinical status. The nurse told me that after about 90 minutes of the tPA infusion, her chest pain went away and her blood pressure began to rise. It had now normalized. She was actually hungry. Praise the Lord! It was not her time.

This lady went on to live another year, giving her family more precious memories: But it was during her very last hospitalization that something happened I can never forget.

She was admitted with severe congestive heart failure and hypotension (low blood pressure). I put her on a continuous drip of IV medicine to help her heart and support her blood pressure. Over the next two weeks we tried on multiple occasions to wean the drip off only to see her blood pressure fall again to levels that could not sustain life. She was dependent on this medicine that only came in IV form to keep her alive. Finally, I asked all her family members to meet me in the early morning hours on my rounds to discuss the situation.

I told this wonderful lady and her family we were out of options, and that my recommendation was to wean the drip off and accept the consequences — which meant almost-certain death. The patient knew her time had come, and the family was very accepting as well. We turned the drip off and her blood pressure began to fall. Her daughters asked me how long she might last.

I always try not to give a specific answer, since even with years of experience, physicians can only offer an educated guess. The daughters continued to press me for a more specific

answer, and I reluctantly succumbed and told them that most people would likely only last a few hours with blood pressure this low.

I had to drive to an out-of-town clinic that day. As I saw patients, I kept wondering why I had not received a call from the nursing staff reporting her death. I drove home well into the evening, and that night I called the unit to check on her. I believed she had likely died, and the nurse had forgotten to call or maybe informed one of my partners who was on call. I soon found out that she was still alive. I decided I could not go home without visiting her and her family one more time.

I found her hospital room full of family and close friends. She had not moved or said anything to her loved ones for the last hour. Her oldest daughter then told me that they had prayed all day that God would take her. They believed her mom would just not let go and give up her spirit. I went over to her bedside and while holding her hand whispered in her ear that all her family was right there with her and that God was ready for her. I hugged her daughters and walked to the nursing station to write a short progress note. In less than a minute, her nurse came running down the hall to tell me that her heart stopped and that she had passed.

I found myself thinking about what had just transpired for many weeks to come. I could only go to Scripture to make any sense of it: Mark 13:38. "As to the exact day or hour, no one knows it, neither the angels in heaven nor even the Son, but only the Father."

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

Saint of the Week

Pancras

died circa 304
Feast May 12



According to an early legend, the Roman martyr Pancras was a native of Syria or Phrygia (now Turkey) brought to Rome by an uncle after he was orphaned. They converted to Christianity there and were martyred during the persecution of Emperor Diocletian. Pancras reportedly was only 14, the likely reason for his being a patron saint of children. A strong cult of Pancras developed in Rome and in England from the time of St. Augustine of Canterbury, who dedicated a church to him around 600. Pancras is also mentioned in St. Bede's martyrology and in most medieval English calendars, and the famous north London train station takes its name from an ancient church there dedicated to St. Pancras.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Scriptures for May 12, 2019

Acts 13: 14, 43-52 and John 10:27-30

Following is a word search based on the First Reading and Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Cycle C: the early days of being a disciple. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

GRACE	SABBATH	GATHERED
CROWDS	NECESSARY	SPOKEN
REJECT IT	UNWORTHY	A LIGHT
EARTH	DESTINED	ETERNAL
WOMEN	STIRRED UP	DUST
PROTEST	SHEEP	KNOW
FOLLOW ME	PERISH	GREATER

DESTINED

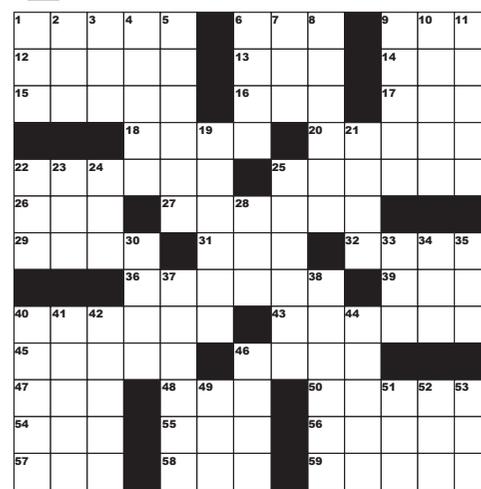
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F K W L D E N I T S E D
W O J Y H T R O W N U E
T O L H T A B B A S O R
S D N L A N R E T E P E
E N E K O P S I H G U H
T N A N A W T L G J D T
O A Y L I C M N I H E A
R E T A E R G E L S R G
P F M J O O C M A I R M
S H E E P W C O H R I M
G R A C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

May 5 and 12, 2019



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Readings: Acts 5: 27-32; 40b-41; Rev 5:11-14; Jn 21:1-19 and Acts 13: 14, 43-52; Rev 7: 9, 14b-17; Jn 10:27-30

ACROSS

- 1 Divine Comedy has 100 of these
- 6 Short-term memory
- 9 Droop
- 12 King Saul's uncle
- 13 Men's neckwear
- 14 Unwell
- 15 Jesus had this ready for breakfast
- 16 Rosary month
- 17 Cow sound
- 18 Flow out slowly
- 20 House coverings
- 22 The "Living Creatures & (these)"

25 Nephilim

- 26 "Under the earth and in the _"
- 27 Singe
- 29 Musical repeat
- 31 Bullfight cheer
- 32 Mormon state
- 36 Israel's river
- 39 "Until the end of the _"
- 40 "_ from me, Satan"
- 43 Jesus is "leader & _"
- 45 Deflect
- 46 Misprint
- 47 Neither's partner
- 48 Sin
- 50 Slice

- 54 Dekagram (abbr.)
- 55 "To the right!"
- 56 Acclaim
- 57 Congressional vote
- 58 ___ Maria
- 59 Greek 'D'

DOWN

- 1 Taxi
- 2 Reduced (abbr.)
- 3 Compass point
- 4 Frustrate
- 5 "Strict ___"
- 6 "___ teaching in that name"
- 7 Twitching
- 8 System of measurement
- 9 Peter's name
- 10 In the air
- 11 Polish
- 19 Convoy
- 21 Hawaiian island
- 22 Escudo
- 23 Popular Pope name
- 24 Father
- 25 Oily
- 28 "When you are ___"
- 30 Open
- 33 Thai
- 34 Gone by
- 35 Possessive pronoun
- 37 St. Juan de ___
- 38 Dozed
- 40 Fop
- 41 Bring to mind
- 42 In Pamphylia
- 44 "My sheep hear my ___"
- 46 "...hanging him on a ___"
- 49 Pastor (abbr.)
- 51 Annex
- 52 Tabby
- 53 Arrival

Answer Key can be found on page 19

Jockey's Catholic faith 'means everything to me'

BY JESSICA ABLE

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (CNS) Jockey Mike Smith, a Catholic who rode Justify last year to a Triple Crown victory, prays before every race, but he doesn't pray to win.

The 145th Run for the Roses on May 4, when he tried for his third Kentucky Derby win, was no different.

"It can be a dangerous sport. I don't pray to win, I just pray for safety," Smith said during a phone interview two days after riding Omaha Beach to victory in the April 13 Arkansas Derby.

Initially, he was set to ride Omaha Beach, a colt favored to win with 4-1 odds in the derby, but the horse was scratched from the race May 1 due to a respiratory condition. On May 3, it was announced that Smith would be in the Kentucky Derby after all, riding Cutting Humor, a 30-1 long shot, replacing the original jockey.

The Hall of Fame jockey credits his faith in God and hard work for his successes.

"My faith is my life, not a part of my life. Everything else is a part of it, except that," he told *The Record*, archdiocesan newspaper of Louisville.

He said he doesn't like to get the day started without prayer and that he also prays all day for whatever crosses his mind.

"It's funny, it's always been that way. I remember praying when I was in school, sometimes praying that I wouldn't get in trouble," he said with a laugh.

Ahead of the glitz and glamor of Louisville's most famous week, Smith headlined the Race for Grace charity dinner April 29 at Churchill Downs, Kentucky Derby's racetrack.



CNS photo/Benoit photo
Jockey Mike Smith celebrates after winning the Grade I, \$250,000 Santa Anita Sprint Championship aboard Points Offthebench, Oct. 5, 2013, at Santa Anita Park in Arcadia, Calif.

Funds raised at the event, hosted by the Kentucky Race Track Chaplaincy, support the men and women who work on the backside of racetracks in Kentucky, including Churchill Downs.

Smith said he has a great deal of respect for the work of the chaplaincy to support track workers.

The jockey was born and raised on his family's ranch in New Mexico and knew from a young age his future would center on horses.

"As far back as I can remember, I always had a horse. While other kids got bikes, where I'm from, everyone got a horse," he said.

His parents and grandparents were the first teachers of his faith, he noted. His grandmother, Rosita Vallejos, in particular,



CNS photo/Brian Spurlock-USA TODAY Sports via Reuters
Smith, aboard McKinzie (6), runs down the front stretch during the 35th Breeders Cup world championships at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky., Nov 3. Smith, a Catholic who placed 10th in the Kentucky Derby May 4, prays before every race, but he doesn't pray to win.

instilled in him a love for the Catholic faith.

"She, without a doubt, was the strongest influence on my faith. She prayed with me before bed when I was little. She taught me prayers in English and Spanish," he recalled.

"My faith means everything to me. I would not have anything if I didn't have it," he said. "Life wouldn't be worth living without my faith."

The jockey said he believes "we are put here to do the great things the Lord wants us to do -- to help others if we can, be there for people, love people, to be

humble, gracious, kind, considerate, caring."

His racing pedigree is well known to those who follow horse racing. He began racing in the early 1980 and was inducted into the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in 2003.

In 2005, he rode long-shot Giacomo to victory in the Kentucky Derby. And in 2018, when he rode Justify at age 52 to a Triple Crown, he became the oldest jockey to win the title.

When he's at home in Southern California, he attends St. Rita Church in Sierra Madre,

where he has been a parishioner for about 15 years.

And with all his successes in horse racing, he said, he's still not done.

"It's who I am. There's nothing like it," he said, adding that nothing compares to the "thrill of riding an amazing athlete like a horse, especially when you are crossing the wire."

"I don't want to give it up, not yet anyway," he said.

Jessica Able is on the staff of The Record, archdiocesan newspaper of Louisville.

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

Mount Calvary Cemetery open house
LAKEVILLE — Mount Calvary Catholic Cemetery is holding an open house on Sunday, May 19, from 9 to 11 a.m., at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church at Lakeville, 63568 Old U.S. 31 South. View the peaceful country setting of the cemetery, the columbarium and an open niche. Information and representatives will be available. Contact Mary Krisch 574-291-0570 for information.

A Little Taste of Italy
YODER — St. Aloysius Catholic School, 14623 Bluffton Rd., will host a fundraiser luncheon on Sunday, May 19, at noon, with

silent auction and food by the Italian Connection. Pre-sale tickets for adults are \$18 and child tickets are \$5. Proceeds will benefit technology at St. Aloysius. Contact Tina Voors 260-622-7151.

Most Precious Blood to celebrate FunFest
FORT WAYNE — FunFest 2019 at Most Precious Blood Church will begin Friday May 31, with dinner served from 5-8 p.m.; Karaoke from 5-7 p.m. and music by Randara from 7-10 p.m. On Saturday, June 1, lunch and a family carnival will include games, corn hole and Bingo. A silent auction and dinner featuring fish and tenderloin

sandwiches will be from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Live music by the Fort Wayne Funk Orchestra will be from 8-11 p.m.

The Crossword

May 5 and 12, 2019

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

REST IN PEACE

Decatur
Carolyn A. Wemhoff, 86, St. Mary of the Assumption

R. Paul Loshe, 82, St. Mary of the Assumption

Fort Wayne
Beverly A. Giant, 86, St. Therese

Gerald L. Loyd, 90, St. Therese

Richard Henry Berghoff, 95, St. Mary, Mother of God

Mary Jane Oakes, 99, St. Mary, Mother of God

Peter Fisher, 67, St Vincent de Paul

Mildred Maxine Roussey, 98, St. Therese

Theresa A. Bireley, 93, St. Therese

Mishawaka
Louis Toth, 91, Queen of Peace

South Bend
Mary Ann Cira, Cathedral of St. Matthew

Lorraine A. Pace, 91, Holy Family

Wabash
Regina Bussert, 80, St. Bernard

St. Mary-of-the-Woods
Sister Mary Jo Stewart, 91, Church of the Immaculate Conception. Sister served at St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne.

Sister Marie Anita Leahy, 84, Church of the Immaculate Conception. Sister served at Central Catholic High School, Fort Wayne.

Visit www.todayscatholic.org/event for the complete calendar.



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Church across street from Charlotte campus shooting prays for peace

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (CNS) — People gathered to pray at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte the day after a student opened fire April 30 in a classroom at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, which killed two people and wounded four others.

"Our hearts are broken, and our security shaken," said Father Patrick Winslow, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Church during the May 1 daily Mass about the shooting that took place at the campus just across the street.

The Catholic parish of 2,300 families serves the university's student population through the Catholic campus ministry office of the Charlotte Diocese.

"In moments such as these, we feel helpless," Father Winslow said. "I encourage you to cling to your faith and to one another. In faith, we know that our Blessed Lord, who was himself unjustly slain and whose security was often threatened, is close to us and that in the end, God will make right these wrongs."

Trystan Andrew Terrell, 22, a University of North Carolina-Charlotte student, was arrested April 30 and charged with two counts of murder, four counts of assault with a deadly weapon and charges related to shooting a gun on a school campus.

The two North Carolina students killed in the shooting were Riley Howell, 21, of Waynesville, and Reed Parlier, 19, of Midland. Three of the four who were injured remained hospitalized in critical condition the day after the shooting.

"This is the saddest day in UNC-Charlotte's history," Philip Dubois, the university's chancellor, said in an April 30 statement. "The entire UNC-Charlotte community shares the shock and grief of this senseless, devastating act."

The day the shooting took place was the students' last day of classes. The campus was on lockdown for 12 hours.

The pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas also addressed the shooting at a special prayer service the afternoon of May 1, telling those in attendance how after Christ's resurrection, his first words to the frightened apostles were: "Peace be with you."

"This afternoon we too are huddled together with some fear and confusion, and like the apostles, we listen to hear the same words spoken to us, echoing throughout history with the force of the Spirit: 'Peace be with you.'"

He stressed that people are praying for peace for the souls of the students who were killed, for peace and healing for the four

injured students and peace for their families and friends.

"We also pray that those in our community in the University City area and national leaders find some way to prevent these occurrences into the future," he said.

"We want to live peaceful lives," he added.

Father Winslow said that in the face of tragedies, "we realize quickly we have nothing to console us apart from our faith and one another. Cling to both, for the Lord God is the one who can provide us peace. And each one of us can help one another feel and find consolation in this moment."

Father Innocent Amasiorah, the campus minister at University of North Carolina-Charlotte, had already left the campus when the shooting began and only learned about what was happening when he started seeing messages from the students telling him: "I'm OK."

He offered them messages of comfort while they were on lockdown inside campus buildings and then joined some of them in the area where they were evacuated.

"This is something that people can't imagine," he said. "These tragedies unfortunately do occur around us. We can comfort one another, share in each other's pain at this time. We are strongly united in comforting each other," he said.

Father Amasiorah planned to gather with students on campus May 1 to pray the rosary prior to the prayer service at St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

He said since April 30 was the last day of classes, the next day "should be the first day of joy. Instead, it's a day of anxiety and fear." He hoped gathering in prayer and allowing the students to share their feelings would help ease the tension and allow for healing.

A candlelight vigil was also held on campus the evening of May 1. St. Thomas Aquinas Church donated more than 1,700 candles for the vigil in memory of the students injured and killed in the shooting.

Written by staff members of Catholic News Herald, diocesan newspaper of Charlotte.



CNS photo/SueAnn Howell, Catholic News Herald

Father Patrick Winslow, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte, N.C., leads a prayer service May 1 for the victims of an April 30 shooting on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte that killed two students and wounded four others. The church is located across the street from the campus. Many students attend Mass there and the Catholic Campus Ministry program is based there.

EXECUTION, from page 4

Johnson acknowledges his horrible crime of 35 years ago and accepts responsibility for that action, but does not deserve to die because of it, Deacon Booth said.

Catholic teaching opposes capital punishment in all instances and Johnson's case is an example of the transformation and redemption that's possible in prison. "Considering where he came from, how he was raised, and his own crime, the distance from where he was then to where he is now is astronomical," Deacon Booth said.

Last August, Pope Francis ordered a revision of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which now says that "the church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that 'the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person,' and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide."

The Tennessee bishops' letter to Lee said: "Rather than serving as a path to justice, the death penalty contributes to the growing disrespect for human life and continues a cycle of violence in

society. Even when guilt is certain, the execution is not necessary to protect society."

Deacon Booth said he feels Johnson "has a very strong case for clemency," especially with Vaughn supporting the effort.

"She's the one who has lost the most because of her father's crime," he said, "and she has forgiven him."

Laurence is a reporter for the Tennessee Register, newspaper of the Diocese of Nashville.



CNS photo/Rick Musacchio, Tennessee Register

Bishop J. Mark Spalding of Nashville, Tenn., joined by Brian Cooper, Chief Administrative Officer and Vice Chancellor of the Diocese of Nashville, right, talks with Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee in his office at the Tennessee State Capitol in Nashville as Bishop Richard Stika and members of the Diocese of Knoxville look on. The bishops discussed the education savings account bill, which was passed by both the House of Representatives and Senate on Wednesday, May 1, as well as abortion legislation and pending executions in the state.