

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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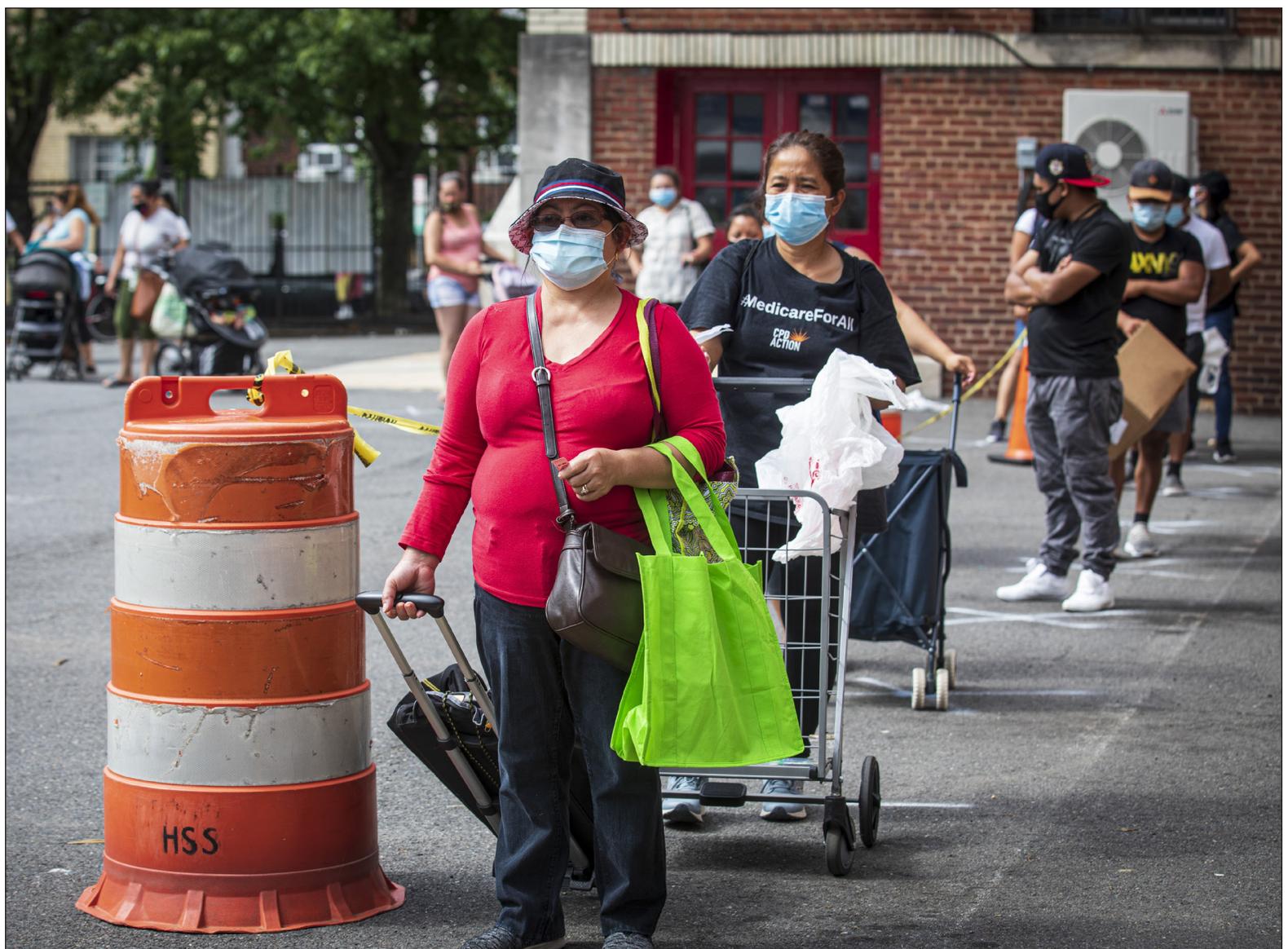
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Together again

Parish offers evening of praise and worship

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USCCB urges Congress, White House to reach COVID-19 relief deal



CNS photo/Chaz Muth

A woman waits in line at Catholic Charities' Spanish Catholic Center parking lot in Washington July 15 to pick up free food. Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, Okla., chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, issued a statement Sept. 8 calling on lawmakers in Congress and the White House to reach a deal on the next COVID-19 relief package that meets the urgent needs of the nation.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A leader with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has urged Congress and the White House Sept. 8 to reach a deal on the next COVID-19 relief package that meets the urgent needs of the nation.

"Earlier this year, the leaders of our government reached a bipartisan deal that provided significant relief to those suffering from the health and economic crises that we continue to experience. Many of the good relief measures in that previous package are running out," said Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the

USCCB's Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.

In a statement, the archbishop stressed that "families and individuals are having trouble affording food, housing and health care, and hunger-related crises grow internationally."

He also pointed out that many private schools must choose between reopening and permanent closure and require additional assistance to safely reopen.

"Hospitals are bracing for a spike of cases in the fall and continue to experience fewer preventative and elective health visits," he said, while coronavirus cases are "spiking in detention centers,

prisons and jails."

He noted that many businesses and charities "are suffering dire hardship again" and that states, cities and towns "face shortfalls providing essential services."

"Today, I ask our leaders in Washington to once again set aside their differences in order to reach an agreement that prioritizes the poor and vulnerable," he stressed, adding that he and other Catholic bishops have written to congressional leaders multiple times with "specific recommendations on how to meet the needs of this moment."

"It is imperative to act soon.

May God grant all those participating in negotiations a heart that eagerly responds to the cry of the poor," he said.

On Sept. 8, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, said the Senate would vote on a scaled-back Republican coronavirus relief package within days, but he said it was not likely to pass while the Democrats are seeking more aid.

The Associated Press reported that McConnell described the relief package as not containing "every idea our party likes" and

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Visiting Lebanon, Cardinal Parolin emphasizes 'you are not alone'

BY DOREEN ABI RAAD

BEIRUT (CNS) — Bringing a message of hope to Lebanon, a month after a double blast struck Beirut, Pope Francis' closest collaborator assured the Lebanese: "You are not alone. The whole world supports you."

Cardinal Pietro Parolin's Sept. 3-4 visit to the suffering country on behalf of Pope Francis coincides with the papal call for believers around the world to observe "a universal day of prayer and fasting for Lebanon" Sept. 4.

Lebanon's population, already exhausted by a collapsing economy that has plunged even the middle class into poverty, has been traumatized by the disaster, blamed on 2,750 metric tons of ammonium nitrate stored for years in a port warehouse. At least 190 people died, more than 6,500 were injured and more than 300,000 people remain homeless.

"I come to your historic city to express the nearness of the Catholic Church throughout the world. His Holiness Pope Francis has asked me to come and meet you after he launched his appeal for prayer, fasting and solidarity with Beirut and with Lebanon. The response to the pope's appeal has been immediate, arriving from so many different countries, from all the continents," said Cardinal Parolin, who serves as the Vatican's secretary of state. He spoke at an interfaith welcoming ceremony Sept. 3 at the Maronite Catholic Cathedral of St. George.

Religious leaders representing all the church denominations in Beirut gathered with clerics representing the Sunni, Shiite Muslim and Druze communities.

Representatives of the interfaith solidarity foundation Adyan and humanitarian organizations, including the Lebanese Red Cross and Caritas Lebanon, also attended.

Cardinal Parolin entered the cathedral under scaffolding erected to repair damage sustained in the blast. He continued on to a large meeting room, where the interior windows were still shattered.

"You are not alone," the cardinal said, a message he repeated throughout his two-day visit.

"We pray that God may render us strong to care for every person who was affected and to accomplish the task of rebuilding Beirut," the cardinal said.

He pointed to "the unique value of Lebanon, part of the Holy Land that was visited by Our Lord Jesus Christ and his apostles, and by his mother, beloved by all Lebanese, the Holy Virgin Mary."

The cardinal stressed that all religious leaders "have a primary mission to give hope to an afflicted population. Let us help each other to accomplish our mission."

"The beautiful examples of solidarity that are being lived all over Beirut strengthen our hope and inspire our future actions," he said.

Addressing the religious leaders and organizations present, the cardinal said: "I know that all of you are bearing the biggest part of the responsibility and deploying great efforts not to abandon anyone in these tragic circumstances. May you continue to offer an example of sincere solidarity, faithful to the Lebanese tradition of resilience, creativity and mutual support.

"I wish to repeat quite clearly the appeal of Pope Francis to the international community: Do not

leave Lebanon alone! Lebanon needs the world, but the world also needs the unique ongoing experiment of pluralism, living together in solidarity and freedom that is Lebanon," Cardinal Parolin said.

"Together, we will rebuild Beirut! God bless you!"

Maronite Archbishop Paul Abdel Sater of Beirut, who welcomed Cardinal Parolin to the cathedral, recognized the religious gathered from Beirut, noting that amid destruction in their churches, "they have been on the streets with their people, treating and comforting them, taking up shovels, hammers and saws to fix what can be repaired ... carrying the cross with the wounded and accompanying the dead to their final resting place."

"The Middle East is constantly emptying from the Christian presence, especially from its youth," the archbishop told Cardinal Parolin, appealing to the Vatican "to do your best to thwart this ugly and harmful scheme."

The cardinal then visited the massive Mohammad el-Amine mosque, its interior also under scaffolding due to damages.

Celebrating Mass that evening at Our Lady of Harissa shrine on a summit overlooking the Mediterranean north of Beirut, Cardinal Parolin told the faithful, "It gives me great joy to express to you the Holy Father's closeness to you and his solidarity with you.

"You are not alone in your trials, the whole world stands in solidarity with you today."

Due to coronavirus prevention measures, the Mass was celebrated in the gardens beneath the massive statue of Mary with outstretched hands, rather than in the adjoining basilica.

"How can we not stand in admiration in front of the determination of the Lebanese to rebuild their country? When death was taking over Beirut, scenes of solidarity and brotherhood erupted in the streets of the capital ... as a sign of a glorious resurrection," Cardinal Parolin said, pointing to young people who mobilized for cleanup and assistance in affected neighborhoods.

He noted that Pope Francis has "called on the international community to help Lebanon and work to solve its problems and to search for the good of this great people in the country that St. John Paul II described as a message to the West and the East."

He asked Our Lady of Lebanon, who "watches over all of Lebanon, and looks at Beirut while tears fill her eyes ... to intercede before the Lord Jesus so that the land of cedars may bloom again and spread the scent of living together all over the Middle East."

Following a meeting Sept. 4 with Lebanese President Michel Aoun, a Maronite Catholic, Cardinal Parolin said he told the president that "the Holy See gives great importance to Lebanon," and that "Lebanon is not alone, and there is international support for the reconstruction of Beirut after the explosion."

The cardinal stressed that "dialogue is the only way to cooperate in order to ensure a better future for (the country's) young people."

Also Sept. 4, Cardinal Parolin visited devastated neighborhoods and gathered with Catholic patriarchs of Lebanon, hosted by Lebanese Cardinal Bechara Rai, Maronite patriarch, at Bkerke, the patriarchate north of Beirut.

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also being far less than what Democrats are seeking.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-California, and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-New York, said the bill "doesn't come close to addressing the problems and is headed nowhere."

As it stands now, McConnell's bill would provide \$105 billion to help schools reopen, provide a shield against lawsuits for businesses and others that are trying to reopen, create a scaled-back \$300-per-week supplemental jobless benefit and write off \$10 billion in previous debt from the U.S. Postal Service.

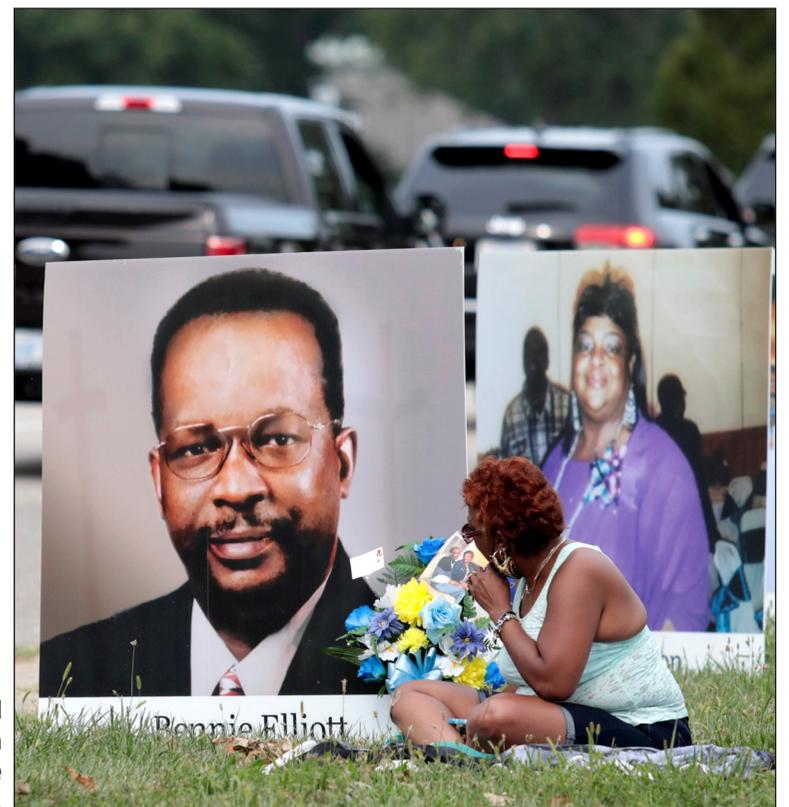
The bill also includes \$31 billion for a coronavirus vaccine, \$16 billion for virus testing, \$15 billion to help child care providers reopen and an additional \$20 billion for farmers. It also includes a school choice initiative that would provide a tax break for those who donate to nonprofit organizations

offering private school scholarships.

The Republican aid package would also provide \$258 billion for a second round of "paycheck protection" subsidies for businesses that have been especially hard-hit by the pandemic.

Democrats are seeking a relief package of more than \$2.2 trillion and AP has reported that although President Donald Trump's negotiators have shown the possibility of giving more aid, a significant gap remains between what the Democrats want and how much the administration is willing to give.

Pictures of Detroit residents who died from the coronavirus disease are seen during a drive-thru memorial in the Belle Isle neighborhood of Detroit, Sept. 1.



CNS photo/Rebecca Cook, Reuters

Local Catholic news and marketing: the Secretariat for Communications

FORT WAYNE — The annual collection for the U.S. bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign is scheduled to take place in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend the weekend of Sept. 13. The annual national appeal supports efforts in the United States and around the world to use the media, internet and print publications to help people connect with Christ.

Fifty percent of the funds collected yearly within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for the Catholic Communications Campaign remain in the diocese to support local communication efforts. The other half is used to support national efforts in the United States and in developing countries around the world.

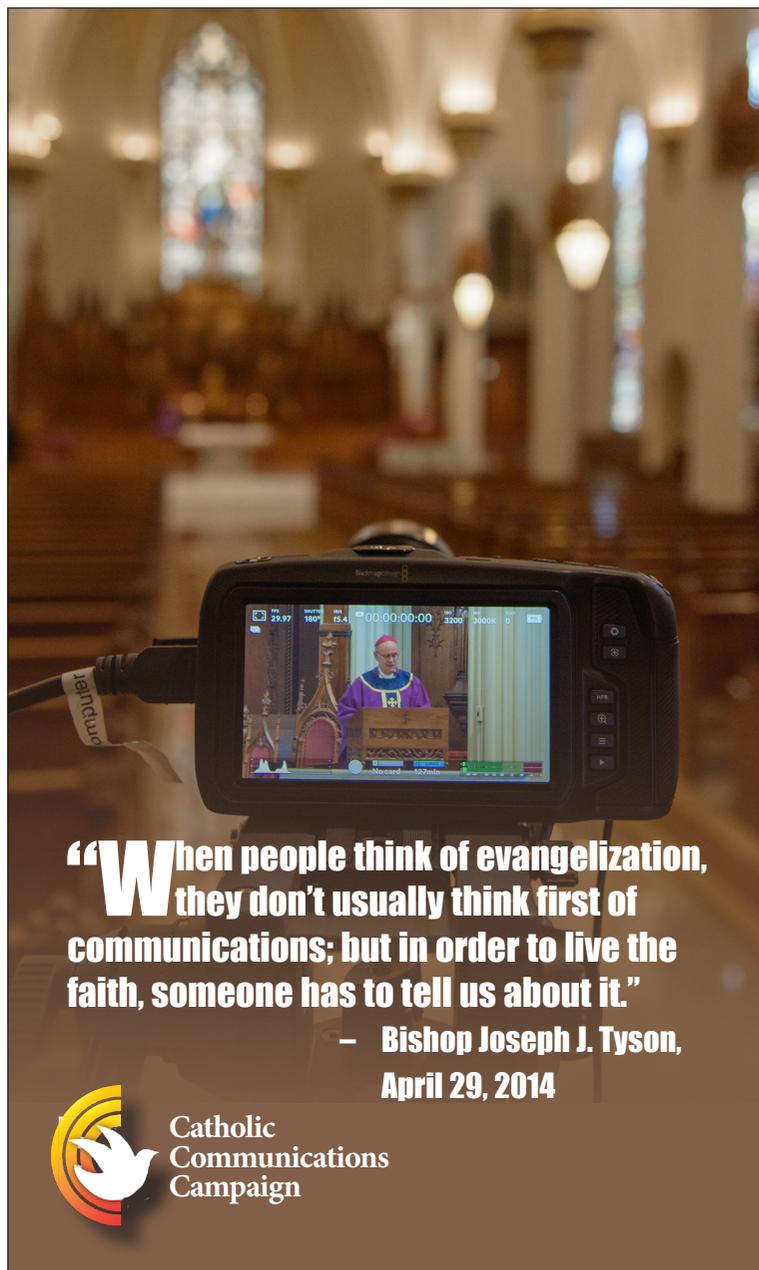
According to Secretary for Communications Jennifer Simerman, the local portion of CCC funds, which last year totaled just over \$20,000, is utilized by the secretariat to serve Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades by publishing his messages, providing Catholic news content and promoting diocesan events and ministries through various media platforms.

"Our work connects the bishop and diocese to the lay faithful, as well as to the secular media, and reaches beyond the Catholic community to inform and evangelize," she summarized.

In addition to publishing the weekly diocesan newspaper, Today's Catholic, the secretariat provides diocesan offices and ministries with marketing, advertising, communications and multimedia support. This also includes graphic design and event promotion, livestream, videography and photography services, a recording studio, media relations, coordination of TV Mass offerings and regular communication with 82 parishes and 43 schools on a variety of topics.

During the past year, the communications team worked in the office and after hours to stay connected to diocesan faithful during the COVID-19 pandemic by initiating or facilitating livestream and videography services. "This was a monumental task for a staff as small as ours. We needed new equipment and training and relied heavily on the manpower of some very dedicated volunteers," Simerman said. "Publication of the diocesan newspaper in both print and digital formats also continued without disruption of service; something we are very proud of in light of the fact that many print publications across the country had to scale back production during this unusual time."

In addition to daily operations, Simerman, page designer Francie Hogan and communications/brand specialist Molly Gettinger have been working



"When people think of evangelization, they don't usually think first of communications; but in order to live the faith, someone has to tell us about it."

— **Bishop Joseph J. Tyson,**
April 29, 2014



Catholic
Communications
Campaign

on a redesign of the diocesan website, which will debut this fall. Also, for the first time, this year's Annual Bishop's Appeal video and related materials were produced in-house.

Video/multimedia specialist Nate Proulx's primary focus when producing videos is to tell a story which shows the beauty of our faith, said Simerman: to inspire and bring Christ to others on a personal level, through storytelling as Pope Francis encouraged in his 2020 message for World Communications Day.

Carl Loesch, director of the Secretariat for Education, is particularly appreciative of video production that has been provided to assist his office. A video shown at the annual You Can Lend a Hand luncheons in January, depicting a personal journey of faith intersecting with the opportunities and support provided the Catholic schools of our diocese, was well-received.

"In this day and age, it is so important to communicate your message well. The Catholic Schools Office was thrilled with the video produced by our Secretariat for Communications. We knew it was a powerful story to hear about how one

of our graduates overcame family tragedy and returned to teach in our schools," said Loesch. "The Secretariat for Communications captured the essence of the story in a beautiful and moving way. We heard many comments from parents, school board members and teachers about how much they loved the video. Thanks to the support of the CCC funds and the professional expertise of the Communications Office that made the video possible."

In collaboration with the Office of Hispanic Ministry, a video produced this spring in Spanish and English focuses on the role of godparents in a child's baptism. The videos will be shown during baptismal preparation classes.

Titled Padrinos, or Godparents, they feature families from St. Adalbert Parish speaking about how they were guided in faith by their own godparents, and what they considered in choosing godparents for their own children. Father Ryan Pietrocarlo, CSC, also explains the requirements to be a godparent, and the expectation of someone who is asked to fulfill that role.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, September 13: 5 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Adalbert Church, South Bend
Monday, September 14: 9 a.m. — Virtual Meeting of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Doctrine
Monday, September 14: 5:30 p.m. — Virtual Meeting of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Religious Liberty
Tuesday-Wednesday, September 15-16: Virtual Meeting of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Administrative Committee
Wednesday, September 16: 3 p.m. — Virtual Meeting of Catholic Relief Services U.S. Operations Committee
Thursday, September 17: 8 a.m. — Virtual Meeting of Board of Directors of Catholic Relief Services
Friday, September 18: Virtual Meeting of Board of Directors of Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Mount St. Mary's Seminary
Saturday, September 19: 9:30 a.m. — Confirmation Mass for St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elkhart, St. Pius X Church, Granger
Saturday, September 19: 2:30 p.m. — Confirmation Mass for St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elkhart, St. Pius X Church, Granger



Priest and deacon Appointments

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following appointments, effective September 5, 2020:

Deacon Geoffrey Mooney, C.S.C., to diaconal ministry at Christ the King Parish, South Bend.

Reverend Vincent Nguyen, C.S.C., to Parochial Vicar, Holy Cross Parish, South Bend.

Reverend Zachary Rathke, C.S.C., to Parochial Vicar, St. Adalbert Parish, South Bend, and St. Casimir Parish, South Bend.

Reverend Gilbrian Stoy, C.S.C., to Parochial Vicar, Christ the King Parish, South Bend.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Collection for the Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund

A special collection will be taken up at all Masses on the weekend of **Sept. 19-20** to support the work of the Church, Catholic Charities USA, and Catholic Relief Services in responding to emergency humanitarian needs, rebuilding and recovery efforts, and pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Church after the devastation caused by Hurricane Laura. Funds collected will also be used for any other disasters that occur during this traditional storm season.

"It's about so much more than the things we produce," said Simerman. "It's about using communication tools to promote our faith and serve others. We do this by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and providing the resources for parishes and schools to do the same. This is the work of the Secretariat for Communications, and the Catholic Communication

Campaign provides a portion of the funds necessary to carry out this endeavor."

Envelopes to donate to the Catholic Communications Campaign are included in the September package of parish donation envelopes and can be turned in at any parish. To donate online, visit www.osvonlinegiving.com/224/DirectDonate/75831.

Catholic Schools Mission Day —

How Catholicism can transform schools, society through science and racial justice

BY JENNIFER MILLER

Like the start of the 2020-21 school year, Catholic Schools Mission Day was unique. Via the Zoom platform on Friday, Sept. 4, educators from across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend gathered in person at their individual schools, masked and at least 6 feet apart, to join together virtually and reflect and learn about how Catholicism transforms and enriches society through the fields of science and justice, especially racial justice.

The annual event is an opportunity for each teacher and administrator to experience prayer, community, professional and faith development.

"Before COVID-19, we had planned to have a strong focus on faith and science topics this year," Jonathan Kaltenbach of the Office of Catechesis explained. "Of course, we human beings hold a special place in God's creation: made to His image and likeness, fallen into sin, but redeemed by Jesus our Savior to worship Him and bring the good news of God's love, justice and mercy to all people. In the afternoon keynote, we were excited to hear Father Josh's message of hope to send us forth," Kaltenbach shared about the day's program.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades began the morning by thanking the teachers, administrators and staffs of the diocese's Catholic schools for their dedication and diligence during this time of global pandemic, especially as they prepared for and began the start of the school year. He recognized them for being particularly concerned for the poor and the most at-risk students within their communities and supporting them in their needs, and he encouraged all to remember that the Catholic response to COVID-19 begins with and is informed throughout by recognition of the dignity and worth of every human being.

Bishop Rhoades observed that the fundamentals of Catholic social teaching apply just as much to the manner in which the racial tension currently gripping the country is approached as they do to one's stance before the pandemic. Respecting human dignity, practicing solidarity and transforming care for the weakest and most vulnerable into action must continue to inspire schools' active response to the pandemic and the social and racial tensions prevalent in the U.S. currently.

Living out Catholic social teaching leads the faithful to be in solidarity with those who are



In the smaller, back box theatre of Saint Joseph High School, educators participate in a diocesanwide, virtual question-and-answer session with Dr. Stacy Trasancos and Jonathan Kaltenbach of the Office of Catechesis about how Catholicism can aid society in the fields of science and theology.

suffering, both locally in smaller school communities, and spiritually on a global scale, the bishop said. He also recommended educators learn and share the examples of so many African American saints in the making.

Welcomed by Carl Loesch, secretary of Catholic education, Dr. Stacy Trasancos gave the keynote address, sharing about her conversion experience. The mother of seven children, with a doctorate in chemistry and master's in dogmatic theology, she was an atheist who worked as a chemist for DuPont before converting to Catholicism and radically restructuring her life. She left her career to stay home with her kids, becoming a writer and educator. She is now executive director of Bishop Joseph E. Strickland's St. Philip Institute in Tyler, Texas, teaches online theology courses for Seton Hall University and is a Fellow of the Word on Fire Institute.

With over three decades of scholarly pursuit and parenting experience, she is passionate about leading souls to Christ while "keeping it real."

Her talk focused on how her love for science was actually a search for truth. Trasancos recalled a time in graduate

ing the way she understood the world. She returned to the lab and slowly began to convert her life to Catholicism.

During the question-and-answer session Trasancos suggested ideas on how to discuss the faith with teenagers and how, as a mother, she greatly desired to be in heaven one day with all of her children. Answering their real and perhaps difficult, questions about faith and life is critical, she maintained, as young people are looking for true witnesses of the Catholic faith.

The teachers gathered into small groups at their various locations for breakout sessions discussing various videos about faith and science topics offered by the Science and Faith Initiative from the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame. They had watched a video of their choice on faith and science, and the panelists answered questions from teaching about evolution to finding helpful resources to support their lessons.

Second keynote speaker Father Joshua Johnson spoke after lunch. A priest from the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Father Johnson is pastor of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church in St. Amant, Louisiana, and the director of vocations for the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

He explained that racial injustice has occurred throughout the history of the Catholic Church in America. He shared his own real life experiences as an African American growing up in Louisiana in a biracial family, as well as the witnesses of six African American Catholics who are on the path to sainthood. With historical details as well as reflective theology on Scripture, Father Johnson illuminated both the darkness of the past and

offered hope for the present day. He stressed the importance of the perseverance and faithful examples of Venerable Augustus Tolton and Sister Thea Bowman, even in the face of great discrimination and persecution from inside the Church as well as American society.

He offered ideas for schools to welcome students of all racial backgrounds, such as displaying images of saints who have lived holy and heroic lives of all racial backgrounds that already exist in Catholicism and replacing hurtful barriers for people to be drawn to Jesus, such as images of a white St. Michael the Archangel stepping on a Black depiction of Satan. By doing so, students can see images of holiness that look like them and be drawn closer to Jesus.

John Kennedy, principal of Saint Joseph High School, South Bend, said, "Catholic School Mission Day unites our faculty and staff in deepening our faith together. Doing so empowers us to guide our students into a closer relationship with Jesus, and to live our mission to transform students in heart and mind to serve God, the Church, and the world."

The keynote address by Dr. Stacy Trasanco on the connection between faith, science, and nature as a pathway to belief opened our eyes to the wonders of God's work in this world. Her phrase 'Science is the handiwork of God' especially resonated with me. ... The afternoon keynote by Father Johnson reminded us that as Catholic schools and educators we must invite all students into discipleship. We are fortunate to have a diverse student body at Saint Joe, and we are inspired by Father Johnson to pursue new ways to celebrate diversity and promote inclusion in our loving community."



Teachers and staff of Saint Joseph High School, South Bend, join together — albeit masked and 6 feet apart — in the gym to participate in a virtual Catholic Schools Mission Day.

Photos by Jennifer Miller

USCCB president urges special collection to aid disaster-stricken dioceses

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has asked his fellow bishops to consider having their parishes take up a special collection to aid dioceses and parishes stricken by recent natural disasters. “The traditional storm season has only just begun and already we have witnessed the devastating impact of Hurricane Laura and the California wildfires,” the archbishop wrote in a letter to his fellow bishops. “Thousands of homes, businesses, and churches have been severely damaged or destroyed and the impacts will be long-lasting.” Archbishop Gomez acknowledged the severity of the impact of COVID-19 on parish and diocesan activities and its challenging impact on fundraising, but he also expressed hope in the generosity of the faithful and their care for those in need. “We offer our prayers to families who have lost loved ones, homes and businesses,” Archbishop Gomez said. Funds collected will become part of the Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund and will be used to support the efforts of Catholic Charities USA and/or Catholic Relief Services, according to Archbishop Gomez. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will also be allotted some of the collections’ proceeds for pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Church. The collection will take place in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend the weekend of Sept. 19-20.

Lack of respect for life, for nature have same root, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A lack of respect for human life from conception to natural death and a lack of respect for the environment are both signs of a person claiming power over something that is not theirs to control, Pope Francis said. “They are the same indifference, the same selfishness, the same greed, the same pride, the same claim to be the master and despot of the world that lead human beings on the one hand to destroy species and plunder natural resources and, on the other, to exploit poverty, to abuse the work of women and children, to overturn the laws of the nuclear family (and) to no longer respect the right to human life from conception to its natural end,” the pope said Sept. 3. Pope Francis made his remarks in a speech written for a group of laypeople advising the French bishops’ conference on ways to promote and implement the teaching of “Laudato Si’, on Care for Our Common Home.” The group, which included the actress Juliette Binoche, traveled to Rome

St. Damien’s relatives speak up against criticism of saint’s statue



CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn

A sculpture of St. Damien of Molokai is seen at the U.S. Capitol in Washington in this 2017 file photo. Upset by the suggestion raised by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-New York, that St. Damien was a white supremacist colonizer, two of the saint’s Belgian relatives, representing his extended family, wrote her an open letter Aug. 20. “Like many Belgians — fellow countrymen of Damien ... we got a shock when reading in the newspaper that you chose, amongst the 102 statues in the U.S. Capitol’s National Statuary Hall Collection in Washington, the one of our relative, Father Damien, as a ‘typical example of white colonialism, patriarchy and white supremacist culture,’” the letter said. Father Damien, a missionary of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts, was assigned to the Hawaii mission in 1864. He spent the last 16 years of his life caring for the victims of Hansen’s disease, or leprosy, who were permanently quarantined in Kalaupapa, Molokai. He died of the disease in 1889 and was canonized a saint in 2009.

by train as a carbon-saving alternative to traveling by plane. The Vatican press office said the pope handed his prepared text to members of the group and then had an unscripted conversation with them, telling them that his own “ecological conversion” began in 2007 by listening to Brazilian bishops at the Latin American bishops’ meeting in Aparecida, Brazil.

Profit over safety, especially in pandemic, ‘unjust,’ says Labor Day statement

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Given the “somber” realities imposed by the coronavirus pandemic, for companies to put profits over safety is “unjust,” said Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, in

the U.S. bishops’ annual Labor Day statement. Even before the pandemic, “a significant number of Americans were trapped in low-wage jobs, with insecurity around food, housing and health care, and with little opportunity for savings or advancing in their career,” Archbishop Coakley said in the statement, issued Sept. 2. “Those same workers have been hit particularly hard, and, it is devastating to say, many have paid with their life. As one New York subway worker put it: ‘We are not essential. We are sacrificial.’” Archbishop Coakley quoted Pope Francis in his exhortation, “Evangelii Gaudium,” saying: “Today we also have to say ‘thou shalt not’ to an economy of exclusion and inequality. Such an economy kills. What was wrong before the pandemic has been accelerated now,” Archbishop Coakley said. “What may have been hidden to some is now revealed. Against this backdrop, the murder of

George Floyd was like lighting a match in a gas-filled room.”

Pope will sign new encyclical in Assisi Oct. 3

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis will travel to Assisi Oct. 3 to sign an encyclical on the social, political and economic obligations that flow from a belief that all people are children of God and therefore brothers and sisters to one another. The Vatican press office, confirming the pope’s trip, said the document will be titled “Fratelli Tutti” in Italian. In English, the phrase could be translated as “Brothers and Sisters All,” but apparently it is inspired by what is known as St. Francis of Assisi’s “sixth admonition” to the friars, all of whom were men. Conventual Franciscan Father Mauro Gambetti, custodian of the Assisi convent, said the document “will indicate to the world a style for the future

and will give the Church and people of goodwill the responsibility for building it together.” Pope Francis is scheduled to arrive at the Assisi convent at 3 p.m. to celebrate Mass at the tomb of St. Francis and sign the document. Because of ongoing concerns and restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mass and the rest of the pope’s visit will be private, the Vatican press office said.

Panelists say Father Tolton’s example offers path to racial justice

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Father Augustus Tolton, who in 1886 became the first identified Black priest ordained for the United States, challenged the status quo to bring about social change. Father Tolton lived a life of joy, rooted in his desire to help others and humbly work to achieve equality and justice for all, said participants of a panel discussion about the priest’s legacy. The online presentation Aug. 29, titled “Tolton’s Legacy: A Roadmap to Unity,” was organized by the Tolton Ambassador Corps, a nationwide group of Catholics commissioned to spread awareness about the significance of Father Tolton’s cause for sainthood. The Archdiocese of Chicago opened Father Tolton’s sainthood cause in 2010. Pope Francis declared him “venerable” in June 2019 after a theological commission unanimously recognized his “virtuous and heroic life.” Two steps of the process remain: beatification and canonization. Father Tolton served as a parish priest in Chicago, where he died in 1897 at age 43.

Virtual pilgrimage, concrete donation: Holy Land Catholics ask for help

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Franciscan Father Francesco Patton, custos of the Holy Land, asked Catholics around the world to make a virtual pilgrimage to the Holy Land and make a real donation to support the Church in the region. “Here in Jerusalem, we haven’t seen a pilgrim in six months,” he told the Vatican newspaper, L’Osservatore Romano. Pilgrimages are a major source of support for the Catholic Church in the region, “but most of all they are the exclusive source of income for thousands of families, especially Christians,” who work in the tourist industry, Father Patton said. Because of the COVID-19 lockdown, Pope Francis transferred the date of the Good Friday collection for the Holy Land to Sept. 13, the eve of the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Speaking to L’Osservatore Romano Sept. 8, Father Patton said he knows Catholics around the world are struggling financially because of the pandemic, but all Christians have a connection to the land where Jesus was born, lived, died and rose from the dead.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

40 Days for Life peaceful protest begins Sept. 23

BRYAN, Texas — The global pro-life organization 40 Days for Life will launch a record-breaking fall campaign starting Sept. 23, collaborating with 588 cities around the world to hold peaceful prayer vigils outside abortion clinics. The number of participating cities has increased since the COVID-19 pandemic and widespread civil unrest began this year, up from 516 in March.

"I am thrilled and humbled to see the upsurge of communities who want to devote their time and prayer to campaigning for the rights of the unborn amid all the uncertainty and insecurity of this year," said Shawn Carney, 40 Days president. "I believe the events of 2020 have shown the need to accelerate the fight for life and use our time wisely to be a voice for the voiceless, especially in light of the upcoming election."

Since its formation in 2007, 40 Days has helped saved 17,226 lives, contributed to the closing of 107 abortion clinics and helped 206 workers leave the abortion industry, all by holding community-led peaceful prayer vigils 24 hours a day, seven days a week, outside local abortion clinics. Cities around the world can join on-the-ground 40 Days efforts through the biannual spring and fall campaigns and can support the fight for life year-round through prayer and giving.

Although abortions no longer take place in Fort Wayne, advocates for unborn babies everywhere are invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood, 2930 Lake Ave. An opening Mass will also be celebrated Wednesday, Sept. 23, by Father Daniel Whelan at Our Lady of Good Hope Church, with adoration at 5:15 p.m. Benediction will follow right before Mass, at 6:30 p.m.

To participate in the Planned Parenthood vigil, or with questions, contact Annemarie DeVille at 260-797-3144 or annemarie-deville@gmail.com.

The national campaign will continue through Nov. 1. To learn more, visit <https://www.40daysforlife.com/>.

American Heart Association awards grants to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School

FORT WAYNE — The American Heart Association, the world's leading nonprofit organization focused on heart and brain health for all, has awarded grants to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, Fort Wayne, to implement health and wellness activities. Only two other schools in Indiana received awards as well, Brentwood School in Plainfield and Sugar Grove School in Greenwood.

These grants continue the American Heart Association's

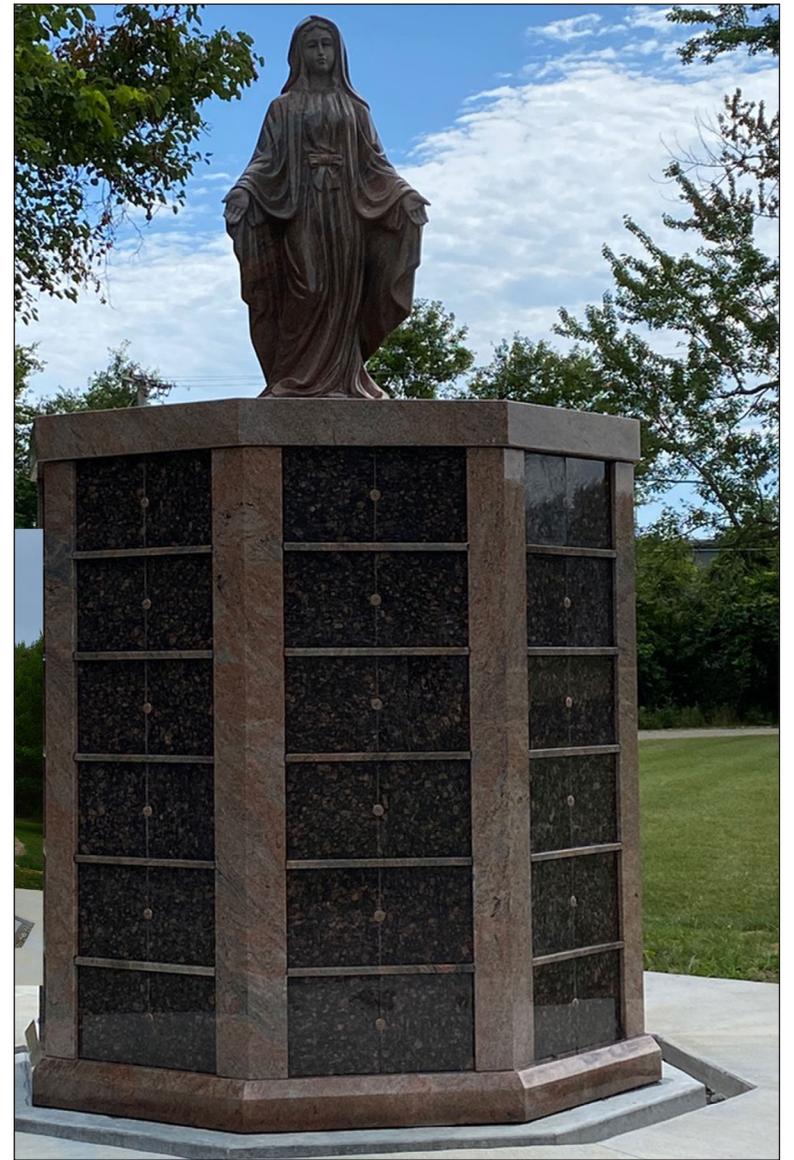
commitment to help educators make whole-body wellness a priority. Michelle Stroncsek, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton physical education kindergarten through eighth grade teacher, applied for the grant hoping to buy outdoor physical education equipment. She will now be able to purchase the "9 Square in the Air" game and an outdoor pull-up bar.

Each year, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School participates in the Kids Heart Challenge. The students raise money for the American Heart Association, participate in physical activities such as jump roping and Hoops for Heart at school, and at the end the school has a fun assembly. Kids Heart Challenge and America Heart Challenge grants allow schools to target whole-body wellness in support of physical and emotional health.

Besides all the physical activity in physical education classes, part of the science curriculum involves teaching the seventh graders CPR. The students each receive a certification.

Anyone wishing to donate to the physical education program at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School can contact Sarah Shively, development director, at sshively@seascsfw.org or 260-432-4001.

Columbarium dedicated



Provided by Joy Olry

St. John the Baptist Church, New Haven, recently received a columbarium from an anonymous donor. A dedication ceremony took place Sunday, Aug. 16, at 3 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Catholic Cemetery, New Haven. The columbarium is dedicated to the generations of families interred there, whose earliest members immigrated from Germany and joined the young parish after it organized in 1859.

Chapel placed under patronage of St. Teresa of Calcutta



Provided by Father Brian Ching

The first chapel in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to be dedicated to St. Teresa of Calcutta was blessed Sept. 6 at the University of Notre Dame. During the Mass with blessing and dedication of an altar Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades prayed that all residents of Johnson Family Hall would draw closer to Christ, "inspired by the extraordinary life of mercy and love of Mother Teresa" — and learn, as she did, "at the school of the Eucharist." Following the blessing and dedication, current residents and the bishop gathered in front the chapel.

Bishop Rhoades, Vincentians and friends to walk for the poor

BY JODI MARLIN

A single mother landed a job and moved from a shelter for the homeless into her own apartment. A positive step toward independence and financial stability.

Until her first paycheck, though, she was going to need a little help with food and household furnishings. She found the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but a volunteer took her information anyway, and by the next day food and clothes had been delivered. Dedicated St. Vincent de Paul Society volunteers were also shopping for the materials needed to build her sons two sets of bunk beds.

"To alleviate poverty by offering hope as well as help to all through the guidance of the Holy

Spirit": that's the mission of an expansive network of services for the poor provided by the 23 parish-based conferences of the Fort Wayne Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Food, clothing, home furnishings, utilities assistance and more — nothing necessary for Northeast Indiana individuals and families to thrive is beyond the organization's consideration.

The ability of the society to act in ways that lift families out of poverty is largely dependent on volunteers and donations. Both, organizers hope, will come together Sept. 27 in what stands to become the society's largest annual fundraising event: The fourth annual Friends of the Poor Walk/Run at Parkview Field, Fort Wayne.

This year, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will join the throng of walkers who gather at the downtown Fort Wayne baseball sta-

dium and head out on a 3-mile walk through the local neighborhood.

Each Friends of the Poor Walk/Run participant will pay a \$25 entry fee and can also be sponsored by an unlimited number of people interested in aiding the mission of the St. Vincent de Paul Society through their effort.

The walk begins at 2 p.m., with on-site registration and check-in beginning at 1 p.m. Many walkers are already registered online, however. To join Bishop Rhoades as a walker, visit <https://www.fopwalk.org/event/2493>. To sponsor him, visit <https://www.fopwalk.org/walker/54804>.

Stories like the single mother's happen every day at the Fort Wayne Society of St. Vincent de Paul, said Executive Director Lara Schreck. The society's parish chapters extend from Fort Wayne north and south, and as far west as Syracuse. Every day, those in need seek out their generous time and services, which include but are never limited to food pantries, financial assistance, minor home repairs, furniture construction or acquisition, clothing, transportation to appointments, nursing home visits, funeral home visitation and Christmas help for families.

Because the Christ-inspired work of over 500 St. Vincent de Paul Society volunteers is free, the agency has little overhead. Nearly all of the funds collected from the Friends of the Poor Walk/Run go directly to food, clothing and other resources for those in need, whether Catholic or not, in Northeast Indiana communities. Last year, more than 20,000 people sought assistance of one kind or another



A mission moment

FORT WAYNE — A young woman named Brittany came into the St. Vincent de Paul

Thrift Store one morning and her eyes sparkled with joy. She rushed up to the front-end store manager and excitedly shared that she has been sober

for six and a half months. She was

just released from house arrest and had obtained a new job as a prep cook at a local restaurant. For the first time, she was actually able to purchase the items she needed from the Thrift Store. She said she felt like her life was finally turning around for the first time in a long time, and she wanted to share that happiness with the staff members right away.

Brittany has received help through the SVDP Society Voucher Program on a consistent basis over the past two years, getting the clothing, household goods and furniture items she needed free of charge. She always looked forward to coming back to the thrift store, she said, not just to receive these essential items, but also to receive emotional and spiritual support from staff members, especially Jealean. Brittany shared, "When everything else in my life was falling apart, I felt like the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store was the only place where people still cared about me." Jealean would set aside special items for Brittany in anticipation of her next visit, like inspirational stories and spiritual readings. She spent time listening to Brittany's experiences and prayed for her well-being on a regular basis. Jealean kept telling Brittany, "Keep your head up. Things will get better!" The kindness and compassion Brittany received at the Thrift Store gave her the strength to battle her addictions and feel hopeful again.

The St. Vincent de Paul Voucher Program provides so much more than free household items. Yes, it helps brothers and sisters in Christ survive their immediate crisis situations, but it also brings hope in the midst of the darkness through the grace of God, with the caring support of dedicated staff members and volunteers.

through St. Vincent de Paul Society programs and conferences.

Best of all, perhaps, is that the walk is a way generous donors can take care of those suffering economic hardship because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Walkers themselves will be provided with hand sanitizer and will enjoy the greater safety of being outdoors. Social distancing and mask wearing will still be encouraged. Virtual walks or runs are encouraged as well for individuals or conferences that cannot attend the one at Parkview Field.



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<p>FORT WAYNE Sept. 20 10 a.m. Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception</p>	<p>SOUTH BEND Oct. 11 2 p.m. St. Matthew Cathedral</p>
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Register: diocesefwsb.org/Anniversary-Masses
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Provided by Joni Lazoff

St. Mary of the Assumption fourth graders pose with Sister Theresa Renninger last year after performing a play. The former principal of the Avilla school is celebrating her 70th jubilee this year. Even though she has been retired for 12 years, Sister Theresa's presence at the school remains a daily one: She volunteers in the library, as a kindergarten aide and as a tutor.

Avilla school is home for former teacher and principal

BY JODI MARLIN

Sister Theresa Renninger has a response to the myriad and often dramatic complaints of childhood. Three generations of St. Mary of the Assumption School students can recite her advice by heart: "Offer it up."

It's not that she's indifferent to their situations. In fact, she's known for her mercy and forgiveness; but the 88-year-old nun also has extensive experience navigating the vagrancies of childhood. Blessedly, families of the Avilla school say, she also has an abundance of grace when it comes to growing young hearts, minds and bodies.

It now seems like a different age when young Theresa played with her siblings on the family farm in Hoagland. They had plenty of fun, but they also learned to work hard.

Prayer was part of their routine, including a rosary every night and prayers before and after meals.

The Catholic family sent their children to St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel School. Fellow students on the school bus called attention to the family, she recalled.

"I remember, on the first day as the bus pulled up, they counted us out loud, out the window: One, two, three, four, five, six, seven." Even with the two youngest children at home at the time, the size of the Renninger family was notable to some. Sister Theresa had 12 brothers and sisters in all. Most families, even Catholic ones, are smaller now, she acknowledged.

From her earliest recollection

she was drawn to the religious life, and at 18 years of age entered the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart order. The motherhouse was originally located in Avilla, and the sisters founded St. Mary of the Assumption School.

At the time, the charisms of the order were nursing and teaching. Sister Theresa's love of children drew her to the latter. For 10 years she and several of her religious sisters taught at St. Mary school and assisted with religious education at the parish. Sister Theresa's ministry then took her to Illinois, Schererville and to St. Charles Borromeo School in Fort Wayne, where she served first as a teacher and then for 13 years as principal.

In 1985 — "forever ago," she said — she returned to St. Mary as its principal. By that time, the old school building was gone. A new one stood nearby. But most of the same Catholic families were still around and seeing them and their children made it feel like home, she said.

During her tenure, St. Mary of the Assumption expanded its footprint and added a sixth, seventh and eighth grade. In addition to administrative duties, Sister Theresa taught a math and religion class as well and mentored other new principals.

Part of Sister Theresa's ongoing mission at the school lies in her calling to maintain its Catholic identity. Several of her efforts are particularly visible and enduring, including students' annual recitation of the Christmas story from the Gospel of St. Luke; and the burying of an Alleluia banner as Lent begins, as well as its resurrection

afterward. Friday silent lunches during the same liturgical season were another inspiration.

Her dedication to service has long been inspiring to those who know Sister Theresa. Although she'll not say so, it has also earned her broad recognition. Several teacher of the year and administrator of the year awards have her name on them, and in 2014 she was honored with Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly's Lifetime Achievement award.

Among the hires she made before retiring from administration at St. Mary of the Assumption School in 1999 was Patti Benedict, previously a school volunteer. Now library director, Benedict is pleased to have Sister Theresa available to help her check out students' books, restock shelves and, during the summer, wash the covers of every single book in the library — a gesture Sister Theresa initiated.

"I would rather them get dirty because kids use them than have them get dusty because they're not used," she explained.

It's just incredible. She's a real go-getter," said Benedict.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic struck, Sister Theresa was also a kindergarten assistant and tutored any St. Mary student who might be in need of a little extra help. "She has a knack for spotting the struggling student," Benedict noted.

"St. Mary's is my home, it's like my family, it's a place I enjoy coming to work," Sister Theresa admitted. "I could stay home and do nothing, but I'm not really the type. That's not me. And I love what I'm doing. I



Jodi Marlin

Sister Theresa goes over plans with librarian Patti Benedict at St. Mary of the Assumption School in Avilla Aug. 26.

the children."

Back surgery in 2018 slowed the nun's gait just a little. But her walker fits in the trunk of her car, where she puts it every morning for a short drive from the convent at Presence Sacred Heart Home — also a place at which she ministers — to the school, where she takes it out and gets to work. The process reverses itself at lunch and is repeated every afternoon during the school week.

"She's just an inspiration. She has such perseverance," said Benedict. "It's not really what she says. It's her presence."

Sister Theresa was the sixth grade teacher of Joni Lazoff, St.

Mary school secretary. "She also was my father's teacher, and now she has volunteered in the classrooms of both of my daughters."

Lazoff herself remembers, as a young student, Sister Theresa's work ethic — as well as hearing the familiar phrase, "Offer it up," when students lacked the motivation or desire to get the necessary work finished.

"She has been a pillar at St. Mary for generations and a true representation of what St. Mary of the Assumption School stands for: a call to service. In my mind, when I think of St. Mary school, Sister Theresa automatically enters my thoughts."

Young cancer patient rallies faith of parishes, community

BY JENNIFER BARTON

The shield and cross tattoo on Joe Schmaltz's right forearm bears words that could be the Schmaltz family motto – "By the grace of God." Only by God's grace could Joe and his wife, April, have found the strength to stand alongside their son Wyatt as he battled cancer four times in his young life.

Wyatt lost that battle on July 24. But before he died, the 9-year-old won the hearts of an entire city.

Wyatt was only 3 when he was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer called neuroblastoma, which is less responsive to treatment than other types of cancer. According to Joe, the diagnosing physicians told them the survival rate is very low for a child who goes through one case of it. Wyatt not only went through it once, he relapsed three times in six years. He beat it three times before succumbing to the fourth bout.

"He had a total of 67 rounds of radiation in those six years. Countless chemotherapies," his mother related.

Wyatt didn't let the cancer get him down. He loved the same things other young boys love: superheroes, particularly Spider-Man; dinosaurs; and watching cartoons on TV. When he was not at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis for treatment, he attended Horace Mann Elementary School in Huntington.

For Wyatt, cancer "was a secondary thing, it didn't govern his life," Joe said. "And it didn't with us, either, because we didn't focus on it like it was a life-threatening thing, but like it was an obstacle to overcome." Wyatt wanted to focus on the future and enjoy each day.

"Wyatt was a prankster, but very caring. He had the biggest heart," April said. The stories of his kindness during his short

time on earth abound. "Even the doctors said they would be telling stories about him for years."

The Schmaltzes are parishioners at St. Mary in Huntington. Over the years, Wyatt also developed a friendship with Father Tony Steinacker at SS. Peter and Paul, the other Catholic church in the city. Both parishes financially supported the family and their seemingly endless medical bills. They helped with funeral costs through a GoFundMe page.

Without this assistance, the family would have suffered tremendous financial hardship. Joe works at the General Motors plant in Fort Wayne, which endured two extended shutdowns in the last year – combined with his need for additional long leaves of absence to care for Wyatt.

Wyatt united more than the Catholic community. Though he was too young to attend Camp Hero, a yearly program founded by the Huntington County Sheriff's Office to foster relationships between children and first responders, he was made an honorary attendee at age 3. Current and previous sheriffs Chris Newton and Terry Stoffel made this possible. Stoffel, hearing that Wyatt would not be able to attend the graduation since he was at Riley, drove to Indianapolis and deputized him in his hospital bed. The sheriff's department uniform that Wyatt treasured and in which he was laid to rest in was Newton's, tailored down to fit Wyatt's small frame.

Newton became deeply involved in Wyatt's life, so April and Joe were surprised when they did not see him at the funeral home after their son's death. But about an hour before the funeral Mass began, April was told the sheriff's department had arrived.

"Every sheriff, every city police officer, every EMT, first responder — everybody from Huntington was there," Joe said.



Provided by April Schmalz

Wyatt Schmalz, front left, rallied the Huntington parishes of St. Mary and SS. Peter and Paul around their Catholic faith as he fought cancer several times. He succumbed to the disease last month, a year after this photo of his family was taken during a trip to the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. Next to Wyatt is his brother, Caden; in the back row are parents April and Joe and son Deacon.

"They processed through and every one of them shook our hands and told us they were there for us."

Mayor Richard Strick, who also attended the funeral, officially declared that day, July 30, to be forevermore known as Wyatt Day in Huntington. Newton gave part of the eulogy; Father Steinacker gave the rest. Joe stated that in all his years as an altar server, he had never seen a priest break down during a funeral until that moment. They also found out later that the only way Newton had been able to maintain his composure throughout the funeral was with great effort and by not looking directly at the family. Many nurses from Riley also attended to grieve the loss of their beloved patient.

In many ways, Wyatt was exceptionally wise for a child his age. He never regarded his illness as a cause for lamentation, and he believed strongly in the presence of God working all around him. April recounted, "Wyatt was always adamant

that Jesus is all around us ... that everyone's related. He told everyone that He's real."

Before his passing, Wyatt often thanked his parents for taking such good care of him and constantly apologized for needing so much care. Both parents firmly believe Wyatt is in heaven now, and they take comfort in knowing that he had received his sacraments, including the anointing of the sick. Joe and April also believe it was through divine intervention that Joe had called in sick to work the night Wyatt passed and they were able to hold him during his last moments on earth.

April admitted that dealing with the loss has been difficult. She has often questioned why God allowed her son to get cancer. Father Steinacker, who came to their house the evening Wyatt passed, comforted them.

"He was good at saying that it's OK to question, it's OK to falter at this time because that's what you're supposed to do. ... It's one of the steps of grieving," April said.



WYATT SCHMALTZ

As ironic as it may seem, Joe believes that dealing with cancer at such a young age formed Wyatt into the caring, sensitive person he was. "I think because of the fact that he had to deal with something like this when he was so young, it was an opportunity to him; either he was going to lie there and suffer or he was going to rise above it. And he did. So far above it."

By the grace of God, the couple's relationship has grown rather than suffered from the trials they have undergone. "A lot of parents going through this, it tears them apart, it ruins them. But I think we're stronger for having been through it," Joe confided.

Joe and April may be battered, but they are still standing together, moving forward as best they can. They even went on the vacation to Dinosaur World they had planned for Wyatt, taking along his giant Riley hospital bear in tribute to their son.

April feels she gets signs from Wyatt, such as when the wind chime decorated with Spider-Man stickers rings. It's the only one in their yard that makes noise.

"It's things that help, you know ... help you to understand that he's comfortable where he's at."

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Financial support of seminarians a priority for Knights

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Humility, Mother Teresa said, is “the mother of all virtues.” While the Knights of Columbus councils in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend have much to boast of in their efforts to financially support diocesan seminarians, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades spoke of the humility that lies at the heart of their charity at the yearly meeting of the Knights of Columbus Leadership Team Sept. 2 at St. Peter Parish in Fort Wayne.

Bishop Rhoades meets with the Knights yearly, said Mark Michuda, state faith director in Indiana and member of the St. Aloysius council. Roughly 20 councils were represented Sept. 2, many from communities outside Fort Wayne, such as Avilla, Arcola and Decatur.

The evening began with vespers in the Gothic church, which included a reading from 1 Peter 5 advising the faithful to “clothe yourselves with humility.” The meeting then transitioned to a casual setting at the parish hall.

Local Knights of Columbus councils have been instrumental in helping defray the rising costs of seminarians’ education. With an increasing number of young men discerning priesthood, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend could see as many as 20 new priests ordained within the next few years. Bishop Rhoades stated that though their edu-



Photos by Jennifer Barton

Above: At the yearly Leadership Team meeting on Sept. 2, Mark Michuda, state faith director for the Knights of Columbus, presents a San Damiano cross to Kevin Workman, grand knight of the newly formed council at St. Peter Parish in Fort Wayne.



cation is a large expense, he doesn’t want it to discourage men from responding to a call to the priesthood.

He also applauded the Knights’ supporting the former Franciscan friars in Fort Wayne with their educational needs. Since 2011, the Knights have raised over \$180,000 for this purpose. Though the community recently decided to disband, Bishop Rhoades assured the Knights that their efforts were admirable and certainly not fruitless. Three of the former brothers are now in formation to become priests of the diocese.

Humility allows a Christian to gain a greater love for God and others, which is what the Knights strive to do, and the good work they accomplish in the diocese has been recognized by the national organization. Bishop Rhoades noted that 16 councils in Indiana were recently awarded the organization’s Star Council Award for charitable donations, insurance and growth in membership. Of those 16 councils, he was proud to announce that 11 were in this diocese.

At the end of the evening, several councils presented Bishop Rhoades with checks to assist in the educational needs of future priests. One of these award-winning councils was Corpus Christi 7839 from Kendallville, represented by Grand Knight Jeff Nosek, the youngest member to hold that title for his council.

“I love doing it,” he said. For

Nosek, “it’s just jaw-dropping and humbling” to witness a small council like Corpus Christi raise money to further the mission of the Church.

Hosting the meeting at St. Peter Parish was an interesting choice by the Knights, as the parish, over its 120-year history, never had its own Knights of Columbus council until this year. During the meeting, Michuda presented the newly formed council’s grand knight, Kevin Workman, with a San Damiano cross blessed by Bishop Rhoades. Other councils received the cross last year.

St. Peter council member Fred Sturm stated that former pastor Father Tyrell Alles, OSB, was enthusiastic about the creation of the new council and fully supported the Knights. Father Alles himself earned the rank of fourth-degree Knight before returning to his home in Sri Lanka earlier this year.

Father Patrick Hake, the new pastor at St. Peter, has already attended two of the new council’s meetings.

“As a young pastor, it brings me great joy and great eagerness to see a group of men that are dedicated to serving the Church. They are going to be a powerful group for me to tap into to help St. Peter’s continue the work of Christ in our city.”

Alpha series – conversations that lead to Christ

BY KATIE MURRAY

Sometimes people struggle with life and the things they have going on around them. Being able to have an open conversation with others, asking and answering questions about everyday life and its meaning, can be fulfilling and strengthen one’s bond with Christ.

The Alpha course is an evangelical series that introduces the basics of the Christian faith through discussion. Topics range from who Jesus is and how to have faith to why we exist, to name a few. It’s a way to create conversation among people of different backgrounds centered around faith. Gatherings are made up of small groups of people meeting in a comfortable setting such as cafés, parishes or homes. Some things in common among the groups are lots of food and conversation.

In the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese Lisa Everett, director for the Marriage and Family Ministry, leads a small Alpha group that is now online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The most important part of the

course used to be physically being around others and having a face-to-face conversation, so going to online is a different kind of experience.

“I hesitated about taking Alpha online because the meal component is awesome and allows for a lot of fellowship. We have hosted several Alphas in our home and I enjoy cooking for everyone. But it turns out that hosting Alpha online actually “lowers the bar” for people to participate, because they don’t have to go anywhere, they don’t have to get child care, and if they feel that Alpha is not for them, they just have to press a button to exit,” said Everett.

There has been additional positivity to come from the virtual setting. “There also seems to be something about being in the comfort and privacy of one’s own home that actually allows people to be more vulnerable with each other more quickly,” Everett went on to say. “And the uncertainty created by the pandemic has many people thinking about the ‘big questions,’ about the meaning of life, more intentionally now.”

The pandemic has also cre-

ated more time for some, due to the restrictions that are in place. Everett also suggested that “experiencing the many areas of life which might be seen as a moment of grace invites all of us to go deeper in our personal relationship with Christ. Alpha provides a wonderful opportunity to do so.”

The course has been enlightening for those attending, allowing them to look deeper within themselves and grow in their faith. Casey Ryan, adult education director for St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne, said “I support the Alpha program because it has the potential to engage the attendee in such a deep way that they will desire a relationship with Jesus. It’s a great tool to open the participant’s eyes to the relational aspect of the Catholic faith.”

Monica Sikorski, South Bend Alpha participant and assistant for the fall 2019 series, said, “Alpha articulates the Christian message in an attractive and vigorous way. Even as a cradle Christian, by participating in Alpha I found myself re-convinced and fascinated by the Gospel — the best news I could

receive.”

The 10-week course is open to people from all walks of life. The commonality of the group is that participants want to deepen their understanding of faith, whether they have been Catholic all of

their lives or are thinking of converting to Catholicism.

To join the series, contact a local parish to find a group or visit www.diocesefwsb.org/alpha.

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Rob Lisenko
Alpha Participant, South Bend

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Confusion and conflict on abortion

We know what major opinion polls tell us about abortion. Americans are about evenly divided in being “pro-life” or “pro-choice.” Many think it’s wrong but should be a woman’s choice. Many say they support the Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision but support limits on abortion that this decision makes impossible.

If that sounds odd to you, join the club. Confusing and contradictory responses have emerged from national abortion surveys for decades, without much effort to determine why this is so. Seeking to fill this gap are sociologist Tricia C. Bruce and her colleagues partnering with the University of Notre Dame’s McGrath Institute for Church Life.

They conducted in-depth interviews, about 75 minutes long, with 217 people from six states, chosen to represent the diversity of the American people. From the resulting 60-page report, “How Americans Understand Abortion,” illustrated with many quotes from those surveyed, I can only mention some highlights.

First, most respondents couldn’t recall having a serious conversation on this issue, and many seemed grateful for the opportunity to talk about it freely. Fierce public debate on abortion has made people afraid to talk about it in private for fear of offending others or ending friendships. Much of their information comes from social media, which also can spread more heat than light.

Second, many Americans feel homeless in this debate. “Moral ambivalence about abortion ... is more widespread than what a survey question captures. ... Morally permissive interviewees put limits on their openness; morally opposed Americans make room for exceptions.”

Someone who claims that all abortions should be legal may not mean late-term abortions, and a supporter of making all abortions illegal may not mean cases where a mother’s life is at risk or the pregnancy resulted from rape.

Third, there can be a gap between moral and legal views. We are familiar with the claim that one can oppose abortion morally but take a “pro-choice” legal position. But the opposite can also be true. Some think there are rare individual cases when abortion could be morally defensible, but would not want to write those into law because they could easily be abused.

Fourth, people are as concerned about the situation before and after an abortion as about the abortion itself. Some are as concerned about a “good life” for mother and child if the abortion does not take place as they are about “life” itself.

While our moral teaching rightly rejects the taking of innocent human life as always objectively wrong, most Americans lean toward what might be called situation ethics. The pressures faced by women and the alternatives we can offer need to be part of the conversation.

Fifth, the labels “pro-life” and “pro-choice” are seen as polar-



A MORE HUMAN SOCIETY

RICHARD DOERFLINGER

izing, with most respondents not entirely comfortable in either category. And caricatures abound. For example, pro-choice respondents tend to see pro-lifers as hypocrites who are “pro-birth” but unwilling to help a woman and child afterward; some respondents hesitate to identify as “pro-life” for fear of being seen that way.

Sixth, none of these 217 people see abortion as a desirable good. “Americans do not uphold abortion as a happy event, or something they want more of.” This is encouraging to me, because that view of abortion as a positive good, an essential part of health care to be publicly funded and promoted, is exactly what pro-abortion groups and their political allies now insist upon.

This survey underscores the need for a more informed, more sympathetic, less stereotyped conversation about abortion with family, friends and neighbors. In the process, we may even understand more deeply our own convictions.

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.

Can we disagree less disagreeably?

St. Paul was no shrinking violet when it came to arguing his position. Yet in the Letter to the Ephesians, he urges his readers to “to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace.” (Eph 4:1-3)

These days, “bearing with one another through love” is not our strong suit. We Catholics have a tendency to disagree in a disagreeable way. I suppose it is a mark of progress that we are no longer burning people alive in Campo de’ Fiori, but for folks who have been torched on social media, the heat may be quite similar.

A pastor recently recounted to me his shock when a “sweet older lady” in his parish asked him after Mass if Pope Francis was an idol worshipper. That used to be the kind of silly libel one heard only from Jack Chick and other purveyors of anti-Catholic bigotry. Now it is the kind of absurdity more commonly found in the fetid corners of the Catholic internet.

The snark and the belittling are bad enough, but social media are aflame with all manner of allegations of great deceptions and greater conspiracies among one’s opponents. And the cancel culture mentality that demands not just an apology but a head on a pike thrives on both sides of our polarized divide. From the



AMID THE FRAY

GREG ERLANDSON

halls of academe to the Facebook account of a self-appointed scourge, our Church seems to be rending itself into angry factions.

Some people feel that all this Sturm und Drang is just a tempest in a Twitter post, but there are two reasons to be concerned. The first is a growing worry that our anger and our divisions are becoming disincentives to evangelization.

One doesn’t sign up to sail on a leaky barque of Peter, especially when its own crew is punching holes in it. More worrisome still is when the conversion may not be to the message of the Gospel, but to a faction upon whose interpretation of that message one’s faith rests.

The second reason is that recent events are sending more and more Catholics to social media, with unforeseen ramifications. As traditional Catholic media slowly disappear, particularly at the diocesan level, Catholics who care are being driven to social media and the internet to find information and get answers.

ERLANDSON, page 13

Bear witness to God’s love by loving, and forgiving, others



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 18:21-35

The Book of Sirach is the source of this weekend’s first biblical reading. Sirach’s author was Joshua, the son of Sirach. He should not be confused with Joshua, active centuries earlier as a disciple of Moses and leader of the Hebrews as they passed into the Promised Land.

Some versions of the Bible omit Sirach because it was not written in Jerusalem or in Hebrew, considered by some biblical scholars as requirements for authentic sacred Scripture. The Church, millennia ago, declared that Sirach is genuine, setting

aside the arguments that site and language are vital in judging the status of a holy writing.

Sirach wished to teach values to his students, drawn from Jewish tradition and belief. The need is easy to imagine. Bright lights and easy living lured the young even then.

Composed less than 200 years before Christ, Sirach very much had the bright lights and easy living of his day in mind. The intellectual environment all around him was powerful, affecting even pious Jews. It was filled with elevating human logic, an attitude taken from the Greeks whose military exploits had overwhelmed much of Asia Minor, including the Holy Land.

The reading frankly calls upon its audience to forgive the faults of others, and to trust in the merciful God, come what may, a position not exactly consistent with the way many people thought. Wrath and anger are hateful things, the reading insists. No one surrendering to these faults is true to God.

St. Paul’s Epistle to the Romans provides the second

reading. Probably the great majority of Christian Romans, to whom this epistle first was written, were less privileged. They were tempted to look longingly at the rich and aristocratic, assuming that because of these advantages the “fortunate” controlled their own destinies. Instead, Paul demanded, God controls the lives of all. He protects the just.

In the last reading, from St. Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus answers the question of how often, and to what extent, must disciples forgive wrongs done to them.

People then hurt each other as much as they do today. They, as we, owe debts, material or otherwise, to others. They, and we, yearn. They, as we, suffer when injured. They, and we, despair.

How should we react to hurts? The Lord answers that disciples must forgive not “seven” times, but “seventy times seven.” The number meant completely, absolutely and totally.

True Christian forgiveness must in all things resemble God. Anyone insincere or pragmatic, stingy with

forgiveness, is not of God.

Christian forgiveness reflects the essence of the redemption. In Christ, we sinners are forgiven. This divine mercy displays the reality that “God is love,” and that in living by God’s standards, we should live eternally.

Reflection

The Church, in these weeks on the doorstep of fall, calls us to be good disciples; but it takes no one down a primrose path. St. Paul’s Epistle to the Romans, source of the second reading, reminds us also of who we are. We are humans. All of us must cope with human imperfections, injuries, angers and misunderstandings. It is hard.

God created us. God invites us to eternal life. God loves us. God’s will to forgive us never ends nor even pauses. He rescues us from the entrapment of human slights and disappointments.

We may choose to seek forgiveness, or not. It is our privilege as humans. We are free.

It also shows our foolhardiness and denseness at times.

While Matthew’s Gospel comforts us with promises of God’s mercy, it bluntly also calls us to discipleship. As disciples, we must bear witness to God’s love by loving others. This well may be difficult, almost superhuman on occasion.

In a phrase, however, we must follow Jesus. He loved us, even to dying on the cross.

READINGS

Sunday: Sir 27:30—28:7 Ps 103:1-4, 9-12 Rom 14:7-9 Mt 18:21-35

Monday: Nm 21:4b-9 Ps 78:1b-2, 34-38 Phil 2:6-11 Jn 3:13-17

Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a Ps 100:1b-5 Jn 19:25-27

Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31—13:13 Ps 33:2-5, 12, 22 Lk 7:31-35

Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11 Ps 118:1b-2, 16-17, 28 Lk 7:36-50

Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20 JPs 17:1b-d, 6-7, 8b, 15 Lk 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49 Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14 Lk 8:4-15

On being a fool for Christ

In the first reading from Thursday of the 22nd week of the year, St. Paul writes:

"Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a 'fool' so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: 'He catches the wise in their craftiness' and again, 'The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.' So then, no more boasting about men!" (1 Cor 3:18-21)

Ah, to be a fool for Christ! Now that is a wise thing indeed. But it is so daring and frightening that few even among priests and religious get there. To be a fool for Christ is to be mocked, scorned and hated by this world, to be the butt of jokes, to be held in derision. How many of any of us are willing to accept this? We have such a powerful instinct to fit in, be liked, be approved by men. The martyrs of the early Church accepted death for proclaiming and living Christ but we can barely endure a raised eyebrow! Maybe it is ambition that keeps us from the goal. Maybe it is an overly developed wish to live in peace with the world. Maybe it is fear or maybe it is just plain laziness. But few of us Christians can bear the notion of really being thought a fool by this world and so we desperately strive to fit in.

If you evangelize or really seek to live the Gospel, expect to get it with both barrels. Expect to be scorned, rebuffed and ignored. Expect your children

and grandchildren to roll their eyes and say, "There you go again!" Expect a fallen-away member of the family to ridicule you and recite your own past sins. Evangelizing and living in countercultural ways is hard. Sometimes the fruits seem lacking despite repeated attempts. And it is often our own family members that grieve us the most.

But all of this is just fine. We have to remember that in spite of negative reactions we haven't done anything wrong. We often think, probably from childhood, that when someone is angry at us we have done something wrong. Not necessarily. Sometimes it means we have done something right. A doctor often causes pain and discomfort in order to bring healing and so it is that the Word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword. Sometimes people are angry and "hurt" because we have done something precisely right. The protest of pain often precedes the healing that follows.

But in the end, the biggest obstacle to evangelization is our fragile ego. We are often so afraid to incite a negative reaction, to incur another's wrath or even worse, ridicule. Perhaps we will be asked a question we cannot answer or the other person will "outmaneuver" us with Bible quotes and "win" the argument. Perhaps a fallen-away family member will succeed in embarrassing us about our past sins. Perhaps it is just too painful to be told "no" again by a



COMMUNITY
IN
MISSION

MSGR. CHARLES POPE

spouse or child who refuses to go to Church. Perhaps we will end up feeling like a fool.

And there it is, that word again: fool! Are you and I willing to be made a fool for Christ's sake? Are we willing to risk ridicule and failure in order to announce Jesus Christ? The world has gone mad and the Gospel is "out of season." More than ever the Lord needs a few fools to risk ridicule and hatred to proclaim His Gospel to a hostile world that often thinks it is a foolish doctrine that is hopelessly out of touch.

It is said that among some of the monks of the Orthodox Church it is common to place upon their tombstone the phrase: "Fool for Christ" Not bad. I pray that I will increasingly live a life worthy of the title. And if I do, kindly grant me the favor of inscribing on my tombstone: "Fool for Christ."

Msgr. Charles Pope is the pastor of Holy Comforter - St. Cyprian Catholic Church, Washington,

while "bearing with one another through love."

Dialing down the Twittersphere's rage is probably a fool's errand, but it would be nice if we who profess the "unity of love through the bond of peace" acted as if we believed it.

Greg Erlandson, director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service, can be reached at gerlandson@catholicnews.com.

ERLANDSON, from page 12

Yet studies suggest users of social media are less likely to be well-informed about current events. A recent Pew study also suggested that social media users were more likely to be aware of unproven claims and conspiracy theories involving the current coronavirus pandemic.

Should we be concerned that the same may hold true for the Catholic audience as well? Exhibit A: The sweet older lady who thinks the pope worships idols. While many good

Catholic resources do exist on the internet, driving Catholics to find their information there may mean the Church is no longer telling its own story in this Wild West of information and misinformation. And lots of charlatans are profiting from this confusion.

Perhaps, "to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received," what we need are models of Christian debate that are both civil and serious. Whether between Church leaders or between amateur canonists and theologians, we need examples of earnest disagreement



Saints of the week

Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

Feast September 29

These archangels, messengers sent by God, are the only ones named in the Bible. In the Book of Daniel, Michael is called "the great prince"; in the Letter of Jude, he argues with the devil over Moses' body; and in the Book of Revelation, he leads the battle against Satan. He is patron of the sick, radiologists and mariners. Gabriel explains Daniel's visions to him in the Book of Daniel, and in the Gospel of Luke announces to Zechariah and Mary the births of their respective sons. He is the patron of messengers and telecommunications and postal workers. Raphael guides Tobiah in the Book of Tobit; he is patron of the blind, physicians and travelers. The Church created their joint feast after the Second Vatican Council.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for September 13, 2020

Matthew 18: 21-35

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: about true forgiveness. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

PETER	HOW OFTEN	SEVEN TIMES
SEVENTY (seven)	KING	WHO OWED
ORDERED	TO BE SOLD	WIFE
PAY YOU	FORGAVE	YOU OWE
REFUSED	PRISON	THE DEBT
SUMMONED	WICKED	IN ANGER
FATHER	BROTHER	HEART

PAYMENT

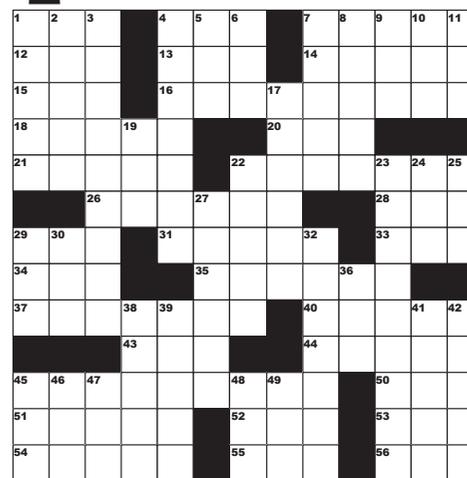
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H O W O F T E N A N A W
S E V E N T I M E S I I
E F A T H E R L W C N F
V B K R I G N I K D A E
E R P E T E R E A E N S
N O H C J O D E Y R G U
T T H E D E B T L E E M
Y H E W W B T E I D R M
X E U O Y Y A P S R J O
F R O U G P R I S O N N
C H F O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

September 6
and 13, 2020



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Readings: Ez 33:7-9/Rom 13:8-10/Mt 18:15-20 AND Sir 27:30-28:7/Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35

ACROSS

- 1 No score
- 4 Library association
- 7 God's anger
- 12 United States
- 13 New York City
- 14 Cowboy show
- 15 Fall behind
- 16 Witnesses give _____
- 18 Thrust into Jesus' side
- 20 Terminal abbr.
- 21 Son of a noble family
- 22 Slim
- 26 Hangnail
- 28 Anger
- 29 Viper
- 31 Wrath
- 33 Saxophone
- 34 Edge
- 35 "Jesus _____"
- 37 Cargo
- 40 Crypt under church
- 43 Two
- 44 Harmonize
- 45 Devout
- 50 Lawyer's test
- 51 Freeway fees
- 52 Had a meal

- 53 Sin
- 54 Askew
- 55 Cardinal's colors
- 56 Deoxyribonucleic acid (abbr.)

DOWN

- 1 Voids
- 2 Jacob's father
- 3 Gratuity
- 4 Insect feeler
- 5 Caustic substance
- 6 American Cancer Society (abbr.)
- 7 Compose
- 8 _____ Catholic church
- 9 Hoopla
- 10 The _____ Commandments
- 11 Way to get attention
- 17 Bank worker
- 19 Sprocket
- 22 Vision
- 23 Shaken
- 24 Time frame
- 25 Latin for "king"
- 27 Heart, _____, cross
- 29 Assisted living facility (acronym)
- 30 Sirach (Abbrev.)
- 32 Contended
- 36 Droop
- 38 Country poem
- 39 Invited person
- 41 What students do
- 42 _____ cotta (clay)
- 45 School group
- 46 Spoil
- 47 Arabic for "champion"
- 48 Remote
- 49 Great Basin native

Answer key can be found on page 15

Fellowship, food and praise at Most Precious Blood

BY KATIE MURRAY

Through the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, many parishes cancelled annual events, such as fish fries during Lent and rummage sales and bake sales over the summer. As activities cautiously begin to resume, Most Precious Blood Parish of Fort Wayne created an innovative gathering to bring everyone back to together.

On Aug. 14, the parish offered its first fish dinner, praise and worship evening. Father Andrew Curry, parish administrator, and long-time parishioner and parish council participant Tim Allen had brainstormed to create an event that would allow the parish community to come back and worship together.

On the blacktop of the church and school parking lot, many parishioners gathered safely in lawn chairs and interacted while social distancing and wearing masks. The goal of the event was to reach inside and outside the parish to bring the whole community together. "We want our parishioners to have a time to get together, but at the same time we wanted to figure out a way to reach out to the community within this area. Anybody was welcome."

It was also well-timed in terms of schools coming back to in-person classes. Parents and students were able to sit near each other and catch up on long-awaited conversations.

It was the first time the parish had put on anything like this, so the evening was a step outside the box for everyone involved.

Monica Aquila, pastoral associate, also helped to put on the event. She thought doing something like this was important, considering the pandemic. "I think we wanted to be sure to be cautious in everything we did because we didn't want to risk anyone getting sick, but I think these are the type of events that help us to maintain our community," she said. Father Curry added that the event provided fellowship, which had not been as upbeat since the pandemic hit.

The first part of the evening began at 4:30 p.m. with a fish dinner that Allen, also the owner of Big Eyed Fish, and his business partner Tony Bryant, supplied with their restaurant's new food truck. In providing the dinner, Allen expressed his passion in bringing everyone back together for worship in a safe way. "We want people to feel safe coming back into the church, and we thought this would be a great opportunity to have some food, music and a worship night." It was important for him to see everyone together again talking and seeing friends and family. Allen and Bryant gave all proceeds to the church as a donation.

Anne Clark attended the event out of support for her parish, saying, "We haven't had too many community functions lately, so it's nice to be able to come out and see everybody." She attends most events of the parish, she said, but this one was especially exciting for her because it was something new. Clark went on to say this new type of gathering was so impor-



Photos by Katie Murray

Members and Father Andrew Curry, on guitar, play during an evening of praise and worship music at Most Precious Blood Parish, Fort Wayne, Aug. 14.

tant to get the community back together. "People are aching to see their faith community. They miss it a lot. So, this is important, and I know everyone here is grateful to those who helped to put this on."

The second part of the evening started at 7:30 p.m., a concert led by Father Curry on guitar. The stage was donated by the University of Saint Francis in support of the gathering. Father Curry said "We wanted to have

everyone together to bring praise to Jesus because many members have not felt comfortable physically coming into the church for worship. We've been televising Mass on our Facebook page, but being able to have everyone together in a safe way brings a more cohesive feeling."

Handouts were provided so attendees could sing along. They sang songs such as "Oh Lord I Need you" and "Because He Lives." Everyone stood up to

sing and give praise to Jesus. Even people who live across the streets of the parish could be seen standing in their front yards enjoying the concert.

Father Curry said it's hoped they can put on more Friday night parish events to continue bringing the faith community together. Follow the parish on Facebook for updates on when and where they will be.



Father Andrew Curry of Most Precious Blood, left, talks with parishioners during an evening of food and fellowship Aug. 14 at the Fort Wayne parish.



After the long pandemic-related quarantine and suspension of public Masses, parishioners were anxious to gather together again.

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.

Online date night for couples

MISHAWAKA — Just Desserts is going virtual. From 8-9:30 p.m. Sept. 12, couples in their 20s and 30s can join in on a free "date night" over Zoom. Valerie Galbraith, LMHC, will give a presentation on attachment theory and how fostering healthy attachments can help deepen a marriage. Following the talk will be an opportunity to participate in a small group discussion with other participants. While unfortunately desserts can't be provided for an online event, some recipes that can be made at home before the date night have been compiled so couples can enjoy an extra something sweet. Register to get the Zoom link and password. Contact Cathy Burke burke@diocesefwsb.org or visit <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=lijkwkrab&oeidk=a07eh84orrs4b1a9812>.

2 p.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral. There will be no reception after either Mass. Contact TheaMarie Burns at 574-234-0687 or tmburns@diocesefwsb.org for information.

Friends of the Poor Walk/Run with Bishop Rhoades

FORT WAYNE — The local Friends of the Poor/St. Vincent Society 3-mile walk/run will take place Sunday, Sept. 27, at Parkview Field. Sign up to walk or run, then collect sponsorships; or sponsor someone who plans to participate. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will be among those who participate this year. Check-in begins at 1 p.m., event begins at 2 p.m. To register to walk with the bishop visit <https://www.fop-walk.org/event/2493>. To sponsor the bishop, visit <https://www.fop-walk.org/walker/54804>. T-shirts and prizes available for those who pre-register.

tion at Mass and in their parish community. Attend in person or join through Zoom on Tuesday, Sept. 15, from 7-8:15 p.m. Contact Allison at asturm@diocesefwsb.org or at 260.399.1452 to get the link to the meeting or with any questions.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 formation course

GRANGER — St. Pius X Parish will host a Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 formation course. The course will take place over six weekends: Sept. 25-26, Oct. 16-18, Nov. 13-15, Jan., 22-24, Feb., 19-21, and March 26-28. The course times are: Friday 6-9 p.m., Saturday 9-5 p.m., Sunday 12-5 p.m. Participants will receive certification for Level 1 from the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd upon completion. Cost is \$600. Contact Theresa DePung 574 272-8462 tdepung@stpius.net.

Anniversary Masses for 25, 40, 50 or 60 years of marriage

FORT WAYNE — Anniversary Masses for couples married 25, 40, 50 or 60 years will be in Fort Wayne Sunday, Sept. 20, at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and in South Bend Sunday, Oct. 11, at

Belonging: Ministry with Persons with Disabilities meeting

FORT WAYNE — Parents, educators, parish staffs and parishioners from around the diocese meet to work on initiatives, programs and events that help children and adults with disabilities experience meaningful participa-

March for Life in Noble county

ALBION — Join Noble County Right to Life and Right to Life of Northeast Indiana at the March for Life in Noble County on Saturday, Sept. 26, at noon at the courthouse, 101 N Orange St. Participants will follow COVID-

REST IN PEACE

Auburn

Kathy Carper, 64, Immaculate Conception

Granger

Andrew Hafron, 69, St. Pius X

South Bend

Joyce Fragomeni, 90, Sacred Heart of Jesus

Huntington

Greta C. Schenkel, 47, SS. Peter and Paul

Fort Wayne

Thomas Newport, 76, St. Charles Borromeo

Roanoke

Beverly Johnson, 83, St. Joseph

Geraldine Thompson, 89, St. Vincent de Paul

Check out all the happenings
www.TodaysCatholic.org/event

19 guidelines as recommended at the time of the event. Contact Allison Maluchnik at 260-471-1849 or allison@ichooselife.org.

The CrossWord
September 6 and 13, 2020

N	I	L	A	L	A	W	R	A	T	H	
U	S	A	N	Y	C	R	O	D	E	O	
L	A	G	T	E	S	T	I	M	O	N	Y
L	A	N	C	E	E	T	A				
S	C	I	O	N	S	L	E	N	D	E	R
	A	G	N	A	I	L	I	R	E		
A	S	P	A	N	G	E	R	S	A	X	
L	I	P		C	H	R	I	S	T		
F	R	E	I	G	H	T	V	A	U	L	T
	D	U	O	A	G	R	E	E			
P	R	A	Y	E	R	F	U	L	B	A	R
T	O	L	L	S	A	T	E		E	R	R
A	T	I	L	T	R	E	D		D	N	A

Little Flower Holy Hour

FORT WAYNE — Pray for vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life on the first Tuesday of each month from 7-8 p.m. at the Mother Theodore Guerin chapel. Tuesday, Oct. 6, will feature Father Jonathan Norton. For information, contact Christine Nix at cbonahoom-nix@diocesefwsb.org.

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7-8:30 p.m.				
St. Charles, FW	Sept. 16		Nov. 18	Dec. 9
7-9 p.m.				
Sacred Heart, Warsaw	Sept. 22		Nov. 24	Dec. 15
7-8:30 p.m.				
Little Flower, SB	Sept. 17	Oct. 15	Nov. 19	Dec. 17
7-8:30 p.m.				

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CNS photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis blesses a synod observer before a session of the Synod of Bishops on young people, the faith and vocational discernment in 2018 at the Vatican.

Young people have lessons to teach the Church, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Young Catholics are giving the Church a valuable lesson in the real meaning of “synodality,” Pope Francis wrote.

“They have asked us in a thousand ways to walk alongside them — not behind them or ahead of them, but at their side. Not over them or under them, but on their level,” he wrote in the introduction to a new Italian book of essays about youth ministry.

Salesian Father Rossano Sala, one of the special secretaries of the 2018 Synod of Bishops on young people, wrote the book, “Around the Living Fire of the Synod: Educating for the Good Life of the Gospel.”

“Discernment” was one of the key topics at the synod and in “Christus Vivit,” Pope Francis’ 2019 post-synod apostolic exhortation.

In Father Sala’s book, Pope Francis wrote that he is not trying “to transform every member of the people of God into a Jesuit,” the order that has

“It is more necessary than ever today to enter into an honest listening to the joys and struggles of every member of the people of God, and especially of every young person.”

— Pope Francis

specialized in teaching spiritual discernment or prayerfully reading the signs of the times and seeking to know how God wants individuals and the Church to respond.

Some people, he said, think “the pressing call to discernment is a fad of this pontificate and it is destined to pass quickly,” but Pope Francis insisted the spiritual practice is essential today when things are changing quickly, many people are struggling and so many need to hear the Gospel.

Listening and dialogue are the key first steps, the pope wrote. “It is more necessary than ever today to enter into an honest listening to the joys and struggles of every member of the people

of God, and especially of every young person.”

“The Church as a whole still has a lot of work to do” in learning to listen, he said, “because too often, instead of being ‘experts in humanity,’ we end up being considered rigid and incapable of listening.”

But the Gospel shows that listening was the first attitude of Jesus, he said, and it should be one’s first response to encountering another person made in God’s image and loved by God.

Dialogue is the natural second step, he said. “It is born from the conviction that in the other, the one who is before us, there are always the resources of nature and grace.”

“Dialogue is the style that

exalts the generosity of God because it recognizes his presence in everything and, therefore, one must find him in every person and be courageous enough to let him speak,” the pope wrote.

The digital revolution, the climate crisis, migration and “the plague of abuse” already signaled to the Church that many things must change, Pope Francis wrote. Then the COVID-19 pandemic arrived, “transforming everyone’s existence and we don’t know where it will lead.”

One thing is certain, he said: leaders and members of the Church must engage in “discernment to guarantee closeness to the people of God, to reform the economy and finance, to devise

new forms of solidarity and service.”

Without studying the reality and considering it in prayer, the pope said, the response risks being just “the latest fashion, or we hide in past practices incapable of tapping into the unique situation of people and young adults today.”

Pope Francis said the choice to focus on “synodality” at the next general assembly of the Synod of Bishops, in 2022, is a natural outcome of the synod on young people.

There is an “urgent need to rediscover the baptismal grace” of all Catholics and their call to be “missionary disciples,” he said. Embracing “synodality” with all members of the Church “walking together,” sharing input while respecting the roles proper to each member, is one way to acknowledge that grace and respond more effectively.