

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 94 No. 10

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

Number of young people entering Church encouraging



Photos by Jennifer Barton

Catechumens and candidates declared their intentions to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church during the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion March 1 at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend. At top, young people from the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame, stand as their names are called. At left, Seminarian Stephen Horton places his hand on the shoulder of catechumen Justin Hug. Right, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades signs the Book of the Elect with the names of a parish's catechumens, assisted by Deacon Frederick Everett. See article and more photos on the back page of this week's issue of Today's Catholic.



Daylight saving time begins March 8

Set clocks forward one hour Saturday night

'Business as a Force for Good'

Woo encourages corporate leaders at USF Servus Ominum Page 2

DACA vote expected this year

U.S. bishops ask the faithful to engage Page 3

A particularly austere Lent

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Catholics in some states targeted with political advertising Page 10

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

(ISSN 0891-1533)
(USPS 403630)

Official newspaper of the
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
P.O. Box 11169
Fort Wayne, IN 46856

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260-456-2824

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

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

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

BUREAU OFFICE: 1328 Dragoon Trail, Mishawaka, IN 46544. Telephone 260-456-2824. Fax 260-744-1473.

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

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

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Former Catholic Relief Services CEO believes businesses can lead change for good

BY KEVIN KILBANE

Former Catholic Relief Services CEO Carolyn Yauyan Woo believes businesses can lead positive change in their community and world, but their impact depends on the values and morals of the people they employ.

"I actually see business as the vehicle where social agendas are moving through," Woo told a record crowd of about 330 people during the University of Saint Francis' eighth annual Servus Omnium Lecture Feb. 25 at the university's Goldstine Performing Arts Center in downtown Fort Wayne. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades attended and led the opening prayer for the breakfast event.

The lecture series focuses on how people can bring their faith into the workplace, said Lance Richey, an event co-founder and USF's vice president for academic affairs. Servus Omnium means "servant of all," which is how St. Francis of Assisi described himself in letters to fellow members of the religious order he founded, Richey said.

Woo brought a wide range of experience to discussing the topic "Business as a Force for Good."

After graduating from Purdue University in West Lafayette, she stayed at the university to teach and to work in administration. She served from 1997-2011 as dean of the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame before leading Catholic Relief Services from 2012-17. She currently serves at Notre Dame as the president's liaison for energy transition away from fossil fuels.

Woo began her lecture by recalling a question a Notre Dame student asked her after a talk by one of the many corporate CEOs that university brings in to speak with students.

The speakers all urge students to "do the right thing," the student told Woo. Do you think they always did the right thing while building their careers to where they are now?

"The bottom line is, why would a question like this come from a young person?" she asked. The answer is because young people have seen bad behavior by businesses.

"In our culture, cheating is very embedded," Woo said.

People often make excuses to allow themselves to go along with cheating, she said. That includes believing the means used are justified by the end result or that no one was hurt by the cheating.

However, Woo said business also can be a strong force for good.

People are created to live and interact with others, she noted. Businesses are a mechanism for



Photos by Kevin Kilbane

People bow their heads as Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades offers a prayer before the start of the University of Saint Francis' Servus Omnium lecture and breakfast, which took place Feb. 25 at the university's Goldstine Performing Arts Center in downtown Fort Wayne.

the orderly exchange of goods and services between people. They also can influence change on social issues such as racism, fair treatment of people and care for God's creation.

For those efforts to succeed, people must choose to do good, she continued. That includes business owners and leaders setting a good example for their employees.

Catholic social teaching and Church leaders recognize the potential of business as a force for good, she said. Pope St. John Paul II, for example, offered thoughts on appropriate ways to gain wealth. Pope Benedict XVI described markets as neither good nor bad, but dependent on the ethics of their leaders. And Pope Francis warned of business' ability to exploit but also said it can play an important role in creating good jobs for people. "One of the world's biggest problems is underemployment of youth in Asia and Africa," Woo noted.

She ended her address by answering a few questions from the audience.

In one response, she said the use of microfinancing to provide small grants or loans to low-income people sounds like a great idea; however, Catholic Relief Services has found it was overly risky in many places because people requesting the funds didn't have the training or knowledge to manage the money and make the best use of it in their small business.

When asked how to act when a business competitor's cheating starts to hurt one's own company, Woo asserted that cheating is not a sustainable model. "It is a race to the bottom." Rather than joining in and behaving unethi-

cally to protect the company, she recommended studying and understanding your firm's long-term options and whether it should exit the present line of work and look for viable alternatives.

Another person asked about children seemingly growing up without learning virtues and moral character in school. While that can happen, Woo said, children also can learn values through other institutions: by growing up in a small, close-knit community or participating in Scouting or sports programs that aren't overly competitive.

Scripture is a guide to developing good values, but it isn't enough, she said. Young people learn values, ethical behavior, kindness and generosity from being the recipient of them and by witnessing other people practice them.

"You need to think about who you want to be and who is your best self and what you want that to look like," she said.



Carolyn Yauyan Woo, former CEO of Catholic Relief Services and dean of the Mendoza College of Business, speaks on "Business as a Force for Good" during the Servus Omnium lecture.

Status report: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

WASHINGTON — In 2012, the Department of Homeland Security initiated the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program for certain undocumented individuals who came to the United States as children and met several criteria. As of June 2019, there were approximately 660,880 DACA recipients. DACA was modeled after the DREAM Act, bipartisan legislation that was initiated more than a decade ago but has not become law. The purpose of DACA was to utilize prosecutorial discretion to provide undocumented persons who were brought to the United States when they were children with temporary relief from deportation (deferred action) and work authorization. The status expires after two years, subject to renewal.

Why should we protect DACA youth?

DACA holders exemplify the extraordinary contributions that immigrants can provide to our nation. These young people have grown up in our country, some even choosing to put their lives on the line to serve our armed forces. These educated, tax-paying individuals are a valuable part of our work force and our communities.

What is the current state of DACA?

The Trump Administration announced termination of the DACA program on Sept. 5, 2017, allowing a one-time renewal for those whose status was set to expire between Sept. 5 and March 5, 2018. The termination has been the subject of litigation and multiple nationwide preliminary injunctions. The injunctions did not allow new DACA applicants to apply for the program and created continued uncertainty for those enrolled in the program. Most recently, on Nov. 12, 2019, the Supreme Court heard arguments relating to the legality of DACA. It is likely that the Supreme Court will issue its opinion in the spring or early summer of 2020. The Supreme Court can either uphold the program or can allow the termination of DACA to occur.

The importance of a legislative solution

While the U.S. Supreme Court deliberates the future of DACA and of DACA youth, it is vital that we encourage Congress to act to provide Dreamers with a path to citizenship. The House passed H.R. 6 on June 4, which provides critical permanent legal protection to DACA recipients and other



populations in need of protection. The USCCB's Committee on Migration Chairman has voiced support for the bill numerous times, issuing a March 15 statement endorsing H.R. 6 sending a letter to each Member of the U.S. House of Representatives in support of the bill.

Although the House has acted on legislation that would support this population, no similar level of action has occurred in the Senate. If the Supreme Court ends the DACA program and there is no legislation that has passed the Senate and the House, DACA youth will face an uncertain future and maybe even deportation and family separation. For this reason, it is imperative we turn our attention to the Senate.

What is our message to Congress?

Support legislation in the Senate, such as S.874, the Dream Act of 2019, which will protect individuals benefitting from the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as Dreamers, by providing a path to citizenship.

Who are the DACA recipients and how many are there?

DACA recipients are undocumented individuals who were brought to the U.S. as children by their parents. Under the DACA program started in 2012, about 660,880 undocumented applied for temporary relief from deportation and for the right to work.

If the Dreamers are in the U.S. illegally, why should we protect them?

DACA holders essentially grew up in the U.S. and many of them remember little, if anything, about where they were born. They are American in everything but immigration status. These young people attend colleges and universities with our own children or siblings, are required to pay taxes, serve honorably in our nation's armed services and reserves, and worship with us in our parishes.

DACA recipients are among the most "extremely vetted" immigrants in the United States. The government knows they have not previously committed any felonies, knows where they live and work, how much they pay in taxes, and know if they leave the country and return. DACA recipients contribute to the economy and pay for DACA.

Many Americans are second- or third-generation immigrants, and many of us are first-generation immigrants just like DACA recipients. For many Americans, our last name is a reminder of our immigrant and ethnic heritage.

What is the status of legislation on DACA?

On June 4, 2019, the House of Representatives passed HR 6, which provides critical permanent legal protection to DACA recipients and other populations in need of protection. If the Supreme Court ends the DACA program later this year and there is no legislation that has passed Congress, DACA youth will face an uncertain future and maybe



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Monday, March 9: 9 a.m. — Workshop Of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Doctrine Committee with Catholic Scholarly Societies
Monday, March 9: 4 p.m. — Meeting of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Doctrine Committee
Tuesday-Wednesday, March 10-11: Meeting of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Administrative Committee, Washington, D.C.
Wednesday, March 11: 3 p.m. — Meeting of Catholic Relief Services U.S. Operations Committee, Washington, D.C.
Thursday, March 12: 8 a.m. — Meeting of Board of Directors of Catholic Relief Services, Washington, D.C.
Saturday, March 14: 10 a.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Fort Wayne
Saturday, March 14: 5 p.m. — Mass with Dedication of New Altar, St. Patrick Church, Walkerton
Saturday, March 14: 7 p.m. — Dinner for 150th Anniversary of St. Patrick Church, Walkerton



CNS photo/Chaz Muth

Brenda and Yarely are two of the thousands of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program recipients who graduated from college in the spring of 2018 in the U.S. They pose for photos wearing their caps and gowns May 10, 2018, at Trinity Washington University.

even deportation and family separation. It is thus imperative that the Senate finds a bipartisan legislative solution to protect DACA recipients that provides a path to citizenship, such as S.874, the Dream Act of 2019.

What does the Church and Catholic teaching say about Dreamers?

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has long supported Dreamers, and we continue to urge Congress to work with all deliberate speed towards a bipartisan legislative solution that includes a path to citizenship for these youth.

As Catholics, we are taught to care for the foreigner: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me." (Mt 25:35). These are our obligations as a Christian people — to care for our neighbor. Let's remember and live by the teaching in Leviticus 19:34: "The foreigner living with you must be treated as one of

your native born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt." and urge them to support a legislative solution for Dreamers that provides a path to citizenship, such as S.874, the Dream Act of 2019.

Action requested

We ask you to engage with your elected officials to voice your support for these young people and call your Senators to find a bipartisan legislative solution during this Congressional session to protect Dreamers that provides a path to citizenship, such as S.874, the Dream Act of 2019.

"Every stranger who knocks at our door Is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age." (Mt 25:35-43)

— Pope Francis, 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees

Information provided in January by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Department of Migration and Refugee Services.

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High court to examine religious liberty, foster care by same-sex couples

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

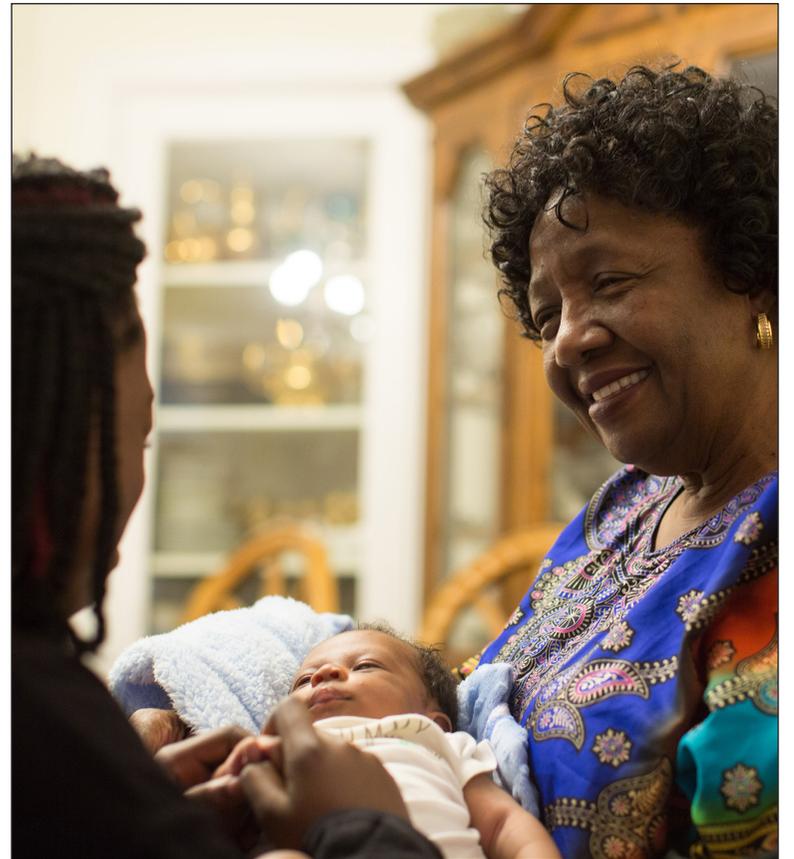
WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court announced Feb. 24 that in its next term it will examine if the city of Philadelphia can exclude a Catholic social services agency from the city's foster care program because the agency will not accept same-sex couples as foster parents.

In 2018, Philadelphia stopped using the foster program of Catholic Social Services of the Philadelphia archdiocese over the agency's policy of not placing children with same-sex couples because such unions go against Church teaching on traditional marriage.

A year later, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit sided with the city, calling the agency's policies discriminatory.

"The city stands on firm ground in requiring its contractors to abide by its nondiscrimination policies when administering public services," the ruling said. "Placing vulnerable children with foster families is without question a vital public service. ... Deterring discrimination in that effort is a paramount public interest," it added.

Catholic Social Services has contracted with the city on foster care since the late 1990s. Foster parents with the agency joined in the lawsuit against the city initially to seek an injunction to stop the city's policy.



CNS photo/courtesy Becket Religious Liberty for All

Sharonell Fulton, a foster parent in Philadelphia, is pictured with a young woman and child in a May 23, 2018, photo. The U.S. Supreme Court announced Feb. 24 that in its next term it will examine whether the city of Philadelphia can exclude a Catholic social services agency from the city's foster care program because the agency will not accept same-sex couples as foster parents. The case is *Fulton v. Philadelphia*.

The case, *Fulton v. Philadelphia*, takes its name from Sharonell Fulton, a foster parent who joined in the lawsuit against the city along with another foster parent, Toni Simms-Busch.

"CSS has been a godsend to my family and so many like

ours. I don't think I could have gone through this process without an agency that shares my core beliefs and cares for my children accordingly," said Simms-

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Assisted-suicide legislation fails to gain traction – for now

Another effort to legalize physician-assisted suicide in Indiana has stalled at the Statehouse, but the Catholic Church and other pro-life advocates remain watchful for developments on both the state and national levels in this election year.

House Bill 1020, known as the end-of-life options bill, marked the fourth attempt at this type of legislation by Rep. Matt Pierce, D-Bloomington, since 2017. The measure, which was staunchly opposed by the Indiana Catholic Conference, failed to receive a hearing in the state legislature.

"We are pleased that this bill did not advance," said Angela Espada, executive director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. "It is in clear opposition to the Church's teaching, which respects life from conception to natural death."

The Catholic Church and other pro-life proponents nationwide have been working to stop the momentum of the assisted-suicide movement since 1997, when a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court left the decision to permit the practice to the states. Within months, Oregon passed its Death with Dignity Act, becoming the first state to give terminally ill adults the opportunity to obtain and self-administer life-ending medication.

This January, Maine became the ninth state to allow physician-assisted suicide, joining California, Colorado, Hawaii, Montana, New Jersey, Vermont and Washington, in addition to Oregon. The practice is also legal in the District of Columbia. While the movement has not gained traction in Indiana yet, pro-life advocates remain "hypervigilant," according to Jodi Smith, a lobbyist for Indiana Right to Life.

"Every single year, we look at every bill for anything related to end-of-life issues in any capacity," said Smith, who also serves as state director of the Susan B. Anthony List, a national organization that supports pro-life lawmakers and educates Americans about where their legislators stand on the issues. "I think the landscape in Indiana still looks good."

Smith said she received assurances by House leadership early in this short session of the Indiana General Assembly that House Bill 1020 would not be heard. Although she does not anticipate the political climate in Indiana changing anytime soon, she and others in the pro-life movement recognize that those on the opposite side of the issue are aggressive in their efforts to gain a foothold in other states.

The biggest national organization driving the assisted-suicide movement is Compassion and Choices, which claims that it

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

"improves care and empowers everyone to chart their end-of-life journey." But Smith, a medical nutritionist who also serves on the board of a hospice center in Plainfield, counters that services such as hospice offer patients true compassion and dignity in their final days.

"Hospice is respectful, dignified, and dedicated to keeping people comfortable," Smith said. "We don't take extraordinary measures to keep patients alive, but we treat them 100 percent of the time as being alive, even if they are in a coma. The emphasis is always on respect for life until natural death."

The Indiana State Medical Association formally rejected physician-assisted suicide in 2016. Among the leading experts on the issue is Dr. Andrew Mullally, a Fort-Wayne based physician who is a member of the Catholic Medical Association in addition to ISMA.

"Nationally, there is so much money behind this push that every year, we see another state

fall to allow assisted suicide," Mullally said. "It is a large group of people who want this, and they are well funded, so it is something that is going to continually come to the forefront. It's important that we oppose this to avoid the objective evil that assisted suicide is, but additionally, to avoid all of the risks and the dangers that we have seen come with it in other countries."

Mullally points to Canada, where the practice has not only been legal since 2016, but physicians are required in some provinces to refer patients for assisted suicide when it is requested. Even some Catholic hospitals are required to provide it.

"Since I refuse to do that, I could not be a doctor in Canada," said Mullally, who operates Credo Family Medicine, a pro-life practice affiliated with the Dr. Jerome Lejeune Catholic Medical Guild of Northeast Indiana.

Mullally added that physi-

cian-assisted suicide continues to gain momentum in many European countries, with some even allowing pediatric euthanasia in certain cases.

"The abuses are widespread," Mullally said. "I see a natural progression after legalization because the line in the sand is whether it's OK to kill your patients or not. After it's been decided that it is OK sometimes to kill your patients, that line will always be extended."

To follow priority legislation of the ICC, visit www.indianacc.org. This website includes access to I-CAN, the Indiana Catholic Action Network, which offers the Church's position on key issues. Those who sign up for I-CAN receive alerts on legislation moving forward and ways to contact their elected representatives.

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Busch in a Feb. 24 statement.

"We are so grateful that the Supreme Court has agreed to hear our case and sort out the mess that Philadelphia has created for so many vulnerable foster children," she added.

In the initial lawsuit against Catholic Social Services, the city's Department of Human Services investigated if the agency refused to place foster children in LGBT households, even though over the course of its decades-long partnership with the city, neither the agency nor the Philadelphia Human Relations Commission ever received a complaint that LGBT individuals were denied placement of a foster child due to the Catholic agency's actions.

Becket, a religious liberty law firm, is representing the foster women defending the Catholic Social Services policy.

"I'm relieved to hear that the Supreme Court will weigh in on faith-based adoption and foster care," said Lori Windham, senior counsel at Becket. "Over the last few years, agencies have been closing their doors across the country, and all the while children are pouring into the system. We are confident that the court will realize that the best solution is the one that has worked in Philadelphia for a century — all hands on deck for foster kids."

A lawyer representing Philadelphia also issued a statement after the Supreme Court's announcement, saying the city would demonstrate to the nation's highest court that the appeals court ruling "affirming the city's ability to uphold nondiscrimination policies was correct."

Marcel Pratt, city solicitor, said this case is "ultimately about serving the youth in our care, and the best way to do that is by upholding our sincere commitment to the dignity of all people, including our LGBTQ community."

He also said the city of Philadelphia is proud of its "long-standing commitment to supporting freedom of religion and preserving equal access to services for all people — regardless of their race, national origin, religion, age, sex, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity."

The case is already gaining attention months before oral arguments, which could be in October.

Leslie Cooper, deputy director of the ACLU LGBT and HIV Project, said the case could have "profound consequences for the more than 400,000 children in foster care across the country. We already have a severe shortage of foster families willing and able to open their hearts and

homes to these children."

"Allowing foster care agencies to exclude qualified families based on religious requirements that have nothing to do with the ability to care for a child such as their sexual orientation or faith would make it even worse," she added.

Andrea Picciotti-Bayer, legal adviser for the Catholic Association, a group that defends the Church and religious liberty, conversely said: "Faith-based groups shouldn't be forced to abandon their deeply held religious and moral convictions in order to serve children in desperate need."

She said the court's decision to review Philadelphia's "intolerant and discriminatory action against the Catholic Social Services foster care program is a welcome first step toward reopening doors to loving and stable foster homes."

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NEWS BRIEFS

Never engage in dialogue with the devil, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians should follow the example of Jesus in the desert by never trying to dialogue with the devil when tempted, Pope Francis said. “Jesus does two things with the devil: he drives him away or, as in this case, responds with the word of God. Beware: never dialogue with temptation, never dialogue with the devil,” the pope said March 1 during his Sunday Angelus address. Before praying the Angelus prayer with pilgrims in St. Peter’s Square, the pope reflected on the Sunday Gospel reading from Matthew, which recounted the devil’s temptation of Jesus in the desert after Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights. In responding to the sinister propositions with “the word of God and not His own word,” Jesus teaches the proper way to confront the devil, who often adds his voice to “the many voices that try to tame one’s conscience,” the pope said.

Hundreds of thousands forced to flee as attacks continue in Burkina Faso

OXFORD, England (CNS) — Hundreds of thousands of people have been forced out of their homes in Burkina Faso as Christian communities are targeted in a spiral of Islamist killings. The surge of attacks has forced some families to flee and leave everything behind, and the violence is threatening to spread to other countries, said Jennifer Overton, West Africa regional director for Catholic Relief Services. “Burkina Faso is home to some of the world’s poorest communities — even without this violence, people face chronic food shortages, high unemployment, climate change and environmental degradation,” Overton told Catholic News Service Feb. 28. She said dozens of Catholic schools had been forced to close after their teachers fled. Overton, who toured affected areas, said she had met a farmer in the northern Kaya diocese who had allowed more than 500 displaced families to settle on his land and another once-prosperous landholder who was living in a lean-to with his children after escaping repeated shooting sprees. A Christian woman had taken shelter with her daughters at a government encampment in a large town, Overton said, only to be driven out when an armed gang attacked the facility and shot up the local church. “We want people to have productive lives, set up work and send their kids to school,” she said. “But that won’t happen if all we see is more chaos and crisis, with more people needing help. It’s in everyone’s best interest to stop this violence before it gets worse.”

English Catholics to rededicate nation as ‘Mary’s Dowry’



CNS photo/courtesy Behold 2020

Following his weekly audience at the Vatican Feb. 12, Pope Francis blessed this “Dowry Painting” of Our Lady of Walsingham, the Catholic national shrine dedicated to Mary in Norfolk, England. Catholics in England are preparing for the historic rededication of the country as “Mary’s Dowry” in the hope that it will spur re-evangelization. The original dedication of England was carried out in 1381 by Richard II.

Knights of Columbus releases videos to help men grow in their faith

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) — On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, the Knights of Columbus, the international fraternal organization based in New Haven, released videos and other resources to help men on their spiritual journey. Titled “Into the Breach,” the video series has 12 episodes that address “many of the challenges modern men face, including fatherhood, marriage and leadership,” said a news release from the Knights. The videos and other resources can be found at kofc.org/intothebreach. “Catholic men and fathers shoulder a great responsibility. Our role in evangelization is indispensable, especially within our homes — building the domestic church,” Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said in a statement. “Our families and our parishes need our faithful witness more than ever. “As Catholic men and as Knights of Columbus, it is our duty to ‘step into the breach’ and play our part in the renewal of our families and the Church,” he added. The Knights said the series was inspired by Phoenix Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted’s 2015 document, “Into the Breach: An Apostolic Exhortation to Catholic Men,” which called men to be prepared for the spiritual battle for their souls and the souls of their families.

Priest’s pro-life, spiritual Lenten campaign aimed at Latino Catholics

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As a new Lenten season begins, Father Jorge Obregon from Houston is encouraging young Latino Catholics to participate in a new spiritual campaign titled Life Savers. “I hope this can get to as many Spanish-speaking people starting in Spain and all the way from Canada to Argentina,” Father Obregon told Catholic News Service in a recent phone interview. According to Obregon, the campaign’s inspiration evolved from the 2019 film “Unplanned,” which tells the true story of Abby Johnson from Bryant, Texas. Johnson became the youngest clinic director in Planned Parenthood’s history. After she was asked to assist in an abortion — which was not her role as director but the clinic was shorthanded that day — she quit and became an outspoken pro-life activist. Sponsored by New Fire, a project for young people and adults who want to discover the Catholic faith, the 40-day Life

Savers campaign has five focus areas. Two areas that will vary from week to week are leaving behind one’s vices and a little sacrifice. These commitments include refraining from social media and hot showers. Another area is getting close to Mary, and committing to praying the rosary daily. The campaign also challenges participants to complete 30 minutes of daily prayer to Jesus and to cultivate one’s interior life by exercising additional prayer, generosity and perseverance. Father Obregon said each week, there will be a theme along with detailed videos.

‘My life just isn’t as valuable as others’: Woman sues British government

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — A woman with Down syndrome will take the British government to court in an attempt to change a law that permits abortions up to birth of children considered to be “seriously handicapped.” Heidi Crowter, 24, says it is wrong to treat unborn children differently because of perceived disabilities. “At the moment in the U.K., babies can be aborted right up to birth if they are considered to be seriously handicapped,” she said in a Feb. 23 statement emailed to Catholic News Service. “They include me in that definition of being seriously handicapped — just because I have an extra chromosome.

Catholic recalls standing her ground on train by staying seated

HOUSTON (CNS) — Gertrudejane Holliday Stone, a parishioner at St. Mary of the Purification Church in Houston, was a Freedom Rider even before the term was coined. In an interview during Black History Month, the octogenarian recalled when she was just a 21-year-old college senior at Fisk University, a historically black university in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1955 studying to be a teacher. She looked forward to Christmas break while riding on a passenger train from Tennessee back to her family’s home in Houston. Then a white conductor told her to move from her train seat and go back to a “Jim Crow coach.” Jim Crow was a racist term derived from a white theater character wearing black face that was generally used to describe racial segregation laws. Most people now have heard about Rosa Parks in Montgomery, Alabama, who was arrested after refusing to give up her seat on a municipal bus that very same month and year — Dec. 1, 1955. But that action was not yet widely known when Stone was told to move. “God doesn’t put a spirit of fear in you. He puts a spirit of power, sound mind and love for your fellow man,” Stone told the Texas Catholic Herald, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. “But enough was enough. I said I was not moving.”

Saint Mary's College announces commencement speaker

NOTRE DAME — The board of trustees of Saint Mary's College announced Feb. 26 that scholar, teacher and advocate for children and literacy Dr. Maryanne Wolf will deliver the commencement address to the Saint Mary's College Class of 2020. Wolf, a 1969 graduate of Saint Mary's, will be one of two honorary degree recipients at the ceremony on Saturday, May 16.



DR. MARYANNE WOLF

Wolf is the director of the Center for Dyslexia, Diverse Learners, and Social Justice at the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. Previously she was the John DiBiaggio Professor of Citizenship and Public Service and director of the Center for Reading and Language Research in the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development at Tufts University. She is the author of "Proust and the Squid: The Story and Science of the Reading Brain," "Dyslexia, Fluency, and the Brain," "Tales of Literacy for the 21st Century," and "Reader, Come Home: The Reading Brain in a Digital World." At commencement, Saint Mary's also will present an honorary degree to Dr. Keith J. Egan, the Joyce McMahon Hank Aquinas Chair in Catholic Theology Emeritus at Saint Mary's College and guest professor at the University of Notre Dame. Egan

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Singing the Lord's praises



Provided by Mary Kay Dance

Members of the Marian High School choir pose with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades after he celebrated Mass during a pastoral visit to the school Feb. 18. The choir provided vocal music for the Mass, following which the bishop spent time with several groups of students and teachers.

is an international scholar on the topics of historical theology, medieval theology, Christian spirituality, mysticism, monasticism and Carmelite spirituality. He held the endowed chair position at Saint Mary's from 1997-2006, having joined the faculty in 1983. He founded the Center for Spirituality at Saint

Mary's in 1984 and served as its director until 2002. He is a fellow in the Circle of Scholars, Lumen Christi Institute, University of Chicago, and since 1986, a corresponding fellow at the Institutum Carmelitanum in Rome.

The college's interim president also will present the President's Medal at this year's commence-

ment ceremony, to William Cushwa, a member of the Saint Mary's board of trustees since 2011. The President's Medal is presented rarely and exclusively to those who have offered exceptional contributions to the life of the college and society.

Cushwa retired in 2000 from Commercial Intertech Corp. in

Youngstown, Ohio, having served as vice president of planning. He has served on dozens of boards and planning committees in the region and is active at Sacred Heart Basilica and is part of the Community Relations Advisory Council at the University of Notre Dame. Now on his third term on the board of trustees, he is active on several committees including the Audit Committee, the College Relations Committee, the Capital Campaign Steering Committee, Finance and Budget, Facilities and Grounds, and Academic Affairs.

Walk the Camino de Santiago

SOUTH BEND — The three most famous Christian pilgrimages in the world are the Holy Land, Rome and the Camino de Santiago. A class about the Camino pilgrimage begins March 4 at the Forever Learning Institute in South Bend, located in the Little Flower Parish Center. The 10-week class begins March 4 and registration is open online at <https://foreverlearninginstitute.org/spirituality-religion>. The classes are Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.

Participants in the class will learn the how, what, where, when, why and history of the Camino. Other experienced Camino pilgrims will be guest speakers and former students will call in from the Camino to talk to the class live on the video phone and answer questions.

Teacher Tom Labuziowski serves on the national board of directors for American Pilgrims on the Camino. He encourages everyone who might be interested in walking all or part of the Camino someday to attend the class and learn about what is involved.

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'As iron sharpens iron'; 90 days to Christian masculinity

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Four Warsaw residents are among the thousands of men across the globe voluntarily traversing a raw, 90-day challenge of prayer, asceticism and fraternity.

It's Exodus 90, and for the men who go through the program, it's life-changing.

Doug Jakubowicz, Roberto Perez-de-Frias, Mike McClain and Nic Alles began Exodus 90 more than a month ago at Sacred Heart Parish. Of the four, Jakubowicz was the only one to have gone through the program before, about two years ago at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Muncie.

Father Brian Doerr, pastor at St. Francis, developed the program in conjunction with five seminarians when he was vice-rector of human formation at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Exodus 90 came to consist of 90 days of spirit-awakening, severe self-discipline and avoidance of all forms of indulgence: It goes well beyond a once-a-week fast. It's a cold-showers, no-sweets-or-alcohol and no-unnecessary-screen-time kind of fasting.

One of the first participants in the program as a seminarian was Father Jonathan Norton, who brought it to Sacred Heart in 2018 to help the male parishioners deal with the abuse crisis. He found the men of the parish "hungry for a response."

He stated that while they alone could not fix the problems of the Church, they could "fix things close to home — fix ourselves, our parish." Over 40 men joined that first group, and the program has been offered yearly since. Father Norton now serves as each group's spiritual director throughout the process.

Although Exodus originated in the seminary, it has been taken up by laymen around the



Jennifer Barton

Prayer and fraternity are two pillars that hold up the third and most difficult pillar of the Exodus 90 program for men — the extreme asceticism. Roberto Perez-de-Frias, Doug Jakubowicz, Mike McClain and Nic Alles end a weekly meeting by spending their daily holy hour together before the Blessed Sacrament at Sacred Heart Church in Warsaw.

Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and across the world. Four different ages and stages of life are represented in the Warsaw group, demonstrating its broad appeal: Two men in the group are married with children of different ages, one is engaged and one is single.

Each man who chooses to

begin Exodus 90 must name his 'why,' as McClain put it. As the new principal at Sacred Heart School, he learned about the program through direct contact with Father Norton, who told him that it was something "we" did. "If it's a thing 'we' do, then I'm part of 'we' now, so I'll do this, too," McClain decided. "I'm doing this to get closer to God and my family."

Perez-de-Frias gave a similar reason. "The time that you now have available for the things you don't always pay attention to; helps you get closer to God. That's my why, the reason I'm here."

Part of Jakubowicz's motivation to repeat the Exodus 90 experience again was his upcoming nuptials.

"I saw a lot of fruit come out of it (the first time), but I saw myself slipping in some areas. ... I wanted to be the best man I could be going into marriage."

Alles joined when McClain sent a group text about the program to the parish basketball team. His "That's kinda cool" response turned into a "Yes," and he committed without having read up on what was involved in the daily asceticism. Ignorance was bliss, he said, because "had I read what

Exodus 90 was before joining, I wouldn't have done it. Not in a million years. I'm very grateful to have said 'yes' without knowing because the struggles have put my life in a different spot than I was before the 38 days and I'm grateful for that."

Fraternity plays an essential part of the spiritual exercise. This was important for Jakubowicz, who moved to Warsaw recently and became a member of the parish. "It's a great way to meet people, to build deep relationships with them," he said.

Perez-de-Frias spoke of the struggles that they each faced during the process, and how they were able to overcome them because of the fraternity. "When we're struggling the most, having each other makes a big difference. And the fact that we have each other as anchors helps keep ourselves in check as well."

An essential part of the program is for each man to have an "anchor," or another team member with whom they are to check in daily either by text or phone call. "I love the motivation that the fraternity piece puts in it to keep the motivation going. Don't disappoint yourself or God or your fraternity brothers," said Perez-de-Frias.

He and McClain have received

support from outside their four-man group as well. Other parishioners who previously have gone through Exodus 90 have checked in on their brothers in Christ. McClain said that makes him feel like others are "always kind of looking out for you, which is encouraging. It strengthens your resolve. No matter how hard those cold showers are or how much I want to check on those Cubs, it's not happening because I'm not gonna let anyone down."

Self-sacrifice is difficult, as Alles also attests. He admits that when he started missing his video games a couple weeks in, he had something of a revelation.

"Did I ever think while I was playing video games, 'Wow, I really miss God, I should probably pray'? No, I wasn't. It put things into perspective. I'm glad to reestablish a much-needed relationship in my life."

When asceticism is applied, especially in the form of cutting out screen time, men often are amazed by how much time they actually have during the day. Both McClain and Perez-de-Frias found themselves spending more time with their families, becoming better husbands, fathers and professionals.

"That time that I used to waste will all that other stuff now I'm filling with God or family or both," said Perez-de-Frias. "I need to be a better Roberto for myself, my wife, my kids."

Alles is also filling his time with prayer, rather than movies or video games. McClain has used his free time to study the lives of the saints, particularly St. Joseph.

Jakubowicz stated, "It's about saying 'Yes' to God."

When the 90 days are over, all four plan to continue certain aspects of the program, particularly the prayer life. "When we miss our holy hour, our day just isn't the same," Jakubowicz said. Not one of them is willing to lose the closeness they have found as brothers in Christ.

Will they do the program again?

"We'll talk about it next year," Alles joked.

For now, the four men plan to continue working toward the finale of the 90 days and looking forward to day 91: Easter Sunday.

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A visible illustration of holiness: incense

BY JENNIFER BARTON

There is something almost mystical in clouds of incense smoke filling a sacred space, ascending to heaven and seemingly carrying the prayers of the faithful to God. Some people delight in the scent of incense; others find its sweetness cloying.

Whatever one's opinion of it, incense has been an element of worship in Catholic churches for centuries. Father Dennis DiBenedetto, newly installed pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine in North Manchester, explained its historical significance. "In the Temple, the Jews would offer incense twice a day, morning and evening, so it's a direct carryover from the Temple worship."

The general use of incense dates back even earlier: to centuries prior to Judaism, among numerous religions in both the Middle East and Asia. Incense is mentioned over a hundred times in the Bible, most notably as the frankincense and myrrh presented to the infant Jesus by the Magi.

Frankincense and myrrh both come from the resin of trees. In biblical times, both gifts were probably more highly prized than the third gift – gold.

There is symbolism in the Magi's gifts as well, since the resin is harvested by wounding the tree to bleed it and allowing the sap to harden into "tears" reminiscent of wounds suffered by Christ on the cross. Another piece of its symbolism is the healing properties of both frankincense and myrrh: the Magi's gift of both represent Jesus's role as healer.

The smell of frankincense is deemed pleasing enough for use in some commercial perfumes, and even its aroma is biblical. In Ephesians 5, St. Paul refers to Christ's sacrificial love for mankind as "a fragrant offering," referring to the practice of burning incense in the temple.

Many Catholic church supply companies and Orthodox monasteries sell quality incense in a variety of scents. Rose is very popular, though the different blends are not always named for their smell. There are also hypoallergenic types of incense. True frankincense has no fillers and should burn quite clean, according to Father DiBenedetto.

Incense comes in the form of pellets that are melted over a charcoal fire inside what is known as a censer, or thurible – an incense burner on a long chain than can easily be swung by a priest, deacon or server. The server who carries the incense is known as the thurifer. This job is usually given to older boys or seminarians. The largest thurible in the world is one called the Botafumeiro, which hangs in the sanctuary of Santiago de



Photos by Jennifer Barton

Father Dennis DiBenedetto, pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, North Manchester, holds an example of a typical thurible in which incense is imposed atop a burning charcoal brick. Once closed, smoke from the incense will rise through the holes in the thurible, creating a haze in the church and diffusing the scent of the incense.

Compostela Cathedral in Galicia, Spain: It requires eight men to swing it to a height of nearly 70 feet.

The symbolism of using incense during the Mass is deeply imbedded in Catholic tradition. Psalm 141:2 says: "Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice." Father DiBenedetto stated that this is part of the reason for its use. "It symbolizes prayer rising to heaven. The other thing is that priests who use a lot of incense ... it kind of creates this haze, like a veil. Going back to the Temple in Jerusalem there was that huge curtain; when you use the incense it makes this veil, this haze in front of the sanctuary."

This veil illustrates the holiness of the sacrifice on the altar. It represents the mystery of the transfiguration; how the bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

There is little in terms of requirements on the use of incense. Its purpose is to bring a deeper sense of reverence to the Mass, so therefore it is appropriate for use on Sundays, holy days and solemnities at the dis-

is also used in the procession, entering before the cross and the candles. "At the altar, the priest would impose (or add) incense in the thurible and then circle around the altar – it's always done counterclockwise looking at the altar," he said.

Immediately before the reading of the Gospel, the priest may incense the Book of the Gospels. Lastly, it is used during the offertory, at which time the priest incenses the gifts by making the sign of the cross or a circle over them. After that, he gives the thurible to the deacon or a server, who in turn incenses the priest before doing the same to the congregation.

Two other occasions on which incense should be expected are funeral Masses and the exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. At funerals, the priest will incense the casket to show reverence for the deceased person. Father DiBenedetto noted, "We incense things that are holy: the Eucharist, the Book of the Gospels, and the corpse because

it had been a temple of the Holy Spirit."

During adoration, when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed, incense should be used during the singing of "O Salutaris Hostia" — "O Saving Victim"— and at benediction during the "Tantum Ergo."

Out of the roughly 20 churches in North Manchester, Father DiBenedetto said he expects that St. Robert Bellarmine stands alone in its use of incense. "That's one of the things that makes us uniquely Catholic — we're the only ones using incense. It shows our heritage and our connection to Judaism. We're the historical Christian Church and that's why we do these things that look very weird to modern America: because we're from this Middle Eastern tradition."

While Lent may call for a decreased use of incense, it is fitting for Catholics to use at home the sacred forms of worship, such as burning incense, during the Easter season to honor Jesus' triumph over death.



Frankincense pellets lay inside what is known as an incense boat, with spoon.




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Practice of tracking Massgoers for political purposes gains scrutiny

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Regular Massgoers in some parts of the country have been tracked using cellphone location data by at least one organization looking to turn out voters to support specific political candidates.

Brian Burch, president of CatholicVote, a political action group with no ties to the Catholic Church, has written repeatedly about how his organization has used “the latest technology to find Catholics, connect with them, register them to vote and then get them to the polls.”

The technology Burch is utilizing involves a digital marketing practice known as geofencing.

Using smartphone apps to identify where people are or the places they frequent, geofencing allows marketers to use that information to send messages advertising goods or services in a particular locale in the hope of turning smartphone users into customers.

Identifying where any one smartphone is located is possible because the devices, when turned on, are constantly in touch with cellphone towers. Cell service operators collect that data and then sell it to parties seeking to advertise goods or services.

Geofencing is widely acknowledged as an inexpensive and efficient way to collect data and market to a select audience. It is not prohibited by law, although privacy advocates have called for federal legislation to protect individual rights.

CatholicVote has used geofences centered on parishes in several states, allowing for the identification of smartphones that entered church property. Burch has explained in posts on his organization's website how that phone data is then used to identify registered — or unregistered — voters and also to target people with political ads for or against a particular candidate.

In a Feb. 25 email to Catholic News Service, Burch said his organization uses “many different technologies and data sources to gather information and better serve our audience.” Beyond geofencing, Burch identified sources of information from which the organization collects data on Catholic voters including

widely held consumer information, magazine or newspaper subscription accounts, social networks “and much more.”

“We are no different than any other organization seeking to reach a specific audience. We just happen to focus on Catholics,” he wrote.

That information has been used to identify Catholics who are not registered to vote and to send them political ads supporting or opposing certain candidates for public office.

Digital privacy advocates have raised concern that Massgoers may be unaware that information about their whereabouts is being collected and sold to advertisers and marketers. Current law does not require that such information be disclosed by app makers or cellular phone service providers.

“I don't think the technology or the ability (to track people) are inherently bad,” said Greg Hoplamazian, associate professor of communication at Loyola University Maryland. “But there are ways to use it that all of a sudden make people uncomfortable.”

The questions geofencing and other tracking technologies raise are being explored by the Committee on Communications of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The committee, chaired by Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, has been hearing from experts on and advocates for digital privacy including Chris Lewis, executive director of the Washington-based advocacy organization Public Knowledge. The committee plans to hear from Laura Moy, associate professor of law at the Georgetown University Law Center, at its meeting March 12.

James Rogers, USCCB chief communications officer, said committee members are interested in learning about digital privacy after a series of media reports on the issue, including CatholicVote's efforts, in the latter half of 2019.

“The committee tracks that news. It became very obvious that as we enter new territory, that raises a significant number of questions. The committee wanted to study up on the current state of things, to make sure they have a good understanding of the landscape,” Rogers told CNS Feb. 27.



CNS photo/Paul Jeffrey

A young woman looks at her cellphone. In some parts of the U.S., regular Massgoers have been tracked through cellphone location data by at least one organization looking to turn out voters to support specific political candidates.

As the committee considers questions related to digital privacy, Rogers said, members are keeping in mind a fundamental question: “Is there a way for the bishops to be helpful?”

More importantly, he added, the bishops are concerned that the Church not be viewed as partisan when it comes to political candidates. “There are times when our faith manifests itself in the public square,” he said. “But that, of course, should never be in support or opposition to a particular candidate. Partisan activities are not what the Church is. ... It's always something you want to guard against.”

CatholicVote, which began building its digital voter efforts in 2018, has campaigns operating in six states “and likely will expand to has many as 10 or more states” as the November election nears, Burch said in his email to CNS. The Wall Street Journal reported Oct. 10 on the first CatholicVote operations in five Senate races in 2018 as about 600,000 people received ads via their smartphones.

In Missouri, CatholicVote threw its support behind Republican Josh Hawley, an evangelical Christian, in his bid to unseat incumbent Sen. Claire McCaskill, a Democrat and a Catholic. The organization sent ads that called McCaskill “anti-Catholic” for her support of abortion, unwillingness to support

the Little Sisters of the Poor in their lawsuit challenging the contraceptive mandate of the Affordable Care Act, and opposition to Catholic judicial nominees because of their religious beliefs.

Hawley, who opposes abortion, won the election. Burch has claimed that CatholicVote was instrumental in the victory.

Burch said in the email to CNS that his organization is “merely focused on those people most likely to be interested in our advertising or educational information.” He denied that the organization is violating the privacy of Massgoers.

Nevertheless, CatholicVote has been able to learn the identity of regular Massgoers through information that initially was obtained via smartphone apps. Surveys over the years have shown that people who regularly attend Mass tend to hold views that more closely align with Church teachings, especially on abortion, religious liberty and same-sex marriage. Those are the voters that CatholicVote is attempting to reach.

Burch in posts on his organization's website has made no secret that he wants to turn out “faithful” Catholic voters to support the reelection of President Donald Trump, citing his pro-life, pro-family and religious liberty stances.

Burch said the organization is especially active in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania, all

of which Trump carried by narrow margins in 2016. Election observers have said those three states are key to Trump staying in the White House. Other CatholicVote operations are underway in Arizona and Florida, Burch said.

In a Nov. 11 post, Burch indicated the organization had identified nearly 200,000 Catholics in Wisconsin who had been to church at least three times within the previous 90 days. Calling them “active” Catholics, Burch said he learned that by checking voter registration rolls, more than 91,000 churchgoers in the targeted group were not registered.

“Our goal is very simple: we want every practicing Catholic in America to register to vote, and to vote in November,” Burch said in his email to CNS.

Burch also defended CatholicVote's efforts, saying that its use of geofencing involves accessing anonymous mobile device identification data. He described the use of geolocation data as “quite common” and “only accessible from devices where users authorize the sharing of this data.”

“We do not have direct access to individuals to ‘get permission up front’ since geodata is sourced from third-party apps where users have opted to share

The Wall Street Journal reported

Oct. 10 on the first

CatholicVote operations in five

Senate races in 2018 as about

600,000 people received

ads via their smartphones.

Oblate lives Benedictine spirituality in the world

BY BARB SIEMINSKI

Becoming an oblate is one option open to women exploring a religious vocation. Nancy Rodgers, a Benedictine oblate from Fort Wayne, said oblates often don't look any different than other women: They are not cloistered, desiring to work among the people. They don't wear habits or outer accoutrements. But they do use their mighty gifts of prayer for others as they follow Jesus in His ministry.

Rodgers is a Central Catholic High School graduate with a bachelor's degree in French from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, an M.A. in French and linguistics from the University of Notre Dame and teaching certifications in Spanish and Latin from Connecticut College. Rodgers was in her mid-50s when she first heard the call.

"I had been making retreats at St. Meinrad Archabbey for a few years, and decided to commit more fully to Benedictine spirituality," she said. Her father had been a member of the Third Order of St. Francis.

"Father Meinrad Bruno was the oblate director at the time,



Provided by Diana Guzman

Nancy Rodgers, a Benedictine oblate, volunteers at Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic in Fort Wayne.

and I expressed my desire to become an oblate to him. He welcomed me and after a year as an oblate novice, I made my oblation, taking the name 'Corazon,'

which combined my love for the Sacred Heart and for Spanish, which I was teaching at the time." She professed her vows in the presence of Benedictines

in the Archabbey Church at St. Meinrad, along with two other oblates.

Rodgers volunteers at Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic and dresses in street clothes, preferring that her work and attitude speak for her beliefs and practices.

"I do wear a St. Benedict medal though, and consider it as precious as my wedding ring," she said. She is celebrating her 10th wedding anniversary this year with her husband, Bill.

She became attracted to Benedictine spirituality not so much because of the person of St. Benedict himself, she said, but rather his ideas of moderation and frequent prayer drew her to the community.

"Every priest and brother at St. Meinrad that I met was kind, calm, prayerful and given to interesting, reflective conversation. One of my favorite contemporary writers is Joan Chittister, a Benedictine sister. And if I were to say that I was drawn to a particular saint, I would have to mention St. Teresa of Avilla, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Gianna Beretta Molla and Dorothy Day."

When asked what being a Benedictine oblate entailed, Rodgers shared her life of reflection.

"We are encouraged to pray the Liturgy of the Hours — vespers, lauds and compline — and to read and meditate upon the Rule of St. Benedict, practice lectio divina, visit the archabbey at least once a year for a retreat, and manifest our Benedictine life by service to our parish and community," said Rodgers.

Rodgers also is a well-seasoned global traveler, frequently visiting France, Italy, Ireland, Scotland, England, Mexico, Guatemala, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Canada and Poland. She still attends St. Meinrad retreats, which are "wonderful, thought-provoking, and lead to a sense of calm and renewed commitment," she said.

"Think of a really good university-level lecture with a prayer intro and time for discussion. They are coed; some are mid-week, and others are on weekends. St. Meinrad also offers special retreats for select groups.

"What I take away from them is a sense of fellowship with other oblates, new and renewed enthusiasm for growing closer to God and for loving those He has created."

SMARTPHONES, from page 10

their location data with that app owner or service," Burch wrote. "We are merely a customer accessing the ad exchange along with thousands of other marketers of products and services."

Despite Burch's claims, digital privacy experts said using geofences to identify churchgoers raises ethical questions about how private data is being used.

"There is a sense among some that church attendance is a private matter and this (geofencing) shouldn't be used in this way," said Richard Garnett, director of the program on church, state and society at the University of Notre Dame Law School.

"I don't want any organization to know where I spend time with friends or where I go. It's almost like they're getting in the car with me and following me around," he said.

For Moy, the Georgetown law professor, the concern is that people no longer are getting information offering different points of view. "In many different cases, we're just seeing the viewpoints of parties or entities that determine that we're a particular target for their particular message," she said.

Moy expressed concern that the everyday practices of data gathering and targeting individuals with messages with which they only agree fosters misinformation and further entrenches polarization to the detriment of the country.

"If we know we are being

tracked or watched when we convene with other like-minded individuals that chills our ability to offer opposing viewpoints," she said.

D. Gregory Sapp, professor of religious studies at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida, questioned the use of geofencing to identify the political leanings of Catholics, who, he told CNS, "are anything but homogenous when it comes to the political divide."

Sapp suggested that some Catholics may be prone to act in opposition to a political ad received through their smartphone. Further, he added, "If political groups are using information that other advertisers might gather, to me that's creepy. It's unethical to use a service I paid for to inundate me with advertisements."

John Bergmayer, legal director at Public Knowledge, welcomed the interest by the USCCB on the issue.

"Tracing which people are churchgoers, which parish they go to, when they go, that's like a showstopper," Bergmayer said. "I guarantee that almost no one knows that they have this information for political purposes."

He called for broad federal legislation so that consumers can bring claims themselves, rather than formally through the courts, to challenge the collection and selling of personal data. He said any law should require that companies which that profit from collecting and selling such data advise consumers upfront how

they can opt out of the collection of private information.

"It's an issue that is inherently tinged by ethical considerations," he added. "The information collected is quite sensitive. It really reveals information about people's lives. ... It is a moral issue."

Public Knowledge maintains that limits on how personal data is collected and used can best be governed by federal law, but Bergmayer said there's no such talk in Congress.

Bergmayer cited the California

Consumer Privacy Protection Act that took effect Jan. 1 as a good first step, however.

That law establishes several rights of consumers: to know what personal information is collected, used, shared or sold; to delete personal information held by businesses and, by extension, a business's service provider; to opt out of sale of personal information; and to nondiscrimination in terms of price or service when someone exercises a right under the law.

The law pertains to large busi-

nesses, those with gross annual revenues of more than \$25 million, buys, receives or sells the personal information of 50,000 or more consumers, households or devices, and derive 50% or more of annual revenues from selling consumers' personal information.

Short of a legislative solution, Notre Dame's Garnett offered a surefire suggestion for Massgoers concerned about being tracked: Don't take your phone to church, and if you do, turn it off.

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The Catch-22 for religious freedom

I'll always remember reading "Catch-22," Joseph Heller's novel about what he saw as the absurdities of war.

In Heller's account, enlisted men trying to escape those absurdities encountered ingenious military rules or "catches" so they could never prevail. The novel's title refers to a catch for those who sought a discharge claiming insanity. The catch was this: If you realize how horrible war is and want to escape it, you are clearly too sane to qualify for the discharge.

Recent developments on religious freedom remind me of "Catch-22." It will take a little background to explain why.

In January, NBC News ran an Associated Press story with the headline: "South Carolina group can reject Gays and Jews as foster parents, Trump admin says." The story concerned a Christian organization, Miracle Hill Ministries, that participates in South Carolina's system to find foster homes for needy children. The organization received a federal waiver allowing it to place children only with members of its faith, as long as it referred other prospective foster parents to other agencies in the system.

The article quoted an attorney calling this "state-sanctioned and government-funded discrimination." The Human Rights Campaign, which promotes the LGBTQ agenda, called it "unconscionable."

Similarly, the Seattle area has seen outraged protests against a Catholic school after two teachers had to seek employment elsewhere because they are entering

same-sex civil marriages, which are against Catholic teaching.

The "catch" arises because what these two organizations did is exactly what the Church's secular critics have said they must do to receive a religious exemption from legal mandates.

A leader in this area is the American Civil Liberties Union, which has insisted that Catholic hospitals, for example, are too "secular" to win a religious freedom claim. "In the public world," it says, "they should play by public rules." The ACLU has argued that a right to be exempted from abortion mandates should belong only to religious organizations that primarily hire people of their own faith, primarily serve people of their own faith and focus on inculcating specifically religious values.

The ACLU's prime example of an organization that could qualify for such an exemption is a Christian Science Church healing center, where illnesses are addressed solely by prayer.

The ACLU has boasted that it wrote the religious exemption clause of California's state contraceptive mandate using these criteria. Later, the Obama administration also endorsed this approach, insisting that religious orders like the Little Sisters of the Poor must comply with a federal contraceptive mandate because they hire and serve non-Catholics. The sisters had to struggle all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court for relief — and some states are still in court insisting that they comply with such mandates.

Here is the Catch-22. If you



A MORE HUMAN SOCIETY

RICHARD DOERFLINGER

hire or serve people who don't share your religious tenets, you are not religious enough to have religious freedom. (As the U.S. bishops have said, by this standard, Jesus and His apostles were too secular because they not only preached but also healed people — including people of other religions.) If you hire or serve only people who follow your teachings, you are a bigot, guilty of homophobia and/or anti-Semitism, and respecting your faith would be unconscionable.

Who, then, has a claim to religious freedom? Apparently, only people who already share the dominant secular ideology on the issue at stake — in other words, people for whom a religious exemption is unnecessary and irrelevant. If you want the exemption, that shows you don't deserve it.

This Catch-22 is very clever, but it has nothing to do with respecting what our nation's founders saw as our first and most precious freedom.

Richard Doerflinger worked for 36 years in the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He writes from Washington state.

St. Joseph, model of a good and holy family man

A river. A road. A county. A hospital, bank and parishes, too: a medical system, a valley, parks and many schools. All of these places, organizations and businesses are named for the same man, the same lay father, the same saint: the beloved St. Joseph, whose feast day is March 19.

Commonly found across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend but especially on the western half, his esteemed name may be easy to take for granted. St. Joseph, of the lineage and family of David, husband of Mary, mother of God, and foster father of Jesus, lived on earth thousands of years ago. He was a simple, poor carpenter in northern Israel. Holy Scripture records not a word he said.

The St. Joseph River was named by French Jesuits in 1673. Mission St. Joseph was founded by French explorers in Michiana in 1680. A 1689 land grant signed by the French-Canadian governor general gave property to the Jesuit missionaries. The Miami and Potawatomi tribes already were living there in harmony with their new neighbors.

A fort followed in 1691, called St. Joseph of the Lakes. It sits just north of Niles, Michigan. Later, in the 1820s, the American Fur Trading Company set up what it called its "Big St. Joseph Station" in the area. Schools, counties, a hospital and streets all followed suit.

The actions of St. Joseph are remembered well in the Bible: his



LIVING THE LITURGICAL LIFE

JENNIFER MILLER

just and upright choices regarding his beloved fiancée, Mary, his swift and obedient movements to follow God's will after dreams in the night, his steady, strong protection of his little family, his loving and faithful obedience to God's law when presenting Jesus in the temple and his humble work as a carpenter. The hidden life of Jesus, for much of His 33 years of life, was quietly supported and nurtured by St. Joseph. One can clearly see why Joseph was declared the universal patron of the Church in 1870, after hundreds of years of people asking for his intercession.

The "strong and silent type," St. Joseph also reminds us well of a model of manhood. Putting others' needs before his own, he cared for and loved Mary as God instructed him to do — instead of how he might have chosen. Modern society often takes for granted the provision and protection that good, holy men provide. St. Joseph offers a reminder of this handsome masculinity, whose strength is used for the weakest and most vulnerable

MILLER, page 13

Christ Jesus brings life and immortality to light



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Second Sunday of Lent Matthew 17:1-9

As its name implies, Genesis reveals the divine origin of life and Almighty God's plan in the forming of the Hebrew race.

First and foremost, Genesis is a splendidly vivid revelation of God's majesty and power, but also of the dignity of humanity and purpose of life. It is a great pity that this marvelous book has been so tortured and misconstrued by well-meaning but uninformed readers over the years. Genesis is not about the details of how creation occurred, since scientific conclusions in this regard dramatically have

changed through the centuries.

This weekend's reading is about Abraham. Considered by scholars to have been an actual person and not a myth, Abraham is regarded as the father of the Jewish people.

The reading makes several points. God is active in human affairs. God communicates with humans and they with God.

Abraham has very strong faith. God rewards this faith by pledging that Abraham's descendants, until the end of time, will be God's special people. This dignity confers obligation. Descendants of Abraham must be loyal to God and reveal God to the world.

In the second reading Timothy was a disciple of Paul. The Church venerates Timothy as a great saint, very important in the formation of Christianity. Timothy was the son of a pagan father and a devout Jewish mother, and he was Paul's secretary at one point. Once, Timothy was imprisoned with Paul, although Timothy eventually was released. Tradition is that Timothy was

the first bishop of Ephesus, then a major city. Its present ruins lie on the Mediterranean coast of modern Turkey.

This reading encourages Timothy to be strong in his Christian belief despite many difficulties and obstacles.

St. Matthew's Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is the story of the Transfiguration, ablaze with symbols of God with which any Jew instantly would have been familiar, as these images appear throughout the Hebrew Scriptures.

In this reading are references to brilliant light, mountaintops, a voice from the sky and pure white, all associated with God. Finally, surrounding Jesus were Moses and Elijah, the great heroes of the Jews.

This scene totally contrasts with Calvary, where, instead of appearing in shimmering clothes, Jesus was stripped of His garments. Instead of glowing clouds and brilliant light, gloom and darkness surrounded the cross.

Reflection

Lent is little more than one week along, and already the Church is encouraging us and reinforcing our faith, just as Jesus strengthened the faith of the Apostles who stood trembling before the divine sight manifested on the mountain.

The message is clear. Jesus is God, active and present among us.

To be saved, we must truly believe. More than voicing words, we must commit our very lives to Christ. So, Abraham is critically a part of this weekend's lesson as an example.

While nowhere in these readings is any account of the crucifixion or to the other events of Good Friday, recalling the Lord's death on the cross is essential to understanding fully this weekend's message.

Calvary represents the world. For a moment, seemingly, earthly power and human sin triumphed over good. Certainly, the enemies of Jesus saw the crucifixion as their victory. Jesus died, but then came the wonder of Easter.

Every human being can be tricked into assuming that earthly things, or earthly satisfaction, will bring them reward. They do not. Ignoring God brings death. It has been proven untold millions of times.

So, the Church counsels us to have faith, to look beyond the gloom, and to follow the light of Jesus. Remember the Transfiguration. Remember Abraham. Remember what actually matters in life.

READINGS

Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22 2Tm 1:8b-10 Mt 17:1-9

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10 Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13 Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20 Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23 Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20 Ps 31:5-6, 14-16 Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a Ps 105:16-21 Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Ps 103:1-4, 9-12 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Fearfully and wonderfully made

One of the most common fears my patients have expressed over the years is getting Alzheimer's disease. I watched my own mother steadily deteriorate for 10 years until she no longer knew I was her son.

Many families have had to cope with this scenario or are actively dealing with a loved one with dementia. The vitamin and supplement industry has used these fears to make billions of dollars. The revenue from this industry now exceeds \$30 billion a year. Allow me to review some of the biggest money-making products.

One of the most commonly used supplements for brain health or memory boosting is Ginkgo biloba. Millions of people use this in hopes it will improve brain function and ward off dementia. The problem is that Ginkgo biloba and most all of the products sold in the vitamin aisle for brain health don't work. Ginkgo biloba is one of the few that has even been put through a peer-reviewed scientific trial. It was called the Ginkgo Evaluation of Memory trial, and it basically proved it did not work.

If you watch cable television, you certainly have heard this: "Can a protein originally found in jellyfish improve your memory?" It goes on to say that clinical trials with the company's product have been shown to improve short-term memory. But scientists who have reviewed what little data the company can produce say it is a false claim. The name of the protein is aequorin and it is found in crystal jellyfish. The company synthetically produces apoaequorin and puts it in capsule form to take orally. Almost all proteins are actually broken down into amino acids in the stomach and therefore they cannot get to the brain in original form.

Dr. David S. Seres, director of medical nutrition at Columbia University Medical Center, states:

"It is biologically inconceivable that a protein by mouth would have any effect on memory." In fact, the Federal Trade Commission, the state of New York and consumer groups are actively suing the makers of this product. This unfortunately has not reduced the unceasing commercials about this product that I see every time I turn on the TV. The most recent commercial states it is the No. 1 pharmacist-recommended memory support brand. This is likely true, but it doesn't mean the product works to improve memory or reduce the onset of dementia.

Other supplements that have never been proven to support memory include omega-3 fatty acids (fish oil), B-vitamins like B6, B12, and folate, and multiple vitamins.

So how do we reduce our chances of getting Alzheimer's or other kinds of dementia? If someone is beginning to show signs of memory loss, there are things that need to be ruled out first. These include depression, advanced liver disease, regular use of sleeping aids and alcohol enthusiasm. Then there are the proactive things we can do. This includes exercise. Multiple scientifically controlled studies have proven that not only can exercise reduce the chances of new onset dementia, but if you get Alzheimer's disease, exercise can slow its progression. Exercise is medicine without taking a pill.

Good blood pressure control and reducing your cholesterol can reduce your risk of dementia as well. We must not forget about the foods we consume. Some of the diets that have proven to reduce the chances of getting dementia include the Mediterranean diet, which improves heart health; the Dash diet, which is designed to lower blood pressure; and the MIND diet, which is essentially a combination of the two. A quick summary of the foods in these



THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

DR. DAVID KAMINSKAS

dietary plans include green leafy vegetables, nuts, beans and fish. Cooking with olive oil and drinking a glass of wine every other day also is recommended.

On the MIND diet, participants in one study reduced their risk of memory loss as well as the onset of Alzheimer's disease by about 50%. I have always been intrigued by the fact that nutrients in foods prevent certain disease processes, yet put those same nutrients in a pill and they no longer work. Psalm 139:14 says, "I give you thanks that I am fearfully, wonderfully made; wonderful are your works." The human body was made so complex by our Creator there are times we are just not going to have the answers.

If you want to keep your mind sharp and ward off dementia, then challenge your brain. Learn a new language, play board games or enjoy card games like bridge or euchre. Finally, stay social. Those who continue to have a strong social calendar have a better chance at keeping their minds strong and productive as they get older.

What are you going to do with all the money you just saved by not taking those supplements? My suggestion is to give it to your church or favorite charity that attends to the poor.

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

MILLER, from page 12

and whose hard work is used for the needy. St. Joseph's humility is used for the benefit of others, not himself. May the Church continue to support and guide such faithful men in the manner in which God created them.

Perhaps we could ponder for a moment who or what in our lives could use some fatherly, saintly protection and intercession, some unwavering patronage. May this popular namesake in our diocese inspire us to live with the same faith in God, openness and obedience to His divine will and charity toward our own families, and help us to show them His loving care, strong and sure. Who better to guide our region than he, purest lily and terror of demons, who held the lantern and guided the way for the light of the world Himself?

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for March 8, 2020

Matthew 17:1-9

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Lent, Cycle A: an experience of Light. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

JESUS TOOK	JOHN	MOUNTAIN
HIS FACE	SHONE	ELIJAH
IT IS GOOD	IF YOU WISH	THREE
SPEAKING	BRIGHT	CLOUD
A VOICE	PLEASED	LISTEN
HEARD	AFRAID	NO ONE
ALONE	VISION	RAISED

A VISION

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N O I S I V E C I O V A
J H N C L O U D P B F I
I U O H C R R E E R H T
F O O J P A O E A I A I
Y A N I E I O I M G J S
O L E H Y S D L O H I G
U O K W L E U Y U T L O
W N A N S D A S N E E O
I E C A F S I H T N J D
S P E A K I N G A O J E
H L N A N A J K I H O X
P L T L I S T E N S O K
    
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Saint of the Week



St. Catherine of Bologna

1413-1463
Feast March 9

As a girl, Catherine de'Vigri was a maid of honor at the ducal court in Ferrara, in Italy. Well educated at court, she joined a group of Franciscan tertiaries who later became Poor Clare nuns. In 1456, she went back to Bologna as abbess of a new convent. From an early age, she had experienced visions, some of which she judged to be temptations. But, she effectively led her convent, while also exploring a talent for calligraphy and painting miniatures. Her Bologna convent still has a breviary she penned and ornamented, along with some of her unpublished writings in prose and verse.

Recording artist Dana headlines Lenten program on Great Catholic Music

CANTON, Ohio (CNS) — Great Catholic Music, a free Catholic music platform with over 16,000 downloads, is partnering with Irish Catholic recording artist Dana this Lent to bring listeners the hourlong program "The Stations of the Cross," airing every Friday of the penitential season.

The program airs at 6 a.m., 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. The program consists of spoken reflection and prayer accompanied by music sung by Dana. Listeners can catch the program at GreatCatholicMusic.com, on Alexa devices or on the outlet's free mobile app for Android and Apple devices.

"This recording of the Stations of the Cross will help you meditate deeply on Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. The use of the harp, beautiful prayerful vocals, and added effects provide the contemplative background music," Dana said in a statement.

She made this album with her brother-in-law, the late Father Kevin Scallon, to allow Catholics "a chance to walk with Christ."

"We could not think of a better program to help our listeners prepare for Easter than Dana's 'The Stations of the Cross,' said Chris Cugini, spokesperson for Great Catholic Music. "The stations are one of the most sacred prayers for Catholics to reflect upon during the Lenten season."

The national sponsor for this program is CatholicBook.net, an online Catholic retailer that is celebrating 30 years of business. The album can be purchased through its online store.

As listeners tune in during this program, they will be praying the stations with thousands of others from around the world, according to a Great Catholic Music news release announcing the Lenten program with Dana.

"Offering the consistent programming for all listeners is important for Great Catholic Music as its goal is to unite all



CNS photo/Living Bread Radio

Great Catholic Music, a free Catholic music platform with over 16,000 downloads, will partner with Irish Catholic recording artist Dana to bring listeners the hourlong program "The Stations of the Cross," airing every Friday during Lent. Dana is pictured in an undated publicity photo.

people in Christ through the melodies for the soul," the release said. "In Stations, Father Kevin Scallon's soothing voice and Dana's haunting sung prayers give a clear mental picture of each station. Each time you hear it, you will walk alongside Jesus on his final journey to Calvary."

Great Catholic Music was formed in March 2019 by Living Bread Radio in Canton to help Catholics learn more about the music tradition of the church. The platform allows listeners from anywhere in the world to stream Catholic music that can be used for praise and worship or meditative prayer.

Its founders call the station "revolutionary" and note it is "100% listener supported."

All of Great Catholic Music's offerings, like the special Lenten program, can be streamed online at GreatCatholicMusic.com, on the app available on Apple and Android devices, or through smartspeaker technology, like Alexa.



ST. ELIZABETH
SETON
CATHOLIC CHURCH

NOW HIRING

Coordinator of Stewardship and Membership

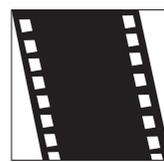
St Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, Carmel IN, is seeking a Coordinator of Stewardship and Membership who reports to the Director of Finance. The Coordinator provides leadership, strategic direction and coordination for all parish stewardship, fundraising efforts, and initiatives, including Diocesan appeals, offertory enhancement campaigns, and Parish Database Management. Coordinator Develops and implements a stewardship program that: increases parishioner's awareness of stewardship, challenges them to integrate stewardship into their daily lives, to engage parishioners into active, full and mindful participation in the parish and, encourages generous sharing of financial resources.

RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE (but are not limited to):

- Must be a practicing Catholic in good standing.
- Cultivates best practices for engaging parishioners through gifts of time, talent, and treasure.
- Ability to build positive and enduring relationships with clergy, parish staff, lay leaders and ministers, as well as diocesan staff and leadership.
- Partners with parish Stewardship Council to cultivate a warm and hospitable culture of stewardship in the parish that is guided by the parish mission.
- Guides and implements stewardship and parish wide fundraising calendar for key events working in close collaboration with Administrative office.
- Prepares accurate reports for staff and parishioners as needed including annual giving statements to parishioners.
- Strong written communication skills, including the ability to write in a clear, concise, persuasive, and grammatically correct manner.
- Ability to respond well to shifting priorities and changing work situations; ability to work effectively in ambiguous situations; ability to develop new skills to remain effective; ability to adapt to changes; ability to adapt strategies in response to new information or changes to a situation.

Please send cover letter, resume, and salary history, in confidence, to:

Kevin Sweeney, Director of Finance
St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, Carmel IN
kevin.sweeney@setoncarmel.org



MOVIE
CAPSULES

NEW YORK (CNS) — Following are capsule reviews by the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.



"The Call of the Wild" (Twentieth Century)

Jack London's beloved 1903 novel returns to the big screen for the seventh time in this computer-generated special effects extravaganza, directed by Chris Sanders. A pet St. Bernard-Scotch Collie mix dog is kidnapped from his California owner (Bradley Whitford) and shipped to the Yukon, where gold fever is raging, and large dogs are in demand to pull sleds. He joins a team run by two benevolent mail carriers (Omar Sy and Cara Gee), before being sold to a wicked gold prospector (Dan Stevens). Eventually he's rescued by a kindly explorer (Harrison Ford) and joins him on an expedition deep into the wilderness, all the while hearing the "call" to return to his primal roots. Although purists will be disappointed

by the defanging of London's searing tale, this is a highly entertaining comedy-drama with solid messages about love, friendship and respect, suitable for all but the youngest viewers. Mild violence, characters in peril. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

"Emma" (Focus)

Delightful screen version of Jane Austen's classic novel in which the young British gentlewoman of the title (Anya Taylor-Joy) tries her hand at matchmaking on behalf of a fortuneless friend (Mia Goth) while flirting with a visitor (Callum Turner) to her small country town and repeatedly locking horns with an old friend (Johnny Flynn). Director Autumn de Wilde's feature debut captures perfectly Austen's droll insights into human nature, from the medical paranoia of Emma's father (Bill Nighy), with his perpetual fear of drafts, to the good-hearted dullness of a trivialities-spouting neighbor (Miranda Hart). Only the momentary introduction of a bit of visual earthiness, presumably meant to balance off the overall painterly elegance of the picture, need give parents pause. Possibly acceptable for older teens. Fleeting rear male and partial female nudity in a nonsexual contest, an illegitimacy theme, one mild oath. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

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.

FISH FRY • MARCH 6

Knights of Columbus fish fry
FORT WAYNE — Our Lady of Good Hope Knights of Columbus Council No. 12417 will have a fish fry on Friday, March 6, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the gym, 7215 Saint Joe Rd. Handicap accessible and carryouts available. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6-10, and free for children 5 and under. Maximum family \$30.

FISH FRIES • MARCH 13

Fish fry
ROANOKE — St. Joseph Parish will have a fish fry on March 13, at the Roanoke American Legion, 1122 N Main St., from 4:30-7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 5-12 and free for children under 5.

Fish fry
ARCOLA — St. Patrick Church will have a fish fry on Friday, March 13, from 4-7 p.m. in the parish hall. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches available. Adults \$10, seniors 60 plus \$9, children 5-10 \$5, children under 4 free. Drive through and carryout available.

Fish fry at St. Dominic
BREMEN — St. Dominic Church will have a fish fry on Friday, March 13, from 4-7 p.m. in the St. Isidore Hall, 803 W. Bike St. Tickets are adults \$9, children 5-12 \$4.50, children under 4 free. Carryout available.

Fish fry at St. Aloysius
YODER — A fish fry will be Friday, March 13, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the Activity Center, 14623 Bluffton Rd., at St. Aloysius Church. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6-11 and children 5 and under free.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School seventh grade garage sale
FORT WAYNE — A garage sale fundraising event hosted by the seventh grade class will be Saturday, March 7, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School gym, 10650 Aboite Center Rd. Proceeds raised will help offset the cost of the eighth grade class trip to Chicago. Contact Sarah Steffan at lwlolm.16@gmail.com.

Alpha to begin at Most Precious Blood
FORT WAYNE — Alpha, an 11-week course on the basic questions of life and faith for everyone, will begin Wednesday, March 11, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Most Precious Blood Mohr Hall, 1515 Barthold St. Each Alpha night will include a meal, video and discussion. Visit www.preciousblood.org/76 or email maquila@preciousblood.org.

Children's author reading/signing
FORT WAYNE — Local author Gracie Jagla will read her new Catholic children's book, "God the Father and the Best Day Ever!" on Thursday, March 12, at 6 p.m. at the Good Shepherd bookstore, 915 S. Clinton St. Jagla will read the book aloud and will be available after to sign copies. All children and families welcome.

St. Patrick's Day celebration
SOUTH BEND — Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at St. Patrick's parish center, 308 S. Scott St., from noon to 4 p.m., with food, live Irish music and Irish dancing. Traditional corned beef and cabbage or chicken dinners for \$13 are featured. Other meal choices from \$4.

REST IN PEACE

Angola
Paul Kocsis, 80,
St. Anthony of Padua

Marjorie E. Leaders,
94, St. Anthony of
Padua

Arcola
Mary Swenda, 93,
St. Patrick

Decatur
Juan M. Huereca,
73, St. Mary of the
Assumption

David L. Kable, 79,
St. Mary of the
Assumption

Rozann M. Kwasneski,
86, St. Mary of the
Assumption

Lois R. Rumschlag,
93, St. Mary of the
Assumption

Fort Wayne
Marie Doherty, 94,
St. Vincent de Paul

Rosemarie Gentile, 94,
Our Lady of Good Hope

Lawrence Martin, 82,
Most Precious Blood

Teresa Miller, 91,
St. Charles Borromeo

Mary Myers, 62,
Most Precious Blood

Mishawaka
Richard Baldwin, 83,
St. Monica

South Bend
Donald Aranowski, 93,
Holy Cross

Juandalyn Bridges, 57,
Holy Cross

Leon S. Olaski, 84,
St. Jude

Karol Pasierbowicz,
84, Christ the King

Steven Romanski, 59,
Holy Family

Wabash
Darlene S. Schnabel,
80, St. Bernard

Joyce E. Tester, 77,
St. Bernard

Business Manager Needed

St. John the Baptist in Fort Wayne seeks a full-time business manager to administer parish finances and personnel functions. Candidates with a degree in business or equivalent experience may send their resume to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 4525 Arlington Ave., Fort Wayne, IN. Attn: Fr. Andrew Budzinski, Pastor.

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Making Christ the Center of Our Lives

AMIGOS DE CRISTO

APRIL 25 @ 8:30-5:00
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For youth in grades 8-12 with sessions in Spanish for their parents

Registration deadline
Fecha límite para inscripción
4/6/2020

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Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion take place in South Bend

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Traditionally performed on the first Sunday in Lent, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend March 1. From parishes located in the western half of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, 131 catechumens and 97 candidates are preparing to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.

At the service, Bishop Rhoades emphasized the love of God the Father for His children, which the catechumens and candidates seek to become in a deeper way. He quoted the second reading, from the Letter to the Ephesians, saying, "St. Paul writes: 'in love, the Father destined us for adoption to Himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of His will, for the praise of the glory of His grace that He granted us in the beloved.'"

The Gospel reading for the day focused on the well-known Bible passage John 3:16, which clearly and concisely explains the depth of God's love for us. This love also is illustrated by Jesus' sacrifice for humanity by dying to redeem His people.

Regarding the love of God, Bishop Rhoades said, "Before the foundation of the world, before creation, this was God's loving intent: that we have eternal life with Him. That's why he gave His only Son, who assumed our human nature and suffered, died and rose from the dead. He has thus redeemed us so that we can share through Him in the life of the Most Holy Trinity."

While there continues to be much discussion within the Church about the number of Catholic young people today who choose to reject their faith, Sunday's rite was striking for the many young men and women demonstrating a desire for fuller membership in the Church. The combined total of catechumens and candidates from the University of Notre Dame and Holy Cross College was more than 20 students. Other colleges, including Goshen College, also had candidates presented to Bishop Rhoades. Aside from the colleges, there also were many grade school and high school youths presented at the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion.

Alice He, a Notre Dame student, is now one of the elect. A native of China and raised near Hong Kong, He shared her story of conversion.

"I received a Bible from a missionary when I was 10 years old and I started reading it on my own," she said. As she grew older, she began attending a Catholic church near her home.

"I came for college at Notre

Dame: I wanted to go to a Catholic university," she said. That was where, in November, she began the process of formation for acceptance into the Catholic Church. "I am really excited, knowing (Easter Vigil) is also the end of Lent."

Another participant from South Bend was Joshua Crudup, a candidate from St. Therese, Little Flower Parish. "What led me to the Catholic Church is that I heard the call. I went to Saint Joseph High School and really learned more about Catholicism and the root of where Christianity started." Crudup's parents attend a non-denominational church, although he said his father is happy for him and the decision he is making to become Catholic. Crudup expressed appreciation that the RCIA director at his parish matched him with the perfect sponsor to guide him on the path.

In hindsight, Crudup said he can see how everything came full circle for him.

"I live two minutes away from St. Therese, and I always wondered about that church. I was only in it once before, when I was 6 years old, and a priest approached me and said, 'I can see you becoming Catholic.' God works in mysterious ways. He gives you hints, but you have to go back and connect the dots."

Catechumens, those who have not received Christian baptism, prepare for their baptism into the Body of Christ on Easter Vigil. Through the sacraments, particularly that of baptism, the love of God pours over them. Bishop Rhoades affirmed this gift of God's love and the new relationship with Him that the catechumens will begin at Easter.

"You will enter into this filial relationship with God. You will become adopted sons and daughters of God, partakers of the divine nature, new creatures. You will become brothers and sisters of Christ and temples of the Holy Spirit."

Those who already have been baptized and now seek a deeper relationship with God through confirmation and first Communion are known as candidates. The bishop addressed the candidates saying, "Like our catechumens, you will receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation. And you will receive the true and holy Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. You will be drawn more deeply into God's Trinitarian life, into His communion of love."

In closing his homily, Bishop Rhoades spoke powerfully to the catechumens and candidates about the new journey on which they would soon embark. "This is the answer, the fulfillment, to our deepest longings as human beings: the joy and peace of eternal life with God, who is love."



Photos by Jennifer Barton

As a symbol of accompaniment, sponsor Matt Maday places his hand on the shoulder of candidate Corinda Thrapp as Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades calls them to deeper conversion within the Catholic Church during the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion Sunday, March 1, at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend.



A representative of St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish in Bristol reads the names of the parish's catechumens so Bishop Rhoades can enter their names in the Book of the Elect.



During the Rite of Election, godparents pray over the newly elect. They will be baptized in the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.