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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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National March for Life: Diocesan youth aim for 'a moral goal'



Joshua Schipper

Addison Krebs, right, a student at Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, voices her support for all human life in front of the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court Jan. 24. Krebs and hundreds of thousands of other pro-life advocates attended this year's National March for Life in Washington, D.C. See more March for Life photos and articles inside this week's issue of Today's Catholic.

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'The Lord wants to speak to us through the Scriptures'

BY JODI MARLIN

Christians' relationship with God depend on a growing familiarity with His word, parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne were told by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at a Mass on the Sunday of the Word of God.

However, it's not enough to read and study the Scriptures. Catholics are called to let themselves be shaped by what they read or listen to.

The word of God was honored Jan. 26 in traditional liturgical ways and with special blessings added for the feast day. Both underlined its holiness in worship and in private reflection at home and within the family.

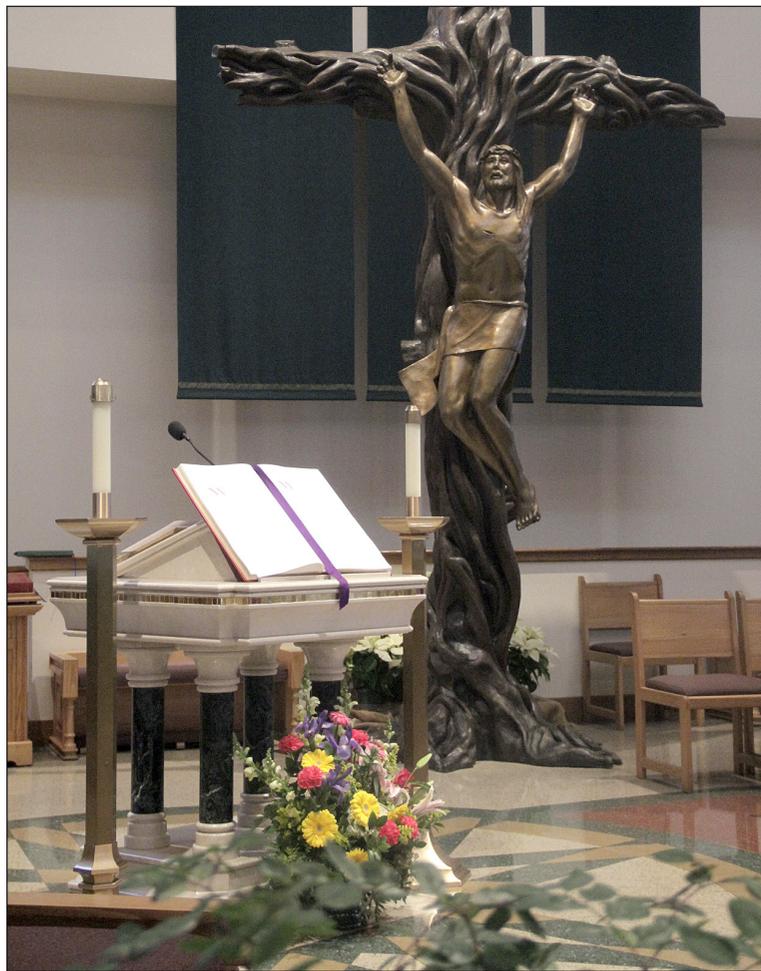
Pope Francis instituted the feast in 2019, establishing it on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. He announced it to the world in an Apostolic Letter Motu Proprio, "Aperuit Illis," "Reflecting on the Word of God."

In the letter, the pope reminded Catholics that the word of God is "'performative' and that 'Christians should linger over and study the Word of God as revealed in Sacred Scripture,'" commented Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, archbishop of Galveston-Houston and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "Pope Francis emphasizes that through the Word of God and the sacrifice of the Mass we grow closer to Jesus and each other as the Body of Christ."

Catholic News Service reported that the decree was published on the feast of St. Jerome, patron saint of biblical scholars and doctor of the Church. It was St. Jerome who said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." The title of the decree is based on a verse from the Gospel of St. Luke, "Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures."

"I think this Sunday of the Word of God is a wonderful initiative of the Holy Father to enable the Church, as he says, 'to experience anew how the Risen Lord opens up for us the treasure of His Word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world,'" Bishop Rhoades told the assembly. "He hopes that this Sunday will increase our gratitude for the great gift of the Scriptures and will help us to strive daily to live and bear witness to the teachings of Sacred Scripture."

The Gospel reading of the day, Matthew 4:12-23, recounted the calling of the first disciples at the Sea of Galilee. Peter, Andrew, James and John left behind their families to accept Jesus' invitation to follow Him. Over the course of the next three years He formed the fishermen into disciples and Apostles.

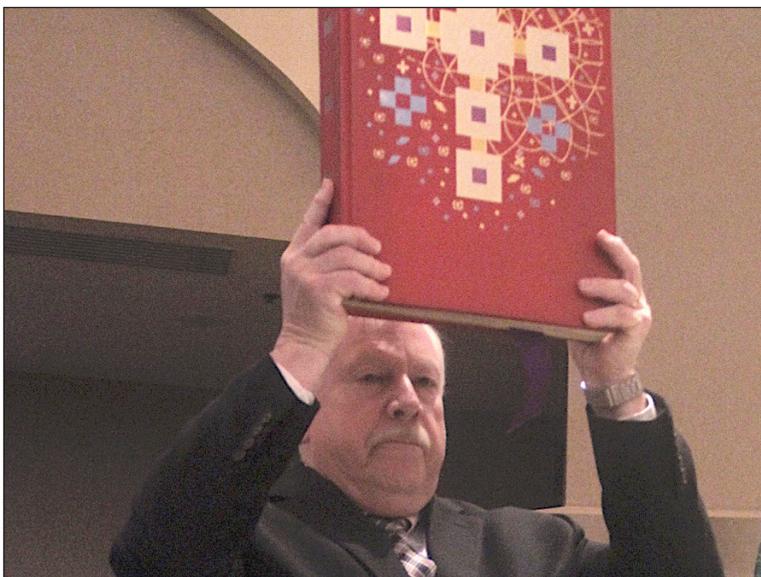


Photos by Jodi Marlin

The Book of the Gospels is displayed at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, following Mass on the feast of the Sunday of the Word of God Jan. 26. Pope Francis instituted the new feast day last year to give prominence to the role of the holy Scriptures in God's relationship with His children.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades blesses pocket-size books of the Gospels and Psalms for parishioners to take home.



We, too, are taught by the Lord and formed as His disciples, especially through His Word, said the bishop.

"St. Augustine once said: 'When you read the Bible, God speaks to you; when you pray, you speak to God.' The personal reading of Scripture is so important, but 'personal' doesn't mean 'individualistic,' since it's important that we 'read and experience Sacred Scripture in communion with the Church.'" (Pope Benedict XVI, "Verbum Domini" No. 86)

"We approach the Scriptures in relation to the Church's living Tradition."

The saints of the Church, including the namesake of St. Vincent Parish, St. Vincent de Paul, are saints because they lived the Word of God, he noted. It was in praying with the Scriptures that St. Vincent learned of God's special love for the poor and needy and became so devoted to their care.

Or think of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, the bishop suggested. St. Therese discovered the love of Lord in her personal vocation by pouring over the Scriptures.

"It's good to ask ourselves when we read a passage of Scripture to ask ourselves, 'How can I live this Word today?'"

During the Prayers of the Faithful, St. Vincent pastor Father Daniel Scheidt asked those who serve as lectors in the parish to stand in the aisles of the semicircular worship space for a blessing.

"The Word of God, proclaimed in the Sacred Scriptures, indeed enlightens minds and hearts, Bishop Rhoades told the lectors. "When the Scriptures are read in the liturgical assembly, God speaks to us and calls us to respond in faith and love. The ministry of the reader, then, is important to the life of the Church, for the reader proclaims God's living word, and the word of God calls us out of darkness into the light of faith."

He asked the rest of the assembly, with the confidence of God's children, to petition the Lord to hear their prayers to bless the lectors.

"Pocket books" of the Psalms and holy Gospels were provided by the bishop for families to take home after Mass. The books were present in the sanctuary throughout the Mass and blessed before the recessional, so that sacred Scripture might be revered more deeply in the homes and in the hearts of those who took a copy home to read.

Lector Tom Schuerman processes with the Book of the Gospels at the beginning of Mass.

Why does the world need a Catholic press?

BY JODI MARLIN

When Pope Francis met with members of the Italian Union of the Catholic Press in September, he reminded them that through words of peace, they can help others distinguish good from evil. According to a report by Vatican News Agency, he encouraged them to be “a professional and ecclesial association inspired by the service of persons, the Gospel and the Magisterium of the Church.”

Distinguishing good from evil has probably always been hard. Lately, “your truth” and “my truth” muddy the water. Isn't there just one truth?

There is. Catholics, of course, know it originates with the all-knowing, all-loving, all-forgiving Creator of everything that is, including our souls. Those who understand that the perceptions, priorities and experiences of people should all be interpreted and valued through the lens of the truth of Jesus Christ are destined to share in that perfect love forever.

History of the Catholic press in the U.S.

For more than 100 years, the Catholic press in the United States has pounded on keyboards day and night, photographed on weekends and in the rain, to give their brothers and sisters in the faith the information they need to see the hand of God in the experiences of earthly life. Sometimes that means sharing stories of inspiration, hope and perseverance. Other times, it means sounding the call for caution, protest or reform.

According to the Catholic Press Association, when the United States was young, opposition to immigration was strong. In order to unite and to educate themselves, bring news from home and fight for civil and religious rights in a new country, immigrants formed associations and created their own press, including Catholic journals and newspapers.

The history of the Catholic Press Association states that Bishop John England was an experienced editor who emigrated from Ireland. He initially used the secular press to explain Catholicism, but soon realized that he needed his own vehicle to address misrepresentations of the faith.” Bishop England started the first Catholic diocesan paper, the “Catholic Miscellany,” in 1822 in Charleston, South Carolina.

By 1837, at the close of the Third Plenary Council in Baltimore, other bishops were welcoming the independent Catholic papers that existed by that time. They expressed their wishes that even though the publications were not officially sanctioned, the clergy and faithful should support them. They noted that the journals were useful to “explain our tenets, defend our rights and vindicate our conduct.” In 1884, the bishops recommended that each Catholic household receive at least one Catholic periodical of good repute.

It was in 1911 that the CPA, the first organization of diocesan and other Catholic publications, formed to “publicize news of Catholic interest, combat the negative influence of some of the secular press, develop a news service, secure national advertising and agitate against higher postal rates.”

Mission and mandate

Journalists, noted the pope at last year's meeting, are “chroniclers of history.” He asked them to “be the voice of conscience” of a journalism that distinguishes “good from evil” and “human choices from inhuman ones.”

According to reporter

Francesca Merlo, Pope Francis went on to express the importance of “real words in the midst of so many empty” ones, and he prayed that Catholic journalists would “contribute to exposing false and destructive words” and “identify credible sources, contextualise, interpret, and, above all, prioritise” in the digital age.

“Do not be afraid to overturn the order of the news,” he said, in order to “to give a voice to those who have none.”

Speaking up for the poor, helping the young in faith grow closer to Christ and explaining how Catholics should navigate the politics, conflicts, temptations and other vagrancies of daily life is the reason the

Catholic press is every bit as relevant today as it was in 1911. The mediums through which people receive news, information and entertainment, and how they communicate with each other, has changed; but completely unchanged is Christians' need to figure out how to do those things in a way that recognizes who they are.

They are children of God, seeking above all else, to follow the commandments of Christ and achieve the heavenly reward to which He calls them. That is the value of the Catholic press.

February is Catholic Press Month. From the parish down the street to the Vatican, news about the people, places, institutions and history of the Catholic Church will — as they always do — populate the platforms of Catholic newspapers, websites and social media platforms. The compelling reason for their existence — the undeserved and unfathomable gift of salvation — will be there, too.

Where will you get your news from this month?

Distinguishing good from evil

has probably always been hard.

Lately, “your truth” and “my

truth” muddy the water.

Isn't there just one truth?



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday-Saturday, February 2-8: Visit as Member of Board of Directors to Catholic Relief Services' projects in El Salvador.

Christ the light is always with us

BY BETHANY BEEBE

In the heart of winter, the Church gives the faithful special means to remember the healing light of Christ. Rooted in ancient celebrations, Candlemas — a popular name for the feast of the Presentation of the Lord — is observed each year. This year the feast will be celebrated Feb. 2.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades said the celebration is a reminder of Christ's light.

“As Catholics, we have the tradition of blessing candles on the Feast of the presentation of the Lord because when Jesus was presented in the Temple, the priest Simeon, recognized Him as ‘the light of revelation to the Gentiles,’” he said.

The candles remind Catholics that Christ the light is always with us, added Brian MacMichael, director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

“The blessing ideally takes the form of a procession where the people gather. The candles [are] blessed and lit, and then everyone processes to their place in the church while singing the Cantic of Simeon,” said MacMichael.

The candles have special utility, noted Bishop Rhoades. “The candles we use in the liturgy and which some people use in prayer spaces at home are a reminder that Christ is our light, and that we are called to spread this light in the world.”

MacMichael suggested a way to make the celebration come alive and hold vibrant meaning today. “People are still invited to bring candles from their homes to be blessed at the Presentation candle blessing,” he said. “Although we don't rely on candles for light in our homes, as previous generations did, the idea of having our candles blessed, and the symbolism of the light spreading in our hearts, homes and world, is still very meaningful. Everyone being able to celebrate it this year at Sunday Mass is also a special gift.”

The Presentation of the Lord and purification of His mother, Mary — another ancient practice also remembered on this feast day — had their roots in the holy family but is ideally recognized in a larger group. Under Mosaic law, a woman was ceremonially unclean for 40 days after giving



Wikimedia Commons

Candlemas, or the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, is celebrated Feb. 2. Candles will be blessed at Masses that weekend as a reminder that Christ is the light of the world.

birth to a boy and 80 days for a girl. Mary would have taken her first-born Son to the temple for His required dedication to God: At the same time, burnt offerings would rectify her ceremonial uncleanness, her purification.

Jesus and Mary met two powerful figures that special day. Luke's Gospel explains they met Simeon and Anna, prophet and prophetess, who declared the divinity of Jesus. At the meeting of Simeon and Jesus, the elder said, “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel” (Luke 2: 29-32, according to Emmons). Called the “Nunc Dimittis,” this canticle is sung at the candle blessing.

On Feb. 3, the day after Candlemas, a blessing of throats is done in many parishes in honor of the feast of St. Blase, bishop and martyr. St. Blase is known for saving a boy who was

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Contraceptives lawsuit will proceed against Notre Dame

BY ANN CAREY

A lawsuit to force the University of Notre Dame to provide free contraceptives and abortifacient drugs in its health plans will proceed after receiving a green light from a federal district court in South Bend Jan. 16.

Judge Philip Simon of the Northern District of Indiana denied motions by Notre Dame and the federal government to dismiss the case, *Irish 4 Reproductive Health v. Department of Health & Human Services et al.*

The lawsuit originally was brought in 2018 against the U.S. departments of Health and Human Services, Labor and Treasury, and Notre Dame by a handful of women students calling themselves Irish 4 Reproductive Health. The suit was filed for them by the National Women's Law Center, the Center for Reproductive



Provided by Irish 4 Reproductive Health

A lawsuit against the U.S. departments of Health and Human Services, Labor and Treasury, and the University of Notre Dame by a handful of women students calling themselves Irish 4 Reproductive Health has been allowed to proceed after receiving a green light from a federal district court in South Bend, Jan. 16.

Rights and Americans United for Separation of Church and State. The latter organization will honor the I4RH in March as "2020 Students of the Year."

The lawsuit alleges that the university had reached an "unlawful settlement" with the federal government that allowed it to "deny students, employees and their dependents insurance coverage of birth control guaranteed to them by the [2010] Affordable Care Act," better known as Obamacare.

President Barack Obama had promised conscience protection in his health plan, but when his Health and Human Services Department issued specific rules in 2011, only houses of worship were given exemption from the mandate for employers to provide contraceptives in their employee insurance plans. Religiously affiliated schools, hospitals and other social service institutions were not included in that exemption.

Some Catholic entities, namely the Little Sisters of the Poor, refused to obey the mandate and have been fighting court battles

ever since. Notre Dame did initially challenge the Obama-era mandate in two different lawsuits, but neither were successful. The university provided the mandated insurance to employees and students.

After President Donald Trump took office, he directed the secretaries of Treasury, Labor, and Health and Human Services to draft amended rules to address conscience-based objections to the Obamacare contraceptive mandate. In October 2017 the departments did so, issuing interim final rules that went into effect while public input was invited.

Those rules granted exemption from the mandate to entities with "sincerely held religious beliefs" and to nonprofits and small businesses with nonreligious moral opposition.

Initially, Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, president of Notre Dame, joined other Catholic leaders in praising the action and informed university employees Oct. 27, 2017, that the previously mandated contraceptive coverage would end Dec. 31.

Some small campus groups such as the Notre Dame Graduate Workers Collective and the ACLU of Notre Dame made their objections known, citing religious differences on campus. It is not clear how much these demonstrators influenced Notre Dame leaders, but just 10 days later, the university informed employees and students that a third-party health plan administrator would continue to provide the services free of charge.

A Notre Dame spokesman explained at the time that the administration reversed course after learning that the insurers would continue the coverage at no cost, so the university chose

not to "interfere."

This action brought immediate objection from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, who said he would continue to dialogue with Notre Dame leaders "in the context of fidelity of Notre Dame's Catholic mission." Other objections came from the Notre Dame Chapter of University Faculty for Life, as well as many students and alumni, who noted particularly the availability of abortifacient drugs in the plan.

Three months later, on Feb. 7, 2018, Father Jenkins informed the campus community that after further thought and with additional information, the university would take steps "based on Catholic principles that nevertheless provide access to some coverage that members of our community seek." He said that the university would stop the government-funded range of drugs and instead provide coverage for "simple contraceptives (i.e., drugs designed to prevent conception.)"

Bishop Rhoades at that time praised the decision to stop the government-funded insurance, but "strongly" disagreed with the decision to continue the birth control coverage, writing in a statement: "The Catholic Church clearly teaches that contraception is an immoral action that contradicts the truth of marital love."

Nevertheless, the new Notre Dame insurance was scheduled to go into effect in July of 2018 for employees and in August for students.

June 27, 2018, the I4RH filed suit against Notre Dame for terminating coverage for abortifacient drugs and for charging a copay for birth control pills. They also included the federal government in the suit, claiming the HHS final rules are illegal.

Notre Dame and the federal government filed for dismissal of the lawsuit, and on Jan. 16 of this year, Judge Philip Simon denied the motions to dismiss. He allowed five counts in the complaint to go forward, but did dismiss two counts, writing that the Constitution provides no "established" or "fundamental" right to subsidized contraceptives, as the I4RH claimed.

The five claims allowed to proceed all involve the legality of the HHS final rules. Those claims are similar to claims in two lawsuits against the Little Sisters of the Poor, who had appealed lower court decisions on those cases to the Supreme Court. Ironically, on Jan. 17, the day after Judge Simon refused to dismiss the "Irish 4" lawsuit, the Supreme Court agreed to hear the Little Sisters' appeal.

Depending on how the Supreme Court rules this summer on the Little Sisters' case, the lawsuit against Notre Dame could fall apart.

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Private school proponents following a flurry of education bills

He calls it the “Indiana education tornado,” and it’s a key element of an equally fast-moving legislative session approaching its halfway point.

John Elcesser, who represents the state’s more than 400 nonpublic schools — including Indiana’s 175 Catholic schools — says that constant change and new demands on teachers and administrators have led to a flurry of proposed new legislation that lawmakers are considering. The organization he leads, the Indiana Nonpublic Education Association, is monitoring dozens of bills that have implications for educators and students statewide, including the more than 7,000 teachers and close to 100,000 students at Indiana’s private schools.

“There are so many moving parts because of all the changes over the last five years,” said Elcesser, executive director of the INPEA. “That’s the frustration you hear from educators around the state. Right now we have ILEARN, a new assessment for schools. Beyond that, what is required for students to graduate from high school is changing. The metric involved in calculating a school’s grade is changing. It’s not that good of the change isn’t good, but it’s a lot to manage. And whether you’re in the public or nonpublic sector, it impacts all of us to some degree.”

As it has since its inception in 1974, the INPEA is working to ensure that the interests of nonpublic schools are included in the policy discussion, with protecting school choice and religious liberty at the top of the priority list. Once again, the Indiana Catholic Conference is a key partner in that effort.

“The Catholic Church is fortunate to have the INPEA assist with much of the heavy lifting when it comes to monitoring, advancing or opposing bills that could have an impact on religious freedom and the delivery of a quality faith-based education to students in our state,” said Angela Espada, executive director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. “With the great number of education-related bills introduced in this legislative session, our two organizations will continue to work diligently to protect the rights of Catholic and other nonpublic schools.”

Both groups are currently monitoring 63 education bills in this short, non-budget-year legislative session that Elcesser describes as “fast and furious.” He expects that number to drop dramatically in early February at the crossover point in the session, when bills move from one legislative chamber to the other. Among the bills that lawmakers are fast-tracking are those that echo education goals set by Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb.

“Gov. Holcomb’s education agenda has driven the priority given to the education bills in this legislative session, and a number of his priorities are also our priorities,” Elcesser said.

That includes ensuring that schools and teachers are not penalized this year for lower scores on last year’s new ILEARN standardized test, which replaced ISTEP, the state’s previously used test for student growth and achievement. As expected, the transition period resulted in a drop in scores, with only 37% of Indiana students passing both the math and English portions of the new exam in the 2018-19 school year.

House Bill 1001 and a parallel bill, Senate Bill 2, would hold schools harmless this year from the lowered test scores. That means that the A-F letter grade assigned to a school by the state could not be lowered from that of the prior year.

“There were a lot of changes with this new test, including the fact that it was fully online,” Elcesser said. “Everyone anticipated that scores would drop, and they did. Both in the public school and nonpublic school world alike, there are consequences if schools have chronically low grades. The education community wanted to ensure that schools were not penalized as they transitioned into this new test, and the governor also has clearly stated that this is a priority.”

Another area of focus for Gov. Holcomb is eliminating undue bureaucratic burdens on schools and educators, such as excessive reporting, teacher training and paperwork. Lawmakers have filed several bills addressing this type of deregulation, according to Elcesser. One in particular that he is tracking is House Bill 1003, which seeks to streamline teacher training requirements, among

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

other provisions.

“I think the governor is trying to be responsive to the concerns that have been voiced by public, nonpublic and charter schools, and among the greatest concerns is the list of required trainings for teachers continues to grow every year based on different societal problems,” Elcesser said. “That’s not even looking at professional development to improve instruction. Nobody takes anything away; they just continue to add more and more.”

“Deregulation of every kind is of particular importance to nonpublic schools because they typically have smaller administrative staffs,” Elcesser added. “We have been very supportive of both the governor’s ‘hold harmless’ focus and the deregulation focus.”

Other bills of interest to the INPEA and ICC are Senate Bill 455, which concerns school accreditation, and House Bill 1066, an omnibus bill that includes closing current gaps in school voucher eligibility for siblings and foster children.

As they have for decades, the two organizations will work in conjunction to educate the public and legislators on matters that concern Indiana students in every type of school.

“We are stronger together,” Elcesser said.

To get involved in the advocacy efforts of the INPEA, visit www.inpea.org. The website includes access to podcasts, research data, position papers, a legislative action center and other information concerning nonpublic schools and their mission.

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CANDLEMAS, from page 3

choking on a fish bone.

“It’s beautiful that they’re celebrated back to back on the calendar,” said MacMichael. “The candles used for the throat blessing are blessed the previous day, and the connection makes it clear that St. Blase is a witness to Jesus Christ, from whom all light

and healing ultimately comes.”

Both those with health challenges and those prayerfully seeking to maintain good health may participate. To impart the blessing a minister holds two crossed candles at the throat of the recipient, saying, “Through the intercession of St. Blase, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every

disease of the throat and from every other illness: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

Bishop Kevin Rhoades will celebrate Mass for the Presentation and lead the candle blessing at Fort Wayne’s Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Saturday, Feb. 1, at 5 p.m.

NEWS BRIEFS

Priest helping migrants, staff in Guatemala receive death threats

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Catholic priest helping feed and shelter migrants in Central America has filed a complaint with Guatemalan authorities after he and his staff received death threats for providing humanitarian aid for the latest mass of migrants headed toward the United States. Father Mauro Verzeletti told Catholic News Service Jan. 23 via WhatsApp audio that he's under 24-hour protection issued by Guatemalan authorities after receiving threats in mid-January. Father Verzeletti has been a vociferous critic of U.S. immigration policy involving Central America, including with Guatemala's former president Jimmy Morales, who struck a deal with U.S. President Donald Trump to designate Guatemala a "safe third country," meaning that migrants who pass through Guatemala headed north must first seek asylum there instead of heading to the U.S. It is a deal that newly minted Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei, who took office Jan. 14, opposes. Guatemala has one of the highest murder rates in Central America and is considered one of the most dangerous countries not at war in the world. Its citizens are fleeing north en masse with others from the neighboring nations of El Salvador and Honduras because of a combination of violent conditions, lack of economic opportunity, the effects of climate change and other factors.

Teen speaker, youthful crowd seen as signs march resonates with the young

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catalina Galinanes, this year's student speaker at the March for Life rally on the National Mall, has been to almost as many marches as Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund. The Jan. 24 march was Galinanes' seventh, Mancini's eighth. "It's so inspiring and so powerful to go with family and friends," said the junior at Oakcrest School in Vienna, Virginia. She's president of the school's Respect Life Club. Forty students from the school were chosen to carry the parade-front banner for the entire duration of the march down Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court. It's in keeping with this year's theme, "Pro-Life Is Pro-Woman," linking the pro-life cause to the women's suffrage leaders who brought about the 19th Amendment, enabling women to vote for the first time. "And so I thought it was appropriate that we have young women at the front of the march," said Mancini in an interview with Catholic News Service ahead of the event.

Catholics asked to serve mothers in need



CNS photo/Bob Roller

A woman holds a child during the opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life Jan. 23 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. In marking the "sorrowful anniversary" Jan. 22 of the Supreme Court's ruling legalizing abortion nationwide, the chairman of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee said the Catholic Church's pastoral response to all mothers in need "will soon intensify." A nationwide effort called "Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service" begins March 25 of this year and ends March 25, 2021.

New martyrs include religious priests, laity martyred in 20th century

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis recognized the martyrdom of six religious priests and brothers and seven laypeople who were killed in the 20th century "in hatred of the faith," clearing the way for their beatification. The pope approved the decrees during an audience Jan. 23 with Cardinal Angelo Becciu, prefect

of the Congregation for Saints' Causes. Among the soon-to-be blessed are three Spanish priests of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and seven laymen who were killed in Guatemala between 1980 and 1991. Sacred Heart Missionary Fathers Jose Maria Gran Cirera, Juan Alonso Fernandez and Faustino Villanueva were all serving in different parts of the Guatemalan department of Quiche, where almost 90% of the population is indigenous Maya. The guerrilla movement was very strong in Quiche, making it a scene of severe repression and horrific vio-

lence during Guatemala's 36-year civil war. Priests and religious were often targeted by government forces as they were often accused of supporting or carrying out subversive activities. More than 200,000 people, mostly indigenous Maya, were killed or disappeared during the conflict, which ran from 1960 to 1996.

Archbishop Chaput says successor is 'exactly the man our church needs'

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Proclaiming his successor as "exactly the man our church needs," Archbishop Charles J. Chaput introduced Bishop Nelson J. Perez, whom Pope Francis named as the next archbishop of Philadelphia, at a Jan. 23 news conference in Philadelphia. He will be installed as archbishop Feb. 18 at 2 p.m. in the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul. The pope had announced the appointment while accepting the resignation of Archbishop Chaput, who last September turned 75, the age at which canon law requires that bishops turn in their resignation to the pope. Anticipation for his successor had been building intensely in the archdiocese since that time, and judging by the applause in the room filled with more than 100 archdiocesan staff, it was a warm welcome home for Archbishop Perez, 58, currently the bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland. He described his appointment as a "surreal moment" for a former priest of the archdiocese to be named its new shepherd. Archbishop Perez is the first archbishop of Philadelphia of Hispanic heritage; his parents emigrated from Cuba and he was born in Miami in 1961. He also is the first native son to be archbishop of Philadelphia since Archbishop (later Cardinal) Dennis Dougherty in the early 20th century. And at 58, he is the youngest archbishop since Cardinal John Krol arrived in Philadelphia in 1961 at age 50.

Pope, Pence meet at the Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After Pope Francis and U.S. Vice President Mike Pence met privately for nearly an hour at the Vatican, Pence told the pope that his Roman Catholic mother will be pleased with the visit. "Thank you, Your Holiness. You have made me a hero," said Pence, who was raised Catholic but

became an evangelical Christian. The vice president, along with his wife Karen and daughter-in-law Sarah, arrived 10 minutes early for the meeting with the pope Jan. 24. They were welcomed by Msgr. Leonardo Sapienza, regent of the papal household. As the pope and Pence sat down in the papal library of the Apostolic Palace, the vice president relayed greetings from U.S. President Donald Trump, who met with the pope in 2017. "I wanted to extend the warmest greeting on behalf of President Donald Trump who so enjoyed his visit here," Pence told the pope before reporters were ushered from the room. After speaking with Pence for 59 minutes, with interpreters present, the pope greeted those accompanying the vice president on his visit, including Callista Gingrich, U.S. ambassador to the Holy See; her husband, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich; and Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg, Pence's national security adviser.

Supreme Court divided about religious schools in scholarship program

WASHINGTON (CNS) — During oral arguments Jan. 22 about the constitutionality of excluding religious schools from a scholarship aid program, a divided Supreme Court seemed like it might lean toward finding a way to allow religious schools to participate. The hourlong argument focused on potential religious discrimination when the state of Montana excluded religious schools from its tax credit program, but it also questioned if the exclusion of religious schools was even an issue since the program was shut down by the state's Supreme Court in 2018. "I am having trouble seeing where the harm in this case is," said Justice Elena Kagan, adding: "There is no discrimination at this point going on" since the program ended. But focusing on how the program cut out religious schools before shutting down, Justice Samuel Alito questioned the state's lawyer, Adam Unikowsky, saying: "It's permissible to discriminate on the basis of religion. That's what you're saying." The case, *Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue*, was brought before the court by three Montana mothers who have been sending their children to Stillwater Christian School in Kalispell with the help of a state scholarship program. The program, created in 2015, was meant to provide \$3 million a year for tax credits for individuals and business taxpayers who donated up to \$150 to the program. It was helping about 45 students and just months after it got started, the Montana Department of Revenue issued an administrative rule saying the tax credit donations could only go toward nonreligious, private schools — saying the use of tax credits for religious schools violated the state's constitution.

FertilityCare System Education Program offered

NEW HAVEN — A second FertilityCare System Education Program is scheduled for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The host parish will be St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne.

Evangelization leaders who might be interested in learning how the Creighton Model FertilityCare System can benefit parishioners and the community at large are welcome to attend. The Education Phase I is June 1-8, and Education Phase II takes place Jan. 11-16, 2021.

The Creighton Model System's FertilityCare Education Program includes several tracks.

A FertilityCare practitioner teaches clients the Creighton Model System in a FertilityCare setting. The program is 13 months long. Applicants must be an LPN/RN or have earned a bachelor's degree or higher.

A FertilityCare instructor teaches clients the system under a FertilityCare practitioner. The instructor program is seven months long, and the applicant should have at least two years of higher education.

A FertilityCare promoter promotes FertilityCare in the parish or community. A promoter does not teach clients. The applicant should be a supportive member of the parish life or community and have an apostolic zeal for spreading the message of "Humanae Vitae." He or she may have earned additional training in Theology of the Body, chastity programs or "Humanae Vitae," or have worked with engaged

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Mini march for life in Fort Wayne



Provided by Mike Obergfell

On the eve of Right to Life of Northeast Indiana's march for life, St. Jude School in Fort Wayne participates in a mini-march to increase awareness of the sanctity of all human life, from conception to natural death. The entire student body attended Mass Jan. 17 with their school faith families, then walked around the block in silence. Father David Huneck led the show of solidarity in commemorating the 47th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision.

couples for marriage preparation, sat on the vocations or pro-life committees, been involved with a youth group or had another related role in the parish.

A Creighton Model Medical Consultant focuses on healing patients with a consistent respect for life that's in line with NaProTechnology protocols and

has a good relationship with FertilityCare practitioners in an approved FertilityCare Center. The applicant should be a nurse practitioner, physician assis-

tant, nurse midwife, OB/GYN or pharmacist. This program is six months long.

Those interested can contact Theresa Schortgen, CFCP/CFCE/RN, at 260-494-6444 or theresa.a.schortgenfce@frontier.com for more information.

The Creighton Model Education Foundation, Inc. offers partial scholarships for programs.

Messy Family Project workshop

MISHAWAKA — The Messy Family Project is coming to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Mike and Alicia Herson, parents of 10 and co-founders of The Messy Family Project, a new Catholic marriage and family ministry, will present a two-part workshop for parents on Saturday, March 28, at St. Pius X Parish, 52553 Fir Rd., in Granger. Check-in will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the Parish Life Center and the workshop will begin at 1 p.m. in the church. The first presentation will be "Messy Parenting 101," followed by "Keeping Love Alive." Each presentation will be followed by couple discussion, and a Q&A with Mike and Alicia will follow both presentations. A social with them from 4-4:30 p.m. in the Parish Life Center will cap off the afternoon. The cost of the workshop is \$10 per person. Free child care will be provided. Registration will open Feb. 1 at <http://www.diocesefwsb.org/MarriageandFamily>. Click on the registration link.

Sponsored by Marriage & Family Ministry, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Church needs 'evangelizing spouses' to fulfill its mission, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — If many Catholics marry today without fully understanding the permanence of their bond and the grace of the sacrament, it partly is the fault of bishops and priests who did not give them the best teachers — committed married couples filled with the Holy Spirit, Pope Francis said.

In his annual meeting with judges and staff of the Roman Rota, a Church marriage tribunal, Pope Francis Jan. 25 said he marveled at the fact that for centuries, the Church ignored the example of Aquila and Priscilla, the married couple described in several parts of the New Testament as evangelizing with St. Paul.

"Evangelizing spouses," the pope said, is "what our parishes need, especially in urban areas where the pastor and his priest collaborators will never have the time and energy to reach all the faithful who, while calling themselves Christian, do not frequent the sacraments and lack — or almost lack — knowledge of



CNS photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis greets Msgr. Pio Vito Pinto, dean of the Roman Rota, at the Vatican Jan. 25, during an audience marking the beginning of the judicial year of the Roman Rota, a Vatican tribunal that deals mostly with marriage cases.

Christ."

In reforming the process for judging the validity or the nullity of a marriage, the pope said, he insisted on the procedure being marked by pastoral "closeness and gratuity," which are essential elements of evangelization that St. Paul found Aquila and Priscilla particularly capable of showing. They hosted the Christian communities in their own homes, reached out to draw others in and cared for those in need.

"Christian spouses," Pope Francis said, "should learn from Aquila and Priscilla how to fall in love with Christ and become neighbors to families deprived of the light of faith, not through their own fault but because they were left at the margins of our pastoral work — a pastoral work for the elite that forgets people."

"How I long for this message not to remain just a symphony of words, but to push priests, bishops and pastors to try, like the Apostle Paul did, to love married couples as humble mis-

Catholic Charities program provides healing, hope to human trafficking survivors

BY KEVIN KILBANE

The mother and her children left their Central American homeland and migrated legally to the United States in hopes of a better and safer life in Northeast Indiana. They ended up in the dark world of human trafficking.

Catholic Charities' Trafficking Survivor Services program is helping them and other survivors rebuild their lives and dreams.

"It can happen to anyone," said Melissa Singh, community services supervisor at the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend organization.

The social services provider started its Trafficking Survivor Services program in 2016 after learning about increased human trafficking in the local area.

"We seek to help each person find that dignity God has given them," said Nicole Kurut, Catholic Charities' mission advancement coordinator.

The work grows out of Catholic Charities' mission to serve those in need and the most vulnerable among us, according to Kurut and Singh.

Human trafficking generally takes two forms: sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

Sex trafficking victims are forced to have sex with people willing to pay for the opportunity. The average age of sex trafficking victims is 12-14 years old, said Singh.

Labor trafficking victims are forced to work for family members, businesses or others.

The people at greatest risk for becoming trafficking victims include those going through a migration or relocation, people abusing drugs or alcohol, runaways or homeless youth and those living in unstable housing, said information provided by Catholic Charities.

It happens here

While trafficking may be more common in large, metropolitan areas, it has become a growing problem in communities and rural areas in Northeast Indiana, said Singh. "We're kind of in the middle of everything."

Traffickers and their victims may live in this area, but victims easily can be transported to Ohio or Michigan for trafficking. Northeast Indiana also is only a few hours' drive from Indianapolis, Chicago and large cities in Ohio.

National Human Trafficking Hotline data for Indiana for 2018, the most recent year available, reported identifying 290 victims, 86 traffickers and 41 businesses involved in human trafficking, on the hotline's website, humantraffickinghotline.org.

Authorities say many other cases go unnoticed or unreported.

The 142 Indiana trafficking cases reported to the national hotline included 110 cases of sex trafficking, 10 cases of sex and labor trafficking, 13 cases of labor trafficking, and nine cases where the caller didn't specify the form of trafficking, the hotline reported.

The hotline shows the Fort Wayne and South Bend areas among several human trafficking hotspots in Indiana, based on trafficking data plotted on a state map. Specific numbers weren't available, however.

Most people assume strangers grab trafficking victims off the street, said Singh. In reality, most victims know their traffickers well.

Parents may traffic their children to earn money, said Singh. Women may give in to trafficking at the request of a boyfriend. Some people may not even realize they are being trafficked, she said.

Singh can't emphasize enough that a person needs to trust their gut, know when to say no and understand that it's OK to say no.

The Central American family, for example, didn't know English or understand American culture when they arrived in Northeast Indiana, which left them vulnerable to traffickers, said Singh. They didn't have housing and couch surfed among people from their country they knew only casually. The mother also didn't know how to enroll her children in school.

Eventually the mother was forced into sex trafficking and her son into labor trafficking, said Singh. The mother reportedly also had been pushed into sex trafficking before she and her family reached the United States.

Help came when a Catholic Charities case manager who had been educated on human trafficking identified the family as potential victims while working to provide them with other services. All Catholic Charities staff members receive training on human trafficking, and those who work directly with clients receive ongoing training.

Providing help, hope

The agency's Trafficking Survivor Services program supports victims as they reclaim their freedom and their lives. The journey can be a difficult one.

Most traffickers spend time grooming a victim before pushing him or her into the sex trade or forced labor, said Singh. "It's so gradual you begin to think it's OK," she added.

The victim's familial or strong personal relationship with the

trafficker makes it difficult for many victims to leave, just as many domestic violence victims struggle emotionally with leaving their abuser. It typically takes seven attempts to leave before a victim finds the strength to stay away from the trafficker.

After being contacted by a victim or receiving referral information from another agency, Singh will meet with the victim to gather more information about the person's situation and his or her goals and needs. Case managers help the person start moving toward those goals, and the agency can provide wraparound services including food, clothing and housing, said Singh. Catholic Charities also can assist with immigration services and mental health counseling if needed.

Singh meets with clients every three months to discuss the person's short-term and long-term goals.

Catholic Charities' Trafficking Survivor program currently serves eight people, including two boys, Singh said. It has assisted more people, but the number of participants varies frequently, and some go back to their trafficker.

Services for victims ages 24 and younger are funded through the Indiana Trafficking Victims Assistance Program, according to Singh. Trafficking victims 25 and older are assisted through its normal programs, most of which are free.

"They really are one of our key partners in Northeast Indiana," said Jeremy Greenlee, ITVAP Region 3 coalition coordinator.

Along with the ability to offer survivors an array of services, Catholic Charities has great relationships with refugee and cultural communities in the area, said Greenlee. The agency also collaborates well with other social service providers to best assist trafficking survivors.

In addition, Catholic Charities provides education sessions about human trafficking at parishes throughout the diocese. Agency staff also visit the four Catholic high schools to teach about healthy relationships and how to stay safe on the internet and social media.

"Education is huge on this," Singh said of preventing and ending human trafficking.

Catholic Charities' work can have powerful impact. The Central American family that fell into trafficking after immigrating to the United States now is thriving, said Singh. The mother works full time, and her income covers more than their household expenses. The family has stable housing, and all the children attend school.

The son who was trafficked



Kevin Kilbane

Melissa Singh, community services supervisor at the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Catholic Charities organization, leads its Trafficking Survivor Services program. The program helps human trafficking survivors recover and rebuild their lives.

loves school and is doing well.

"It is absolutely amazing to see families progress from being at what would be some of the lowest points in their life to overcoming these major obstacles in order to achieve their dreams," said Singh said. "Their strength truly inspires me to do what I do. This program also shows me the impact of hope."

Reach out

Trafficking victims or people who suspect a person is a victim of human trafficking can contact Catholic Charities' Trafficking Survivor Services program at 260-422-5625 or www.ccfwsb.org.

Possible trafficking can be reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline by calling 888-373-7888 or texting 233733. Trafficking in Indiana involving children ages 17 and younger must be reported to the Indiana Department of Child Services' Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 800-800-5556.

Signs of trafficking

The possible signs a person is being trafficked include:

- Unable to freely leave work or residence
- Poor mental health or abnormal behaviors
- Poor physical health
- Lack of control
- Changes in friend groups or actions
- Being branded
- Loss of sense of time
- Numerous inconsistent stories or scripted responses

Source: Catholic Charities

"THE COMMANDMENT

'You shall not kill!'

always requires respecting and promoting human life, from its beginning to its natural end."



John Paul II

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH

FORT WAYNE

SPOUSES, from page 7

sionaries ready to reach those squares and buildings of our cities where the light of the Gospel and the voice of Jesus don't reach and don't penetrate," the pope said.

In addition, he said, they obviously are the best suited to lead marriage preparation courses.

Catholic married couples, he said, need to step up like Aquila and Priscilla and offer to work with their pastors, "not in an autonomous way, but certainly filled with the courage necessary to wake from lethargy and sleep their pastors who are perhaps too still or blocked by the philosophy of the little circle of the perfect. The Lord came to seek sinners, not the perfect."

Choosing to live among and minister only to a small group and preferring to spend time only with committed parishioners is not the way of the Gospel, he said. And the only way to reach out to others, is to listen to them and to try to understand the problems they face in their lives and their marriages.

"We must be convinced — and I'd say, certain — that in the Church such married couples already are a gift of God..."

POPE FRANCIS

"Often I've feared how God will judge us on these two things" — closeness and gratitude, the pope said. "In judging, have I been close to the heart of the people? In judging, did I open my heart to gratitude or was I concerned with commercial interests? God's judgment on this will be very strong."

And in seeking couples capable of evangelizing, the pope said, "we must be aware" that it is not priests who create them,

but the Holy Spirit.

Such couples are out there, the pope said. "They are ready. They just haven't been called."

"We must be convinced — and I'd say, certain — that in the Church such married couples already are a gift of God and not because of our merit, but because they are a fruit of the work of the Spirit who never abandons the Church," he said.

Pope Francis told members of the Roman Rota that they and their predecessors for more than 20 years have been discussing how a loss of faith and a serious lack of understanding of Catholic teaching can be a contributing factor to the lack of consent needed for a valid marriage.

To counter that, he said, the Church needs couples like Aquila and Priscilla, "who speak and live with the authority of baptism," and are living witness of the beauty of Christian marriage and family life.



May the Divine Guidance that assisted Saint Joseph prevail for those who are active in the Pro Life Movement.
**St. Joseph
Hessen Cassel**

"The teaching of the Encyclical Humanae Vitae... ought to be taken up anew, in order to counter a mentality that is often hostile to life..."

Pope Francis,
Amoris Laetitia, 222

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH, WARSAW

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

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StPius.net/RespectLife

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ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH
Fort Wayne

Love LIFE
as a heavenly gift!

SS. PETER AND PAUL
HUNTINGTON

Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

More than 1,300 students from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend marched with hundreds of thousands of others at the national March for Life in Washington, D.C., Jan. 24. Several of the marchers came from smaller parishes in the diocese.

Olivia Eagan of Immaculate Conception Parish, Auburn, was one of the students.

"I'm blessed to be able to attend the March for Life and support a cause that I strongly believe in," said Eagan. "I march because every year hundreds of thousands of human beings are killed without being able to speak for themselves. I march because every human being is designed by God with dignity, and because every day women are told that killing their babies is empowerment."

"In truth," she continued, "empowerment is actually embracing the idea that women have the ability to bring life into the world. Attending the march this year was an incredible way to experience the immense joy that life brings to those who are open to it."

The students arrived early Friday morning to celebrate Mass at Capital One Arena with a reported 20,000 other Catholics from across the nation.

Several priests — including Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades — celebrated Mass with Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of the Diocese of Washington and Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl. Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio to the United States, relayed Pope Francis' support for the marchers.

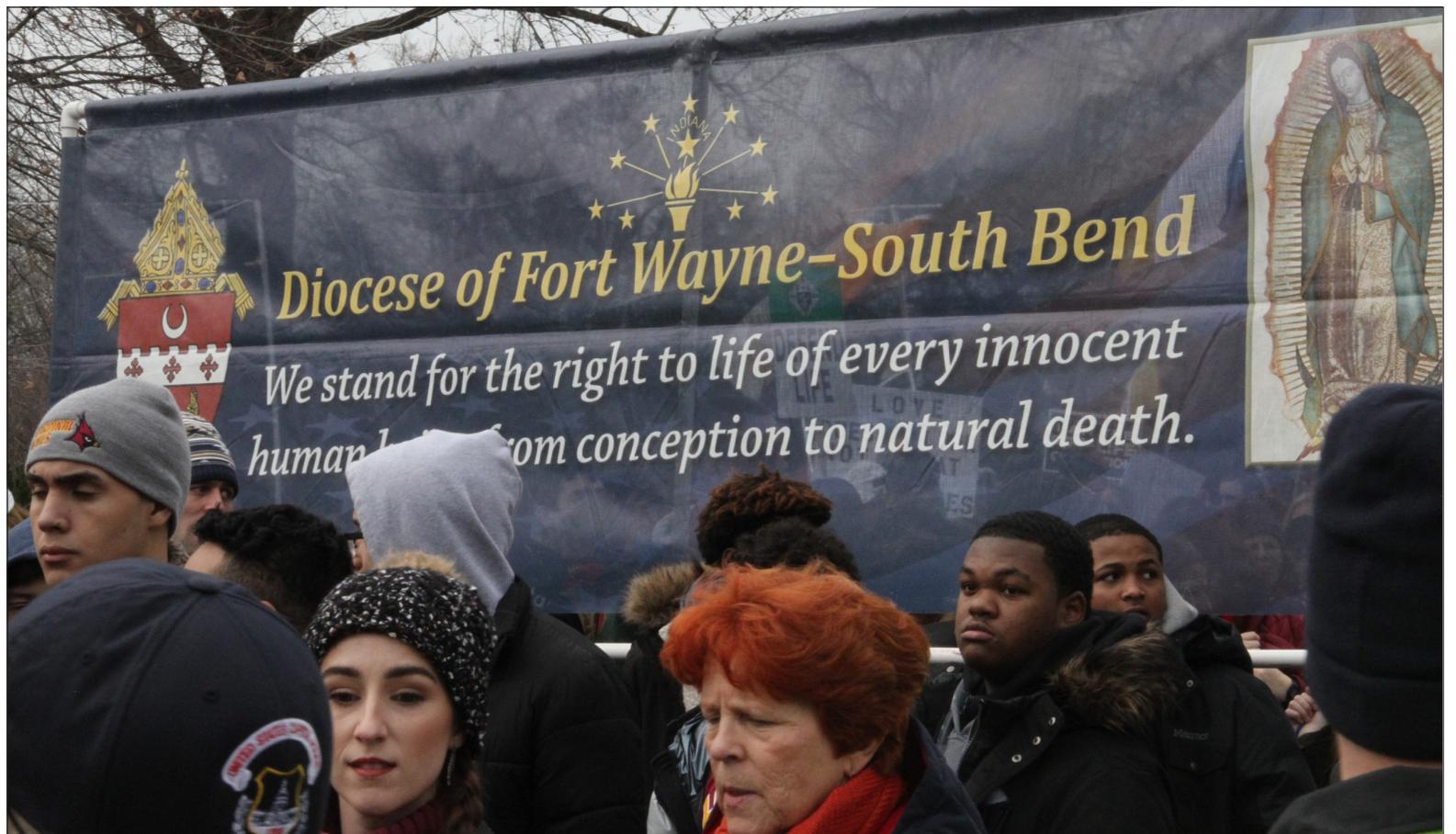
During the homily, a priest from Rome, Italy, preached about the gift of life.

"I can't tell you how happy I am to be with you here today in this assembly to do the one thing that has blessed me," he said. "To give thanks for the gift that has enabled us to have all sorts of experiences in our life."

"Think about it," he continued. "The experience of love. The experience of family, the experience of friendship, the experience of fun — all of these we have because of the one gift God gave us: the gift of life. And it is right and just that we should give thanks."

Following the conclusion of Mass, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend marchers walked to the National Mall, where they joined the other pro-life supporters. Several students from the diocese held signs that read, "I am the pro-life generation."

While most arrived too late to hear President Donald Trump address the crowd, they heard from several pro-life Republican and Democratic state lawmakers.



Photos by Joshua Schipper

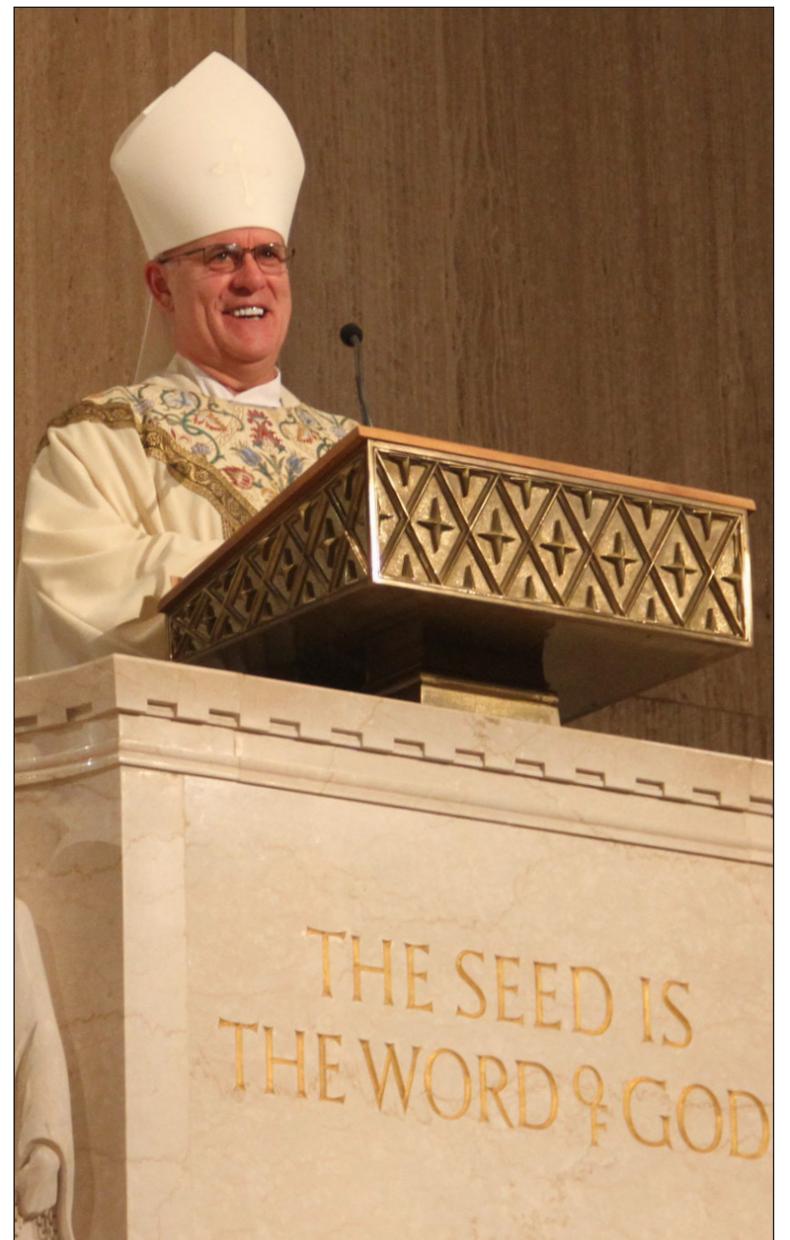
Members of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend contingent walk before a banner stating their pro-life conviction Jan. 24 at the National March for Life.



The March for Life banner, held by dozens of young women, seemed to represent the theme of the march: "Pro-life is Pro-Woman."



Local students attending the march rest after reaching the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrates Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for diocesan pilgrims the day after the march.

marches for life in Washington, D.C.

Prominent pro-life advocates make march history

President Donald Trump became the first sitting president to attend the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. Friday, Jan. 24.

"We are here for a very simple reason," Trump told marchers. "To defend the right of every child born and unborn to fulfill their God-given potential."

President Trump also commented on the importance of women to the cause of life and affirmed his commitment to implementing pro-life policies.

Before Trump spoke, Vice President Mike Pence and his wife, Karen, delivered a pre-recorded video address from the Vatican, where they met with Pope Francis.

Lawmakers from both political parties spoke after the president.

Democratic lawmaker state Senator Katrina R. Jackson D-La., spoke at the rally, expressing disdain for her party's platform. She told the crowd that Louisiana has Democrats in their state legislature, and many of them support the right to life.

For the first time in history, individuals who survived attempted abortions spoke at the rally.

One of the survivors was Melissa Ohden, a woman who survived a failed saline infusion abortion. She would later

convert to Catholicism.

Rep. Stephen Scalise R-La. told the thousands of youth about the steps they can take to successfully lobby their congressman to support pro-life legislation. He specifically referenced the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which is intended to protect the children of failed abortion attempts.

The congressman informed students that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., had blocked the legislation from a vote by the House of Representatives. He also directed students to a site where they can find contact information for their district's representative and urged them to lobby representatives who had not yet declared support for the bill.

Early estimates by park police of Friday's attendance ranged from 450,000 to 500,000 individuals, far surpassing the pro-choice Women's March that took place in the nation's capital the week prior.

Nicolas Sandmann, a student from the Diocese of Covington, also marched with the thousands.

After video surfaced from last year's March for Life, several news outlets reported that Sandmann and his classmates harassed Native American protester Nathan Phillips who was participating in a separate

demonstration. Later video disproved the reports, according to attorneys for Sandmann. Earlier this month, federal judges allowed Sandmann to pursue a defamation lawsuit against CNN, which settled the suit.

Sandmann was visibly undeterred by last year's events at the march on Friday, posting photos to his official Twitter account with the caption, "I will never pass on an opportunity to March for Life."

Several speakers commented on the average age of the crowd, suggesting that "Gen-Z" — those born between 1997 and today — would be the generation to end abortion in the United States.

"Young people are the heart of the March for Life, and it's your generation that is making America the pro-family, pro-life nation," President Trump said. "The life movement is led by strong women, amazing faith leaders and brave students who carry on the legacy of pioneers before us who for to raise the conscience of the nation and uphold the rights of our citizens, you embrace mothers with care and compassion. You are powered by prayer and motivated by your unselfish love."

— Joshua Schipper

ers, as well as Rep. Stephen Scalise, R-La. They also heard from individuals who survived abortion attempts.

Finally, they began to march down Constitution Avenue toward the Supreme Court building. The diocesan delegation was easily recognized within the thousands by their red scarves.

Students held a diocesan banner that summarized the Catholic stance of the issue of life over the crowd.

"We stand for the right to life of every innocent human being from conception to natural death," it read. To the left of the declaration, an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was present as an outward sign of the students' Catholic identity.

Their journey did not end at the foot of the Supreme Court building. They traveled to two host parishes, where the women prayed a holy hour with adoration and the men prayed silent prayer. Both had opportunities for confession throughout the weekend.

The following day, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass for the diocesan marchers at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. During his homily about the conversion of St. Paul, he told them: "It is good to remember and to give thanks for these pro-life conversions on this feast of the Conversion of St. Paul."

"We must pray for more conversions," he said. "It is good when we offer prayers of petition

for life and for an end to abortion, that we also pray for the conversion of those who are pro-abortion, including the conversion of abortionists themselves. Conversion is possible by the grace of God."

After Mass, many from the diocesan group walked to the St.

John Paul II National Shrine. There they learned about the life of the saint who died less than six years into their young lives.

In the evening the contingent arrived in Emmitsburg,

Maryland, to tour the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Several diocesan seminarians who attend Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg joined them.

Students fulfilled their Sunday obligation in the evening, when Msgr. Michael Heintz celebrated Mass with Deacon Stephen Felicichia and Deacon Daniel Koehl.

Deacon Koehl gave the homily. "There is an entire interior dimension of pilgrimage that drives the pilgrims on toward his or her destination," he said. "The pilgrim carries on in order to fulfill a purpose which is related to the goodness of the Lord."

"For all of us here," he continued, "our goal might have physically been the National Mall — Washington, D.C. — but the interior goal, the moral goal, was the great gift of God to us."

The students returned to Indiana by bus after the conclusion of Mass.

"We must pray

for more conversions."

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES



Some of the approximately 1,300 youths and chaperones from the diocese who attended the National March for Life stand outside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception following a Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades Jan. 25.

Equality for all women must include the unborn, says pro-life marcher

BY TIM SWIFT

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When Hannah Miller thinks of what it means to be a pro-life woman, the iconic image of the kerchief-clad Rosie the Riveter flexing her muscles immediately comes to mind.

"It's like 'Yes, We Can.' Yes, we can be a mother, get a college degree and have a career," the 23-year-old Miller, a parishioner at Ss. Phillips and James Church in Baltimore, said as she attended the National March for Life Jan. 24. "I think that those are things that women are capable of doing. What's more empowering than that?"

This year, to mark the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, the organizers themed the annual march "Pro-Life Is Pro-Woman." Organizers noted that some of the most prominent trailblazers of women's rights such as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton also were



CNS photo/Kevin Lamarque, Reuters

A pro-life advocate stands outside the U.S. Supreme Court during the 47th annual March for Life in Washington Jan. 24.

disappeared from the rally and march in recent years, but there were still quite a few with original slogans: "Make the Womb Safe Again," "Abortion Is Health Care Like the Showers at Auschwitz Were Hygiene," "Yo Mama Chose Life," and, with a drawing of a fetus, "It's Their Body, So Where's Their Choice?"

Schools from across the Archdiocese of Baltimore also made the trip joining the thousands who attended the Youth Rally and Mass for Life at the Capital One Arena sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington to kick off the march. Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori was among the celebrants at the Mass.

This year's theme was, in part, a response to the Women's March after its massive crowds — at least in its initial years — had threatened to overshadow the March for Life. The women at the march said it was important to stress that women's rights don't have to be synonymous with supporting legal abortion.

"In my experience, pro-life sees the possibilities instead of the limitations," said Lauren Opinion, a parishioner at St. Joseph in Cockeysville, Maryland.

Opinion, 30, finds herself in support of many progressive women's issues such as greater access to health care, equal pay and paid maternity leave, but she's still reluctant to call herself a feminist.

"I always used to consider myself a feminist. It's something I struggle with because that title usually comes with a lot of secular definitions. You have to be pro-abortion," Opinion told the Catholic Review, the media outlet of the Baltimore archdiocese.

Amy Erardi, who works in the archdiocesan Respect Life office and led a Baltimore group to the

against abortion.

The march is held each January in Washington to commemorate the Roe v. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion in 1973.

Thousands of people from across the country crowded the National Mall bearing signs that read "Life empowers women" and "#prolifefeminist." The pro-woman message also shared space with plenty of "Make America Great Again" hats and other pro-Trump paraphernalia as President Donald Trump addressed the march in person, a presidential first.

Homemade signs have almost

MARCH, page 13



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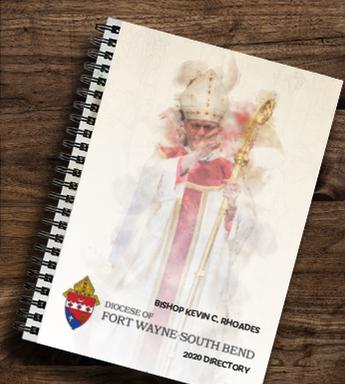
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CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn
A boy marches during the annual March for Life rally in Washington Jan. 24.

MARCH, from page 12

march, noted that feminism has two definitions in the dictionary. Erardi prefers the first option: "The theory of the political, economic and social equality of the sexes" rather than "organized activity on behalf of women's rights and interests."

Opinion, a new mother and a speech pathologist, said the women's rights movement should embrace equality for all women, including the unborn.

"Pro-life is pro-women because it recognizes women

in the womb. It recognizes the choice of a girl in the womb and sees her potential," Opinion said.

Erardi's brand of feminism also has been informed by her work. She splits her time working in the medical field and helping women traumatized by their decision to have abortions.

"Until you see the consequences of abortion. You might not get it," Erardi said.

Miller, a recent graduate of the Johns Hopkins University, said the pro-life movement is simply trying to bring the women's rights movement back to its roots.

"I think the movement started out as a response to the disproportionate treatment of women in areas like job opportunities. It was common for women to be at a disadvantage," Miller said. "But now the pendulum has swung too far — trying to infringe on human rights of others."

Swift is the social media coordinator for the Catholic Review and the Archdiocese of Baltimore. The Review is the news outlet of the archdiocese. Kurt Jensen contributed to this story.



*It was you who created
My inmost self; and put
Me together in my
Mother's womb; for all
These mysteries I thank you,
For the wonder of myself, for
The wonder of your works.*

Psalm 139, 13-14

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Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

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you knit me in my
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Psalm 119:13

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
NEW HAVEN, IN

We are PRO-LIFE! We are PRO-LIFE! We are PRO-LIFE!

It's all in the family for Catholic school in Decatur

BY JENNIFER BARTON

The phrase “not your father’s school” doesn’t apply to St. Joseph School in Decatur, because for most of the student body, it is indeed their father’s school. And their mother’s, their aunts’ and their uncles’ — even their grandparents’, in some cases. Much of the staff are also second-generation St. Joseph Commodores. It is very much a multigenerational school.

Like his father and aunts and uncles before him, principal Brian Baker studied at St. Joseph prior to teaching there for 16 years. He took over as principal at the start of the 2019-20 school year after serving as assistant principal.

As a college student, Baker was drawn to the idea of teaching. The first school he applied to after graduation was St. Joseph. “I never considered any other school,” he said. “It had that level of comfort.”

St. Joseph is an extension of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, which sits next door to the school. The school was founded in 1881, although the current building was completed in 1925. It was first staffed by the Sisters of St. Agnes, and the former convent has been converted into a preschool and daycare wing.

Current enrollment is around 300 students. The school nickname of ‘commodores’ came about because the town was named for Stephen Decatur, Jr., who served as a commodore in the U.S. Navy in the early 1800s. A ship’s wheel is the school’s emblem.

Older alumni say they remember walking the halls from grade school all the way through high school, because both St. Joseph and Decatur Catholic High School once shared the same building. The high school occupied the top floor of the building until its closure in 1967. The old gymnasium in the basement — now humorously known as “the dungeon” — hosted state tournament high school basketball games at one time.

Grandparents Harry and Vicki Meyer spent their school years together at St. Joseph. “I used to chase her down the hallway in second grade,” Harry quipped. Vicki recalled the rope that ran down the middle of the hall, separating the boys from the girls, and a kind but stern nun who served as principal and watched to make sure the students stayed on the right side of it.

The Meyers sent their son Greg to St. Joseph, and he remembers looking up his parents’ grades in the old archives while working at the school. Now his sons, Derek and Alex, attend as well.

St. Joseph is the kind of place that a secretary can bring her dog to work with her. Jane Beery



Photos by Jennifer Barton

Three generations of the Meyer family of Decatur represent St. Joseph School: grandparents Harry and Vicki and their son Greg all attended, as well as Derek and Alex, seated in front.

has been a part of the St. Joseph community for decades: She was one of 11 children, all of whom graduated from the school.

At that time, Beery and her sisters and brothers were proud blue-and-gold pirates, not commodores. She believes the nickname changed when Decatur Catholic closed.

Another teacher, Kathy Foster, began subbing at St. Joseph after graduating from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. Before long, she was approached to teach. “Sister Carlita came to me and said, ‘Would you please teach here?’” Forty-two years later, Baker jokes that Foster is trying to set a benchmark for other teachers.

Through the years, Foster has taught many of the teachers currently employed at St. Joseph. Her own children graduated from St. Joseph, and she taught two out of three of them.

“I don’t look at teaching as a career or profession, I look at it as my journey of faith, because that’s what it is,” she said. “It’s more than a profession. It’s a career, but it’s even more than that. Every day is a new chal-

lenge, you don’t know what it’s going to bring.”

Although he is one of the youngest teachers at the school, Nick Faurote has a similar story. “I graduated from Purdue and I knew I wanted to come home. By the grace of God, I ended up teaching here.”

A position as a long-term substitute teacher led to a full-time position teaching middle school science. St. Joseph “felt like home right away, like I went from being a student to being an adult. It felt like I hadn’t left that atmosphere. Coming in and teaching, I make a good rapport with the kids and try to keep a positive attitude every day.”

Faurote is now in his fourth year as a teacher. It was initially an adjustment for him to call his former teachers by their first names, he said.

In his first year his youngest sister began middle school, so he was able to teach her for three years. Additionally, some of his friends from grade school are beginning to bring their children to St. Joseph, and Faurote looks forward to working with them. He is also adamant that his

future children will one day walk the same halls as he did.

ber, Baker points out recent updates. The school has installed a lift that can get about 90% of students and visitors with disabilities or injuries onto all three floors. The daycare, which began as a means to provide teachers with a place for their younger children, has expanded to accept students from the general public and is now open year-round, meeting a need for working parents.

St. Joseph also boasts a new, freestanding gymnasium located across the street. There is updated technology in all the classrooms. “For Decatur, to keep this school going is a priority. Not only for former students, but parishioners, and we have non-Catholics who see (the value of the school),” said Baker. He relates how a family came to visit the school not too long ago based on the impression of it they were given by their older children’s friends, who attend St. Joseph. “It’s another feather in not only our caps, but in that of the parents of those students and the students themselves; they’ve taken what they learned here and applied it to high school life, with all the pressures that comes along with that.”

It’s obvious that Baker, along with the teachers, staff and families of St. Joseph School, are proud of their school and its rich history. “The school is so much bigger than any one person. Hopefully we can — and did — make an impact on the next generation, that they can continue to value what we provide here.”



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Former students often return to become staff at St. Joseph School, including principal Brian Baker, far right, and 42-year veteran teacher Kathy Foster, bottom row, second from right. Currently, 22 of the staff are alumni.



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Miracle in D.C., part 2

The first part of "Miracle in D.C." was printed in our Jan. 5 issue.

Meanwhile, her brothers and close friends knew that Christie's favorite books were the Harry Potter series. They decided to take turns sitting at her bedside, reading one Harry Potter book after another. This was good therapy for them, and they could only hope that maybe, just maybe, Christie could hear them.

She remained in a deep coma for 16 days. The coma was in part medically induced by the hypothermia and sedatives she received. Finally the neurosurgical team believed it was time to warm her up, withdraw the sedatives and see if they had preserved brain function.

There was little encouragement the first few days, with no movement or signs of awareness by our sleeping princess. The daily worry and anguish her mother, father and brothers went through is something that is not easily imaginable.

Finally, there was purposeful movement of her arms and legs. Soon she was tracking the medical staff with her eyes as they moved around the room. What happened next will never be forgotten by the family who never left her bedside.

Her oldest brother, the tough Army Ranger, was holding her hand and looking at his sister when Christie suddenly opened her eyes. Their eyes met and she smiled around the endotracheal tube and mouthed the words "I love you." It was such a mov-

ing moment that he sank to his knees and this usually stoic man broke down in tears. She was in there!

The next huge hurdle was weaning her from her ventilator, which she had been dependent on for about three weeks. She unfortunately failed weaning and had to stay hooked up to the ventilator. This led to a tracheostomy. At least the uncomfortable endotracheal tube could be removed from her mouth, and the tracheostomy would provide more safety as she was weaned off the ventilator. The negative was that with a tracheostomy and ventilator support she could not talk, so it was even more difficult to get a good assessment of her neurologic status.

Prior to this event she was able to speak four languages: English, Mandarin, Spanish and French. To be able to hear any words in any language from her would be cause for celebration.

She was receiving nutrition through a PEG tube, a tube that goes through the abdominal wall into the stomach. Physical therapists came to her bedside daily several times per day to passively move her arms and legs. Finally, after nearly six weeks, she no longer needed the ventilator and could breathe on her own. It looked like she was going to survive. Early in her hospitalization, it looked like the overwhelming odds were against it.

After she was medically stable, the next step was to be transferred to a rehab center. Her parents chose Shirley Ryan AbilityLab in Chicago for not only its cutting edge expertise



DR. DAVID KAMINSKAS

THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

but also to be close to home. She was flown there by Angel Flight Medical transport in case there was any instability.

My fourth-born daughter, who lived in Chicago, begged her employer to allow her to be off for several weeks so she could be at Christie's bedside every day to provide a familiar face, love and help with the long rehabilitation process.

The big question remained. Would her brain recover?

On arrival to Shirley Ryan she was unable to stand, walk or talk. She had severe short-term memory loss. What transpired just hours before could not be remembered. Every day that my daughter arrived, she learned that Christie did not remember that she had been there the day before. My daughter would tell her multiple times per day, "You're awesome and you still have a world to change." Christie would then touch her nose and point to my daughter, who was sure this was her way of saying, "Yes."

Progress continued as she began to stand with help and take a few steps with a walker. Daily improvement could be documented. She still had her tracheostomy in place and my daughter had not heard word

one from her cousin to this point. One day she coughed violently and her tracheostomy tube came flying out on the floor. Thankfully this caused no respiratory distress and the nurses were able to soon place an occlusive bandage over the hole in her neck. This now meant that air could flow through her vocal cords and she might be able to begin talking.

Soon an occasional word came forth and there was great hope. My daughter recalls two occasions quite vividly. A nurse came in the room one morning and asked Christie what she wanted for breakfast, and in a serious tone Christie said, "Can I have a beer?" My daughter and the nurse both laughed with great happiness as Christie tried to figure out what was so funny. On another occasion a therapist walked in the room and Christie blurted out, "Do they have Mass here?" She received Communion on a regular basis during her stay.

For approximately six weeks, she continued eight-hour-a-day intensive rehab at Shirley Ryan. Many physical and mental hurdles were overcome, and finally she was able to be discharged to her parents' house. She continued outpatient rehab for the next four months and then she insisted that she be allowed to return to D.C. Her parents were reluctant, but they knew that when Christie made up her mind, they had little chance of changing it. She returned to her condo in Washington, D.C., and it was not that many more weeks before she returned to her work at a prestigious think tank where

the brightest of the bright collaborate.

This is a story about a young lady and a family who just would not give up. As I prayed daily along with many others for Christina, and she fought for survival, I can recall thinking to myself how Mother Mary must be pestering her Son with daily requests to intervene. For as it is written in Luke 11:5-11: "Jesus said to them: 'If one of you knows someone who comes to him in the middle of the night and says to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has come in for a journey and I have nothing to offer him"; and he from inside should reply, "Leave me alone. The door is shut now and my children and I are in bed. I cannot get up to look after your needs" — I tell you, even though he does not get up and take care of the man because of friendship, he will do so because of persistence, and give him as much as he needs. So I say to you, "ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you." 'For whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, is admitted.'

Christie, we love you!

Permission was, of course, given by Christie and her family to share their incredible saga.

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

Recognizing Jesus and understanding God's will



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

The Presentation of the Lord Luke 2:22-40

Under other circumstances, the liturgy for this weekend would be that of the Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time. Instead, however, this weekend the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

Any interruption in the usual course of the liturgical season is a lesson in itself. The Church tells believers that the feast contains such an important message and commemorates such a person or event because it conveys a message or reality helpful to us as we aspire to holiness. This is occurring with the Church's

emphasis on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord this weekend.

By presenting their newborn child in the temple, Jewish parents in effect consecrated the child to God. It was more than just a tradition or charming gesture. It placed the infant fully within the stream of life, and identity, among the Chosen People. The child shared in God's gift to the people of Israel, beginning with their knowing God and the promise of salvation. Presentation also placed the child in the mission of God's Chosen People, to adore God above everything and to obey God in all things. In this spirit, Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the temple.

The first reading is from the Book of Malachi. Through this prophecy, God promises the Chosen People that they will receive a messenger, divinely sent and empowered, perfect and powerful, sent to reconcile God and the people.

For the second reading, the Church offers us a passage from the Epistle to the Hebrews. No

work in the New Testament is more eloquent in its testimony to the identity of the Lord Jesus. This reading marvelously discloses that, in what theologians call the Incarnation, Jesus shares with people everything — including Himself, His power, and the divine life dwelling in Him.

The final reading is from St. Luke's Gospel, the only source in the Bible of this story of the Presentation of the Lord. Several strong lessons occur in the reading.

First, Mary and Joseph participated in this revered Jewish custom by presenting Jesus in the temple. This reveals much about them. What is learned from this revelation? They were devout. They obeyed God. They saw themselves as members of the Chosen People and privileged to be servants and bearers of God's truth and goodness.

Next, they encounter Simeon, "righteous and devout" as the Gospel describes him. He sees in the tiny Jesus the Messiah, the future and the life of the world. Simeon was quite specific. Jesus was unique.

Simeon's great exclamation of faith is the Church's hymn sung every day in Night Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours.

Predicting the vital role ahead for Jesus, Simeon also warns Mary that she will suffer as she watches the life of her Son unfold.

Then, Anna enters the scene. She is a "prophetess," according to Luke, meaning that she sees everything in the context of God and of obedience to God. She is elderly and a widow. At the time, longevity implied wisdom. Widowhood meant time, free of domestic responsibilities, to concentrate on God. Anna sees Jesus as the hope and glory of the people.

Reflection

The Liturgy of the Word for this feast of the Presentation of the Lord is very practical for anyone believing in Jesus and seeking salvation. Simeon and Anna recognized Jesus and saw a role hardly suggested simply by the presence of an infant. The Gospel is clear. They are devout. They

are wise. Understanding God's will, and accepting limitations in understanding it, come only to the good and the sincere.

Finally, Simeon's warning to Mary is telling. In a world of sin and hardship, no Christian can expect a life without demands and dilemma. Mary was no exception. Nevertheless, she was faithful.

READINGS

Sunday: Mal 3:1-4 Ps 24:7-10 Heb 2:14-18 Lk 2:22-40

Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13 Ps 3:2-7 Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3 Ps 86:1-6 Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17 Ps 32:1-2, 5-7 Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12 (Ps) 1 Chr 29:10-12 Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Sir 47:2-11 ps 18:31, 47, 50-51 Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13 Ps 119:9-14 Mk 6:30-34

Exercising my right to choose

I was cleaning the kitchen, the TV on in the background, the faces of glitz and glam celebrities flashing across the screen, the sounds of applause filling the room as the Golden Globes played.

I'm a sucker for awards shows. I don't know those celebrities, and we probably wouldn't be friends, but I've watched their shows and movies and I enjoy the fanfare of passing out trophies to millionaires.

But I don't think I'll be watching those award shows anymore. Not because the acceptance speeches are usually agenda-driven or because they've lost their luster and humor as the telecast has gotten longer.

I don't think I'll watch them anymore because most of the people in the room seem to think that I, and my husband, and any parents, really, are fools. Fools for choosing to be parents. Fools for not choosing secular success over family.

Michelle Williams, an actress I've long liked for her work in my favorite teen drama, "Dawson's Creek," accepted the award for best actress in a limited series. She stood in front her colleagues and announced, with gusto and pride, that she was only able to achieve this honor and win this (or any) award because she had employed her right to choose.

"Choose what," I first thought. Then I realized: She chose to have an abortion. She chose to end the life of her child. She is making the claim that pregnancy is something that happens "to you" and therefore something that you are able to then choose to end, and this is

a right all women should fight to keep. Because if the right to have an abortion doesn't exist, then women would somehow not have the chance, or right, to be successful in any other area of life.

The crowd applauded her, and her friends in the audience wept with pride. She stood there beaming as she held a golden trophy and made it clear that in her opinion, any woman who wants to be successful and receive accolades should avoid having children, because those babies will simply hold you back from your dreams and prevent you from achieving anything.

She stepped off the stage. I turned off the television. How sad and demented, that our world has fed us the lie that women are incapable of raising a family and having a career. How pathetic and lazy, that our world proclaims that women must sacrifice motherhood if they want to work, or they must never work should they wish to be mothers.

For a world so determined to proclaim that women can do anything, and that women deserve everything, that world sure seems to think that "do anything" and "deserve everything" could never possibly apply to that woman when she is also a mother.

The world says we women can choose — but we have to choose either/or ... never both. We can choose — but that choice is offered to us with the line, "Have the kid, but you'll probably lose everything else."

Michelle Williams exercised her right to choose. She chose to end the life of an innocent child



KATIE PREJEAN MCGRADY

WINDOW SEAT WISDOM

... her innocent child. I'm praying for her. Praying for her healing, because I'm sure there's sadness there, whether she's shown it or not. Praying for her conversion, that she comes to recognize the evil of abortion. Praying she comes to see, in the words of St. Teresa of Kolkata, that it is a true pity to sacrifice the life of your child just so you can live as you wish.

And I, as a woman, also exercise my right to choose: to choose to find balance, to choose to find joy in both motherhood and my career, and to choose to recognize the value and goodness that children bring into women's lives rather than see them as a burden or impediment to my dreams.

Katie Prejean McGrady is an international Catholic speaker and author.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for February 2, 2020

Luke 2:22-32

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Cycle A: Jesus' first visit to the Temple. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

MOSES	PRESENT HIM	EVERY MALE
OPENS	THE WOMB	OFFER
SACRIFICE	TURTLEDOVES	SIMEON
ISRAEL	REVEALED	SEE DEATH
TEMPLE	PARENTS	ARMS
BLESSED	SERVANT	EYES
SALVATION	GENTILES	GLORY

PRESENTED

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Saint of the week



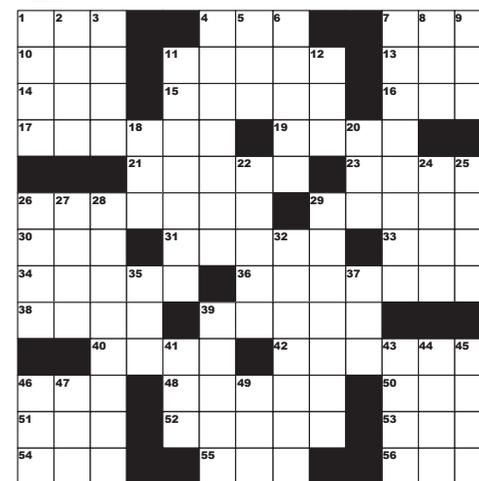
St. Blaise

Fourth Century
Feast February 3

This bishop and martyr lived in the fourth century in Turkey and Armenia. For a time Blaise lived in a cave to escape persecution. On his feast the Church recalls a miracle cure associated with him and celebrates the blessing of the throats. Blaise apparently saved the life of a boy who was choking on a fish bone. The saint said that anyone who lit a candle in his memory would be free of infection, thus candles are used in the traditional throat blessing. He is listed among the Fourteen Holy Helpers, saints revered as healers.

The CrossWord

February 2
and 9, 2020



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Sunday readings: Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 and 1Cor 2: 1-5; Mt 5:13-16

ACROSS

- 1 Velocity (abbr.)
- 4 Center
- 7 Foreign Agricultural Service
- 10 First woman
- 11 Biblical fisherman
- 13 Type of brakes
- 14 Bitmap image
- 15 Analyze properties
- 16 Anger
- 17 Church tables
- 19 Bluish green
- 21 "Gone With the Wind" actress
- 23 Neckband
- 26 Lecture
- 29 Danger
- 30 Monkey
- 31 Plural pronoun
- 33 East northeast
- 34 Springs
- 36 ___ Virgin Mary
- 38 Abraham lived in one
- 39 Avails
- 40 Pater
- 42 Mother ___
- 46 "I am ___ resurrection"
- 48 Tree
- 50 Legume

- 51 "___ Father"
- 52 Dwelling
- 53 Buck's mate
- 54 Okay
- 55 Distress call
- 56 Advertisements

DOWN

- 1 Bright star
- 2 Sin is doing ___
- 3 Port
- 4 Savior
- 5 It is (abbr.)
- 6 Devil has this power
- 7 Losers
- 8 Radiologists board
- 9 South southeast
- 11 Mother & Father
- 12 Seed bread
- 18 Muslim name for "champion"
- 20 "Blessed ___ you among women"
- 22 Loon-like seabird
- 24 Ticket
- 25 Bolted
- 26 "___ of the earth"
- 27 Dueling sword
- 28 Aimlessly wanders
- 29 Groom
- 32 Lazarus had one
- 35 School group
- 37 Concord e.g.
- 39 Angels' head wear
- 41 Morse code "T"
- 43 U.S. Department of Agriculture
- 44 Cross
- 45 Potato sprouts
- 46 Child's plaything
- 47 Shade
- 49 Dynamic ___

Bryant relied on Catholic faith to see him through tough personal times

CALABASAS, Calif. (CNS) — As the world mourned the loss of basketball great Kobe Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and seven others killed in a tragic helicopter crash Jan. 26, many recalled how Bryant gave much credit to his Catholic faith for seeing him through the bad times and strengthening his marriage and family.

A shooting guard, Bryant was drafted into the NBA at age 17 and played his entire 20-season career with the Los Angeles Lakers. He entered the NBA directly from high school and won five NBA championships. He retired at the end of the 2015-16 season.

News of Bryant's death quickly prompted tributes on social media. On Twitter, Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles said "he was sad to hear the news" and offered prayers for him and his family.

In Rome for his region's "ad limina" visit with Pope Francis,

Archbishop Gomez told Catholic News Service Jan. 27 that Bryant "was a very good Catholic, a faithful Catholic" and recalled meeting the famed basketball player on several occasions.

Born in Philadelphia Aug. 23, 1978, Bryant was raised a Catholic and as a youth lived for a while in Italy. He and his wife, Vanessa, married at St. Edward Catholic Church in Dana Point, California, and raised their children Catholic. Bryant is survived by his wife and three other daughters. Gianna, also known as "GiGi," was the couple's second oldest daughter.

One of the darkest periods in his personal life happened in 2003 — when he was accused of raping a young woman while he was staying at a mountain resort hotel in Colorado. He was arrested on a rape charge.

He denied he had raped her but admitted that the two had consensual sex. The charges were

eventually dropped. In 2004, his accuser filed a civil suit against him and in 2005 Bryant settled with her out of court for an undisclosed sum.

His marriage almost ended over it. In a GQ interview in 2015, he said he relied on his Catholic faith to get him through — and talking to a priest was "the turning point."

Among tributes to Bryant flooding the internet was a remembrance by Instagram user Cristina Ballestero, who described seeing Bryant at a weekday Mass at Holy Family Cathedral in Orange, California.

"His most inspiring trait was his decision to turn to his faith in God and receive God's mercy and to be a better man after a regretful decision," Ballestero wrote, referring to the GQ article. "I am heartbroken at the news of his death alongside his daughter Gianna. My prayers go out to his family, friends and loved ones."



CNS photo/Kyle Grillot, Reuters

Mourners gather near the Staples Center Jan. 27 to pay respects to former Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant after he, his daughter Gianna, 13, and seven others were killed Jan. 26 in a helicopter crash in Calabasas, Calif.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

Bootcamp offered for apologetics training
NOTRE DAME — The Kloska Family Life Defenders Boot Camp will be Saturday, Feb. 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Geddes Hall, Notre Dame. This Boot Camp provides a comprehensive pro-life apologetic training and is open to all from eighth grade through adulthood. To learn more or register, visit prolifemichiana.org/bootcamp.

'It's A Polish Wedding' helps Chiara Home
SOUTH BEND — St. Hedwig Memorial Hall, 331 S. Scott St., will host a "Polish Wedding" fundraising event on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 5-10 p.m., benefiting Chiara Home. Enjoy a wedding reception dinner complete with all-you-can-eat Polish food, open bar, along with lots of dancing. The evening will feature a surprise bride and groom chosen from the crowd, honeymoon cash, wedding gifts drawn from the "hopper," music by the DJ Sound FX, and more. Tickets are \$50/person and you must be 21 to attend. RSVP by Jan. 25 to 574-287-5435 or email development@chiarahomerespite.org.

Christ Renews His Parish at St. Pius X GRANGER — St. Pius X, 52553 Fir Rd., will host a Christ Renews His Parish weekend for men on Saturday, Feb. 8. It is an opportunity to take time away from the daily routine and focus on the spiritual journey to experience Christian community, celebrate the sacraments and develop a deeper prayer life. Contact Harry Mabold at 574-850-5064 or hmabold@yahoo.com for information.

Just Desserts date night for couples
SOUTH BEND — Just Desserts, a "date night" series for couples in their 20s and 30s, will take place Saturday, Feb. 1, from 7:30-9 p.m. in Payne Hall in the lower level of St. Thérèse, Little Flower Church, 54191 N. Ironwood Rd. The evening features food, faith and fun and entails desserts for every diet, a speaker who will help deepen your relationship as a couple and with Christ, followed by a table discussion and a chance to win a gift card to a local restaurant. Cost is \$5 per couple at the door. Babies are welcome. Sponsored by Marriage

& Family Ministry, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Contact Lisa Everett 574-234-0687 or leverett@diocesefwsb.org.

Called and Gifted Workshop
SOUTH BEND — Are you a disciple of Jesus? Do you seek to deepen your life as a disciple? A workshop will be offered at St. Thérèse, Little Flower Parish, 54191 N. Ironwood Rd., Friday, Feb. 7, from 7-9 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will utilize a series of videos, discussions and follow-up with a one-on-one interview. Participants will be given an opportunity to discern a charism more deeply during the

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 Heart

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 Antoinette Long, 83,
 St. Anthony de Padua

Stanley Lukowski, 94,
 St. Anthony de Padua

Waterloo
 Mary A. Hamman,
 57, St. Michael the
 Archangel

weeks of Lent. Lunch will be provided on Saturday. Contact Abby Kyle at 574-272-7070 or abby@littleflowerchurch.org.

Diocesan World Youth Day
FORT WAYNE — Diocesan World Youth Day will take place Feb. 21-23, at Bishop Luers High School. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will participate in the WYD experience with an address and adoration vigil on Saturday. Parents are invited to join Bishop Rhoades for the concluding Mass at 10 a.m. Sunday morning. Register at www.fwsbym.com.

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Michiana shows support for the unborn



Photos by Jennifer Miller

Students from St. Adalbert School line Main Street in South Bend Jan. 24 as part of the 2020 Right to Life Michiana March for Life. The students attended a prayer service and adoration with other area Catholic grade schools at St. Joseph Parish on Hill Street before walking in the peaceful event downtown.



Homemade, thoughtful and witty signs are displayed by sophomore and junior students from Penn High School, Mishawaka, at the march. Hundreds of young people participated despite rain and chilly temperatures.



This year marks the 47th anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade* legalizing abortion. From left, Rory Hoipkeimer, her dog and high school seniors from Trinity School at Greenlawn peacefully protest the decision in front of the federal courthouse in South Bend.



Students from St. John the Baptist School, South Bend, brought their energy and enthusiasm for life to the 2020 Right to Life Michiana March for Life. They encouraged drivers and passersby to honk for life.