Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has announced the appointment of Fort Wayne native Jennifer Simerman as the new Secretary for Communications for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Simerman’s responsibilities include marketing and communication activities for the diocese, business management of Today’s Catholic, coordination of the weekly TV Mass and management of 7th Floor Productions. She began her duties May 28.

In 2001, Simerman obtained a bachelor’s degree in communication from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne with a concentration in interpersonal communication and a Spanish minor. She has more than 15 years of experience in the fields of marketing, communications, multimedia and public relations for both for-profit and nonprofit organizations. Most recently, she was the marketing director for a civil engineering firm with four office locations serving communities across the state of Indiana.

Additional previous employment expertise includes strategic planning and execution, grant and proposal writing, mission development, special event planning and fundraising for organizations such as the Franciscan Center in Fort Wayne and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Indiana. Simerman is currently a member of the Society for Marketing Professional Services.

A lifelong Catholic, Simerman is formerly a freelance writer for Today’s Catholic newspaper. She graduated from Bishop Luers High School, at which she continues to volunteer, and is active at her family’s parish of St. Aloysius, Yoder.

Outside of work, she and her husband, Eric, keep busy with...
Bishops’ actions at spring meeting called a ‘work in progress’

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The gathering of U.S. bishops June 11-13 in Baltimore was anything but business as usual.

“The spring meetings are usually more pastoral, and the November meeting has a heavier agenda,” said Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, who said this meeting had a “sense of urgency” and momentum to it, both in the smaller group gatherings and when the bishops were all together.

“We were here for specific task ... and by God’s grace we will move forward,” he said during a June 12 news conference.

The bishops typically meet twice a year as a body. The spring meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is usually in June at different locations each year, and sometimes it is a retreat last year. The fall meeting in recent years has always been in Baltimore. This year’s spring meeting was switched somewhat last minute to the Baltimore location, where the bishops were not the only ones in the hotel space but were adjacent to other conference gatherings.

The other time a spring bishops’ meeting was almost entirely devoted to the Church crisis was the 2002 meeting in Dallas, just months after the Church was reeling from a clergy sexual abuse crisis that made headlines in The Boston Globe.

But what that meeting focused on misconduct by priests, this year’s meeting looked at responding to the misconduct of some bishops and the failure of some bishops to properly address abuse.

Since their two general assemblies last year, the bishops have been confronted with an overwhelming need to prove to U.S. Catholics that abuse within their own ranks won’t be tolerated. They were hit with allegations last summer that one of their own, former Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, had committed abuses over decades.

Then just a week before the spring meeting, details emerged from the Vatican-ordered investigation of retired Bishop Michael J. Branfield of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia, highlighting financial and sexual improprieties.

Names of both bishops came up during the assembly at different points, when the bishops spoke about protocols to put in place to make sure these incidents wouldn’t happen again.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, opened the meeting June 11 by saying: “We begin the sacred work this week of purging the evil of sexual abuse from our Church.”

But just the week before, he had faced his own accusation, which he strongly denied, of having mishandled an accusation of sexual misconduct case against his former vicar general.

The bishops also had the weight of unfinished business upon them in this spring’s gathering: policies and procedures in response to the abuse crisis that they had put aside at last year’s fall general assembly at the Vatican’s request. They also had a new, but related, item: their plan to implement Pope Francis’ norms issued May 9 to help the Church safeguard its members from abuse and hold its leaders accountable.

Although the bishops passed all the abuse measures before them, none of them said these actions would hit the reset button for the Church. In closing remarks, Cardinal DiNardo acknowledged that the steps they had taken were “work in progress.”

They voted to implement the norms contained in the pope’s “motu proprio” on responding to sexual abuse in the Church, and they also approved all of their own measures — including a promise to hold themselves accountable to the commitment of their “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People,” including a zero-tolerance policy for abuse.

“We, the bishops of the U.S., have heard the anger expressed by so many within and outside the church over these failures,” that document said, adding: “The anger is justified; it has humbled us, prompting us into self-examination, repentance and a desire to do better, much better. We will continue to listen.”

In other votes, the bishops approved actions they can take when a retired bishop resigns or is removed “due to sexual misconduct with adults or grave negligence of office, or where subsequent to his resignation he was found to have so acted or failed to act.” They also approved the implementation of an independent third-party system that would allow people to make confidential reports of abuse complaints against bishops through a toll-free number and online.

“That’s right we give attention to this,” Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, said at the closing news conference. He said the collateral damage from the Church abuse scandal is how it “is costing people their faith.”

He also stressed that the possibility of “proceeding with what we passed today” without laypeople would be impossible and “highly irresponsible.”

Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, speaks on the first day of the spring general assembly of the USCCB in Baltimore June 11.

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Gender ideology is opposed to faith, reason, Vatican office says

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholic schools must help parents teach young people that biological sex and gender are naturally fixed at birth and part of God’s plan for creation, said the Congregation for Catholic Education.

In a document published June 10, the congregation said the Catholic Church and those proposing a looser definition of gender can find common ground in “a laudable desire to combat all expressions of unjust discrimination,” in educating children to respect all people “in their peculiarity and difference,” in respecting the “equal dignity of men and women” and in promoting respect for “the values of femininity.”

And while great care must be taken to respect and provide care for persons who “live situations of sexual indeterminacy,” those who teach in the name of the Catholic Church must help young people understand that being created male and masculine or female and feminine is part of God’s plan for them.

The document, “Male and Female He Created Them: Toward a Path of Dialogue on the Question of Gender Theory in Education,” was signed by Cardinal Giuseppe Versaldi, prefect of the education congregation, and Archbishop Angelo Zani, congregation secretary.

The document recognized a distinction between “the ideology of gender,” which it said tries to present its theories as “absolute and unquestionable,” and the whole field of scientific research on gender, which attempts to understand the ways sexual difference is lived out in different cultures.

While claiming to promote individual freedom and respect for the rights of each person, the document said, those who see gender as a personal choice or discovery unconnected to biological sex are, in fact, promoting a vision of the human person that is “opposed to faith and right reason.”

“The Christian vision of anthropology sees sexuality as a fundamental component of one’s personhood,” the document said. “It is one of its modes of being, of manifesting itself, communicating with others, and of feeling, expressing and living human love.”

The document insisted that modern gender ideology and the idea that one chooses or discovers his or her gender go against nature by arguing that “the only thing that matters in personal relationships is the affection between the individuals involved, irrespective of sexual difference or procreation, which would be seen as irrelevant in the formation of families.”

The theories, it said, deny “the reciprocity and complementarity of male-female relations” as well as “the procreative end of sexuality.”

“This has led to calls for public recognition of the right to choose one’s gender, and of a plurality of new types of unions, in direct contradiction of the model of marriage as being between one man and one woman, which is portrayed as a vestige of patriarchal societies,” it said.

When the “physiological complementarity of male-female sexual difference” is removed, it said, procreation is no longer a natural process. Instead, recourse must be taken to in vitro fertilization or surrogacy with the risk of “the reduction of the baby to an object in the hands of science and technology.”

The education congregation insisted that “Catholic educators need to be sufficiently prepared regarding the intricacies of the various questions that gender theory brings up and be fully informed about both current and proposed legislation in their respective jurisdictions, aided by persons who are qualified in this area, in a way that is balanced and dialogue-orientated.”

SIMERMAN, from page 1

their children Cecilia, Paul, James and Charles; and with their large extended families, which include upwards of 100 first cousins just on Eric’s side, Simerman said.

Their family time consists watching movies, spending time at the lake, gardening, crafts, listening to or playing music, or just hanging out in their candlelit backyard.

While she said she never imagined herself an “outdoor girl,” moving to the country after marrying her high school sweetheart helped her to see the beauty of God’s handiwork in nature. “There’s nothing quite like a quiet summer evening, sitting on your front porch and watching the sunset above an Indiana cornfield,” she said.

Nowadays, when she has a moment’s break from being her kids’ chauffeur, she might even be found fishing with her boys although her husband still has to bait the hook, she said or enjoying a bonfire in the backyard.

Simerman said she feels “blessed to be a part of an amazing communications team whose commitment and love for their faith shines through their daily interactions and creative process.” “Every person I’ve met at my new office home has welcomed me with open arms. I couldn’t be more excited for this opportunity to grow in my own faith and make a positive impact evangelizing for the Church.”

“Even as a young child, I often wondered if I was being called to religious life,” Simerman continued. “After learning my true calling to be a wife and mother, the greatest gift and privilege of my life, I could have never imagined the complex way in which God was working to shape me in preparation for the next step. Over the past 20 years, I’ve been walking along two paths simultaneously, learning and growing in both. The first path, my faith and family, and the second path, my career, are now converging and showing me God’s purpose for me all along. I am thrilled at the opportunity to serve as a source and facilitator for communication between diocesan staff, our parishes, schools, ministries and the general community.”

Wednesday, June 26: 12 p.m. — Meeting of Board of Directors of Catholic Community Foundation, St. Martin de Porres Church, Syracuse

Wednesday, June 26: 5 p.m. — Mass and Dinner for Reunion of Pilgrims to Panama World Youth Day, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw

Thursday, June 27: 10:30 a.m. — Meeting of Presbyteral Council, Sacred Heart Rectory, Warsaw

Friday, June 28: 5:30 p.m. — Mass, Spiritual Center Chapel, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne

Saturday, June 29: 10 a.m. — Mass with Dedication of New Altar, SS. Peter and Paul Church, Huntington

Sunday, June 30: 10:30 a.m. — Mass, St. Robert Bellarmine Church, North Manchester

Tuesday, July 2: 6 p.m. — Priest and Religious Appreciation Dinner with Knights of Columbus, Parkview Mirro Center, Fort Wayne

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishop's Committee for Religious Liberty, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, encourages Catholics to pray and act in support of religious liberty at home and abroad during Religious Freedom Week 2019, which begins on June 22, the feast of St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher, and ends on June 29, the solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul. The theme for this year, Strength in Hope, is taken from the Second Vatican Council’s Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity: “Among the trials of this life they find strength in hope, convinced that the sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory to come that will be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:18) (Apostolicam Actuositatem, 4).

Archbishop Kurtz stated: “Catholics face challenges both in our current political climate of polarization and within the Church. Christian child welfare institutions and Catholics in public life are encountering significant obstacles to their work, while our brothers and sisters in places like Nigeria suffer violent persecution. We want to build solidarity and to encourage Catholics to persist in the struggle to advance the kingdom of God by finding hope in Jesus Christ.”
Spanish-speaking church members and choir members from around the diocese gathered at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Goshen Saturday, June 15, for a daylong workshop taught by Oregon Catholic Press Institute members. OCP is a publisher of Catholic liturgical music, songbooks and CDs in several languages, including Spanish.

The day’s schedule consisted of individual breakout sessions, with Estela Garcia-Lopez working on vocal techniques with the women, Pedro Rubalcava working on vocal techniques with the men, and Santiago Fernandez working with instrumentalists.

The first keynote talk, by Fernandez, was based on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishop’s letter, “Sing to the Lord.” It touched on defining the role of the liturgist and how to choose songs. It explained that a song sung during distribution of the Eucharist would not be the same as a song appropriate for adoration, according to Esther Terry, director for Hispanic Ministry and Special Projects for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and Lourdes De Silva, associate director for Hispanic Ministry and Adult Faith Formation.

Terry read a letter from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, sending his regrets for not being present but thanking attendees for their commitment to their music ministry in the diocese.

He acknowledged the great commitment it takes to serve in liturgical ministry each week and help animate those present to participate fully in the Mass. He encouraged the workshop participants to continue to develop the talents God gave them, to see joy in the Mass and to allow Jesus to hold a special place in their lives and in the music ministry in which they’re involved. He also cited St. John the Baptist, who said, “He must become greater, I must become less.” (John 2:3)

The bishop’s letter also stated that it was his desire on this day that “this occasion will serve to reconnect you to Jesus, to hear His call and that the love of God grows in your heart.”

Members from several parishes with Spanish-language liturgies attended the event, including men and women from St. Casimir and St. Adalbert parishes, South Bend; St. Dominic, Bremen; Immaculate Conception, Kendallville; St. John the Evangelist, Goshen; St. Joseph, Fort Wayne; St. Michael, Plymouth; Our Lady of Guadalupe, Warsaw; St. Patrick, Fort Wayne; St. Patrick, Ligonier; and St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart.

Paul Van Leeuwen and his wife, Karen, are parishioners of St. Joseph, Fort Wayne, where Paul is an organist and guitarist for English and Spanish Masses. Paul had “struggled to find the right kind of ways to disseminate materials,” he said. “I’m grateful to the diocese for providing this kind of resource.”

Karen appreciated the formation, and “learning about the actual document as to how and why we put the effort into music.” She added that it helped to understand songs through the structure of the Mass, and what is appropriate to a particular Mass and a particular parish.

Tenth-grade student Sammichita Paul, Elkhart.

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Tenth-grade student

Reyes De Lira, choir director at St. Patrick Parish, Ligonier, said the workshop “helped a lot — especially in the way to manage songs in the Mass and to see the mistakes I was making.” He added that it helped him know how to discern the appropriate songs needed for different parts of the Mass.

Yarel Nopal, of St. John the Evangelist Parish, assisted with organization the event. “Everybody’s joyful to be here — it’s a great experience,” she said during the afternoon.

The schedule for the day wound up with a keynote talk by Rubalcava, in which he reviewed three basic principles of liturgical music. 1) Music is placed at the service of the liturgy. 2) The musician is at the service of the community of which he forms a part. 3) Music accompanies the rites of the liturgy.

“Therefore, sacred music is to be considered the most holy, inasmuch as it is closely connected with liturgical action,” Rubalcava said.

He stated in his presentation that the Church approves all forms of true art having the needed qualities, and admits them into divine worship “whether it adds delight to people, fosters unity of minds or confers greater solemnity upon the sacred rites.”

He advised that in choosing the pieces and parts to be sung, preference should be given to those that are of greater importance: and especially to those sung by the priest or deacon, with the people responding, or by the priest and people together. Because musicians serve the community of worshippers also, he advised keeping in mind that people are more comfortable with a regular selection of songs or repetitive verses.

“Singing is one of the primary ways the assembly of faithful participates,” he told the audience. “Music does what words alone cannot — it is capable of expressing dimensions of meaning and feeling words alone cannot.”

He also reiterated one of the overarching messages of the workshop: that “liturgical musicians are, first of all, disciples.”

Spanish-language liturgical music ministers, presenters from Oregon Catholic Press and diocesan staff members gathered at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Goshen June 15 for formation and training.

Estela Garcia-Lopez of Oregon Catholic Press demonstrates to Letty Lopez of St. Patrick Parish in Ligonier how to sing and breathe from the diaphragm during a breakout session with female parish vocalists in which she taught vocal and breathing techniques.

Santiago Fernandez of Oregon Catholic Press conducts a breakout session with instrumentalists at the workshop held June 15 at St. John the Evangelist in Goshen.
Pope advances sainthood causes for U.S. priest, Spanish martyrs

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis advanced the sainthood cause of Father Augustus Tolton, who was the first African American diocesan priest in the United States and founder of the first black Catholic parish in Chicago.

Signing decrees issued by the Congregation for Saints’ Causes June 11, Pope Francis also formally recognized the martyrdom of three Catholic laywomen who were nurses for the Red Cross and were killed during the 1936-39 Spanish Civil War.

The decree for Father Tolton’s cause recognizes that he lived a life of heroic virtue.

Father Tolton had been born into slavery in 1854 on a plantation near Brush Creek, Missouri. After his father left to try to join the Union Army during the Civil War, his mother fled with her three children by rowing them across the Mississippi River and settling in Quincy in the free state of Illinois.

There, he was encouraged to discern his vocation to the priesthood by the Franciscan priests who taught him at St. Francis College, now Quincy University. However, he was denied access to seminaries in the United States after repeated requests, so he pursued his education in Rome at what is now the Pontifical Urbanian University.

He was ordained for the Propaganda Fidei Congregation in 1886, expecting to become a missionary in Africa. Instead, he was sent to be a missionary in his own country and returned to Quincy, where he served for three years before going to the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1889.

Despite rampant racism and discrimination, he became one of the city’s most popular pastors, attracting members of both white and black Catholic communities. He spearheaded the building of St. Monica Church for black Catholics and worked tirelessly for his congregation in Chicago, even to the point of exhaustion. On July 9, 1897, he died of heatstroke on a Chicago street at the age of 43.

He was known for persevering against all odds in pursuit of his calling and quietly devoted himself to his people, despite great difficulties and setbacks.

Pope Francis also formally recognized the martyrdom of Maria Pilar Gullon Yturriaga, Octavia Iglesias Blanco and Olga Perez-Monteserin Nunez, members of Catholic Action who were nurses for the Red Cross and were killed during the 1936-39 Spanish Civil War.

The women refused to leave the wounded unattended even though the area was about to come under the control of populist fighters. All the patients, the doctor and chaplain were killed, and the three nurses were assaulted, raped and shot on Oct. 28, 1936.

The pope also signed decrees attesting to the heroic virtues lived by six servants of God — three men and three women.

Among them were:

— Mother Rosario Arroyo, a distant relative of the former Filipino President Gloria Arroyo, lived from 1884 to 1957 and founded the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of the Philippines.

— Felice Tantardini, known as “God’s Blacksmith,” was an Italian lay missionary for the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions. Born in 1898, he spent 70 years serving in Myanmar, where he died in 1991 at the age of 93. He worked as a catechist and helped build churches, schools, parish houses, hospitals, seminaries, orphanages, convents and bridges.

175th anniversary parish concert

HUNTINGTON — SS. Peter and Paul Parish, 860 Cherry St., Huntington, will conclude a yearlong celebration of its 175th anniversary with several events later this month, including a Celebration Concert on Sunday, June 23, that will offer not only an afternoon of music but also a chance to see the newly redecorated interior of the church.

The concert begins at 2 p.m. and will feature the Van Dinter tracker pipe organ, a grand piano recently donated by a parishioner, the church choir, vocal ensembles and soloists, and accompaniment by flute, trumpet and violin.

The European-style organ was built at the church in 1894 by Louis H. Van Dinter, a native of the Netherlands who learned the trade from his father and set up shop first in Detroit and then in Mishawaka, after coming to America in 1871. He and his sons built organs throughout the Midwest, and the instrument at SS. Peter and Paul — which is regularly maintained and in frequent use — is one of the few that remain playable today.

The concert is free and open to the public. Guests also will be able to view the three original altars with elaborate ornamentation that recalls their “original beauty and lustre,” said Father Tony Steinacker.

A new altar will be consecrated during the church’s 175th anniversary Mass on Saturday, June 29, at 10 a.m. with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades as the celebrant. The day will conclude with a dinner and reception, for which tickets are required. Contact the parish at 260-356-4798.
Pro-lifers decry Illinois governor signing into law 'extreme' abortion bill

CHICAGO (CNS) — Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed into law an abortion bill that Illinois’ Catholic bishops said eliminates “even minimal limitations on abortions under previous law” and whose passage by the legislature marked “a sad moment in our history as a state.” Pritzker signed the legislation June 12 in a ceremony at the Chicago Cultural Center. His action “drew enthusiastic whoops and cheers from the crowd,” The Washington Times reported. Across the country in Vermont June 10, Republican Gov. Phil Scott signed a similarly expansive abortion measure into law. Bishop Christopher J. Coyne of the statewide Diocese of Burlington had said the law “goes far beyond Roe v. Wade.” In Illinois, as the abortion bill made its way through the Illinois House and Senate, the state’s Catholic bishops called it the “mislabeled ‘Reproductive Health Act.’” Catholic Conference of Illinois, the public policy arm of the state’s Catholic bishops, labeled it “an extreme measure” because it allows “for the abortion of unborn life at any stage of pregnancy and for any reason.” The conference said lawmakers’ passage of the legislation was “a grave tragedy and a collective moral failing.”

Bishops vote to revise U.S. catechism’s capital punishment section

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The U.S. bishops voted June 13 to revise what the U.S. Church teaches its adult members about the death penalty in a passage on the issue in the U.S. Catechism for Adults. The full body of bishops approved the revised passage by a vote of 194 to 8 with three abstentions. It now will need the approval, or “recognito,” of the Vatican. The passage was the work of the bishops’ Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, chaired by Auxiliary Bishop Robert E. Barron of Los Angeles. On the first day of the bishops’ spring assembly in Baltimore, Bishop Barron said June 11 that wording emphasizes the dignity of all people and the misapplication of capital punishment. Discussion of this wording was not meant to be a debate on the death penalty overall, he added. The material was given to bishops about the additional passage points out that last year, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith released the pope’s revision to the teaching on the death penalty in the universal Catechism of the Catholic Church. In response to that action, the bishops’ Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis made plans to replace its current text in the U.S. adult catechism with a revised statement. The goal is to “keep our treatment of the death penalty in the U.S. Catechism for Adults in alignment with the revised universal catechism,” Bishop Barron said.

Catholic education key to fighting indifference, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Individualism and consumerism undermine the most basic rules of coexistence and challenge the principles of cooperation and mutual understanding promoted by Catholic education, Pope Francis said. “The culture of indifference, which envelops relations between individuals and peoples as well as the care of the common home, also corrodes the sense of humanism,” the pope said in a June 8 video message to participants at a three-day conference sponsored by the International Office for Catholic Education. A “synergy of the various educational realities” is needed to confront this challenge, the pope said, and particularly requires working with families where one “learns to come out of one’s self and place oneself in front of the other, to listen, to share, to support, to respect, to help, to coexist.” The international congress focused heavily on Pope Francis’ encyclical “Laudato Si’” and “on the contribution of the Catholic schools of the world to educate to solidarity, humanism and the safeguarding of creation.”

AMA applauded for reaffirming its opposition to doctor-assisted suicide

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops’ pro-life committee praised a June 10 decision by the American Medical Association to reaffirm its long-standing policy against physician-assisted suicide. “The practice and promotion of assisted suicide poses grave consequences for our entire society but particularly for persons living with illness, disabilities or socioeconomic disadvantages,” said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, who is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities. “The AMA was right to reaffirm its long-standing view that physician-assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the physician’s role as healer,” he said in a June 11 statement. MedPageToday, an online news outlet that covers health care, said the vote came during the AMA’s annual meeting in Chicago. At last year’s meeting, “after impassioned testimony from both sides,” it said, the AMA’s Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs was asked to further examine the issue of physician-assisted suicide. It presented its findings at the Chicago meeting and recommended the AMA retain its current opposition to the practice.
Sister Coletta Hennessy, OFS, marks 70th jubilee

FRANKFORT, Ill. — The Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Frankfort, Illinois, celebrated the jubilees of their sisters on June 8. One of the jubilarians ministered in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Sister Coletta Hennessy, OFS, celebrated her 70th jubilee. She was born in Cleveland, Ohio; In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend she taught at St. Joseph School, Garrett, 1954-59 and 1985-90; at Immaculate Conception School in Auburn, 1963-65; and at St. Charles School, Fort Wayne, 1982-85. Sister Coletta is retired and currently resides in Frankfort.

Sister Colleen Settles, OP, celebrates jubilee

SINSINAWA, Wis. — Sister Colleen Settles, OP, will celebrate her 50th jubilee in July. A Mass will be said in Queen of the Rosary Chapel at Sinsinawa Mound on Sunday, July 14, for her and seven other Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters celebrating 50 years.

Sister Colleen’s home parish is St. Monica, Kalamazoo, Michigan, in the Diocese of Kalamazoo. She is the daughter of the late Gerald Settles and the late Regina (Bordenet) Settles of the late Gerald Settles and the late Virginia (Sweeney) Settles of Kalamazoo. She is the daughter of the late Gerald Settles and the late Virginia (Sweeney) Settles of Kalamazoo. She is the daughter of the late Gerald Settles and the late Virginia (Sweeney) Settles of Kalamazoo. She is the daughter of the late Gerald Settles and the late Virginia (Sweeney) Settles of Kalamazoo. She is the daughter of the late Gerald Settles and the late Virginia (Sweeney) Settles of Kalamazoo.

On May 19, three women made their permanent profession in the St. Charles Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order. Their professions were received by Katie Herendene, OFS, minister of the St. Charles fraternity, during the 10 a.m. Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Angola. Father Bob Showers, OFM Conventual, celebrated the Mass and was the ecclesiastical witness. From left are Su Hohman, OFS; Deb Davis, OFS; and Barb Cain, OFS.

Guisinger achieves highest American Heritage Girls honor

FORT WAYNE — This spring, American Heritage Girls president Natalie Guisinger, 18, of Huntertown, with the highest recognition available to its girls members: the Stars & Stripes Award. She is the 50th young lady given this honor in Indiana and the first in her local troop, St. Vincent AHG IN3712.

For her project, Guisinger chose a prayer garden on the grounds of the St. Vincent Scout Lodge. It took about a year to complete and consisted of planning, designing, raising funds and installing the garden with the assistance of other youth in her local troop at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne — with Guisinger as the leader.

Guisinger is a founding member of the troop. During her membership, since 2012, she has served as flag ceremony coordinator and Junior Troop shepherd. She received three previous level awards: the Lewis and Clark Award, Harriet Tubman Award and the Dolly Madison Award.

In addition to living out the AHG creed and oath, Stars & Stripes Award recipients complete a number of requirements to achieve this honor including: earning a total of 16 merit badges and the Religious Medal; holding a leadership position in the troop for a minimum of six months; planning, developing, and providing leadership to other youth in a 100+ hour service project; writing a spiritual walk essay; receiving at least three letters of reference; and passing a board of review.

Guisinger is a senior at Bishop Dwenger High School, where she has been active in the Rosary Club and Science Olympiad. She participates in the Ventures Crew and National Youth Leadership Training with Boy Scouts of America. She was also a recipient of the President of the Year award.

Around the Diocese

Secular Franciscan Order permanent professions

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Provided by Barbara Briley

To honor Sister Coletta on her jubilee, go to the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters’ website, www.sinsinawa.org/jubilee.

Furfaro graduates as valedictorian

MISHAWAKA — His Catholic faith and a love and talent for music have intertwined for Mishawaka High School valedictorian Joseph Furfaro, who graduated June 9. Fellows from all the common things beyond all the common things, he said, “It’s simply thrilling,” he said.

At his parish, St. Joseph, Furfaro has been a cantor and an instrumentalist, playing saxophone, for four years.

He participated in the Quiz Bowl at Mishawaka High School, serving as varsity captain for two out of four years; for all four years he also competed in Academic Super Bowl, serving as varsity captain for two of those years. He participated in the school Spell Bowl one year.

In his free time during his high school career, Furfaro attuned the rank of Eagle Scout in Boy Scout Troop No. 105. His assignments and achievements included senior patrol leader, one-year quartermaster, one-year, junior and assistant scoutmaster, two years. He enjoys spending time with friends, staying physically active through sports and working out, and staying active in his faith.

Furfaro intends to pursue a career in music by attending Indiana University in the fall.

Guisinger is president of the American Heritage Girls, and her project was a prayer garden at the St. Vincent Scout Lodge. She is also a senior at Bishop Dwenger High School, where she has been active in various clubs and activities. She was awarded the Stars & Stripes Award for her service and leadership in the troop.
Sisters of the Holy Cross celebrate jubilee anniversaries

NOTRE DAME — Nine Sisters of the Holy Cross will celebrate their jubilee anniversaries in 2019. They are marking five, 10, 15, 25, 30 or 75 years since their initial profession, two are marking 50 years, and four are celebrating 25 years — a collective 425 years of consecrated life in the congregation. Four jubilarians have served in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Sister M. Carmen (Davy), CSC, celebrates 75 years of consecrated life. She was born in Los Angeles, California. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of Saint Mary-of-the-Watash, Salt Lake City, Utah, and a Master of Education from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Sister Carmen made her initial profession of vows on Feb. 2, 1944, and her perpetual profession on Aug. 15, 1947.

She began her career teaching elementary students at St. Alphonsus School, Fresno, California, where she served for five years. She went on to minister for four years at Saint Mary’s Campus School, Notre Dame. Sister Carmen served for 20 years in Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan). She taught at Holy Cross College and at an elementary school in Dhaka. During her 10 years as Area superior, she also engaged in social service work and taught religion at Holy Rosary Orphanage, Dhaka.

After spending time in Asia, Sister Carmen returned to Saint Mary’s to serve as the congregation’s mission and apostolate abroad program coordinator for five years.

Beginning in 1974, she served for 16 years at the Sisters of the Holy Cross Mater Ecclesiae Center, Tiberias, Israel. There she taught Scripture and served as spiritual director for seven years. While serving as director of the center, she also held the position of Area superior, a role she fulfilled for seven years. Sister Carmen also guided formation programs and served as novice director at the center.

Returning to Bangladesh in 1993, she continued her work in formation and served in parish ministry at Corpus Christi Convent, Jalchatra, Tangail. For three years in Shillong, Meghalaya, India, as a tutor, formator and religious studies teacher, Sister Carmen helped guide young women interested in pursuing a religious vocation. Her main ministry today is to pray for the Church and the world.

Sister M. St. Brigid (Bromeling), CSC, a 75-year jubilarian, was born in Woodlawn, Pennsylvania. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, and a Master of Arts from the Saint Mary’s College School of Theology. Sister St. Brigid made her initial profession of vows on Aug. 15, 1944, and her perpetual profession on Aug. 15, 1947.

She was in education for much of her life of ministry. Sister St. Brigid taught elementary school students for five years at the Good Shepherd Center, Cincinnati, and junior high students for four years at Holy Redeemer School, Flint, Michigan. She also worked in elementary education and taught in junior high schools.

Beginning in 1972, Sister St. Brigid devoted 22 years to service to the congregation, including 14 years as director of the Holy Cross sisters living at Our Lady of Holy Cross Convent, South Bend. She currently serves in the ministry of prayer.

Sister M. Georgia (Costin), CSC, is a 75-year jubilarian who shared her gifts as an educator for 34 years and as an executive officer for four of them in the Diocese of Gary. She was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and earned her bachelor’s degree from Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, and two Master of Arts degrees: one in English from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the other in criminal justice from Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. Sister Georgia made her initial profession of vows on Aug. 15, 1944, and her perpetual profession on Aug. 15, 1947.

She taught elementary and high school students at Saint Mary’s School, Michigan City, and served as principal at Van Noll High School, Hammond, where she served for 12 years. Sister Georgia also taught in Morris and Rockford, Illinois; and at St. Michael School in Plymouth; and in Fort Portal, Uganda.

For four years she taught in Flint, Michigan, at Holy Redeemer and Luke M. Powers high schools. She continued her work there, ministering to prisoners in the Genesee County Jail and serving as prayer director at a retreat center for ex-offenders for a combined six years.

Sister Georgia served 14 years as historian for the Office of Congregational Archives and Records at the motherhouse at Saint Mary’s, where she shared another eight years volunteering in the congregation’s Communications Office. Today, her ministry is to pray for the Church and the world.

Sister Helene Sharp, CSC, a 50-year jubilarian, served in the ministry of education for 16 years. She was born in Ely, Nevada, and earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Arizona, Tucson, and a Master of Arts from Santa Clara University, California. Sister Helene made her initial profession of vows on Aug. 15, 1949, and her perpetual profession on July 28, 1974.

She shared her gifts as an educator in Twin Springs, Nevada; Lynwood, California; and Seattle, Washington. She also taught college courses at Vila Maria College, Indianapolis, and at Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame.

Sister Helene later worked for four years as office manager for the Holy Cross Skills Training Centre, Takoradi, Ghana. She ministered as the congregation’s vocation coordinator for the United States and five years before entering her present vocation ministry with Saint Mary’s College, Holy Cross College and the University of Notre Dame in January.

Other jubilarians include Holy Cross Sister Celine Donnies, who has been professed 50 years and currently serves in Draper, Utah. Jubilarians celebrating 25 years of ministry are: Holy Cross Sister Esther Adeja Enwemeka, a 25-year jubilarian, was born in Enugu, Nigeria; and in Bangladesh, Holy Cross Sisters Mrinali Gorleti Rema, Mary Renu Samaddar, and Shiili Rezallo.

Founded in 1841 in Le Mans, France, the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross is an international community of women religious whose motherhouse is in Notre Dame. The congregation serves in Bangladesh, Brazil, Ghana, India, Mexico, Peru, Uganda and the United States. Sisters of the Holy Cross are called to be witnesses of God’s transforming love for the life of the world. Their ministries focus on providing education and health care services, eradicating material poverty and ending discrimination — giving witness to God’s desire for the transformation of human hearts, human relationships and all creation. To learn more about the Sisters of the Holy Cross, visit www.cscsis.org.
Agencies, parishes, schools awarded St. Mary’s Heritage Fund grants

FORT WAYNE — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has awarded 28 grants totaling $169,145 from the St. Mary’s Heritage Fund to parishes, schools and agencies across the diocese.

The $3 million endowment fund was established in 1997 for St. Mary, Mother of God Parish to help provide financial assistance to the poor and needy throughout the diocese. It was created through the collaboration and planning of the late St. Mary pastor Father Tom O’Connor and St. Mary, Mother of God parishioners, using money received from fire insurance on the historic downtown Fort Wayne church.

Upon the approval of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, the following entities were awarded 2019 grants.

**Agencies**

**Fort Wayne**
- A Mother’s Hope — $5,000 for homeless and pregnant mothers
- Clínica Madre de Dios — $5,000 for free medical care
- Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic — $5,000 for medications program

**South Bend**
- Catholic Charities — $10,000 for school-based counseling initiative
- St. Vincent de Paul Society — $3,500 for Care Van project

The Rose Home — $4,000 for resident assistance fund
- Vincent Village — $7,500 for youth services (child care)

**Parishes**

**Fort Wayne**
- Queen of Angels — $1,850 for subscription to online publication “Formed”
- St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel — $3,000 for food bank funding
- St. Mary, Mother of God — $1,000 for Ave Maria Hospitality House bus vouchers

**South Bend**
- Holy Cross — $10,852 for parish renewal and evangelization retreats

**Schools**

**Fort Wayne**
- Bishop Luers High School — $7,500 for youth program/school transportation; $5,000 for tuition assistance
- Queen of Angels — $8,000 for tuition assistance

**South Bend**
- St. Joseph — $8,648 for heating and cooling unit
- St. Joseph Hessen - Cassel — $5,000 for tuition assistance and scholarships

**Programs**

**Ave Maria House**
- Ave Maria House offers day respite for homeless persons in the Fort Wayne area.

St. Mary, Mother of God Parish supports Ave Maria Hospitality House, which received $1,000 for bus vouchers.

The Ave Maria House offers day respite for homeless persons in the Fort Wayne area.

**South Bend**
- Corpus Christi — $5,000 for

**Upcoming Pilgrimages**

- **Montreal**
  - July 13-19, 2019
- **Holy Land**
  - February 28-March 8, 2020
- **Holy Land**
  - May 11-20, 2020
- **Oberammergau**
  - July 15-24, 2020
- **Italy**
  - October 18-27, 2020

**St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church**

NOW HIRING

**COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING COORDINATOR**

St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, Carmel, IN is seeking a full-time Communications & Marketing Coordinator to provide leadership for all communications for Seton to help promote our mission and outreach. This position is responsible for developing a comprehensive communications strategy to cast the parish’s vision and priorities and effectively communicate the ministries, programs, and activities of the parish.

Responsibilities include, but not limited to, planning, development and implementation for all of Seton’s marketing strategies, marketing communications, in print material, social media forms, website content and press media. Creating and daily updating digital media on numerous social media platforms and new media sites including, but not limited to: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, etc. and weekly newsletters. This position would produce/oversee the production of weekly publications, videos, church-wide emails, letters, newsletters (including electronic/printed versions), brochures, flyers, postcards, banners, signage, annual reports, etc. while maintaining a consistent theme and message.

Minimum Qualifications
- Must be a practicing Roman Catholic in good standing with the Church who has the ability to respect, promote, and not be in conflict with the mission, moral and social teachings, doctrines, and laws of the Roman Catholic faith.
- Bachelor’s degree in communications, marketing, public relations, mass media, or related field with 2-4 yrs experience in Communications or Marketing.

To apply email a cover letter, resume, list of references and salary requirements in confidence to: Kevin Sweeney Director of Parish Operations: St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church 10655 Haverstick Road, Carmel, IN 46033 · kevin.sweeney@seas-carmel.org.
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades visited Marian High School in Mishawaka on the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes in February and placed it under her patronage. In honor of that designation, artist and Fine Arts Department Chairperson Kitty Gundy began creating an oil image of the apparition. After the work is finished later this year, it will be displayed in the school.
Perseverance Sunday marked the beginning of construction of a new oratory at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, with a blessing for the groundbreaking. The Oratory of St. Mary Magdalene will be a perpetual adoration chapel. The site of the future oratory sits in the center of St. Vincent Cemetery, across from the grade school building along Wallen and Auburn roads. The site also is the former location of the first four churches of St. Vincent.

Father Daniel Scheidt, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul, called Pentecost “the ideal day” to break ground. In his June 2 pastor’s column, he wrote that the groundbreaking is an act of love that “flows from a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit from the historical cradle of St. Vincent’s to bless multitudes within and beyond our visible boundaries, providing them the invitation and the place to gather in uninterrupted prayer to our Eucharistic Lord.”

Father Scheidt celebrated the blessing of the groundbreaking service, standing at the front door of the future oratory. The service consisted of two hymns, a Gospel reading and homily, intercessions, the groundbreaking with Schenkel Construction, and the blessing of the oratory’s perimeter.

The reading selected for the groundbreaking came from St. John’s Gospel and is the account of St. Mary Magdalene seeing the risen Lord at His tomb. In this Gospel, Mary went to the tomb but found it empty. She went to find Peter and John, and after the men came and left the empty tomb she remained there and encountered the Lord.

In his homily, Father Scheidt explained that “the first disciples went to the burial place of the Lord in tears.” He linked these tears to the generations of parishioners who have gathered on the grounds of the future oratory for the burial of a loved one. He also reflected how because of those burials, there have been thousands of groundbreakings at this site — along with those of the former churches. The first of the churches was a log cabin built by pioneers in 1846. The second was another log cabin, built in 1852. A clapboard church, the third church at St. Vincent, stood during the Civil War. The last church to stand on the property was a Romanesque church that older parishioners may remember, with its final use being in 1968. The current St. Vincent church stands across Wallen Road, just west of the groundbreaking site, and across from St. Vincent de Paul School.

Father Scheidt ended his homily by saying that “as we ask the Lord to bless this ground, we know that it is already blessed.” Together with those present, he prayed “good things to come from the Oratory of St. Mary Magdalene, with some of these prayers being for lifelong consecrations, good marriages, the discovery of the meaning of life by the young and old, and the unity of Christians among divisions in Christianity.” He prayed that “as we ask the Lord to bless this ground, we know that it is already blessed.” Together with those present, he prayed “good things to come from the Oratory of St. Mary Magdalene, with some of these prayers being for lifelong consecrations, good marriages, the discovery of the meaning of life by the young and old, and the unity of Christians among divisions in Christianity.” He prayed that “as we ask the Lord to bless this ground, we know that it is already blessed.” Together with those present, he prayed “good things to come from the Oratory of St. Mary Magdalene, with some of these prayers being for lifelong consecrations, good marriages, the discovery of the meaning of life by the young and old, and the unity of Christians among divisions in Christianity.” He prayed that “as we ask the Lord to bless this ground, we know that it is already blessed.” Together with those present, he prayed “good things to come from the Oratory of St. Mary Magdalene, with some of these prayers being for lifelong consecrations, good marriages, the discovery of the meaning of life by the young and old, and the unity of Christians among divisions in Christianity.”

The Oratory of St. Mary Magdalene is “being built as a sanctuary of quiet personal prayer,” Father Scheidt said. The perpetual adoration chapel will serve as a quiet place away from the main church where people can pray without being disrupted by everyday liturgies and activities at St. Vincent. It will allow more space for people to come and pray than does the church’s Blessed Sacrament Chapel: seating 10 people. It will also provide students of the grade school and religious education program the opportunity “to pray silently together as a class.”

The oratory will “continue the ministry of providing a place of Christian burial. “Three hundred niches will be built into the apse of the oratory and will hold ashes and 300 burial spots along the southeast side of the building. These burial spots have been available for purchase with the funds going toward construction. The project “is entirely funded by designated donations rather than any ordinary parish funds,” Father Scheidt said.

He also sees the oratory as a way to reach beyond his parishioners. One of these ways is by providing a prayerful space for medical and support staff of nearby health care centers, especially Dupont Hospital and Parkview Regional Medical Center. He envisions the staff and the families of those they serve finding a “peaceful place of restorative recollection” in the oratory.”

Construction of the Oratory of St. Mary Magdalene should begin around the end of June as long as St. Vincent receives the necessary permits and approvals. Construction of the exterior should be complete around Christmas, and interior work will continue into 2020. Father Scheidt hopes that the oratory can be dedicated sometime between the Easter season and the memorial of St. Vincent de Paul on Sept. 27, 2020.

Parishioners gather in the cemetery June 9 for the groundbreaking. They hope the Oratory of St. Mary Magdalene will offer a quiet refuge and place of prayer for those who live and work in the area. The site of the oratory was, in generations past, the site of several previous St. Vincent de Paul church buildings.

James Faroh has retired this summer after serving as principal of Sacred Heart School, Warsaw, for 10 years and in the education field for 45 years. A celebration took place at the school May 23, and was attended by more than 300 people. Student Council members and staff recited some of their favorite memories, wished him well, sang songs and prayed for Faroh, who also received a wall hanging of his ties and his business cards from over the past 45 years and a “Principal Mascot Award,” based on a program he developed to recognize positive behavior of adults or students.
The impact of authentic joy: Father Camillo Tirabassi

BY COLLEEN SCHENA

Father Camillo Tirabassi, nicknamed “Father Cam” by parishioners, knows that marriage, for the majority of young people, will be a reality. But he prays that all young people will pray about their vocations, strive to hear God’s voice and “accept the call of Jesus.”

For him, however, the path differed. His call was one to the priesthood.

Born in 1951, Father Tirabassi is the youngest of Camillo and Angelica Tirabassi’s six children. His family rarely attended Sunday Mass outside of a special occasion and were “in no hurry” to baptize him. He received the sacrament at 4 years old and began his education in public school, moving to Catholic school in third grade at the prompting of his mother.

It was there that he encountered his first impactful witness of joyful vocation. He met priests and Sisters of Notre Dame who worked closely with his grade school. As his faith bloomed from those encounters, he longed to be more involved, so he happily volunteered to help the religious, whom he cited as influences in his journey. “They were always so good to me.”

With the help of their witness of living faith and prayerful support, a call to the priesthood became clear. He attended Brunnerdale Minor Seminary after middle school, continued his formation at Our Lady of the Lake college seminary and finished at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West in Cincinnati. He was ordained on May 30, 1989. His first assignment was to no particular parish, but to a Catholic Youth Organization camp. He loved the diverse age range of the attendees and the opportunities such a placement presented.

Shortly thereafter, Father Tirabassi received an assignment to St. Joseph Parish in Fort Wayne as associate pastor. He served with four different pastors during his 14 years there, before receiving his first parish assignment as pastor. St. John Bosco Parish in Churubusco and Immaculate Conception Parish in Ege. After five years, Bishop William E. McManus installed him as pastor of Queen of Peace Parish in Mishawaka, where he remained for 10 years.

Under Bishop John M. D’Arcy, Father Tirabassi accepted the additional responsibility of chaplain for Saint Joseph High School in South Bend — first for four years, until a new chaplain could be found, then for another 28 years as an associate. He still loves to watch the student athletes succeed, especially in football — until it gets cold, that is. Then he enthusiastically listens through the radio.

His final assignment was to Corpus Christi Parish in South Bend. He served for 21 years at the parish, retiring in 2009. In retirement he resided at Holy Family Parish for four years and currently lives at St. Hedwig.

He said he is both grateful and surprised to have lived as long as he has and credits his longevity to his favorite pastime in his youth: weightlifting.

When it comes to retirement, Father Tirabassi reflected: “It gives you a lot more time to think, to pray and if you want, to study. The whole idea of retirement, I think, is to help us realize that something other than this life is coming.” From this reflection, he has concluded that he would do it all again. He hopes that if he did, he would be both more prayerful and more studious.

Father Lourdino Fernandes is 50-year jubilarian

BY BETHANY BEEBE

Father Lourdino Fernandes, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Monroeville, was born in Chinchinin, Goa, India on Dec. 4, 1943, to Constancio and Santana Ozorio Fernandes. The priest said he credits his parents’ lived values as a major influence on his decision to answer God’s call and enter St. Pius X College, the archdiocesan seminary in Bombay, in 1959.

“The gift of priesthood has meant a discovery of what true love is!” Father Fernandes said. “My priesthood has been filled with unimaginable joy.”

Sharing that joy of God’s love for all is what Father Fernandes calls his “vocation in the vocation of priesthood.” “I have always felt … called to show each and every person that God delights in them and to show that Jesus, the high priest embraces us within that delight.”

After his ordination on Dec. 20, 1969, by Cardinal Valerian Gracias, the confessional brought the new priest the chance to explore that delight in his calling.

“It was here that I discovered that ordination brought me to be some how able to speak to people just when they feel … [furthest] away from God. We are one with them, at their sides as together we face human frailty, failure and sin — ours and theirs. I have been able to communicate to many that no matter what their past has been, God loves them unconditionally and that God’s mercy is always greater than their sin.”

Father Fernandes said another great joy of his vocation is having the honor to represent Christ. “At the consecration, I do not merely say, ‘This is the Body of our Lord.’ I say, ‘This is My Body.’ When I remit sins, I do not say, ‘God pardons you,’ I say, ‘I absolve you.’ This is truly awesome! What a treasure God places in a broken vessel like me.”

The 50-year jubilarian entered seminary training after the 10th grade. During his 13 years of seminary formation he earned degrees in the humanities, philosophy and theology, which prepared him to take on the role of associate pastor. As if that were not enough to keep him busy, Father Fernandes also earned master’s degrees in history and educational administration during his first four years as a priest in the Archdiocese of Bombay, leading to a 28-year stint as principal and pastor.

During that time he visited the home of every student at least twice, saying he loved “the endless possibilities with which God endowed each of them.”

Coming to the U.S. in 1998, Father Fernandes became a U.S. citizen in 2007. He has served as associate pastor or pastor in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend his entire time in this country, and was appointed pastor of St. Rose of Lima in June 2011.

Father Fernandes knows early. He arrives in his rectory office at St. Rose of Lima by 6:45 a.m. most mornings.

“We have accomplished a lot together during these eight years,” he said. Citing a new parish school and community center, he said he has seen St. Rose of Lima go from “a surviving parish to a thriving parish, and it will leave behind a legacy for future generations.”

Beyond physical changes, programming and other additions have been made. A parish picnic and St. Rose Summerfest include the larger community, and the parish family has grown stronger and closer because of regular parish missions and retreats, rosary crusades and monthly adoration days.

He expects that his days will not be empty when he enters retirement this month. Father Fernandes said he looks forward to the freedom to travel and reconnect with family. He said he feels blessed to have been able to serve as a priest for 50 years.

“It’s … been filled with unexpected challenges and unexpected joys. It has been an opportunity to meet and know and work with some of the most talented and gifted and dedicated people I will ever know.”
Father Rybicki celebrates 40-year jubilee

BY COLLEEN SCHENA

After 40 years of ministering in the diocese, it’s to be expected that Father Daryl Rybicki would find familiar faces everywhere. He has served at both high schools on the South Bend side of the diocese, many of the parishes, and even helped local television station ABC57 cover Pope Francis’ 2015 visit to the United States.

To a young Daryl, priests always seemed like “they had a neat job, way up there in the Church.” His interest was piqued when he encountered priests outside of the parish setting, acting as educators. Because of those interactions he decided to continue his education after high school, keep the priesthood in mind and explore what God was calling him to do. “I wanted to make sure it wasn’t just about me.”

Father Rybicki holds a degree in secondary education, one that helped him to grow in his call and his gifts. “It would be shorter to say where I haven’t served,” he joked. He spent his diaconate year at St. Anthony de Padua Parish in South Bend, which ended with his ordination on June 16, 1979. His first parish assignment as a priest was St. Matthew Cathedral, only the beginning of his ongoing adventure. What came next resembled what had been discerned: the vocation of a priest within the school setting. After four years at St. Matthew, Father Rybicki was moved to Saint Joseph High School in South Bend as both chaplain and assistant principal. But this would not be the end of his unique experience in the high schools: six years at Saint Joseph High School were followed by six years at Marian High School, Mishawaka, where he served as principal. As if a foreshadowing of that transition, while at Saint Joseph, Father Rybicki had lived on Marian High School property with its chaplain, Msgr. William Scholler.

At Marian, he joked that he thought it was marvelous that he had the keys to every single door. But he also appreciated that he had been given a unique role: “to be not only the educational leader, but the spiritual leader of the school as well — by default, if nothing else, by being a priest. It was thoroughly enjoyable.”

Father Rybicki dedicated his free time to any parishes who needed an extra hand. He was happy to assist at St. Bavo Parish, St. Hedwig Parish, and Corpus Christi from time to time, and to celebrate Mass at Our Lady of Hungary Academy. His gifts within the school setting also came to good use when Our Lady of Hungary Parish needed an administrator. Until his time at Corpus Christi, Father Rybicki’s longest tenure with a parish was nine years, at St. Hedwig. During which period he also helped at the now-closed St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, and to St. Augustine. He held on to St. Augustine Parish upon leaving St. Hedwig for St. Adalbert Parish, where he stayed until 2002.

The move from St. Adalbert to St. John the Baptist in Fort Wayne stands apart as the longest distance Father Rybicki has moved since his pre-ordination days. He spent seven years at the parish before coming back to South Bend as pastor of Corpus Christi.

Father Rybicki said he is grateful for the opportunities that have been afforded him as a priest and affirmed that nothing else exists that he would have wanted to do for 40 years.

A life filled with divine intervention: Father Sigler

BY BETHANY BEEBE

Father Gary Sigler’s vocation is a God wink.

His vocation history started early in life. At 13, the second-eldest of 10 children left day-to-day life with his parents, Thomas and Violet, to enter St. Fidelis Seminary High School in Herman, Pennsylvania. “It was a great Franciscan influence,” he said. After high school, it was off to St. Gregory Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio; but after one semester, his number came up.

Father Sigler’s birthdate was the third one drawn in a lottery operated by the Selective Service System to draft young men to go to Vietnam. He traveled to Cleveland from his hometown in Canton, Ohio, for the government-required physical, but was denied because of a blood clot in his right eye that causes no vision issues.

He did not return to the seminary. Working outside and inside the classroom, he obtained a bachelor’s degree in history from Kent State in 1973.

Visiting the first Mass of a seminar cohort member spurred Sigler to complete the priestly preparations himself. “It reawakened everything in me,” he said.

He attended a reception celebrating the friend’s Mass, and as he entered the party, the friend’s mother was the first person he saw. From across the room, she asked when he would finish his own seminary training. He describes it as “an aha” moment, confirming that going back to the seminary was the right thing to do.

After completing seminary education, the young deacon was assigned to St. Rita Parish in Dayton, Ohio, and then to St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne, for six months each. An especially proud moment came during the first part of his diaconate, he said, when then-Bishop Joseph Bernardin pulled him aside after Mass to say how much he appreciated the work and diligence of the young deacon who had stepped up to help when the parish’s priest left.

Father Sigler was one of three in his ordination class on June 16, 1979, at Fort Wayne’s Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. A copy of the ordination announcement still hangs on his wall. The quotation on it holds so much meaning that Father Sigler used it in the first sermon to his current parish: “Today I am given to you by God that I might serve you, and that together we might serve Him.”

Celebrating his 40th anniversary in the priesthood, Father Sigler’s service to the community includes three years at the cathedral; four years at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne; eight years as the pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Garrett; 11 years at St. Mary Parish, Huntington; and seven years at Queen of Angels Parish, Fort Wayne.

Angel, the companion Cockapoo that entered Father Sigler’s life during his time at Queen of Angels, remains with her master as he pastors his most recent parish assignment, at St. Paul of the Cross, Columbia City. He has been the pastor at St. Paul of the Cross for seven years.

“I have felt very appreciated everywhere I have been,” he said.

Father Sigler has been to some interesting places. He once planned a vacation to Rome and found himself concelebrating the Mass of canonization of Mother Teresa. On another trip, this time in the Holy Land, presiding at the Eucharist on Mount Tabor was both a figurative and literal mountaintop experience. “It was almost hearing ‘This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him.’” [It was] very powerful.”

But having mountaintop experiences of faith are really relatively simple, he said. “The most important thing you can do is pray. If you don’t keep in touch with God, it all falls apart … It is a matter of having a personal relationship with Christ.”

Another means for Catholics to grow their relationship with God is by letting a priest minister one-on-one through the sacrament of reconciliation. “[It is a] powerful means of dispensing God’s mercy. I know how much I need God’s mercy. Sharing that with other people is wonderful.”
Father Gaughan found peace in his calling

BY ANNIE OBERGEFELL

Father Joseph Gaughan received the sacrament of holy orders at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on Nov 26, 1994. He was the only priest to be ordained for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend that year.

He was born in Fort Wayne, where he spent the first six years of his life; then his parents, John and Patricia, moved the family to Peru, Illinois. Father Gaughan comes from a large family, and their strong Catholic faith played an important role in his youth. Two of his aunts are Benedictine nuns, and from fourth through eighth grade Father Gaughan served as an acolyte at the 6:30 a.m. daily Mass at St. Joseph Parish. He attended three years of high school at St. Bede Academy, where his father taught and coached track, before returning to Fort Wayne for his final year of high school.

He earned his teaching license in 1989 from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne and worked one semester as a substitute teacher before making the decision to enroll at St. John’s Seminary in Boston, Massachusetts.

“I think God prepares us to hear the call,” he said. “He puts sentiments in our hearts to love Him. Like Jesus says, ‘It’s not you who chose Me, it’s I that chose you.’ God has a path for you. You can be open to it, or you can fight it. Even in the priesthood, it’s lived out in different ways, as marriage is lived out in different ways. But you listen to what God wants you to do, and you try to be a servant.”

Father Gaughan found peace in his calling. After his ordination at Our Lady, Virgin of the Poor Parish, Huntington, and June 18 was appointed the new pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Monroeville.

He said, “I had a beautiful picture once of America, and I wanted to be among the people there. I had heard a lot of America. After living here for two years now, I feel I am blessed in so many ways. The people over here are very open and friendly. I feel a warm welcome by everyone. My favorite part about being a priest is the privilege of being chosen by God to be channel of His graces. It is a delightful experience for me to make Christ present to various people.”

He is thankful to God for giving him the talents to preach the word of God. He has grown more so over time.

“... in Masses, I want to be of service in what I can. I will learn and I will grow. I hope to continue to serve God, however He wants me to do that. Even today, I could have other plans than what they initially seem.”

Channeling God’s grace for 25 years: Father Lobo

BY DEB WAGNER

Father Maicaal Lobo grew up as the oldest of six children born to parents in a remote mountainous area of India where Jesuit priests had a summer vacation home. His father’s family helped around the home. Through these opportunities the proximity afforded him, the future Father Lobo came to admire the Jesuits and was inspired by their lives of dedication and service.

Eventually, a discerned call to the priesthood took Father Lobo away from his family’s agricultural occupation. His five siblings are married.

After his ordination at Our Lady, Virgin of the Poor Parish in Fort Wayne, June 25 was appointed the new pastor of Padua Parish in Angola, followed by six years at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne. He’s now starting his 14th year as pastor of Most Precious Blood Parish in downtown Fort Wayne.

As for what’s to come in the next 25, Father Gaughan would like to use the lessons he’s learned so far as a priest to continue serving his parish with a mind and heart open to the gentle nudges from God.

“I hope to continue to serve God, however He wants me to do that. Even today, I could have other plans than what they initially seem.”

Father Zimmer sees God’s grace in Eucharist, confessions

BY DEB WAGNER

“I feel called to the priesthood because of how I found the Spirit work through me with people in spiritual need. I saw priesthood as a way to live out my vocation as a Christian in a way that used my interests, skills and desires most effectively,” said Father Eric Zimmer, S.J., pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Walkerton. Father Zimmer celebrates his silver jubilee as a priest this year.

He has enjoyed that he is able to pastorally provide assistance and support in times of hardship and distress. “I love celebrating the Eucharist and hearing confessions; God’s grace becomes so evident in these realities,” he said.

Throughout the past 25 years, Father Zimmer said he has enjoyed that he is able to pastorally provide assistance and support in times of hardship and distress. “I love celebrating the Eucharist and hearing confessions; God’s grace becomes so evident in these realities.”

He always has had commitments as a teacher in addition to serving in parishes. He holds a Ph.D. in communication theory and is currently an associate professor at the University of Notre Dame, teaching business communication courses for the Mendoza College of Business. His research focuses on the adoption of innovation in nonprofit organizations, the fundraising practices of nonprofits; the Digital Divide; and the Matthew Effect, which in educational circles is the idea that in many areas of life, the rich or skilled get richer and more skilled, while conversely the poor and less skilled grow more so over time.

Father Zimmer has taught high school students in Kathmandu, Nepal; and Cleveland, Ohio. Over the years, he accepted teaching assignments with Georgetown University, the University of Washington and Creighton University School of Medicine. He has published articles in the areas of political commu-
Faith guides community service for Red Coat recipients Jaylon Smith, John Tippmann Sr.

BY KEVIN KILBANE

There differ in years, backgrounds and career paths. But Jaylon Smith and John Tippmann Sr., inspired by their Christian faith, share a passion for giving back and helping others.

That devotion to community service led to Smith, a former University of Notre Dame and Bishop Luers High School football star who now plays for the NFL’s Dallas Cowboys, and Tippmann, a successful Fort Wayne businessman, being honored June 14 at the Mad Anthony’s Children’s Foundation’s annual Red Coat Dinner in Fort Wayne.

Receiving the Mad Anthony’s iconic red sport coat recognizes people who have made a significant difference in the Fort Wayne region, according to the Mad Anthony’s website, madanthonyso.org.

Smith and Tippmann were presented with their red coats at an elegant dinner at Fort Wayne Country Club. The golf tournament and Red Coat Dinner raise money to support operation of the Knights of Columbus and the Vincent Village Clinic and the Vincent Village Community Service Clinic and the Vincent Village Homeless Shelter.

Smith and Tippmann also were the guests of honor at the Mad Anthony’s annual Charity Classic golf tournament held June 15 at Fort Wayne Country Club. The golf tournament and Red Coat Dinner raise money to support operation of the Mad Anthony’s Children’s Hope House, which is located on the Lutheran Hospital campus at Jefferson Boulevard and Interstate 69 in southwest Fort Wayne.

The Hope House provides homelike accommodations for families who have a child receiving treatment in a Fort Wayne hospital. Families are asked to make a donation of $10 per night for their stay, but no one is turned away because of inability to pay.

Speaking to media before Red Coat Dinner, Tippmann and Smith said their faith plays a strong role in their community service.

Tippmann, the seventh of 16 children, described his parents as “strong Catholics.”

“They instilled in us the values of living your faith and sharing the gifts God gives us,” he said.

The family didn’t have time or resources for him to attend college, but they were active in the religious organization he joined. He went on to found Tippmann Construction and then to create Tippmann Group, which includes the construction company, Interstate Warehousing, a national leader in cold storage; and Tippmann Properties, which owns and manages office, commercial and industrial real estate.

Tippmann said he tries to live by the philosophy of sharing with others.

In the Bible’s Gospel of Luke, Chapter 5:11, it says, “If you have two coats and meet a man with no coat, give him one of yours.” Tippmann said.

He used profits from his businesses to create the Mary Cross Tippmann Foundation, which is named for his mother. The foundation provides grants to about 75 ministries and organizations annually.

Tippmann also has been involved in the launch or growth of other Fort Wayne charitable organizations, such as the Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic and the Vincent Village program for homeless families, Mad Anthony’s board President Mike Pence and Notre Dame football head coach Brian Kelly.

Smith and Tippmann were presented with their red coats at an elegant dinner at Fort Wayne Country Club. The golf tournament and Red Coat Dinner raise money to support operation of the Knights of Columbus and the Vincent Village Clinic and the Vincent Village Community Service Clinic and the Vincent Village Homeless Shelter.

Smith, who celebrated his 24th birthday June 14, described receiving his red coat as a “blessing” during comments before the dinner. Having been born and raised in Fort Wayne, he understands the significance of the honor, he said.

“We all have a purpose, to Indiana, to this world, and that’s the beautiful thing,” Smith said.

“It’s about giving back, loving and serving.”

Christian faith helped shape him and his desire to give back, he said. “I believe in Him (God) and love Him and worship that guy.”

While he describes himself as a lifelong Christian believer, Smith said he didn’t grow up belonging to any religious denomination. He feels blessed to have been raised in a household with both parents and to have been surrounded by faith-based values while attending Bishop Luers and Notre Dame.

One way Smith, a starting linebacker for the Dallas Cowboys, has been giving back is through the Earn Your Stripes football camp he and his brother, professional baseball player Justin, have organized for ages 7-13 in Fort Wayne. Rod played with Jaylon on the Cowboys before signing this off-season with the New York Giants.

Tippmann, left, and Smith, right, speak to the crowd after being awarded their red coats.
I n May, the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in Franchise Tax Board of California v. Hyatt that states have sovereign immunity from suits brought by individuals in the courts of another state. There is a lot to be said for that conclusion. But the court had held otherwise in Nevada v. Hall 40 years ago. Hyatt overturned Hall.

Justice Clarence Thomas wrote the opinion, and he was joined by Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh. That is the lineup some people are counting on to overrule Roe v. Wade, and the point was not lost on the dissenters. Justice Stephen Breyer, writing for them, said, “Today’s decision can only cause one to wonder which cases this Court will overrule next.”

We may be nearing the day when Roe v. Wade is finally overturned. Although many pro-life supporters dream of this as the end of their labors, they are wrong. It would only be the beginning.

We’ve already seen hints of what would happen if Roe were overturned. A few states are determined to fund abortions with taxpayer money (California and Oregon) and to make them legal until the very last moment of pregnancy (New York). Others in Mississippi, Ohio and Georgia have passed laws banning abortion beginning at about six weeks, when a fetal heartbeat can be detected. On May 14, Alabama voted to pass a near-total ban, which will likely become a vehicle for directly challenging Roe.

Many states that decide to keep abortion legal would never permit it more than about six weeks, many more will move to stop funding it, without nearly as much judicial interference as has been the case in the Roe era. Abortion would unquestionably remain legal in many states, and available to anyone with access to a hospital. But the reversal of Roe would at least make abortion part of our democratic debate for the first time in almost half a century.

That would be a good thing, for democracy and for the law itself. Respect for the law would increase if states were permitted to make their own decisions and we had a better match between the law and voters’ moral sensibilities.

Overturning Roe also would extricate the Supreme Court from the business of making things up to enforce social norms that sometimes require the court’s interpretation — the kind of ad hoc jurisprudence that Roe epitomizes.

You could see various states would finally get to choose their own social norms, instead of receiving them from an unelected body of Platonic guardians. This would increase respect for the court as well as the law.

It would also spare us the poisonous nomination fights we have seen ever since President Ronald Reagan nominated Robert Bork in 1987.

Marbury v. Madison held that the Supreme Court’s decisions are the supreme law of the land. When you combine this with the power to invent law not found in the Constitution, which the court asserted in Roe, the stakes for nomination fights have no limit. This has, inevitably, led to cutthroat struggles, junking Senate rules and character assassination of nominees.

Overturning Roe and trusting state democratic processes would also, I like to think, save a lot of lives.

State abortion restrictions and the good work of pregnancy help centers brought annual reported totals down to about 60,000 as of 2015, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That’s less than half the number of abortions performed in 1990. And it approaches the number reported in 1973, the year Roe was decided.

Suppose we let the people decide

J ohn Garvey is president of The Catholic University of America in Washington, Catholic University’s website is www.cua.edu.

Faithful over fearful

C ommon to most commencement speeches is the messiness required of life with boldness, to pursue one’s dreams, to live meaningfully, to honor one’s uniqueness and gifts and to find work that is in some measure good. The advice is definitely sound and seems to resonate with graduates.

Yet, if life is the guide, most will hold back at least some of the time and to some extent. The reasons may be prudence, as fears Samuel Johnson’s dictionary check impulses. At the same time, prudence is frequently the cover for fear posing as a more user-friendly version of leg chains.

We should not be ashamed of our fears: We all have these. Jesus gave full expression to His when He wept in agony at Gethsemane. His fears also are told in the propositions presented by the devil in a desert empty not only of sand, but also of assurances.

The temptations play on our most basic human needs: for sustenance, air and spiritual bread; for recognition and influence in whatever kingdom, real or virtual, personal or professional by which we define ourselves; and for love and devotion. If these were not basic, they would not have power over us.

We may have doubts, but take up residence in our heads: Will I come up short? Empty? Wanting? Alone? Ordinary? Over four decades of experience with students, alumni and colleagues, I contend that responses to these doubts are far more powerful than talent, skills and diligence in determining our choices and eventual journeys.

A friend shared with me that in an interview for a very important research fellowship that would change her area of focus and expertise to find solutions for a thorny medical problem, the evaluator asked, “Dr. X, how do you handle your fears?”

The issue is not a matter of what, but a matter of how: How do we engage our fears? How do we break their power over us? When do we accede? What makes us move forward without assurances?

When I left Hong Kong at 18 for college in the U.S., I wanted adventure. However, much more important than that was my desire to support my parents. To counter my doubts, hard work would be my currency. In the process, I discovered its supply would come from love for the family.

As I moved on and in everything that I did, I came to recognize that people wanted me to do the thing they mentored, tutored, opened doors, advised and cautioned, provided the training wheels when I needed them and removed them when I was ready.

June 23, 2019

CAROLYN WOO

The Lord feeds us, in abundance, through the Eucharist

J ohn Garvey is president of The Catholic University of America in Washington, Catholic University’s website is www.cua.edu.

The Sunday Gospel

MSGR. OWEN E. CAMPION

Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Luke 9:11b-17

This weekend the Church celebrates the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, as it was known in the days of the Latin liturgy. On all its feast days, the Church has a threefold purpose. The first purpose, of course, is to call us to worship Almighty God in the Mass. The second is to be joyful in the specific reality observed by the feast. The third purpose is to teach us.

In every Liturgy, the Church teaches us what it calls to celebrate this feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, the feast of the holy Eucharist, the greatest of Christ’s gifts to the Church.

The epistle for this weekend is from Genesis. Genesis powerfully and explicitly reveals to us that God is the creator. In this reading, Genesis also tells us that after creation, after the creation of humans, and indeed after human sin, God did not leave humanity to its own fate. Instead, God reached out in mercy, sending figures such as Abraham and Melchizedek, mentioned in this reading, to clear the way for the feeding of the Lord Jesus. Our Lord was clear. “This is my body.” “… My blood.”

The epistle is valuable in that it gives us this insight into the first Christians’ lives and into how they practiced their faith. It takes us back to the very beginnings of Christianity. No one can say the Church is wrong in its teaching regarding the Eucharist, that it has strayed from the oldest Christian understandings.

Jesus used gestures also found at the Last Supper, part of Jewish prayers before meals. He then sent them the food. He distributed the food. All had their fill. Twelve baskets were needed for the leftovers. Twelve meant an overabundance.

Reflection

The Church calls us to focus our minds on the holy Eucharist and our hearts on God.

The first reading reminds us that all through history God has reached out to nourish his starving, fatigued souls. The second reading, from Paul’s First Epistle to the Corinthians, takes us back to the Last Supper, and to the beliefs of the Christians who lived a generation or so after the Last Supper. For them, the reality of the Eucharist was clear. “This is my body.” “… My blood.”

Clearly, the Gospel tells us of God’s immense love. It is the great lesson of the feeding of the multitudes. When our souls hunger, God supplies; not in any rationed sense, but lavishly.

God’s love in nourishing us when we have nothing else still is available, through the Eucharist, in the Church, just as it was long along on the hillside when the Apostles assisted Jesus in feeding the multitudes.

Readings

Sunday: Gn 14:18-20 Ps 110:1-4 1 Cor 11:23-26 Lk 9:11b-17
Tuesday: Gn 13:2-5 Ps 152:5 Mt 7:6, 12-14
Wednesday: Gn 15:1-12, 17-18 Ps 105:1-4, 6-9 Mt 7:5-15
Thursday: Gn 16:1-12, 15-16 Ps 106:1b-5 Mt 22:1-12
Friday: Ex 34:11-16 Ps 23:1-6 Rom 5:5-17 Lk 15:1-3
Back in the days of giants

I would like to tell you about a very special physician who roamed the halls of St. Joseph, Lutheran and Parkview hospitals years ago. His name is Dr. Michael Mastrangelo.

He came to town in 1959 after finishing his training at one of the great teaching hospitals, Georgetown University. He was a trained thoracic and vascular surgeon and Fort Wayne desperately needed this type of expertise to join the medical community. He operated on high-risk patients who had aortic aneurysms, severe peripheral vascular disease, lung cancer and never gunshot wounds, to name just a few of his frequent surgeries.

He was instrumental in setting up the first intensive care unit in the Fort Wayne hospitals and was involved in the purchase of the first ventilator in Fort Wayne.

Back in the day, physicians frequently went out of their comfort zone or specialty to do whatever was required to save patients with acute threatening illnesses. In today’s world, physicians usually stick to their specialty.

He shared a story with me of a young lady with a massive barbiturate overdose who was likely going to die without heroic measures. He knew that her life needed to quickly remove this toxic amount of barbiturate from the body to have any chance of saving the woman. Theoretically, the best way to do this was through dialysis. The big problem was that no one had ever dialyzed a patient in Fort Wayne before.

A machine was available and there were plans being made to initiate a dialysis program, but it was not yet a go. This lady’s life was at stake and she could not wait, so Dr. Mastrangelo and several other brave physicians did the very first dialysis on this lady as an emergency. It was a success, and she survived.

He was completely dedicated to being a physician. He said no to a request to help a young patient who was rushed to the hospital with a gunshot wound. Dr. Mastrangelo was truly a leader among physicians. He took a break to join his family for supper to see how his children were doing and to be with his wonderful wife, Grace. She was totally dedicated to allowing her husband to pursue such a demanding career. After supper he returned to the hospital to finish his work, usually returning home to find everyone in bed for the night. This was indeed back in the days of the giants, when dedicated physicians never knew when they would get to go home or when their next good night’s sleep would be.

One of the stories he shared with me was about a young man who was rushed to the emergency room with a gunshot wound. Dr. Mastrangelo was able to patch him up in surgery and send him to the ICU in stable condition. Later that night he got a call from the nurse caring for this man. She said that he had been shot. Dr. Mastrangelo told her he knew all about the gunshot wound and had already completed surgery on him. The nurse replied, “No, you don’t understand. He was just shot again.” The perpetrator had actually come back into the hospital and finished the man off.

This type of incident is the reason that now, after someone comes to the hospital with a gunshot wound, there is a hospital lockdown: to protect the patient.

Dr. Mastrangelo shared with me a ritual that he performed before most surgeries. As he was doing the mandatory hand scrub and sterilization, he would have just the right amount of time to pray a decade of the rosary to prepare his mind and soul for the task at hand. Yes, Dr. Mike Mastrangelo is Catholic.

When I called him to ask permission to interview him and write an article about him, he was very reluctant to say yes. In fact, I remember his exact words: “I am not looking for any notoriety.” I beseeched him to allow me to share his story, and he finally succumbed. Join me in saying a few prayers of thanks for this 92-year-old physician, who has blessed Fort Wayne with his career.
Fishing is father-family time for Bradtmillers

BY BARB SIEMINSKI

Jesus commanded His disciples to be fishers of men. Christians follow that command in part by gently leading their children in His footsteps.

It’s a path on which Beau Bradtmiller, a Fort Wayne dad of four, has found himself not only figuratively, but literally.

On a recent morning the sun was shining through tall, shorebound trees standing sentinel over the sparkling lake waters. Bradtmiller made a graceful cast over the water as the sun burned the summer fog away.

In the still of the dawn, the children he had with him – Braxtin, 8; Creek, 5; and Embri, 3 – were awe-inspired as they took in their surroundings.

They knew to be a little quieter when their own lines were in the water. Sienna, 9 months, who was safe in her stroller nearby, cheered when anyone pulled in a fish.

“I see God in my kids, especially when fishing,” said Bradtmiller.

“Nature is a huge part of it. The serenity of being outside and admiring all God’s creations — anything from the fish themselves to the trees blooming in the spring and changing to beautiful colors in the fall. Watching the sunrise and sunset is glorious.”

He enjoys getting away from electronics, phones, computers, TVs and escaping the fast-paced world and simply connecting with nature.

“Fishing alone gives me the quiet I seek and plenty of time to think and reflect on life and myself and talk to God. I’ve even taken the opportunity to evangelize while fishing. I would like my children to appreciate and take care of, and not take for granted, any of the simple things that we may encounter while outdoors — and then relay that into their everyday lives.”

Bradtmiller is the finance manager at Parkview LaGrange Hospital in LaGrange and a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne. He grew up in a fishing family, not only pulling in bass, catfish, carp, bluegills and pike at various inland lakes, but also enjoying saltwater fishing in Florida.

“It is pretty neat that I get to share with my kids some of the same places where I learned and grew my love for fishing,” said Bradtmiller. “My Florida cousin purchased a new Starcraft boat and this month we’re planning on taking his oldest son and my three oldest fishing in Tampa Bay — the kids can’t wait!”

The kids are at the stage when they will query Bradtmiller about anything.

“They ask about the birds, fish, trees and the oxygen in the water or the other wildlife we may see when fishing. The answers come down to because that is how amazing God is, and that is how He created each and every living thing,” said Bradtmiller.

Growing up, Bradtmiller attended Sacred Heart Parish in Fort Wayne, where he served as an altar boy. Later he attended St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel Catholic Church and finally settled in at St. Vincent de Paul, where the family has been for four years.

“Last April my wife, Miranda, and I celebrated our seventh wedding anniversary, which was a very special one, as our oldest child Braxtin celebrated his first holy Communion at St. Vincent,” said Bradtmiller. “Also, within the last year and a half, I attended a Christ Renews His Parish men’s retreat, which helped me grow even deeper in my faith.

Then, afterwards, we joined Team 63, taking the journey through formation. Five months later we put on the next retreat weekend for the new invitees.

“What an experience! For anybody who has never been on one, they must attend a weekend,” he said. “It was life-changing. Not only did this experience help me to grow closer to God, but in return it helped me to turn around and share the love with my family, resulting in growing closer to them as well. The CRHP retreat happens twice a year, and, I highly recommend it.”

Bradtmiller has a special devotion to Pope St. John Paul II, once referred to as the pope of the family.

“I actually got to hold a first-class relic of his about two years ago. It was a vial of his blood that both my wife and my kids got to lay our hands on and say a prayer together. It was a very amazing feeling.”

Bradtmiller has been a long-time member of the Fort Defiance Bass Anglers. When he received a club jersey, the front of it had the club name, across the back, he ordered the dynamic words, “Jesus Saves, Bro.”

“I figured, instead of advertising for a bunch of fishing brands, why not advertise for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ? “The joy I see in my kids’ faces and the smiles that go from ear to ear when they get a bite and reel in a fish is priceless,” he said. “It makes me take time to think just how truly blessed I am to have such four wonderful kids. When I hear Embri yell, ‘Dad! I have a nibble!’ or one of the boys scream with excitement, ‘Dad! I have a nibble!’ I just puts a huge smile on my face. He sees God through them, he said.

“I also feel that God has used my children to better teach me patience, anything from a tangled rod to three tangled rods all together. I must say I have gotten very good at untangling fishing line!”

Beau Bradtmiller right, shows how to hold the rod while fishing with three of his four children at a neighborhood pond where they’ve caught many fish. The Fort Wayne father enjoys fishing and uses the activity’s many peaceful moments to encourage his children in their Catholic faith.
World Youth Day reunion Mass and dinner
WARSAW — Bishop Rhoades will celebrate Mass for the pilgrims of World Youth Day 2019 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 225 Gilliam Dr., June 26, at 5 p.m. followed by a pizza dinner at 6 p.m. Contact Melissa Belleville at 260-410-5823 or mbelleville@diocesefwsb.org for information.

World Apostolate of Fatima to host quarterly meeting
WARSAW — The quarterly meeting of the World Apostolate of Fatima will be Thursday, June 27, at 5:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 125 N Harrison St.

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CONFIRMATION, from page 1

significant role in raising her was Baptist, so most of her faith experience was in that tradition. She came to the United States when she was 10 years old.

Three years ago, Villegas married a devout Catholic at St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne. Although she agreed to raise their children Catholic, she didn’t wish to be confirmed at the time. However, when her older son was baptized at the Easter Vigil in 2018, she became curious and decided it was time to explore the faith for herself.

She received her first Communion after being confirmed on June 9, and said she is very excited to “get back to my roots.”

Her children also played an important role in Yuhasz’s decision to complete her initiation. Students at Holy Cross School, South Bend, one received first Communion and the other was confirmed earlier this year. They and their friends were thrilled to learn that their mother also planned to prepare for confirmation. Yuhasz had been baptized and received her first Communion at Christ the King as a child, but when she was in junior high, her father died. His illness and death crowded out church attendance for the family.

Although Yuhasz works full-time at Headstart and volunteers as the athletic director and head basketball coach at Holy Cross School, she decided it was worth making time last fall to take formation classes in anticipation of receiving the sacrament of confirmation. “I didn’t feel whole,” she admitted. Through her RCIA classes and the Word on Fire DVD series produced under Bishop Robert Barron, she’s become more reflective at Mass.

She’s grateful to have taken this step as an adult. “I think I appreciate it more,” she says, than she might have as an adolescent.

Both women can confirm Bishop Rhoades’ words: “Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, God’s love for us takes hold of us, takes hold of our inmost self. This love enables us to walk the journey of our life with joy and hope even in the midst of suffering and adversity.”

On the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, Bishop Rhoades urged the candidates to draw closer to the “special friends in heaven” they had chosen. “Like your patron saints, may you open your hearts every day to the gifts of the Holy Spirit that you receive today. And if you do, do you know what’s going to happen? You’ll become saints!”

As the bishop concluded his homily on Pentecost, he took inspiration from those who had just committed their lives to the Lord and the Church in a new way, “May all of us place our lives under the active power of the Holy Spirit!” he said.

“As you are confirmed, you enter anew into the embrace of God’s love,” Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades tells candidates at a Mass of confirmation at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, at the Trinity Sunday vigil Mass, June 15.