GRANGER — “It’s really unbelievable how much you’ve done at St. Pius X Parish. It seems every year I’m coming to bless something,” Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades told the faithful of St. Pius X Parish at a noon Mass on Sunday, Aug. 18. “Monsignor told me before Mass, ‘Bishop that’s it, I’m finished.’ and I said, ‘I will think of something else.’ While I was sitting here, I looked up and said, ‘I can come back and bless the stained-glass windows, because we don’t have them yet.’” he joked to the packed church.

A blessing of the addition of the Parish Education Center and new Catechesis of the Good Shepherd wing followed the Sunday liturgy.

The congregation was invited to the main gymnasium for the blessing and to tour the six new classrooms, expanded band room, new multipurpose room, new serving kitchen and atria for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, followed by light refreshments, and then to enjoy greeting Bishop Rhoades.

“We need the extra classrooms for our larger classes and to allow us to offer full-day preschool, in addition to evening programming and activities. For the first time, our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will have the required atria for its effective work.”

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

ST. PIUS X, page 16
BY SARAH DUSTMAN

Bishop Dwenger High School's football program marks a milestone Aug. 30: The Saints’ first game in their own stadium. This home game, the second of the 2019-20 season, will be played against North Side.

Throughout the school’s football program history, Bishop Dwenger shared a stadium with fellow Fort Wayne high schools North Side and then Concordia Lutheran. Bishop Dwenger and Concordia shared Zollner Stadium as a home field from the 1980s through the 2018-19 football season.

The reality of Bishop Dwenger being able to have its own home stadium took shape in January, after the school received a generous donation during the holiday season. The donation represented more than one-third of the funding needed to enlarge the school’s current practice location, Shields Field.

Main features added to Shields Field include a gated entrance and surrounding fence, home and visitor seating, two ticket booths, a press box, restrooms, a concession area and two team rooms. Home seating will hold 2,600 fans and visitor seating will hold 600 fans.

While the stadium will primarily be used for football, it will also host marching band and color guard events and lacrosse, rugby, soccer, track and field, and CYO sporting events.

“This is an awesome venue to celebrate the Bishop Dwenger community and the human spirit through the excitement and festivity of competition,” principal Jason Schiffli said.

Schiffli explained that the new stadium will be a place where “our families come together in a place we call home.” Most importantly, he sees Shields Field as a way “to display the BD spirit and charisma by evangelizing our Catholic faith to our guests and modeling the virtues from which we have been graced as a result of practicing and exercising the pillars of our school mission: spirituality, service, academics and living an active life.”

Shields Field is anticipated to strengthen the Bishop Dwenger community. Athletic director John Bennett cited finances as the main reason the school didn’t tackle the project in the past, along with other concerns about logistics such as parking and space on campus.

However, once the donation was received and the decision to build a stadium was made, the process moved quickly. Bennett credited the Tippmann Group, especially Joe Wharton, CME, and Kevin Scully of Design Group, especially Joe Wharton, with what was needed and what wasn’t.

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Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades’ statement on gun violence

The terrible plague of deadly mass shootings in our country calls us, in the words of the U.S. bishops, “to fight this social disease that has infected our nation.” I join my voice to my brother bishops’ in inviting all to pray and work to end this culture of violence and to advocate for needed changes to prevent this scourge from continuing.

The proliferation of mass shootings can be called an epidemic against life. When mass shootings occur, there is extensive coverage by the media. However, we need to bring attention to the fact that murderous gun violence also takes place on a daily basis throughout our nation in individual shootings, which total, on average, over 100 people each day in homes and on the streets. Gun violence is truly a national epidemic.

Some citizens consider the right to bear arms, enshrined in our Second Amendment, an absolute right. Nowhere in Church teaching do we find an inherent natural right to bear arms. The legitimate use of arms, however, could be seen to fall under the Church’s teaching on self-defense. People can choose to own and use guns or not to own and use guns, presuming, of course, that their use would be legitimate (e.g., hunting or self-protection). In contrast, the principle of self-defense, it is important to recognize the right to life of the human person and the principle of the common good. As a people of and for life, we cannot remain idle as the right to life is violated on a daily basis. We must not be indifferent when the common good is threatened.

In the light of the right to life and the common good, both rooted in the Gospel of Jesus, we must confront the plague of gun violence in our nation.

Common sense reforms and prudent policies are needed to curb gun violence. I join my brother bishops in rejecting an absolutist interpretation of the Second Amendment. For the sake of the common good, we need reasonable gun control, beginning with comprehensive background checks and a ban on high-powered, high-capacity weapons meant for the military.

At the same time, we cannot and should not ignore the root causes of gun violence. We need prevention and intervention strategies that treat people who pose a threat of violence. Increased access to mental health care is necessary. We need to fight hatred, racism and xenophobia, which so often can lead to violence. We also cannot ignore the moral and spiritual vacuum in which many children and youth are raised — homes where there is abuse and neglect, addiction and drug addiction. And we must address the crisis of fatherlessness.

Tragically, we live in a culture that doesn’t value life intrinsically, as seen in the recognition of so-called rights to abortion, euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide. Should we really be surprised that when life is not valued in these situations, life is not valued in instances of gun violence? Should we really be surprised at the prevalence of gun violence when violence is celebrated in much of our media, music and even video games? The glorification of violence reveals a disturbing cultural attitude.

We are called to build a culture of life and a civilization of love. Easy access to deadly assault weapons does not build a culture of life. Regulating and controlling guns is part of building a culture of life — so is our teaching on human life and dignity, on marriage and family, on right and wrong, on justice and peace, and on rights and responsibilities.

Finally, there is a spiritual dimension to the crisis of violence that we must attend to. Seeds of violence within the human heart can grow into violent thoughts, words and deeds. We need to ask God to purify our hearts and to convert the hearts of those who are tempted to commit acts of violence.

I invite all to pray for an end to gun violence and to pray for peace in our hearts, communities, nation and world. Let us hear anew the words of Jesus: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.”

+ Kevin C. Rhoades
Pope, bishops urge action to save burning Amazon rainforest

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Describing the Amazon rainforest as “vital for our planet,” Pope Francis joined the region’s bishops in praying for action to extinguish the massive fires burning there.

“We are all worried about the vast fires that have developed in the Amazon,” the pope said Aug. 25 after leading the recitation of the Angelus prayer. “Let us pray that with the commitment of all they will be brought under control quickly. That forest lung is vital for our planet.”

“The Amazon produces 20% of the world’s oxygen, according to scientific measurements.

Brazil’s space research institute, which is responsible for satellite monitoring of the Amazon, had reported that the number of wildfires, common in July and August, had reached a record number already in 2019, with 72,845 fires spotted.

The U.S. space agency, NASA, Aug. 21 and 22 released satellite imagery showing how smoke from the fires had created “a shroud that is clearly visible across much of the center of South America.”

French President Emmanuel Macron called on world leaders to place the fires at the top of their agenda as they meet in France for the Group of Seven summit starting Aug. 24.

Attendees will include President Donald Trump, Macron and the leaders from Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has said publicly that he believes nongovernmental agencies — including Catholic-backed agencies such as the Land Pastoral and the Indigenous Missionary Council — are behind the illegal burnings because they have opposed his call for development of the rainforest. The organizations have strongly denied the allegations.

In its edition released Aug. 23, the front page of the Vatican newspaper, L’Osservatore Romano, led with two articles about the Amazon fires. The first, titled “The Amazon must be protected,” included general coverage of the fires’ scope and the alarm launched by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. A second article reported on the CELAM statement under the headline, “Save the forest to save the world.”

Their statement, the bishops noted that the upcoming October Synod of Bishops for the Amazon will discuss the plight of the indigenous living in the area as well as the deforestation of the region. Sixty percent of the Amazon rainforest is in Brazil.

“Hope for the proximity of the Amazon synod, convened by Pope Francis, is stained by the pain of this natural tragedy,” the bishops said. “To the brethren of the indigenous peoples who inhabit this beloved territory, we express all our closeness and join your voices with yours to shout to the world for solidarity and pay attention to end this devastation.”

And while the deforestation of the world’s largest tropical forest and the violence against the indigenous population there have been a great concern to the Catholic Church, the upcoming synod also has caused apprehension for the Bolsonaro government.

In February, the Brazilian government was forced to deny that it was spying, through its intelligence agency, ABIN, on more “progressive” bishops and priests working on the synod.

The government’s Institutional Security Cabinet, known as ISC, however, admitted it was worried that the meeting would be used to criticize the Bolsonaro administration’s stance on environment and indigenous rights.

“There are no general criticism of the Catholic Church.

There is the functional concern of the Minister of State Chief of the Institutional Security Office for some points of the synod’s Amazon agenda that will take place at the Vatican in October this year,” said an ISC statement at the time.

The CELAM bishops, quoting Pope Francis from his homily at his papal inauguration in March 2013, requested to “please ask all those who hold positions of responsibility in the economic, political and social fields, all men and women of goodwill, (to) be guardians of creation, of the design of God inscribed in nature, guardians of the other, of the environment; let’s not let the signs of destruction and death follow the path of our world.”

The declaration was signed by Archbishop Miguel Cabrejos Vidarte, of Trujillo, Peru, CELAM president, as well as the officers of the organization.

Contributing to this story were Lise Alves in Sao Paulo and Cindy Wooden at the Vatican.
Catholic teens inspire one another to ‘not grow tired’ of abortion fight

BY MIKE FITZGERALD

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (CNS) — As Planned Parenthood prepares to open Charlotte’s newest abortion facility this summer, pro-life groups are responding by organizing prayer rallies and sidewalk vigils in front of the facility, and by generating awareness of abortion among local Catholics.

Among these groups, one has a unique focus in mobilizing Catholics from an often-overlooked demographic: Catholic teenagers. This group is called EPIC and stands for “Each Person Is Cherished.”

Founded in 2014 by St. Patrick Cathedral parishioner and pro-life teen activist Molly Rusciolelli now professed with the Franciscan Daughters of Mary in Kentucky, the group is open to Catholic teens from ages 13 to 19 and its members participate in a variety of pro-life activities.

EPIC coordinates a monthly prayer vigil at the site of the soon-to-open abortion facility, organizes pro-life conferences, and hosts social and educational events. This past spring, it organized a pro-life movie night during which teens viewed and discussed “Gosnell: The Trial of America’s Biggest Serial Killer,” a documentary about convicted abortionist Kermit Gosnell.

They also hosted a speaker from the national group Students for Life to empower the teens to engage in pro-life conversations with their peers.

Prayer and fasting are a key component to EPIC’s activities, as it also runs a prayer and sacrifice sign-up page where members are asked to offer prayers and small penances each month. Recognizing that many teenagers are dependent on their parents for transportation, this offers an option to help end abortion without leaving home. The group has an e-mail list to keep members updated on upcoming activities.

With Charlotte’s fourth abortion facility set to open, EPIC is renewing its efforts to engage Catholic teens and invite them to participate in pro-life advocacy. Mary Ohlhaut, a 17-year-old St. Ann parishioner and cousin to Rusciolelli, now leads the group, supported and mentored by her parents, Dan and Beth Ohlhaut.

“Abortion is a defining moral issue among my generation, and teens have shown their enormous interest in ending abortion by participating at the March for Life in D.C. each January,” said Ohlhaut. “We want to let them know there is an outlet at home where they can continue that momentum and enthusiasm for pro-life work for the rest of the year—place is EPIC.”

To engage more Catholic teens in the pro-life cause, EPIC is seeking to form a leadership team of teens and parents to expand its reach and activities. The team would focus on social media, email communications, publicity, event organizing, hosting an annual conference, coordinating prayer efforts and fundraising.

The goal is to have one to two teens per task along with a parent or other adult to support them. No prior experience is required and the roles would only take a few hours a month. With a team in place, Ohlhaut believes EPIC can hold more pro-life events and activities thereby enabling teens to help end abortion in Charlotte.

“My generation of pro-life teens, which has grown up in the climate of easy access to abortion, wants to make it illegal and unthinkable. We want to help mothers and their babies,” she told the Catholic News Herald, newspaper of the Charlotte diocese.

“We want to make reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary for the outrages committed against Our Lord and Our Lady in the abortion facilities in our city. And we want to inspire one another to not grow tired of fighting this spiritual battle,” Ohlhaut continued.

“EPIC is the place where we can do this, while growing in leadership and team-working skills that will prepare us for a lifetime of involvement on this issue of great national and moral importance.”

Mike Fitzgerald is a correspondent for the Catholic News Herald, newspaper of the Diocese of Charlotte.
Bangladesh flood victims reel as aid agencies struggle to respond

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Weeks after devastating floods affected millions and killed more than 100 people in Bangladesh, many families are reeling from a lack of aid as the country suffers an outbreak of waterborne diseases. Monsoon flooding in 28 of the country’s 64 districts affected more than 7 million people, left tens of thousands of houses uninhabitable and destroyed crops over vast areas, ucanews.com reported. However, many victims said the support fell far short of the need.

I have been struggling maintain enough,” Khan, a Muslim, told ucanews.com. “My wife, son and I have been struggling maintain the family by working as day laborers, but after flooding, there is less opportunity to find work.”

Migrant children will suffer most under new detention rule

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops’ migration committee said Aug. 20 sees “heartbreaking consequences for immigrant children” in a final rule issued by the Trump administration that allows the federal government to hold immigrant children in family detention indefinitely. The new rule was issued jointly by the Departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services that will end a long-standing legal agreement put in place in 1997 — known as the Flores Settlement Agreement — to ensure the safety and care of children in immigration detention. The administration to circumvent critical protections for these children, the bishop said in a statement. “This rule will jeopardize the well-being and humane treatment of immigrant children in federal custody and will result in children suffering long-lasting consequences of being held in family detention. We oppose this rule that we believe is unlawful and inhumane. Countless children will be harmed by this new rule and this is simply not acceptable,” he said.

‘ABCs’ of Christian charity require helping those in need, official says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A pastoral love for one’s country and culture does not mean closing off one to others, particularly those in need, said the Vatican foreign minister. “No one calls into question the sovereignty of a country, of a nation,” Archbishop Paul Gallagher, the Vatican secretary for relations with states, told Vatican News Aug. 22. The problem is an “exaggerated view of sovereignty” that calls for “total closure to others,” he said. “Perhaps it has a certain theoretical, pragmatic attraction, but I don’t think it is the path to take,” he said. The archbishop was in Rimini, Italy, where he was addressing a large annual meeting sponsored by the lay movement, Communion and Liberation. In the interview with Vatican News, he said that everyone is “interconnected,” and it is too difficult for one nation to guarantee by itself all of its people’s needs, for example, for peace, defense and security. “We very much value patriotism, the love of one’s country, one’s culture, the people,” he said. “In the Catholic faith — and I believe in other Christian denominations, too — there is a view of openness toward others,” which is rooted in an understanding that “there are more things we have in common than things that divide us.”

‘Breakneck speed’

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A globe-trotting warrior for life and human dignity has taken up a new gauntlet as president of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, where he will use his global expertise and Catholic bioethics education to defend against what he termed life-degrading “science fictions” that are becoming reality. Joseph Meany, former director of international outreach and expansion for Human Life International, assumed the presidency of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, taking over from the former president of 22 years, John Haas. The new president earned his doctorate in bioethics from the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Rome. In an interview with Catholic News Service, Meany said he foresees helming a difficult and fast-paced battle against an encroaching “culture of death. There are a lot of things developing at breakneck speed. We are at an unprecedented point in U.S. history. We have never seen this speed of scientific change," Meany said. "There are huge developments in robotics, movements to replace organs and limbs with robotic parts, artificial intelligence implants directly into the brain. These all were science fiction so recently. We are taking something you would talk about in a Hollywood film and turning it into reality.”

Institute offers free online video series on thought of St. Thomas Aquinas

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Thomistic Institute in Washington has launched “Aquinas 101,” a free online video course that instructs interested viewers in the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas. “Aquinas 101” will consist of 85 to 90 videos released over the course of the year. The series will introduce the basics of the Catholic intellectual tradition with St. Thomas Aquinas as a guide. The first three videos can now be viewed on aquinas101.com or on YouTube.com. The videos in the course each feature a Dominican friar/professor and are animated to illustrate the doctrines described. The priests featured include Fathers Dominic Legge, Thomas Joseph White, Thomas Petri, Gregory Frye. The course promises to be an introduction to St. Thomas, a basic description of his philosophy and an in-depth study of his masterwork: “Summa Theologiae.” At the end of the course, the viewer can expect to have gained a basic mastery of the essentials of Aquinas and to have acquired the tools to engage many difficult issues of faith and science, reason and revelation, and beyond,” said a news release from the Thomistic Institute announcing the course. More about the institute can be found online at https://thomisticinstitute.org.

St. Teresa of Kolkata’s birthday not forgotten

KOLKATA, India (CNS) — In this 2011 file photo, a member of the Missionaries of Charity carries a portrait of St. Teresa of Kolkata in Madrid’s Buen Retiro park. The Missionaries of Charity nuns in India celebrated the birthday of their order’s founder three years after her canonization, breaking a Catholic convention. Archbishop Thomas D’Souza of Kolkata led a Mass Aug. 26 marking the 109th anniversary of the St. Mother Teresa’s birth in the headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity in the eastern city, formerly known as Calcutta, ucanews.com reported. Soon after the Mass, about 500 women religious and novices sang “Happy Birthday” at the tomb of their founder.

Threats to dignity, sanctity of life seen advancing at ‘breakneck speed’
Federal court grants WWHA provisional license

SOUTH BEND — The 7th Circuit Court of Appeals granted a provisional license Aug. 22 to Texas abortion business Whole Woman’s Health Alliance, to offer chemical abortions in South Bend. The court amended Judge Sarah Evans Barker’s original injunction that permitted WWHA to operate without a license or state jurisdiction.

The appeals court, by granting a license without state authority to an abortion chain with a history of health and safety violations, has overstepped its bounds to pander to the abortion lobby, according to St. Joseph County Right to Life Executive Director Jackie Appleman.

“This isn’t about health care,” Appleman said. “This is about pandering to the abortion lobby, which sees Indiana as a lucrative market to sell abortions to women in crisis. I encourage our community to come together to provide real solutions for women instead of falling for the decep tions of the abortion industry.”

Right to Life is committed to continuing to share life-affirming resources with women in the community and empowering them to appreciate their own value and that of their preborn children, the organization noted in a press release.

St. Joseph County Right to Life Inc. is dedicated to the social welfare by promoting life through outreach, education and advocacy. It is the oldest, continuously active pro-life organization in St. Joseph County. Its goal is to protect all human life — from fertilization to natural death.

National Catholic Youth Conference set for November

INDIANAPOLIS — The National Catholic Youth Conference is a conference for high school youth from across the United States from Nov. 21-23. This event draws over 20,000 and is packed with powerful prayer experiences talks from national speakers, and liturgies with thousands of Catholics from all 50 states. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will join youth from the Fort Wayne-South Bend delegation to Indianapolis for Mass. For more information, contact John Pratt at jpratt@dioceseindy.org or visit https://www.fwsbym.com/nycc-nov-2019.

Christ embraced on 20th annual Father and Son Canoe Trip

BY DR. HERON RODRIGUEZ

On Friday, Aug. 2, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass at Our Lady of Good Hope Church, Fort Wayne, before a unique group of congregants: 186 campers and canoeists, who were kicking off the 20th annual Father and Son Canoe Trip.

The weekend of outdoor adventure was started in 1999 by Douglas Snowball, an airline pilot and father of nine who thought that an “exclusively spiritual life: that male’ weekend would be doomed to fail, since it would lack the treasure of the ‘feminine touch.” Nevertheless, he said, during three days, “we saw friendships shine with the warmth of faith, fraternity and sportsman spirit.”

“Our weekend did not lack jokes or chats. The wisdom of Father Glenn during the camp fire talk amazed me when he answered the questions about faith posed by kids and some fathers alike. “I enjoyed Father Jose’s homily about the similarities between canoeing and spiritual life: that when you discover a defect in yourself, it is like seeing a rock or log jam in the river. You must paddle hard to overcome this obstacle. While dodging these obstacles, you also must keep your sight on the horizon so not to lose direction. Rowing always together and staying united is key. Above all, it’s critical to keep your canoe in the center of the river, where steady water flows. You can only do this in the faith by following the pope and the bishops.”

Father Montes said he came back with darker skin and sore arms, but departed with a renewed mission to row along with Christ, in His boat, the Church.

“Told with me a prayer of Thanksgiving for the gift of my new brothers, rowers in faith. Men that do not let themselves be carried by the current, but row and teach their sons to row together and stay united in Christ.”

Organizers intend for the trip to take place again next year. For information, contact Snowball at dougsnowball@gmail.com.
Pastoral visit blesses St. Jude

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades engages with St. Jude students during Mass Aug. 20, when he made a pastoral visit to the Fort Wayne school.

Photos by John Martin

Principal Michael Obergfell, left, listens as Bishop Rhoades speaks with St. Jude students.

Bishop Rhoades engages with St. Jude students during Mass Aug. 20, when he made a pastoral visit to the Fort Wayne school.

To the delight of Deacon Jim Tighe, Bishop Rhoades displays a gift given to him. The St. Jude Home and School Association presented him with a fleece pullover bearing the school’s insignia.

Father Robert D’Souza, parochial vicar, and Msgr. Robert Schulte, pastor, watch as the bishop speaks at the end of Mass.

Students listen attentively as the bishop answers questions.

Kindergartners in Cathy Ziegler’s class ask questions of the bishop.
Serving as both shepherd and impromptu teacher, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades made his first pastoral visit of the 2019-20 academic year Aug. 20 to St. Jude School in Fort Wayne. He celebrated Mass with the school’s 430 students in kindergarten through grade 8 and then visited students in their classrooms, where he asked them about what they are learning. They asked him about everything from his clothing to his age (61) and favorite foods (Italian and Greek).

“I think it was such a blessing for the students to have the personal time with the bishop,” St. Jude School principal Mike Obergfell said.

Along with answering students’ questions, whether faith-related or personal, the bishop could share his great knowledge of the faith in a way students understand and also that he is a real person, Obergfell said. The bishop began Mass by expressing thanks for being invited to visit and for all the blessings St. Jude School has provided during the parish’s 90 years.

Then-Bishop John F. Noll dedicated the school and a chapel inside it on March 3, 1929, and classes began the day after. Bishop Rhoades tied his homily closely to the Gospel reading, Matthew 19:23-30, in which Jesus tells His disciples, “...it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

“We continue to be excited about the possibility of educating kids in the Catholic faith,” said Msgr. Robert Schultz, who became St. Jude’s pastor in June 2018. In addition to emphasizing academics, the school will add new programs this year, Obergfell said.

“Last year, we began the Peace be with You program where older students learn lessons on leadership and interpersonal and intrapersonal life skills. This year, we will be adding a program called Faith Families, where students join together, older and younger, and work together for a common project or activity related to Catholic identity, whether it is serving the poor, making cards for shut-ins or veterans, praying the rosary or feeding the hungry. The focus will be on the dignity of and concern for others in our community,” the school also plans to add enrichment programs after Christmas that may help students discover talents in areas such as music, science, art or robotics, Obergfell said.

During the Mass with students and school staff, Bishop Rhoades tied his homily closely to the Gospel reading, Matthew 19:23-30, in which Jesus tells His disciples, “...it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

“If we have a lot of money and a lot of possessions and we only think about those things or are not generous, we will not go to heaven,” the bishop said. “Anyone who follows me will be rewarded in heaven.”

“There are so many ways right here in St. Jude School you can live your faith and practice your faith,” he continued, such as donating to collections for the poor or missions, being kind to teachers.

The bishop also invited students to think about what God may be calling them to do in life. He was in fourth grade when he first heard God calling him to become a priest, he said. Mary was a young woman when God called her to be the mother of Jesus.

“Think about it,” he encouraged the students. “Don’t let things get in the way, like money.”

Just before the final blessing, Obergfell told the bishop the Home and School Association had a gift for him. Bishop Rhoades reached into a gift bag and pulled out a St. Jude Eagles fleece sweater.

“This is great,” a smiling bishop told students and staff. “Every time I wear this, I’ll think of you.”

Afterward at the school, Bishop Rhoades spoke with each grade separately. All students in a grade gathered in one classroom so he could visit with them together.

King kindergartners greeted the bishop by holding up letters spelling out “Welcome Bishop Rhoades. We love you,” and reciting that message. They also sang, “We love you Bishop, oh yes we do,” ending by blowing him a kiss.

When the bishop invited children in the younger grades to ask him questions, many asked about what he was wearing, the black and cassock with a magenta belt and zucchetto he wore to the school or the cream-colored vestments and miter he wore at Mass.

The pope normally wears white, cardinals wear red, bishops wear magenta and priests wear magenta and scarlet. The bishop explained it was his staff, or crosier.

“What job or occupation carries a staff?” the bishop asked. Students volunteered the names of a few saints and prophets before a girl answered correctly, “shepherd.”

“Who is my flock?” he asked.

“You are. I try to protect you from evil and from the devil and from bad things.”

During his visit with first graders, one girl asked, “Why did Jesus die on the cross?”

“Because He loved us so much,” Bishop Rhoades said.

“That makes sense,” the girl replied matter-of-factly, sparkling with excitement.

Bishop Rhoades also questioned students about what they learn in their religion classes.

“I think study of Scripture is really, really important,” he said when told sixth graders learn about the Old Testament. “Reading and understanding the Old Testament helps you understand the New Testament.”

With the second grade classes he spoke about the sacraments of reconciliation and Communion, which the students will receive this year, and about their lessons on the Trinity.

“The Trinity is a great mystery — three persons in one God,” he said.

Fourth graders told him they were learning about the fruits of the Holy Spirit, including love, joy, peace, faithfulness and self-control.

“If you have the fruits of the Holy Spirit, you are on the right path,” the bishop said.
‘STREAM’ points Sacred Heart to future

BY WILLIAM SCHMITT

WARSAW — Sacred Heart School in Warsaw shares with its parish a motto — “Where God and Education Lead the Way” — to proclaim that a completely secular approach to learning doesn’t go far enough.

This year, the school will continue to build on a one-word statement of the same message. Teachers have adopted the STEM approach but are integrating religion and the arts into a lively mix. That yields an acronym, STREAM, said to propel students further along the path of readiness for life as a whole person.

STREAM stands for “science, technology, religion, engineering, arts and mathematics.” Sacred Heart’s STREAM coordinator, Andrea Komorowski, calls this a framework of “real-world, relevant, rigorous instruction in problem-based experiences.”

But she adds that this focus, which the school embraced about six years ago, is constantly evolving while retaining a guideline present from the start, namely that “religion is the most important piece” in the combination.

“We are not just teaching religion as a separate subject,” Komorowski said. “Just as I imagine most Catholic schools do, we make it a point to incorporate our Catholic faith in all areas so that it is a part of the students’ way of life and not something just done for 30 minutes a day or at Mass on Sunday.”

The integrative approach is adding to an overall “continuous improvement journey,” said Komorowski, who is also the resource specialist at the Pre-K-6 school. STREAM encourages teachers to become more adept at bringing multiple subject areas into students’ daily lessons. Instruction includes more hands-on learning, as required by Indiana state standards, as well as the introduction of broader abilities to make sense of a complex, changing world of business and culture, she said.

This year, for example, educators will incorporate more of an “Engineering is Elementary” program and will utilize a “Digitarium” — a kind of inflatable planetarium — to enhance lessons on space exploration.

But they won’t neglect the goal of shaping students as well-rounded contributors to society. Komorowski referred to guid-

Photos provided by Andrea Komorowski

Kindergarteners at Sacred Heart School build a cathedral out of blocks.

Breaking down the walls between science, education

BY WILLIAM SCHMITT

During June and early July, teachers from Marian High School, Mishawaka, and Saint Joseph High School, South Bend, worked with Catholic scientists, philosophers and theologians to meet a crucial need: the integration of faith and science in their classrooms and throughout the high school curriculum.

They and other educators were welcomed to the Science & Religion Initiative of the McGrath Institute for Church Life of the University of Notre Dame for weeklong seminars aimed at this goal at the Notre Dame campus.

Since 2014, Catholic educators have joined with peers from Catholic schools across the country for the sake of building “a synthesis of faith and culture, reached by integrating all of human knowledge through the subjects taught, in the light of the Gospel,” as called for by the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education. Since then, more than 400 high school teachers nationwide have participated in the Foundations and Capstone seminars in an effort to create a new approach to professional development and classroom implementation.

SRI gives teachers official Church resources and insights to draw upon for big-picture discussions and lesson plans that break down the walls often isolating religion education from science education. The initiative equips educators to convey the complementarity of faith and reason, science and religion. The approach received international recognition in 2018 with an Expanded Reason Award bestowed by the Vatican Foundation and the University of Francisco de Vitoria.

Selected participants probe ways to help students “see scientific investigation and discoveries in the light of the Catholic faith,” said Chris Baglow, director of SRI. “To be able to connect [scientific learning] to their faith is a way of helping young people to see the glorious harmony between the Book of Nature and the Book of Scripture, which both reveal the Creator.”

Addressing the teachers at one of this summer’s seminars, Baglow suggested “bringing home to your students that, without a holistic view of the world, they’ll find it very hard to understand themselves and find it very hard to know how to act and find meaning in that world.”

They need to see how “Christianity is offering answers” in a world where divine principles endure but “there are always new horizons” for any field of knowledge to explore, Baglow said. Theology is defined as “faith seeking understanding”; that is, “it’s an activity” in which students can feel engaged.

Sister Marie Morgan and Mary Ann Hinora represented Marian at this year’s Foundations seminar, while Chris Culver, Deb Semmler, and Mary Kate Lamp represented Saint Joseph at the advanced Capstone Seminar.

One teacher responded to the seminar by commenting that students “shouldn’t think it means they’re less Catholic” if they have questions that go beyond their catechetical learning. In embracing questions, “they come to understand God better.”

Another teacher said the seminar had answered many of her own questions, but she was also grateful that the week’s talks and workshops had “given me far more questions to actively seek answers to.” Those sessions, she said, reinforced the guidance, “read more about this, look this up,” using the authoritative resources that could help her teach students.

SRI is now accepting high schools’ applications for the 2020 Foundations Seminar in its two locations. Applications are due by Dec. 3. Educational leaders can apply or learn more about these programs, the Capstone Seminar and Institute Days by visiting the SRI website, mcgrath.nd.edu/science.
The ability to see the entire world “through a Catholic lens” and stay “grounded in the Lord” is a gift Sacred Heart’s educators can share through STREAM as students build their personal futures, McClain added. "It is our job, in collaboration with their parents and family members, to equip them with the moral decision-making skills they need to get themselves and their loved ones to heaven," he said. "By infusing religion into their academic life, we are helping to develop and reinforce their own Catholic lens."

Dr. Christopher Stroud

On Aug. 25, Dr. Stroud and his wife, Marianne, discussed love — specifically, marriage and family — in the context of St. Pope Paul VI’s papal encyclical “Humanae Vitae.” They shared their own journeys of living as one in Christ through marriage and in professional vocations as obstetrician and midwife at their Creighton Fertility Model / Natural Procreative Technology fertility practice.

Dr. Ray Guarendi

Dr. Guarendi has something to say about the second topic in the series, “life.” Guarendi, the father of 10, is a clinical psychologist, author, professional speaker and national radio and television host who empowers Catholic parents to trust their parenting instincts, overcome the parenting challenges of today’s world and work through the “expert” advice that can sometimes undermine and prevent them from raising children for heaven. His talk takes place Sept. 15 from 7:30-9 p.m. in the church, 1502 E. Wallen Rd, Fort Wayne.

Chris Padgett

Speaking on the topic of laughter, Padgett is a Catholic father bent on illuminating the beauty of the Catholic family. “Chris is a musician and author who uses humor and a light-hearted approach to help children, adults and families understand and overcome roadblocks to living out their faith,” said Obergfell. His talk is slated for Oct. 6, 7:30-9 p.m. in the church.
An authentic democracy

An authentic democracy requires of us to recognize how this concept forms the core of freedom. While democracy may not be the panacea for all of our ills, it is a fundamental principle that underpins our society. It is the foundation on which our democratic institutions and processes are built.

Do we really believe in the Real Presence?

We often take for granted the presence of the Real Presence in our liturgical celebrations. Do we really believe when the priest says the words of consecration? Do we really believe that the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ? Many of us who have grown up in a Catholic faith may not fully grasp the significance of these words.

Humility is indispensable to holiness

Humility is not just a virtue but a fundamental aspect of holiness. It is the key to a life of faith and devotion. By realizing who, and what, we are, and by fulfilling our destiny in the world, we can achieve a sense of purpose and fulfillment.

LECTIONS

Sunday:

Ps 31:17-18, 20.28.29 Rm 5:33-39


Monday:

1 Thes 4:13-18 Ps 96:1, 3-5

Col 1:1-8 Ps 52:10-11

Tuesday:

Ps 54:3-4, 6-7

13-14 Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday:

Col 1:21-23 Ps 56:1-3

7-8 Lk 4:38-43

Thursday:

Ps 1:1-2 Ps 100:5-6

11-12 Lk 5:33-39

Friday:

Ps 12:1-2 Ps 54:3-4, 6, 8 Lk 6:1-5

AMID THE FRAY

Great deal of breast-beating, and accusations flew about who was to blame for this sorry state of affairs.

One must always approach such surveys with caution, as Mark Gray from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, known as CARA, subsequently pointed out in his blog named 1964.

Gray noted that Pew gave Catholics the following choice: The bread and wine (a) actually become the body and blood of Jesus Christ, or (b) are symbols of the body and blood of Christ. The results are significantly different from a 2011 survey in which 63% believe in the Real Presence (46% of whom knew what the Church teaches.)

The earlier survey asked the question this way: “Which of the following statements best describes the Catholic teaching on the Eucharist: (a) The bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus Christ, or (b) the bread and wine are only symbols of the body and blood.”

The difference is the use of the phrase “really become” versus “derive passage into the engine of human affairs.”

The mighty men who have been written in the book of life of the Lord, which shall never be’ed away, and forever preserved in the heaven of the Almighty God. St. Luke’s Gospel supplies the last reading. In this story, the Lord is guest at a meal in the home of a Pharisee. Jesus uses the occasion to warn that no one should seek the highest place. Rather, the humble man who is content with a lesser place will be called to higher distinction. In addition to its obvious call to humility, the following points are also evident, in the Old Testament.

However, the most important one is that the Lord warns His followers about the dangers of becoming arrogant and骄傲 of the knowledge they have. As such, the reading is a reminder to all of us to remain humble and to recognize our own limitations.

Reflection

Followers of Jesus always have treasured humility, a virtue also revered in the Old Testament. Humility so long has been seen as indispensable to holiness, the common denominator among all the saints, men and women, of whatever circumstances, from every place on earth.

Humility is not self-degradation. Holiness does not debase or deny human dignity and potential. Instead, it means that a person does not overestimate his or her personal worth. Still, every person possesses the distinction of being God’s precious creation. Recent events have shocked us all with their utter disregard for human life. These readings tell us that reality is that we are God’s beloved, and that humility and modesty are necessary for everyone as precious.

By realizing who, and what, we are, and by fulfilling our destiny in the world, we can achieve a sense of purpose and fulfillment.
Getting beyond Darwin

Bishop Robert Barron and others working hard to evangelize the "Nones"—young adults without religious conviction—tell us that a major obstacle to a new embrace of Christianity is the cultural assumption that science explains everything. And if science explains it all, who needs God, revelation, Christ or the Church? To be even more specific: If Darwin and the Darwinian theory of evolution explain the origins of us (and everything else), why bother with Gen. 1-3 and Col. 1:15-20 (much less Augustine's "Thou hast made us for Thee and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee")?

That's why "Giving Up Darwin," an essay by Dr. David Gelernter in the spring issue of the "Claremont Review of Books" is both a fascinating article and a potential tool in the New Evangelization.

No one can accuse Gelernter of being an anti-smart-knucklehead. He's a pioneering computer scientist, a full professor at Yale, and a remarkable hagiographer. But Gelernter's book, "Deconstructing Darwin," is a package from the Unabomber blew off his right hand and permanently damaged his right eye but didn't impede his remarkable intellect, literary and artistic productivity.

In his Claremont Review essay, Gelernter gives full credit to what he calls "Darwin's brilliance and lovely theory" and readily concedes that "there's no reason to doubt that Darwin successfully explained the small adjustments by which an organism adapts to local circumstances: changes to fur density or wing style or beak shape." But Darwinian evolution can't "explain the big picture—[which involves] not the fine-tuning of existing species but the emergence of new ones."

"Darwin did brilliantly" in explaining species adaptation. But Darwin himself, and even his Neo-Darwinian disciples can't account for the incredible complexity of the basic building blocks of life: for as we now know, "genetic information is stored in the blueprint of the proteins that form the basis of cellular life, encode an awe-inspiring amount of information. Where on earth did it all (i.e., all that "profound biochemical knowledge") come from?" From random mutations? Maybe, but very unlikely, for as Gelernter puts it, "You don't turn up a useful protein by doodling on the back of an envelope, any more than you write a Mozart aria by assembling three sheets of staff paper and scattering notes around."

Put the Cambrian fossil record together with the high statistical improbablility that the information-dense building blocks of life hap-

the phrase "transubstantiation" may be obscure to them, but in their reverence and demeanor, they demonstrate their belief that this is not just a symbol.

What all of these surveys underscore, however, is the Church's great need for adult faith formation. A few years of religious education classes as children is not sufficient, and we are paying the price for this neglect now.

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

ERLANDSON, from page 12

"actually become." "Actually," Gray suggests, may make it sound like something that could be analyzed under a microscope or empirically observed.

Instead, the Church describes the Real Presence as "an inexhaustible mystery," and the "substance" of the bread and wine are changed at consecration, but "the accidents or appearances of bread and wine remain."

Past CARA surveys, Gray said, used the word "Jesus Christ is really present in the bread and wine of the Eucharist," and the bread and wine are symbols of Jesus, but Jesus is not really present. Gray hopes to test this hypothesis further, but he suspects he is on to something. As one theologian told me when a similar survey came out years ago, Catholics may not be able to articularly define the "Real Presence," and

Greg Erlanson, director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service, can be reached at gerlandson@catholycnews.com.
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St. Therese fall festival
FORT WAYNE — St. Therese Parish, 2504 Lower Huntington Rd., will have a fall festival Saturday, Sept. 7, from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Enjoy family games, food, farmer's market, silent auction, bingo and adult beverages during the day. Menu items include: hot dogs, brats, hamburgers, corn on the cob, walking tacos, pizza, funnel cakes and ice cream. Mass on the grass is at 5 p.m. Evening activities (21+) will follow with entertainment by SwimmingIntoView starting at 8 p.m. For more information, call 260-426-2044. Visit www.sttheresafw.org.

Deerstock charity fundraising event
FORT WAYNE — Deerstock fall festival, 228 North Main Street, Avilla, Indiana, will have a fall festival Saturday, Sept. 7, from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Enjoy family games, food, farmer's market, silent auction, bingo and adult beverages during the day. Menu items include: hot dogs, brats, hamburgers, corn on the cob, walking tacos, pizza, funnel cakes and ice cream. Mass on the grass is at 5 p.m. Evening activities (21+) will follow with entertainment by SwimmingIntoView starting at 8 p.m. For more information, call 260-426-2044. Visit www.sttheresafw.org.

Fort Wayne

Fort Wayne Porfirio Carmona-Miranda, 28, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Travis Musser, 32, St. Vincent de Paul
Decatur
Richard E. Troutman, 89, St. Anthony of Padua
Decatur

Elizabeth Glaser, 95, St. Pius X

Fort Wayne — St. Therese Parish, 2304 Lower Huntington Rd., will have a fall festival Saturday, Sept. 7, from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Enjoy family games, food, farmer's market, silent auction, bingo and adult beverages during the day. Menu items include: hot dogs, brats, hamburgers, corn on the cob, walking tacos, pizza, funnel cakes and ice cream. Mass on the grass is at 5 p.m. Evening activities (21+) will follow with entertainment by SwimmingIntoView starting at 8 p.m. For more information, call 260-426-2044. Visit www.sttheresafw.org.

Be It Done! women's retreat
ELKHART — St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1108 South Main St., is hosting the “Be It Done!” Catholic Women's Retreat with speaker, author, life-coach Judy Hehr Saturday, Sept. 7 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The retreat will be a combination of prayer, music, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, opportunities for confession, talks by Judy, discussion, sisterhood and will end with Mass at 5 p.m. Cost is $25. Contact Lori Massa at 574-293-8071 or loriamassa@gmail.com for information.

Bilingual confirmation Mass for youth with disabilities
WARSAW — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate a bilingual confirmation Mass for youth with disabilities (7th grade through age 18) and their families on Saturday, Sept. 7, at 4 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Warsaw. Contact your pastor or Allison Sturm at 260-399-1452 or email asturm@diocesesfw.org.

Little Flower Holy Hour for Vocations
FORT WAYNE — The Little Flower Holy Hours will begin on the first Tuesday of the month at St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel, 1122 S. Clinton St., from 7-8 p.m. Father Patrick Hake, parochial vicar at St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, will offer a reflection on a biblical reading, lead the rosary during adoration and conclude the evening with Benediction.

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

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Finally, a multipurpose room will accommodate the school lunch program, after-school activities and additional parish programming. It is the final step in our efforts to provide the parish with adequate space for our growing community," said pastor Msgr. William C. Schooler. “We hope that people will see for themselves the fruits of their many sacrifices and appreciate the positive benefits to our parish and educational efforts.”

According to Msgr. Schooler’s message in the weekly bulletin, “Bishop’s blessing concludes construction of our ambitious building project, which began with the building of our new church and the adaption of the former church into the Parish Life Center. We would never have accomplished all of this without the prayers and generous financial support of so many parishioners. I look forward to the successful completion of the Behold, I Make All Things New campaign (hopefully, very soon!) when the entire expansion project is fully funded.”

During the homily, Bishop Rhoades discussed the image of St. Paul viewing Christian life as an athletic race, in the second reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

“The author of the letter speaks of our persevering and running the race that lies before us keeping our eyes on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith. Jesus is at the finish line in the glory of heaven, and we’re on this race as his disciples heading toward that triumphant goal, the goal of eternal life with him in the glory of heaven,” said Bishop Rhoades. “What’s great is there’s a crowd cheering us on. And the letter to the Hebrews says we’re surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses — the saints in heaven.”

“It’s like they’re a crowd in a big sports arena rooting for us. And they’re not just spectators — they’re praying for us. They are examples that inspire us to persevere in the race.”

“It’s great that we Catholics believe and take seriously what the letter to the Hebrews says about the cloud of witnesses. We have devotion to the saints — we even have an All Saints Day. Saints are encouraging us to stay faithful and to persevere as they did even when it’s tough,” noted the bishop.

The letter tells Christians to rid themselves of every burden and sin that clings to them. “We need to throw off those things that impede our progress, works of darkness, sins and vices that weigh us down,” said Bishop Rhoades.

In Christian life, it’s not a sprint. It’s more like a marathon, a distance race. There are some long uphill climbs and stretches of rough terrain. Perseverance and endurance is needed.

“Let us continue to run the race knowing that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Try to rid ourselves of the burdens of sin that weigh us down, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus ready to endure the cross knowing what lies before us at the finish line,” said Bishop Rhoades.