Masses celebrated with legal communities

**BY JENNIFER MILLER**

On the feast of St. Jerome, translator of the Bible into Latin, members of the Society of St. Thomas More and others practicing within legal community near South Bend gathered to celebrate the annual Red Mass with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

The University Notre Dame has the oldest law school at a Catholic university in America, founded in 1869. On the occasion of its 150th anniversary the new dean, G. Marcus Cole, was present.

“The Red Mass to bless judges and lawyers at the start of the judicial calendar is a precious but under-appreciated tradition,” Cole noted. “For hundreds of years, the legal profession has called upon the Holy Spirit to guide decisions and judgment where the lives, liberty, and well-being of God’s people are at stake. I’m proud that Notre Dame Law School remains an institution that preserves and honors this tradition.”

Red is the color of the vestments at a Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit and the color of traditional British judicial robes. The celebration marks the beginning of the judicial term.

Bishop Rhoades invoked God’s guidance and wisdom in upholding justice, through the Holy Spirit the Paraclete — upon judges, lawyers, law clerks, paralegals, professors and students of the law, and also upon lawmakers and executors of the law, who were united in prayer.

“We see the Paraclete calling the early Christians to do good, crying to them to evangelize, giving them courage to proclaim and live the faith, to witness to Christ in the midst of persecution and even to die as martyrs for the faith,” he said. “He gave them help, strength, and consolation, and yes, even joy in the midst of incredible hardships.

“It was the Paraclete, the Spirit of Truth, who counseled St. Thomas More, guiding him to save his soul, rather than his body, by rejecting the Oath of Supremacy. The Paraclete urged him forward and called him on, and yes, cheered his spirit, in his prison cell and at the scaffold in the Tower of London. The Paraclete gave him strength and also gave him com-

**Moral wisdom and transforming obstacles**

**BY KEVIN KILBANE**

Federal Judge Amy Coney Barrett urged lawyers to view obstacles as opportunities during a speech following a Red Mass celebrated Oct. 1 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

The Masses for the Fort Wayne and South Bend areas were organized by the St. Thomas More Society groups in each city. The patron saint of attorneys was an English lawyer, author and leader who was beheaded because he refused to take an oath agreeing that King Henry VIII was the head of the Church and that he could annul his marriage to one wife and make another woman his queen.

Red Mass participants pray for the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide attorneys, judges and those working in the legal profession. The tradition began about 1245 in Paris and spread throughout Europe and later to America.

About 80 people attended the Mass, celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. The bishop also celebrated a Red Mass Sept. 30 at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame.

In Fort Wayne, the bishop preached about how the Holy Spirit comes alongside people to encourage and lead them.

“One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is wisdom,” he said. “We need lawyers and judges who are men and women of moral wisdom, of good moral character, who strive to live as disciples of Jesus not only at home or at church, but also at work. This means living for love of God and neighbor. That can be difficult if laws are unjust, such as those permitting abortion or euthanasia. ‘We have a moral duty to God and neighbor to refuse to take part in committing an injustice,’ he said. ‘Just because a civil law permits or requires an evil action, that does not take away our responsibility not to participate in it.’ During dinner at the
First-class Fatima relics visit high schools

BY JENNIFER SIMERMAN

A t the encouragement of the Vatican, Fatima Family Apostolate was founded by the late Father Robert J. Fox. Prior to his death, Father Fox chose John C. Preiss to carry on his work because of his knowledge of family life and his love for Mary.

Preiss, president of Fatima Family Apostolate International, visited the four diocesan high schools to speak on devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. On Oct. 5 he spoke with the students of Saint Joseph High School, South Bend, and Marian High School, Mishawaka. Oct. 4 he began his day at Bishop Luers High School, followed by Bishop Dwenger High School, both in Fort Wayne. Anita Senesac, a representative from the World Apostolate of Fatima Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend division, said Preiss is an adult convert to Catholic faith, husband and father of eight with another child on the way. He is the editor of the Immaculate Heart Messenger magazine, has been interviewed on Catholic Radio and Vatican Radio, has hosted the Family Matters radio program and appeared on the EWTN Bookmark and the At Home with Jim and Joy television program. He is the author of “Our Lady of Fatima: True Devotion” and a children’s book titled “The Miracle of the Dancing Sun at Fatima.” His latest Amazon best-seller is called “The Miracle of Mary and Mass 100 Years Of Fatima.”

Preiss travels from his home in Alabama to promote the Apostolate’s mission to help learn, live and spread the message of Our Lady of Fatima—a call for families to return to holiness.

Form spiritual life before adulthood

The Bishop Luers assembly welcomed Preiss by signing “God is Here.” Following his introduction, Preiss noted that the really important part of Fatima is to the Lord in that moment. The apparition confirms our faith, Preiss said. The second apparition of the angel was more about the need to pray for a sacrifice of daily life in offering for the sake of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Preiss told the crowd that the children received divine graces, but everyone who receives Communion can receive the same graces. He reminded them of the importance, prior to receiving the Eucharist, of opening one’s heart, using that moment to petition God and remembering the full presence, the true body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. He asked the students to consider how reverent they are to the Lord in that moment.

The apparitions of the angel prepared the children for the apparitions of Mary, which began on May 13, 1917. Mary, Preiss said, appeared to the children six times and asked them to pray the rosary every time. He continued by encouraging students to follow that message and get into the habit of praying the rosary as part of their spiritual journey.

Mary, through her apparitions, also established a devotion to her immaculate heart. She gave the children a vision of hell, confirmed the existence of purgatory, and promised a miracle for the last apparition in October.

On Oct. 13, 1917, it is documented that between 70,000 and 100,000 people witnessed the miracle of the dancing sun.

“This is not just a fairy tale; this is a true story,” Preiss said, encouraging students to look up photos of the event.

After reiterating that his was just the basic story of the message of Fatima, Preiss concluded with the importance of living the message.

“How do you live this in your life?” he asked. “It’s just what Our Lady asked us.” He said this would include praying the rosary every day, wearing the brown scapular as a sign of belonging to Mary and living the First Saturday Devotion of celebrating a First Saturday Mass and adoration, going to confession and praying a rosary. “This is our faith,” Preiss said.

In addition to hearing the message of Fatima, students were given the opportunity to venerate before first-class relics of Jacinta and Francisco and the holm-oak tree above which Mary appeared to the children.

Prior to veneration, the Luers students learned that upon approaching the relic, they could also touch a scapular or medal to it and the item would become a third-class relic of saints Jacinta and Francisco. Principal James Huth requested that each student wear the relic to Mass saying a Hail Mary afterward. “I prayed to the saints, that they would pray for me,” said sophomore Jason Howard. “I just felt like they were there praying with me in heaven.”

Veneration of relics in the Catholic Church

The Church has always treated the relics of saints in a special manner, preserving them and often putting them on display to be seen by the faithful.

A simple way to venerate a relic is to spend a few minutes in quiet devotion, showing honor and respect to the saint by performing a gesture such as a knelling, performing the sign of the cross, or praying for intercession. In expression of one’s commitment to live the Catholic faith and strive for sainthood.

How one should not genuflect in the same way as is done before the Blessed Sacrament. Only Christ should be venerated this way. Whichever way a person chooses to venerate a relic, it should not be done out of superstition; it is a reverence to the saint and love of God.

The Bishop Luers assembly welcomed Preiss by signing “God is Here.” Following his introduction, Preiss noted that the really important part of Fatima is getting to witness the Catholic Church during the recent persecutions by the government. Our Lady came with a message from God to every man, woman, and child of our century.”

Fatima Family Apostolate International for the Sanctification of the Family

— Fatimafamily.org

A message for the world

“The Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, appeared six times to three shepherd children: Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta; between May 13 and October 13, 1917. She came to the little village of Fatima which had remained faithful to the Catholic Church during the recent persecutions by the government. Our Lady came with a message from God to every man, woman, and child of our century.”

Nate Poulos

St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel student Michael Smith peers at a relic of Our Lady of Fatima Oct. 4. John Preiss, president of Fatima Family Apostolate International, spoke with Catholic school students in the diocese about the apparition of Mary at Fatima, Portugal, to three shepherd children, and brought with him several relics for veneration.

Francie Hogan

Published weekly except for the last Sunday in December, and every other week from third Sunday in May through fourth Sunday in August, by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend P.O. Box 11169 Fort Wayne, IN 46856

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Published weekly except for the last Sunday in December, and every other week from third Sunday in May through fourth Sunday in August, by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, 915 S. Clinton St., P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, IN 46801. Periodicals post paid at Fort Wayne, IN, and additional mailing office.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856-1169 or email circulation@diocesefwsb.org

MAINT OFFICE: 915 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Telephone 260-456-2824; Fax 260-744-1473.

News deadline is 10 days prior to publication date. Advertising deadline is nine days before publication date.

Today's Catholic may be reached at: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856-1169 or email editor@diocesefwsb.org

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October 13, 2019
Cardinal Newman’s canonization: Chance for campus groups to ‘reclaim’ name

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The upcoming canonization of Blessed John Henry Newman begs the question: Do Catholic college students today even know who Cardinal Newman is? Yes and no, seems to be the answer, depending on where they go to school, but this could change after the Oct. 13 canonization of the British theologian and intellectual so tied in with university life.

Newman centers, located on the campuses of many public universities, get their name and their role from the cardinal who died in 1890 and emphasized that Catholic students who attend public universities must be given a place to gather to support and encourage one another in their faith.

Many university-based Catholic student groups no longer call themselves Newman Centers but instead go by terms like Catholic associations. Catholic student organizations or campus Catholic communities, possibly because students lack knowledge about Cardinal Newman, who has taken a bit of a back seat.

Barbara McCrabb, assistant director for higher education at the Secretariat of Catholic Education of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said Cardinal Newman’s canonization is an “opportunity for campus ministry to reclaim some of its roots” by reintroducing the saint she described as a Renaissance man, with concern for prayer, immigrants and the poor, to today’s college students.

“All of what Cardinal Newman was talking about and hoping for has resonance today,” she added, urging again that campus ministry “reclaim and rekindle its intellectual past” in telling the story of the new saint, who embraced the link between faith and the culture for the better there.”

That’s the challenge that motivates Father Gary Braun, who has been director of the Catholic Student Center at Washington University in St. Louis for nearly 30 years. He said the campus ministry program is not just about keeping the participating students “over here” but “catapulting them back across the street healthier, happier, holier so that they can impact the culture for the better there.”

The priest said the center’s sign outside the building includes the words “Newman Community” and he said students are often curious about it because most of them have never heard of Cardinal Newman in their parishes or even Catholic high schools.

Their curiosity brings about “a great opportunity to talk about him as a brilliant man and priest, his conversion story, his struggle to put his faith together with what they are learning in the university,” he told Catholic News Service by email.

This discussion leads to inevitable dialogue about Cardinal Newman’s impact on the whole idea of a university and his understanding of a church that both can change and cannot change.

One student who went through this Catholic student center was Melissa Villalobos of Chicago. Her 2013 healing, which saved her life and the life of her unborn child, was accepted by the Vatican this year as the miracle needed for Cardinal Newman’s canonization.

Background material about Villalobos on the website of the London Oratories, which include the Oratory in Birmingham founded by Cardinal Newman, says that when Villalobos first came across the Newman Center at Washington University, she assumed it was named after a rich benefactor. In truth, it was “God’s heart speaks to our hearts, but then the invitation is to share our hearts to others,” Travers said this is especially key at Penn where “everyone is from the top of their class when they get here and they think that they have to be the best but they eventually hit a wall” which is something the Newman center, through its small groups, works to change by encouraging students to let barriers down and trust each other.

Those group discussions with fellow Catholic students also has made the difference for Hailey Rose Thayer, a junior biology education major at the University of Evansville, Indiana, who will be reading a petition at a prayer vigil for Cardinal Newman in Rome the night before his canonization.

In an email to CNS, Thayer said the Newman Center has changed her life, particularly its community aspect “because these are the people we see at Sunday Mass and our weekly dinner and discussions” that go on until late at night.

“During these late nights, we discuss God in our lives and what that means to us,” she said, adding that they talk about where they have seen God and where they have struggled or done well. “In these precious moments, I feel that Newman’s vision for the centers on college campuses has been carried out.”

Her takeaway about Cardinal Newman is that he felt “universities should focus more on just academics” and that one’s studies “should amount to more than just facts on a page, but to an appreciation of God’s design and an understanding of the universe on a greater scale.”

A link to live EWTN coverage online at 3:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 13, can be found at www.todayscatholic.org.

An encore showing will be aired at 8 p.m. EST.
NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — The University of Notre Dame’s de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture will award its 2020 Notre Dame Evangelium Vitae Medal to Vicki Thorn, founder of the post-abortion healing ministry Project Rachel.

Thorn, who also is executive director of the National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing, will receive the honor at a Mass and banquet April 25.

“Vicki Thorn has dedicated her life to caring for women and men who have been wounded by abortion,” said O. Carter Snead, the William P. and Hazel B. White director of the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture.

“She is a living witness to the unconditional love and mercy that lies at the heart of the Culture of Life. We are pleased to honor her with the Notre Dame Evangelium Vitae Medal,” he said in a statement Oct. 6.

The honor is announced annually on Respect Life Sunday, the first Sunday of October, which this year was Oct. 6. The Evangelium Vitae award consists of a specially commissioned medal and $10,000 prize.

“Vicki Thorn’s work has been a source of healing for women and men whose lives have been touched by abortion,” said Holy Cross Father John J. Jenkins, Notre Dame’s president. “I’m grateful to the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture for recognizing Ms. Thorn for her service to the Church and to the work of mercy that lies at the heart of the Culture of Life.”

Thorn, a certified trauma counselor and spiritual director, started Project Rachel in 1984 while working in the Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Since the first training workshop for a small group of attendees was held Sept. 19, 1984, the ministry has expanded to the majority of dioceses across the United States and more than 25 additional countries around the world.

Now overseen by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Project Rachel is a diocesan-based network of specially trained priest confessors, mental health professionals, spiritual directors, medical professionals and others who provide ongoing, one-on-one, confidential post-abortion care.

Thorn is the author of “Progetto Rachele, il volto della compassione” (“Project Rachel, The Face of Compassion”), published in 2009 by Libreria Editrice Vaticana, and is an internationally acclaimed speaker on the effects of abortion on women, men and families.

With her husband, William, she was inducted in 2008 into the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. In 2009, she received the People of Life Award from the USCCB for her pro-life service to the Catholic Church, and in 2017, Pope Francis re-appointed her as a corresponding member of the Pontifical Academy for Life.

“Vicki not only championed the cause of post-abortion reconciliation and healing, she has lived to see it become an essential aspect of the Catholic Church’s pro-life ministry in the United States and around the world,” said Richard Doerflinger, retired associate director of the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities and recipient of the inaugural Notre Dame Evangelium Vitae Medal.

Thorn is “now a leader in showing how the Church’s vision of human sexuality is supported by the findings of medical science, helping young people to turn away from behaviors that lead to the tragedy of abortion,” Doerflinger added.

By choosing Thorn to receive the Evangelium Vitae Medal, “Notre Dame recognizes her important service of the Gospel of life,” Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend said in a statement. “She has helped thousands of women who have had an abortion to accept St. John Paul II’s invitation in ‘Evangelium Vitae’ ‘to not give in to discouragement and not lose hope.’

He added, “Project Rachel reminds us all that the Gospel of Jesus, the Gospel of life, is also the Gospel of mercy.”

He thanked Thorn “for assisting so many women and men to experience God’s love and forgiveness and to become, in the words of St. John Paul II, ‘eloquent defenders of the right to life.’”

Helen Alvare, former spokeswoman for the USCCB and recipient of the 2012 Notre Dame Evangelium Vitae Medal, said Thorn “puts the ‘respect’ in the ‘Respect Life’ brand.” She praised her for being “the kind of creative, brave, kind, tenacious woman who keeps the movement strong.”

The Notre Dame Evangelium Vitae Medal, named after St. John Paul II’s 1995 encyclical on life issues, is the nation’s most important lifetime achievement award for heroes of the pro-life movement, honoring individuals whose efforts have served to proclaim the Gospel of life “by steadfastly affirming and defending the sanctity of human life from its earliest stages.”

Last year the medal was presented to the Women’s Care Center Foundation. Previous recipients include Mother Agnes Mary Donovan and the Sisters of Life; U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, co-chair of the Bipartisan Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, and his wife, Marie Smith, director of the Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues; Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and the Knights of Columbus; the Little Sisters of the Poor; the Jerome Lejeune Foundation; and Mary Ann Glendon, professor of law at Harvard Law School.

**Good Shepherd Journaling Workshop**

**Saturday, October 12**

**Learn how to use journaling to discover more about yourself and the movement of God in your life.**

9:30 Early Store Access
10% off journaling supplies
Light refreshments

10-11:30 Workshop | Cost: $5

More info and reserve your spot: 260-399-1442

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

For more information about how you can include your parish or the Diocese in your will or estate plan, contact Michael Shade, executive director of the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana at 260.949.2441.
Children dressed as Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco, the three children to whom Mary appeared in 1917 at the Cova da Iria fields of Fatima, Portugal, prepare to bring up the gifts during a Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, Oct. 5. The World Apostolate of Fatima Fort Wayne Division organizes the yearly Mass, which is followed by a procession and breakfast.

Fatima Family Apostolate President John C. Preiss speaks at a breakfast that followed the 8 a.m. Mass and procession. He also visited the four diocesan high schools Oct. 3 and 4, and made available first-class relics of the apparition for the students to venerate.

Knights of Columbus lead the procession from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception to the Grand Wayne Center, with Bishop Luers High School students carrying Our Lady of Fatima.
**Fetal remains found in rural Illinois have been returned home to Indiana**

**SOUTH BEND, Ind.** (CNS) — Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill said Oct. 3 he has overseen the return of the remains of 2,246 aborted fetuses back home to Indiana after they were discovered in September at the Illinois home of the late Dr. Ulrich “George” Klopfer. An investigation into thousands of medical records found in close proximity to the fetuses confirmed they all were aborted by Klopfer during a period from 2000 to 2002 at three clinics he once ran in Indiana, located in Fort Wayne, Gary and South Bend. “This investigation has been a team effort involving multiple offices and agencies since the day it began, and it remains a team effort as we proceed forward,” Hill said at a news conference. “Our priority throughout this process is to give proper respect to the remains of these unborn children and to the women and families associated with them. We added, “We are still working through the decision-making process in regard to ultimate disposition of these remains, and we will continue to proceed with appropriate care and consideration at each step of the way. For now, we can report to everyone that these remains are back home in Indiana.” He said the Coroner’s Office of St. Joseph County assisted his office in bringing the remains back to the state.

**Justice Department backs Indianapolis archdiocese in fired teacher’s suit**

**INDIANAPOLIS** (CNS) — The U.S. Department of Justice has filed a statement of interest in a lawsuit brought against the Archdiocese of Indianapolis by a teacher fired from his job at a Catholic high school he was in a same-sex marriage.

Joshua Payne-Elliott alleges the archdiocese illegally interfered with his contractual and employment relationship at Cathedral High School. The case is being heard in a civil division of the Marion County Superior Court in Indianapolis. This past summer, the school announced that it had rescinded his contract based on the contract’s morality clause. In a statement, Justice Department Sept. 30 urged the Indiana court to stay out “of deciding what it means to be Catholic.” “The First Amendment demands that this lawsuit be dismissed,” it said.

According to Becket, a nonprofit religious liberty law firm, which is representing the Indianapolis religious liberty law firm, which is representing the Indianapolis archdiocese, it is “relatively rare” for the Justice Department to file a statement of interest in state court. “The department tends to file statements of interest only when a violation of federal law is particularly clear or significant,” it said in a news release. Payne-Elliott’s lawsuit was filed July 10. The archdiocese has asked for the lawsuit to be dismissed, and a decision is expected in the coming weeks.

**U.S. judge temporarily stops Georgia’s ‘heartbeat’ law from taking effect**

**ATLANTA** (CNS) — A U.S. District Court judge Oct. 1 temporarily blocked a Georgia law that would ban abortions once a fetal heartbeat is detected, which is around six weeks. Known as the “heartbeat bill,” it was signed into law May 7 by Georgia Republican Gov. Brian Kemp and was to have taken effect Jan. 1. Ruling by Judge Steve C. Jones will put it on hold while a lawsuit against it is argued in court. The suit was filed by Planned Parenthood Southeast, Sistersong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective, Feminist Women’s Health Center, and several patients and doctors. In reaction to Jones’ ruling, a spokeswoman for Kemp was quoted by USA Today as saying, “Despite today’s outcome, we remain confident in our position. We will continue to fight for the unborn and work to ensure that all Georgians have the opportunity to live, grow and prosper.” The measure makes exceptions to save the life of the mother and in the case of rape and incest if a police report is filed. It also makes exceptions to allow abortions when a fetus has serious medical issues. When it was passed, Republican Rep. Ed Setzler, the bill’s author, said the legislation was one of “common sense” to “balance the difficult circumstances women find themselves in with the basic right to life of a child.”

**Without Holy Spirit, preaching becomes proselytizing, pope says**

**VATICAN CITY** (CNS) — A person who claims to preach the Gospel by convincing people of their beliefs in Jesus is not evangelizing, but proselytizing, Pope Francis said. “If there is no Holy Spirit, there is no evangelization.”

**Stress of fighting for land takes toll on indigenous people**

**SAO PAULO** (CNS) — Pressure from land conflicts and decline of expectations and perspectives have led the indigenous populations in Brazil to register some of the highest suicide rates in the country, said the Indigenous Missionary Council, linked to the Brazilian bishops’ conference. A World Health Organization report released Sept. 9 showed the rate of suicide in the Brazilian population in 2016 was 6.1 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, but the rate of suicides among indigenous was more than double that, it said.

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN BRAZIL**

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<th>Brazil total population: 208.5 million</th>
<th>Indigenous population: 818,000</th>
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<td>305 indigenous tribes (peoples)</td>
<td>274 indigenous languages</td>
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<td>688 indigenous territories (60.4% officially marked off by Brazilian government)</td>
<td>12.6% of Brazilian territory</td>
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<th>Reported suicides of indigenous population in Brazil:</th>
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Source: CIMI, Indigenous Missionary Council, Brazil | © 2019 Catholic News Service

**SOUTH BEND** — An English bishop welcomed a court ruling allowing a brain-damaged girl to be treated in Italy against the wishes of U.K. doctors. Auxiliary Bishop John Sherrington of Westminster said the Oct. 3 judgment of the High Court recognized the desires of the parents of Taifida Raqeeb, a 5-year-old Muslim girl from London, to do all they could to help their daughter “in what are truly tragic circumstances. The heartbreaking illness of Taifida Raqeeb and the distress which the illness of a child causes parents touches the hearts of many people,” said Bishop Sherrington, lead bishop for life issues for the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales. Taifida has been in a semi-comatose condition since she suffered severe bleeding on her brain in February. Doctors at the Royal London Hospital believe nothing can be done for her, and asked the court to rule that it was in her “best interests” that ventilation and other treatment were withdrawn. Her parents, Shelina Begum and Mohammed Raqeeb, argued, however, that they saw gradual and promising improvements in the child’s condition and believed she should be given more time to recover. Judge Alisdair MacDonald ordered the hospital to release Taifida so they could take her to the umbilical Children’s Hospital in Genoa, Italy, which has agreed to treat her. Bishop Sherrington said that Taifida was right to travel to another European Union state and that such treatment was in her best interests.
Blessing offered for renovated USF science complex

FORT WAYNE — The renovated portion of Achatz Hall of Science and John and Toni Murray Research Center was blessed and dedicated in a grand opening ceremony Wednesday, Oct. 2, at the University of Saint Francis.

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, went from room to room in the renovated building, offering blessings.

“The Achatz Hall of Science and John and Toni Murray Research Center will be a focal point of both academic pursuits and the Catholic mission of the university, giving witness to our faith in Christ within the context of the study of creation,” Bishop Rhoades said to the USF faculty, staff, students, alumni and community supporters.

Bishop Rhoades and USF president Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF, were among the speakers who shared excitement over the completion of the project. The expansion of Achatz Hall added 25,700 square feet onto the 46,000 square feet of renovated space. The expanded John and Toni Murray Research Center was blessed by Bishop Rhoades in January.

“This brings together faith and reason,” Sister Elise said. “With the St. Francis Chapel at the center surrounded by our academic buildings, we really have a visual image of what it means to be a Catholic university.”

As part of the Oct. 2 ceremony, USF alumna Toni Murray was presented with a framed momento of her $3 million gift to the USF Faith and Reason campaign.

In addition to Bishop Rhoades and Sister Elise, speakers at Wednesday’s event included USF board of trustees Chairman Bill Niezer; dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dr. Andrea Geyer; BHDF Architecture designer Giancarlo Del Vita; Toni and Blank Construction president and CEO Jon Gilmore; USF alumna Starr Langford; and USF senior Jona Fletcher. USF Vice President of Institutional Advancement Dr. Matt Smith emceed the event and USF Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Lance Richey presented a reading.

Those in attendance were invited to tour the facility, with USF faculty sharing knowledge of the benefits of expansion and renovation. The project includes additional and upgraded laboratories, classrooms, conference rooms, Parkview Physicians Group Auditorium, Star Bank Observation Terrace, study spaces, office spaces and a wide range of scientific instruments and assets conducive to hands-on education.

“The location of the building provides the ability to bring the beauty of the outdoors inside, and clearly represents our Franciscan value to respect creation, especially when you stand in the windowed areas on the north side of the building and look out. It’s just fabulous,” Sister Elise said.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades blessed relocations to Achatz Hall of Science and the Toni Murray Research Center, on the campus of the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, Oct. 2. Pictured with him is Sister Carol Meyers, professor emeritus of chemistry. Sister Carol’s name is the last one listed on the wall beside them, of sisters who have served in the department.

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Students tour seat of diocese

St. Matthew Cathedral School students view relief Stations of the Cross at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, Oct. 3. The South Bend seventh graders were led by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on a tour of the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center and the cathedral. The field trip also included a tour of the University of Saint Francis.

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Around the Diocese

Indiana Knights councils launch fall membership drive

CROWN POINT — Throughout the month of October, Knights of Columbus councils are conducting recruitment drives. Local councils are reaching out to parishes about enlisting good Catholic men who are looking to live out their faith and become great Catholic men through acts of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

Councils throughout the state are looking to expand their membership by hosting membership drives and open houses at their home parishes. Clergy are assisting in the Knights’ efforts by delivering announcements to their congregations about the vast portfolio of charitable work the Knights conduct. Candidates can apply for membership at both types of events.

The Supreme Council, which oversees the entire organization throughout the world, also recently launched an online initiative to attract potential members. Requirements are that candidates be: male, 18 or older; and practicing Catholic, meaning that the candidate accepts, lives by and adheres to the teachings of the Church.

Those wishing to learn more about joining the Knights are encouraged to get in touch with a local council’s membership director or go online to www.kofc.org/joinus.

With almost 2 million members, the Knights of Columbus is the world’s largest Catholic lay organization. It provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Church, the community, families and young people. In 2018, the Knights of Columbus at all levels of the organization raised and distributed $185.7 million to charity and rendered 76.7 million hours of volunteer service.

USF lecture: ‘The God of the Atheists and the God of Science’

FORT WAYNE — The question of whether faith and science are compatible will be explored in a lecture by University of Saint Francis professor Dr. Alex Giltner.

“The God of the Atheists and the God of Science,” will be presented at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16 in the Parkview Physicians Group Auditorium, Room 226 of Achatz Hall of Science and John and Toni Murray Research Center, 2701 Spring St. The free event is sponsored by the USF Department of Philosophy and Theology and the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Giltner will explore the following: Does science disprove the existence of God? Has faith been eclipsed in the modern world? Are believers hanging on to a bygone superstition?

In his lecture, he will demonstrate that “far from being combatants, faith and science are actually rather comfortable bedfellows, and when atheists claim science disproves the existence of God, they are making a claim that takes just as much faith as any believer, if not more.”

For more information, contact Angie Springer at 260-399-8066 or aspringer@sf.edu.

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October 13, 2019

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Faith leads to acceptance

BY JENNIFER MILLER

Getting older, feeling one’s bones creak and realize that a once-sharp memory is fading can be a difficult transition for anyone — female, male, lay or religious. To live this portion of life well, that is, faithfully, with a Catholic perspective and with God both at the center and at the finish line, is challenging. Yet, what lies beyond compels a person forward.

Simone Ostric, 96, sits with perfect posture despite a recent fall. Originally from Freiburg, Switzerland, she immigrated to the U.S. in 1952. Born into a French-speaking Catholic family, in a geographic area that was “Catholic all the way around,” living the faith was a normal part of life for her.

“The bishop lived in my hometown,” she recalled, and her father taught physics at the famous pontifical university. Priests came to the local public schools to teach catechism and Scripture, and special vespers services were offered on Sundays just for children.

The eldest of three children, Ostric still remembers the date of her first Communion: April 17, 1932.

She met her husband, Anthony, on the street one Saturday evening. She was an economics teacher; he was a student from Croatia, studying at the University of Geneva. They began dating, visiting with each other once a month. They married March 4, 1950, in Freiburg.

After World War II was over, Anthony could not return home to Croatia due to communists having taken over the country. Having been a Catholic before the war, he would have been jailed and beaten for his beliefs.

He was a staunch Catholic,” Simone remembered, and had fought for what he believed in.

“Now, I’m sorry I didn’t join him more often,” she said. “I should have done that. I’m trying to do better now.”

After a two-year wait, the Ostrics’ request to immigrate to America, as refugees, was granted. They traveled to Paris by night train, then to Le Havre, on the coast of northern France, to take a boat 10 days across the ocean to Halifax, Canada. They went on to New York City with their 14-month-old daughter, Mary Christian.

They knew no English. Anthony found steady work at the New York Public Library earning $200 a month.

“After rent and electricity, we only had $100, so I had to budget. We were grateful for a roof, our health and we made the best of it.”

Simone Ostric

Simone Ostric of South Bend, a widow of 20 years, is still inspired by her late husband Anthony’s dedication to practicing their Catholic faith. She strives to emulate that, especially in her faith, similar to the kind of faith her favorite saint, St. Therese of Lisieux, wrote of. St. Therese described doing small actions with great love. Simone has tried to emulate that, especially in her faithful pro-life work for the last 40 years.

She has volunteered with St. Joseph County Right to Life, in their office and “picketing” outside. Rosary in hand, she would walk the sidewalk with another volunteer. “Every baby is adorable!” said the mother.

Daily prayer is very important to Simone. Her prayer is said half in French, half in English because “it goes faster.” Her native tongue comes naturally from the heart.

“In the morning, I pray here, in the armchair, so I can sit up. I try to pray the rosary. Later, if I have to wait someplace, I can pray. Maybe during the day, I can read my daily meditation book. Maybe her faith is still not deep enough, though, she said. “I still can work on it!”

Through the years ...
‘God looks on you with a longing love’

BY JENNIFER MILLER

Father Kenneth Grabner, CSC, doesn’t think of age when he ministers. Eighty-five years old himself, he serves as a chaplain at Holy Cross Village, Notre Dame, and ministers to those who are around the same age.

“The word of God is for everybody. The examples used are different, but the message is the same and very clear,” he said.

Like many, Father Grabner explained that when ministering to teenagers at a high school, for example, the gift would be wrapped in different paper than it is for the elderly; but inside, the present is the same.

Age has no meaning for me. I don’t look at myself as an old man,” he said, smiling. “I feel right at home with friends who are 40 or 50.”

This sense of treating and loving people as they are on the inside, regardless of outside appearances, is one of the gifts Father Grabner shares in his ministry.

Originally from South Bend, his family worshipped at St. Joseph Parish. A monk of the Cistercian order for 17 years, in 1967, he joined the Congregation of Holy Cross.

As a monk he learned the depth of contemplation possible in the Christian life and uses that insight to serve those at Dujarie House, the Villas and Andre Place. He visits as many residents as he can daily and celebrates Mass.

Father Grabner also has authored three books on spirituality and written for over 20 years. He taught theology at Marquette University and the University of Notre Dame and entered chaplaincy after serving in hospitals, guiding administrations to live out their mission statements.

This rich life experience allows him to offer the community at Holy Cross Village the love of God in a unique way.

“There is a hunger for becoming more alive in this life. All of life is evolutionary, constant growth. We are evolving into it and dying into it, our resurrected life.”

Daily prayer, especially contemplation after spiritual reading, is very important to the priest. While his favorite saints are St. Francis of Assisi and St. Bernard of Clairvaux, he has found that “Being open to the idea of resurrection has deepened in me in the last 45 years. I (now) long for eternal life.”

An appreciation for the cosmos, science and becoming more alive is all fruit from this daily prayer practice. “We are all called to a deeper, contemplative awareness of God.”

“Sometimes I welcome the diminishment of the body,” Father Grabner said. “All is not negative; much more is positive. It means I am getting closer to being able to offer everything. Every little death, to me, speaks of resurrection; it brings us closer to life.

“I can see the decline (physically), but I can walk, I can run — very short distances,” he said, laughing.

“The body has to die. All advances in life — and we have many little resurrections in our life — they are all proceeded by a dying, (including) the final dying is of the body. But it has to die so that there may be a resurrection.

“Resurrection is always better than what we die to. The evolution is always positive. Evolution is always more and something grander, if you compare it to what it was. I’m excited about that!”

When preaching to the faithful during Mass at Dujarie House, with many of the faithful worshipping in wheelchairs or walkers, Father Grabner has spoken with the certainty of knowing God’s love himself: empowering them to desire to open themselves to God. Many have suffered great losses of loved ones, homes, sense of self or life as they knew it. But by Father Grabner’s own example they are offered God’s own love and peace, as well as the ability to be themselves and to do something, even from the confines of a metal device or without the use of their legs or voice. A community of prayer and true faith is built in the simple chapel.

“God looks on you with longing and love,” Father Grabner preached recently. “Once you really know that, you have a different idea of who you are and who is sitting next to you. “God is wild in love about us. Divine love has a passion and energy. One day we’ll see Him face to face … I don’t think we have to wait for that.

“Love opens us to be open to who God is,” he continued. “Divine love causes joy. God wants us to be joyful, even in the midst of our suffering.

“Let us think of someone you love. Now imagine that times 1000 and 1000 again. This is how much God loves us.”
The lies of unplanned pregnancies

BY CATY BURKE

The words from the book of Jeremiah are familiar; they are printed on planners for new college graduates and scripted across greeting cards sent to friends going through a hard time. “For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jer 29:11)

They are repeated so often because this is a reassurance people always need, of hope in all seasons of life. This supernatural hope is what Christians hold onto even in the bleakest circumstances.

Yet that hope can be shaken when face to face with the darkness of sin encountered in the world. Take the news surrounding the investigation into Ulrich Klopfer, the infamous abortionist who operated in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for decades. As the situation unfolds with new horrors, the reality of evil seems ever more apparent. The more clearly evil shows itself, the deeper the deceit. This culture of death, so called by St. John Paul II, deceives constantly. It lies when it asserts that a woman’s freedom and agency is over because of an untimely access to abortion. It paints a picture of loss and ruin: “If you have this baby, abandon your hopes of independence, financial stability, career goals and a fulfilling life.”

Not only are such messages devoid of truth, they’re devoid of hope. And a woman facing a crisis or unexpected pregnancy — especially in difficult health or financial situations — is more likely to hear negative messages than positive ones.

For every voice speaking of the beauty of the gift of life and her capacity to build a fulfilling life with her child, the voices of despair shout out all the louder. Telling women that they are only “empowered” through access to abortion is a falsehood that preys on vulnerable women who often find themselves alone, abandoned and terrified.

We know that these words are lies crafted by the father of lies himself. Perhaps the most powerful and most radical thing that can be done for women in difficult situations is to expose the lies and offer hope: the hope of a future, the hope provided by a strong community, the hope provided by a God who became man to transform people’s suffering. It is Catholics’ job as a pro-life people to offer love, support and resources to the women who are desperate for a better life. The futures of these women and their babies are full of hope because they are not alone in their present circumstances: They are loved by the Lord and their communities.

One needn’t look far to see how many organizations are walking alongside pregnant and parenting women to support them in the truth that they are indeed strong, courageous and able to thrive with their child. Students for Life and Feminists for Life have outreach programs to pregnant students on campus, providing resources and support for both pregnant women and parents in school. Both supply information on housing, child care, financial aid and health care for these students. Women Deserve Better provides information for working parents, including information on workers’ rights and maternity leave, and parents who may have difficulty providing for their families.

One national beacon of hope are the Women’s Care Centers. Women’s Care Centers provide free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds, parenting classes, literacy programs, counselors, diapers and other necessities, and helps mothers further their education. Numerous women have walked through their doors discouraged and despairing, and walked back out into the world bravely — still anxious, but strengthened with the knowledge that they are not alone in the journey to motherhood.

Not only do these organizations and movements provide physical support, they also provide hope — the very welfare the Lord promises His people in Jeremiah.

As pro-life people, Catholics can help to bring the hope of new life and a future to those caught by the web of lies spun by a culture of death. The help will look different from person to person. Some may share their own story of an unexpected pregnancy with a woman in a similar situation. Some may be called to provide sidewalk counseling at the South Bend abortion clinic or give silent, prayerful witness to women coming for their appointments. Some may be asked to share the Gospel and crisis pregnancy resources with a woman considering abortion, or even accompanying her in a special way as she chooses life for her child.

Perhaps everyone is called to generously donate time and treasure to one of the Women’s Care Centers in their area, or to consider the words used when talking about pro-life issues and speak more compassionately. One thing that everyone can do is pray. Pray fervently for those involved in abortions, physicians, women, children and men included. Pray for those who work and volunteer to provide support to pregnant women who are scared. And pray that the truth of “a future and a hope” may be presented to every woman in her time of need.

"THE COMMANDMENT
‘You shall not kill!’
always requires respecting and promoting
human life, from its beginning to its natural end."
John Paul II

RESPECT LIFE
“Even the weakest and most vulnerable,
the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor,
are masterpieces of God’s creation,
made in his own image, destined
to live forever, and deserving of
the utmost reverence and respect.”
—Pope Francis

"Each of us is the result of
a thought of God.
Each of us is willed, each of us is loved,
each of us is necessary."
—Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

God, author of all life,
bless, we pray, all unborn children;
give them constant protection
and grant them a healthy birth
that is the sign of one rebirth one day
into the eternal rejoicing of heaven.
Adapted from the rite of blessing of a child in the womb

Christ the King Catholic Church
52473 State Road 933
South Bend, Indiana 46637

Take my hand... not my life!
St. Stanislaus Kostka
55756 Tulip Road
New Carlisle, Indiana

St. Vincent de Paul Church
Fort Wayne

St. Patrick Church
ARCOLA
Giving men the tools to find freedom in Christ

BY JENNIFER SIMERMAN

Support group. The phrase prompts images of grim faces, stuffy and dimly lit rooms, hopeless-ness, grief and stale coffee. Men who are led to the St. Augustine Men’s Group, however, are often surprised and even delighted to find meetings where joy and laughter are not forbidden, but rather, welcomed.

St. Augustine Men’s Group is a ministry supported by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend with the purpose of helping men discover and embrace freedom from the sin of pornography and rebuild their lives through faith and brotherhood.

Father Benjamin Muhlenkamp, pastor of St. Louis, Besancon Parish, New Haven, helps lead the meetings. He noted: “These men come to the group thinking that they’re the worst of sinners, and worried that they would be judged, but then come to realize that’s not the case. We have a great time together.”

“If all we did was focus on the problem and our struggles, it would be a sad, uninspiring and hollow meeting,” said Glen, a group leader. “Instead, we focus on the positive and what we can do to overcome our daily struggles. While this is a serious topic, even in the darkest moments when men share their struggles, we still lift each other up. That happens in prayer, words of praise and when appropriate, laughter. Humor helps bring needed levity to balance the seriousness and focus of the discussions.”

Growing numbers

Over the summer, St. Augustine Men’s Group leaders met with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and diocesan priests to share their mission and tell first-hand accounts of how the group is positively impacting the participants’ lives. At the meeting, priests spoke of the need and urgency of this type of support, as impurity has become one of the most common sins.

According to Covenant Eyes, a survey by the Barna Group on behalf of Proven Men, an organization that helps men struggling with sexual addiction, 64% of men in America are viewing pornography on a monthly basis. In fact, nearly one-third of men between ages 18-30 are or think they are addicted to pornography. These are only a few of the statistics that illustrate the pornography epidemic, which is fueled by the use of phones that make it more accessible and transportable.

Many men do not understand the negative impact that pornography has on their lives. They believe the socially constructed lie that it is harmless and does not have consequences. The truth is quite contrary. Pornography promotes addictive, deceitful and self-centered thoughts and behaviors that can negatively impact not just the viewer, but his spouse, family, relationships, work and his general outlook on the world.

As a result of the summer meeting with clergy, promotion of the St. Augustine Men’s Group has begun in parishes across the diocese. An informational card that can be given to men mentions the anonymous meetings.

Additionally, Father Daniel Scheidt of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, has facilitated a second meeting location for the Fort Wayne group and championed the mission via the parish website, bulletin and communication tools.

The weekly meetings are seeing a rise in attendance, although may not as much as one might expect.

“Based on national statistics, we thought we would have even more men attending our meetings, especially when you look at the number of men reporting it as a problem,” said Glen. “But it’s not embarrassment that holds men back from attending their first meeting, it’s shame. Shame is a much darker, deeper and troubling reality at work in men’s lives. Shame is Satan’s calling card, because Jesus calls us by name: Satan calls us by our sin.”

The number of men dealing with addiction and shame continues to climb. Shame, Glen said, fuels addiction by speaking to the person’s feeling of unworthiness, of not being accepted and not being loved. Feeling that their actions have made them unworthy of God’s love and mercy, rather than running to Him for healing they run in the opposite direction, staying in darkness and persisting in pain.

In many ca-ca-ca-cases request that their husbands attend the meetings, and the husbands do so out of fear of losing their marriage. But fear is only a starting place to recovery. Men receive true freedom from shame when they begin to attend the meetings of their own free will. Ultimately, a man has to want recovery for himself. It requires prayer to the Holy Spirit for courage and willingness to change.

“When men admit they have a struggle and are courageous and honest enough to want to do something about it, that is when they begin to shed the layers of shame and God can work on them,” Glen encouraged.

Father Muhlenkamp affirmed those who seek help and support from the St. Augustine Men’s Group as some of the strongest men he’s ever met.

In They have opened them- selves up to the Lord and have opened themselves up to being supported by other men within the Church. It is at this point that change begins to happen. The Lord does not expect us to become holy all by ourselves. We need each other’s help and accountability to make strides in holiness. The St. Augustine group gives men the tools they need to experience freedom in Christ.”

Providing the tools

At St. Augustine Men’s Group meetings, participants are encouraged to lead ordered lives to battle against temptation. The goal is to encourage men to get involved in the Church, serve during Mass and utilize the sacraments to remain focused on their vocation and God’s calling.

The meetings consist of prayer, reading diocesan-support ed spiritual materials and discussion for support, accountability and the practical application of what is learned. The men also are encouraged to consistently receive the sacraments and are given the opportunity to receive reconciliation.

“We are so grateful to have the presence of Father Ben who hears confessions after every meeting,” Glen said. “He’s kind yet firm and always encouraging accountability, prayer and trust in God.”

The book “Clean of Heart” provides a daily prayer routine recommended by the group to help the men “get clean.” Specific prayers are included for different times of the day as well as specific suggested prayers and actions to battle temptation or vices.

The group also recognizes that pornography addiction requires a willingness to change, honesty and a connection to others to break its stranglehold. Through building this community, they are able to learn from each other and to discuss and understand what triggers their addiction. To further facilitate this, the group created a group message app that allows men to check in and share positive messages or reach out when struggling.

Don’t miss the best thing

My daughter has this T-shirt. I found it on the clearance rack at Target, marked down 75%. Without hesitation I tossed it in the cart. Ironically, that steal of a deal has become her favorite shirt, worn at least once a week.

Across the shirt is a line from Dr. Seuss’ “I Can Read With My Eyes Shut.”

“You’ll miss the best things if you keep your eyes shut!” the shirt reads.

She wears it with pride. I think she loves the shirt because it’s soft. Simple pleasures keep her pretty content. But I love it because it reminds me to keep my eyes open rather than turned down at a screen.

It tells me to pay attention and to look for the wonder, especially in the quiet, mundane, ordinary moments that could pass by entirely unnoticed. It reminds me to take notice of what’s around, and what could be, rather than swallow in what I perceive to be frustrating or annoying.

In some way, that gray T-shirt and its colorful wording have become a mission statement for my motherhood, my marriage, my job. To keep my eyes open, take it all in and never forget the goodness of the very best things happening right in front of me, big or small.

She only wears the shirt once a week, but every day, my 2-year-old greets the morning with an excited “Mama!” and proceeds to babble away, describing her dreams in toddler gibberish that I so wish I could understand.

She runs through the house and yard with endless energy. She bounds into her classroom each morning with a joy that, if bottled and sold, would make us millions. She watches TV, reads books, eats meals, dances and plays games with a committed joy, the likes of which I've never seen.

Her eyes are wide open, and her desire to soak in life is unmatched. She has, in a very tangible way, an unalterable, unstoppable, visible, obvious and ever revealing spirit of hope because her eyes are open. She isn’t missing the best things, but soaking them all in.

And that — eyes open to goodness all around us — is a reason for hope.

I’ve always struggled with the idea of hope. What is it, exactly? And why does it matter so much? I know about faith: It’s the bedrock of things unseen. And I’m fairly confident I can pinpoint love: It’s the gift of self for the other because of their value and worth.

But hope: It’s the desiring of heaven and eternal life, and that just seems so far off, something I have to worry about tomorrow. I have to believe today, I have to love people and God right now. I don’t need to hope for heaven yet that’s in the future.

But that’s where I’m wrong. It’s where a lot of us go wrong as we ponder the idea of hope. Because hope isn’t just longing for heaven someday, it’s the belief that we’re made for heaven, meant for heaven, designed for heaven and life with God now, and that we are promised something by God (eternity with Him) and, therefore, that’s in the present.

That’s something we have to keep our eyes open to ... or we’ll miss that very best thing. Eyes open to it these days. The heavens hasn’t been a source of much hope lately, at least not on the surface. Disillusionment numbers are up — people are leaving and not coming back. Misunderstanding about the Eucharist is prevalent — people are either ignorant or disagree. The scandals seem to increase by the day, and it hurts every single time, a gut punch as we see corruption and dishonesty.

When Pope Francis released the apostolic exhortation “Christus Vivit” last spring, he set aside a chapter to focus on three essential truths that young people (and all of us, really) need to know, articulating that our source of salvation is Jesus, He is the bearer of divine mercy. He had to live amid those loyal to God.

Thanks to Jesus, whom he saw as the Christus Vivit, he saw Jesus as the bearer of divine mercy. He had to live amid those loyal to God. He had to live amid those who had disobeyed God.

Jesus was the example. The central person in the Old Testament is the bearer of divine mercy. He welcomes us into the fold of mercy and of recognizing God.

The Second Epistle to Timothy is the next reading. The epistle reassures and challenges Timothy, an early convert to Christianity, disciple of Paul and eventually a bishop. Paul assures Timothy that anyone who truly dies with Christ by dying to sin will receive mercy and forgiveness. He had to live amid those loyal to God.

We can repair our relationship with God. We all are lepers who had disobeyed God. We can repair our relationship with God.

God always stands ready to heal us and welcome us back.

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 17:11-19

The Second Book of Kings furnishes this weekend with its first scriptural reading at Mass. Once the two books of Kings were a single volume, but time passed and editors divided the volume into two parts.

These writings are among the Old Testament’s “historical books.” While they are interested in the careers of the early kings of Israel, as the name implies, none of the Old Testament is primarily about secular history in and of itself.

Instead, the Old Testament books all are concerned with religion, and more precisely with the relationship between God and all the Hebrew people. In the view of the ancients, the most important question in life was, meant for heaven, designed as punishment for sin.

To keep my eyes open, take it all in and never forget the goodness of the very best things happening right in front of me, big or small.

She only wears the shirt once a week, but every day, my 2-year-old greets the morning with an excited “Mama!” and proceeds to babble away, describing her dreams in toddler gibberish that I so wish I could understand.

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God always stands ready to heal us and welcome us back.
Palliative sedation and nearing death

Because suffering almost always imposes itself on us during life, and especially at the end of life, it can be helpful to reflect on the need to accept some personal suffering as we die, even as we recognize the importance of palliative medicine and other comfort measures.

In the last week of life, more than 90% of patients require medical management of symptoms such as pain, nausea, delirium, spasmic contractions of muscles, vomiting, hallucinations or generalized agitation.

Many of these symptoms can be addressed with medication, and serious pain can often be managed with powerful opioids like morphine or fentanyl. These remarkable drugs, however, call for discernment in their use because at higher dosages, they can limit mental clarity and induce an extended semi-dreamland state as death approaches.

The U.S. Catholic bishops offer an important observation about participating in our own dying process in their Ethical and Religious Directives. “Since a person has the right to prepare for his or her death while fully conscious,” it says, “he or she should not be deprived of conscious awareness without a compelling reason.”

In some cases, the harsh symptoms associated with dying may prove refractory to treatment, prompting physicians to consider, during a patient’s final stretch of days, the possibility of a globalized form of sedation known as “palliative sedation.” This approach, which relies on the monitored use of sedatives, hypnotics, neuromuscular blockers, benzodiazepines or other anesthetic medications, entirely deprives the patient of consciousness as he or she enters into a deep coma-like state until death. One concern is that the reception of the sacraments, whether confession, anointing of the sick or the Eucharist/Viaticum, becomes problematic for an unconscious person.

This purposeful and complete sedation, the anointing of the sick or the Eucharist/Viaticum, becomes an important personal and spiritual turning point in the lives of various bystanders, those who bear witness to that departure and their final moments in death, as occurred in the lives of various bystanders on that historic day on Calvary. When we find ourselves nailed to our hospital bed, it can become an important personal moment for us to engage the possibility of a spiritual transformation opening before us, as we pass through the pains of childbirth to the joy of new life. (Jn 16:21)

ERNESTINE TAD PACHolecZYK

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OCTOBER 13, 2019

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NOW HIRING: STAFF REPORTER

Selected applicant will be expected to develop editorial content for print and web and must understand the importance of social media and a multi-platform approach to news coverage. This individual is expected to be an ambassador for the diocese and the publication while working in the field - talking with priests, deacons, lay leaders, Catholic school staff and parishioners to gather information and write stories for the purpose of evangelization and promoting a deeper faith journey for the readers.

Photography will also be required to accompany print and digital stories and for social media use. Candidate must be able to develop multiple story packages simultaneously.

Apply: diocesefwsb.org/current-job-postings

FOCUS partners with 14 new campus ministries

DENVER — For the 2019-20 academic year, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students is partnering with 14 new campus ministries at schools across the country, including the University of Illinois at Chicago, Texas A&M University at Kingsville and the U.S. Air Force Academy. FOCUS also is adding another international location at the University of Bonn in Bonn, Germany, making a total of five international FOCUS programs across Germany, Austria, England and Ireland.

More than 750 missionaries will serve on 164 campuses this year, along with eight parish locations. Through Bible studies, outreach events, mission trips and discipleship, missionaries inspire and build up others in the faith, sending them forth to live out lifelong Catholic missions in their families, friendships, workplaces, parishes and communities.

At college campuses, FOCUS missionaries work alongside the students’ Catholic center staff as they encounter students on campus and welcome them into the existing Catholic student community. Missionaries encourage students to deepen their faith by participating in the sacraments and pursuing Christ more intentionally in their daily lives. For many students, their relationships with missionaries help them grow in virtue and make Christ-centered decisions on matters of faith, vocations, relationships and more.

Before bringing a team of missionaries to a new university, FOCUS leadership meets with the bishop of the local diocese and the campus chaplain to discuss the viability and sustainability of initiating a partnership.

More information about FOCUS’ campuses can be found at focusoncampus.org/find-my-campus.

Pet blessing at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Deacon Jim Kitchens and Father Thomas Zehr, parochial vicar at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, blessed animals on the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, Oct. 4. In observance of an annual tradition, parents, grandparents and students of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, as well as parishioners, brought their pets to receive a blessing.

Friday night Catholic clash

Father David Huneck, a chaplain at Bishop Dwenger High School, leads players of the two Fort Wayne Catholic high schools — Bishop Dwenger and Bishop Luers — in prayer after they engaged in an annual rivalry game Friday, Oct. 4. The Bishop Dwenger Saints were victorious at their home stadium, Shields Field.
Rosary Coast to Coast
FORT WAYNE — Rosary Coast to Coast will take place Sunday, Oct. 13, at 1:30 p.m. at Divine Mercy Funeral Home Rosary Garden, Catholic Cemetery, 3500 Lake Ave. The rosary will be led by Father Eric Burgener. Contact Theresa Schortgen at 260-749-6706 or theresa@fatimafwsb.org for information.

America needs Fatima national holy hour rosary
SOUTH BEND — A rosary will be prayed at Christ the King Parish, U.S. 933, Saturday, Oct. 12, beginning at noon. Participants are encouraged to bring a rosary and a lawn chair for this outdoor event.

Taste of Poland at St. Hedwig
SOUTH BEND — A taste of Poland will be Sunday, Oct. 13, from noon to 4 p.m. at St. Hedwig Memorial Center, 331 S. Scott St. A Polka Mass at 11 a.m. will be followed by a full menu of chicken dinner, golabki, sausage sandwich, cabbage and noodles, kwas and czemina soups, kraut and cheese pierogi and homemade Polish pastries. Full bar including Zywiec beer, Jeczy shots, Biso grass vodka, cash raffle and music by Wil Smaka’s MusiConnection.

Ava’s Grace support group to meet
MISHAWAKA — Those who have experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or infant loss and would like to listen to and pray with others who know this deep suffering, are invited to attend a new monthly support group starting Oct. 16. The group will meet on the third Wednesday of the month from 7-8:30 p.m. at the St. John Paul II Center, located at 1528 W Dragoon Trail. There is no cost.

Bake and rummage sale planned
SOUTH BEND — The St. John the Baptist Altar and Rosary Society will have a bake and rummage sale Saturday, Oct. 19, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 20, from 9 a.m. to noon.

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Visit www.todayscatholic.org/event for the complete events calendar
Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, two blocks from the cathedral, Judge Amy Coney Barrett spoke about overcoming obstacles in one’s personal and professional life.

“What if the obstacle is more important than the route I have planned?” she asked rhetorically.

Coney Barrett, of South Bend, is a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit and a professor at The Law School, University of Notre Dame. And like most people, she dislikes obstacles. However, she noted that the Bible’s parable of the Good Samaritan offers good advice about dealing with them. The parable tells of a priest and Levite who both saw a man on the roadside who had been injured by robbers, and both passed by him. The Samaritan could have passed by, but he saw that stopping and caring for the injured man was more important than continuing on his trip, Coney Barrett said. People don’t always get to choose their obstacles, though.

Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, two blocks from the cathedral, Judge Amy Coney Barrett addressed local legal professionals. Coney Barrett is judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit and a professor at The Law School, University of Notre Dame. And like most people, she dislikes obstacles. However, she noted that the Bible’s parable of the Good Samaritan offers good advice about dealing with them. The parable tells of a priest and Levite who both saw a man on the roadside who had been injured by robbers, and both passed by him. The Samaritan could have passed by, but he saw that stopping and caring for the injured man was more important than continuing on his trip, Coney Barrett said. People don’t always get to choose their obstacles, though.

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