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# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 94 No. 34

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

## Couples witness to God's love and fidelity at anniversary Mass

BY JENNIFER MILLER

Physically and spiritually, Catholic couples on the South Bend side of the diocese joined together Sunday, Oct. 11, at St. Matthew Cathedral to thank God and celebrate their anniversaries of 25, 40, 50 or 60 years of marriage. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades presided at the special Mass.

A reception that usually takes place after the annual anniversary Mass was canceled due to concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic. The omission did not diminish the gratitude and authentic Christian love that were clearly present at the Mass.

"Anniversary couples, you are a blessing for the Church because you have been a witness to God's love and fidelity," Bishop Rhoades preached. "You have persevered in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. You have persevered in love. You have opened your hearts and continue to open your hearts to the Lord's grace you received in the sacrament of marriage."

Jane Rowe agreed. She and her husband, Larry, of St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish in Bristol — married 60 years this year — have found everyday faithfulness and each other's loving presence to be key in their relationship.

"Just being there for each other, in the good times and sad times, and knowing God was with us also, has been most important. We can't ask for more than that," Jane said with a smile.

Bishop Rhoades reminded the faithful where their present journey together is directed.

"Couples, may you continue to walk together on this journey, helping each other, encouraging each other, caring for each other, and respecting each other. Your journey has a destination. That destination is heaven. Remember your task in marriage is to help each other get to heaven," he taught.

"The Lord gives us food for that journey to heaven, food that nourishes us and strengthens us on the journey. That food is His very Body and Blood in the holy



Jennifer Miller

Wedding anniversary Masses were celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades Sept. 20 in Fort Wayne and Oct. 11 in South Bend. Among those attending the Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral were Corpus Christi parishioners Jerry and Connie Besario, left, and their friends Cathy and Ray Catral from St. Pius X Parish, Granger.

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# Face masks deemed expression of faith that deepens safety precaution

BY CHAZ MUTH

LEWES, Del. (CNS) — When Father Brian S. Lewis walked into St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church in Lewes to celebrate Mass on a recent fall Saturday evening, he was sporting a unique face mask.

Mask wearing is a requirement for most people to enter the worship space as a public safety measure during the coronavirus pandemic, so a friend of Father Lewis' sister-in-law crafted a face covering fitting for the pastor of the Delaware parish.

It's all black with a small white patch at the center top of the cloth, resembling the white collar on the black clerical garb most priests wear.

The "cleric" mask elicits laughter, stares, double takes and curiosity, Father Lewis told Catholic News Service during a recent interview.

"I wear it proudly, not only for the shock value and because it's funny," he said. "It also symbolizes something that should be on full display. Wearing the mask can be a spiritual work of mercy."

In essence, because the mask is uncomfortable and inconvenient, it's a form of sacrifice made to protect others from the spread of COVID-19, something the Catholic Church teaches the faithful.

As of Oct. 6, more than 210,000 people were reported to have died from the coronavirus in the United States.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly advise the wearing of face masks to prevent the coronavirus transmission.

After states throughout the U.S. began to allow churches to reopen for worship after months of being closed to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, many mandated face coverings for most people for these indoor gatherings.

"When the CDC, for example, or the (Pennsylvania Department of Health) here in our state encourages mask wearing, we're going to do it," said Oblate Father Kevin Nadolski, vice president for mission and a professor of education at DeSales University in Center Valley, Pennsylvania. "It's really something that's fundamental to protecting human life. That's important."



CNS photo/Chaz Muth

**Father Brian S. Lewis, pastor of St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Lewes, Del., wears a mask made by a friend to resemble his clerical garb in his church Sept. 23. Father Lewis says mask wearing is not only a safety precaution during the coronavirus pandemic, it's an expression of faith.**

Face masks don't come without controversy.

Many Catholics view mandatory face masks at Mass as an infringement on religious liberty and believe the Church is acquiescing to a political agenda of control and there are reports of some church communities in the U.S. not enforcing the requirement.

"I do understand why people don't want to wear the mask," said Father Mark R.

Searles, a resident priest at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Allentown, Pennsylvania, a parish that enforces the face covering requirement for indoor

worship. "I don't particularly like wearing one either."

However, Father Searles believes "it is something God is asking us to do right now to be safe on a very practical and physical level with an abundance of caution. A lot of doctors have said that's the safest way to prevent the spread of disease right now."

He also said that in charity and prayerful spirit, mask wearers could unite their sacrifice with Jesus on the cross and say: "I'm doing this out of love for my brothers and sisters, my neighbors, to keep them safe and well, and just that physical sacrifice can be a spiritual one too."

The Church teaches that all human life is sacred from conception to natural death and Father Nadolski equated the wearing of masks to protect others to a pro-life issue.

However, he acknowledged that the impact of wearing a mask at Mass has been chal-

lenging, because it's difficult to hear responses, see expressions on faces and the engagement between priest and congregant is compromised.

"The Mass is an experience, it's a meal. The first half is storytelling and the second half is enjoying the meal," Father Nadolski told CNS. "That's really limiting when you can only see half of a person's face. It limits engagement and relationships essential for the full experience of the Mass."

That is another sacrifice being made in the age of COVID-19, Father Lewis said.

"We also remember that redemption comes through suffering and we're called to self-sacrifice and self-gift, after Christ's own supreme self-gift on the cross," he said. "While I want heaven for everyone in my parish, I want it on God's time. I don't want to expose them to any unnecessary risk or imprudence on anyone else's part."

*"I'm doing this out of love for my brothers and sisters, my neighbors, to keep them safe and well and just that physical sacrifice can be a spiritual one too."*

**ANNIVERSARY, from page 1**

Eucharist, the sacrament of His love. It's so important that you've come here to God's house to celebrate your anniversary at Mass. The Eucharist is the memorial with which Christ the bridegroom loved His bride, the Church. He loved us to the end!"

Always attending to church together is also vital to the Rowe's marriage. Married in 1960 at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Goshen, Larry became Catholic 10 years later, which was very special to Jane. Receiving together Jesus' body and blood in holy Eucharist has united them in an even deeper way for these last 50 years, Jane said. They have raised three children, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild in the faith.

Christine and Chris Baglow of St. Joseph Parish, South Bend, find strength and renewal in the Eucharist and the sacraments as well. Christine said of her husband, "Truthfully, Chris is really spectacular at the whole 'husbands, love your wives as Christ loves the Church,' thing. He is very intentional about putting me first. I've learned a lot from him in that way."

Married for 25 years, the Baglows recently moved from New Orleans, where they were born, baptized and raised their four children, to South Bend. They met for the first time at a Catholic conference in New Orleans, introduced by a mutual match-making-obsessed friend named Carol Fee.

"We just knew we were supposed to be together. We had dated briefly when we first met and then were friends, running in the same groups. So we'd been friends for four years before we got together for the second time. God just put the pieces in place."

Bishop Rhoades concluded his homily with putting God's love into action, each and every day in one's marriage.

"St. Paul also invites the Colossians, as God's chosen ones, which all of us are as baptized Christians, to 'put on' a quintet of virtues. He says: 'Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.' These are the clothes we are to put on in our Christian life; they are the virtues that not only make marriage work, they make it holy. You help each other to become holy by living these virtues, with the help of God's grace. That's Christian marriage: helping each other to become holy by being compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, and patient. And bearing with one another and forgiving one another ... You have learned to give of yourselves to the other, doing good for the other, helping and serving the other. As St. Ignatius of Loyola said: 'Love is shown more by deeds than by words.'"

Jane said exactly that of her husband, Larry. "He is so giving, always willing to help me, the



Jennifer Miller

**The bishop gives a blessing to couples celebrating their 25th, 40th, 50th or 60th wedding anniversary at a Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral Oct. 11 in South Bend.**

children, our neighbors."

Reflecting back on their relationship together, love in action has helped transform trials for many of the anniversary couples.

"The biggest challenges in our life together are also some of our greatest blessings," the Baglows realized. "We have two children with special needs plus all the ordinary, day-to-day challenges of parenting any child. Our home flooded in Hurricane Katrina, which was rough for us, but it also made us much stronger as a couple. We suffered some pretty significant losses in our 25 years together, but those also have caused us to turn toward one another rather than allowing them to drive us apart."

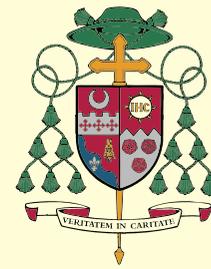
"People bring their own emotional, psychological, spiritual, and familial baggage with them into marriage," Christine continued. "We all have wounds and brokenness. Chris and I are fortunate that we each married a person deeply committed to supporting the other's personal growth and healing."

Brent and Kathy Jagla, of St. Jude Parish, South Bend, were celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. Born and raised in South Bend, they found that "our biggest challenge led to our

greatest blessing," said Kathy. "From the time we were married we were open to having children and as many as God had planned for us. Unfortunately we were not biologically able to conceive. We prayed to discern how our journey should proceed and then placed our names with Catholic Social Services in South Bend to adopt a child. We had a long five-year wait, but in 1987 we received a call that we would be able to pick up our 7-day-old son! God blessed us with the most perfect child imaginable. From our son Stephen, we were further blessed with his beautiful wife, Gracie, and now with our granddaughter. It has made all other difficulties we have faced in our marriage disappear."

The words of St. Paul echo true in the Jaglas' life experiences as well. The couple live out the quintet of virtues, laughing and joking with one another, demonstrating how both opposites attract and help each other become prepared for heaven.

"Our best advice to newlyweds is always to keep our Lord as the center of your lives and live His Gospel in all you say and do. Make sure you make each other laugh more than you cause tears!"



## Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Monday, October 19: 6 p.m. — Virtual In-Service Meeting of Diocesan School Board  
 Wednesday, October 21: 12 p.m. — Talk at Ecumenical Luncheon, St. Joseph Parish, Bluffton  
 Thursday, October 22: 6:30 p.m. — Virtual Benefit Dinner, Right to Life Michiana

## Beloved former Holy Cross pastor passes away in New Jersey

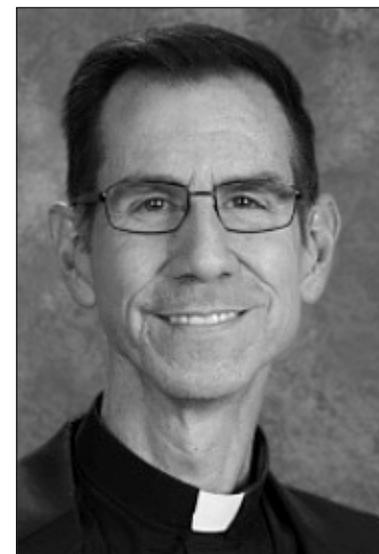
BY JENNIFER BARTON

Although he was only at Holy Cross Parish in South Bend for three years, Father Vincent Coppola, CSC, left a strong impression. A deep sadness at the parish followed news of his passing from this life Oct. 2 at age 57 at his New Jersey home.

Born the oldest of four children in Elmhurst, New York, Father Coppola attended Queen's College in New York before pursuing his vocation to the priesthood at Moreau Seminary at Notre Dame. He was ordained June 9, 2001, into the Congregation of the Holy Cross and served several assignments in Vermont before returning to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to serve at Holy Cross Parish. He was appointed parochial vicar at both Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Parish in South Bend in 2015, administrator of Holy Cross in 2016 and pastor of that parish the following year.

Holy Cross parishioners fondly remember Father Coppola from his interaction with the schoolchildren, who had a great affection for him, and for the encouragement he provided to those in need, according to parish business manager Karen Trzaskowski. He was greatly loved and could relate to people of all ages through his fun, down-to-earth personality. Some of the amusing stories about "Father Vinny," as he was called, include him riding the mechanical bull at the school Fun Fair and dressing as the Easter Bunny to entertain parish children, she said.

Trzaskowski added that Father Coppola was known as a hard worker, but also a man of compassion who supported the



FATHER VINCENT COPPOLA, CSC

people of the parish and made them feel appreciated. He was very likable and had a big impact on the parish in the short time he was there. He also had a passion for decorating, especially at Christmastime, when he went all-out in his decorations.

His greatest passion was in helping people. He led Bible study, devotions, and "Coffee Hour with a Priest," in addition to his active involvement in parish and community life, including working fundraisers. He was a man of deep prayer, and deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, she recalled.

Two years ago, Father Coppola requested a transfer to the Diocese of Trenton to be near his aging mother and assist in her care. He preceded her in passing, as well as his two younger brothers and sister.

Funeral services took place Oct. 8 at St. Joseph parish in Toms River, New Jersey. Father Coppola was laid to rest at Holy Cross Community Cemetery at Stonehill College, North Eaton, Massachusetts.

# Election novena to begin Oct. 26

FORT WAYNE — Bearing in mind the nation's challenges and the need for wise, moral, civic leadership, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is offering an electronic "Election Novena" to help Catholics prepare for the upcoming election.

For nine consecutive days, Monday, Oct. 26, through Tuesday, Nov. 3, Catholics are encouraged to pray one Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be for the day's intention. A closing prayer for elected leaders will be offered on day 10, Wednesday, Nov. 4.

The daily intentions are:

## Day One: Monday, Oct. 26

As we prepare for the national & local elections, in the midst of a global pandemic, may our political engagement be guided by our Catholic faith.

## Day Two: Tuesday, Oct. 27

In this month of the Holy Rosary, may Our Blessed Mother guide us in confronting racial inequalities and restoring peace in our communities.

## Day Three: Wednesday, Oct. 28

May all Americans recall the necessity of dialogue, civility and humility in this election season.

## Day Four: Thursday, Oct. 29

May all people understand the moral and ethical dimensions of political decisions and decide accordingly.

## Day Five: Friday, Oct. 30

May voters and elected leaders uphold the dignity of every human life in their political engagement.

## Day Six: Saturday, Oct. 31

May Catholics recall all aspects of Catholic social teaching as they consider their votes.

## Day Seven: Sunday, Nov. 1

May there be a transformation of politics to focus on the dignity of the human person and the common good.

## Day Eight: Monday, Nov. 2

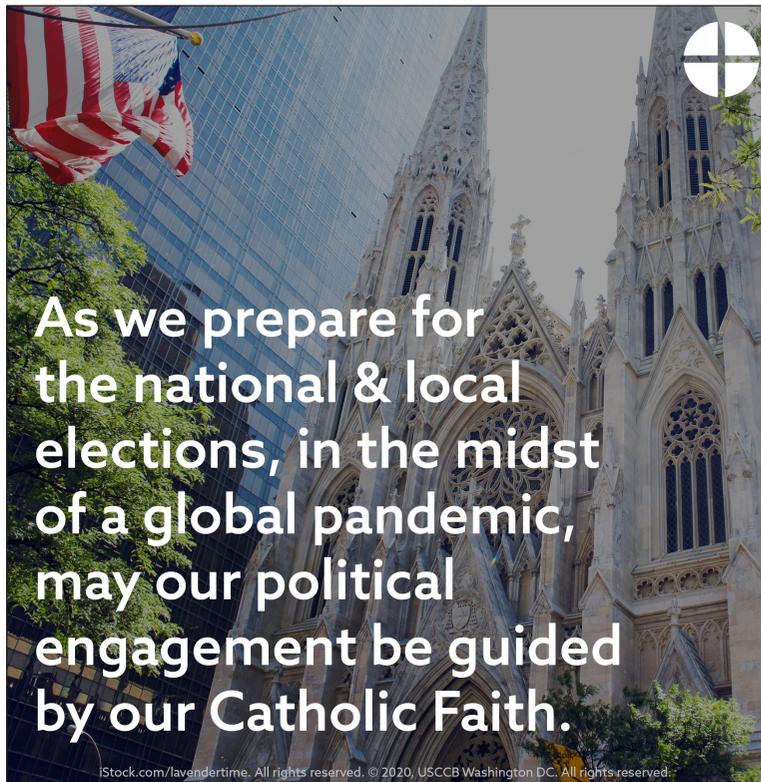
May we keep in mind the gift of religious freedom and our duty to defend and exercise it as faithful citizens.

## Day Nine: Tuesday, Nov. 3

Today, as we approach the polls, may we understand and embrace the principles of our faith that should guide our political engagement.

## Closing: Wednesday, Nov. 4

May the leaders elected this week be guided by the Holy Spirit as they fulfill their positions.



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF  
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

## Bishops also suggest: Prayer Before an Election

This prayer can be recited at any time.

*"Lord God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our city/state/country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community.*

*We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty.*

*We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned, and men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender.*

*We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom.*

*We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace.*

*We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*Amen."*



*The daily intentions are available online at <https://www.usccb.org/2020-election-novena>; through this site the intentions can also be received daily by email.*

# 'Code of silence' allows domestic abuse to go unchallenged

BY COLLEEN ROWAN

WHEELING, W.Va. (CNS) — Violence comes in many forms, but its goal is always control, Bishop Mark E. Brennan of Wheeling-Charleston said in his homily at the fourth annual national vigil Mass marking October as of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Violence in the home, Bishop Brennan said, is common, not sporadic like epidemics.

Whether it is physical, verbal, emotional, economic, or even spiritual, he said, it seeks to tightly control the life of another. While some men are its victims, he said, it is overwhelmingly women who are the victims of domestic violence by men who usually have an intimate relationship with them — usually their wives or girlfriends.

"We don't like to talk about it," the bishop said, "but the code of silence lets it, like a virus, go unchallenged to keep doing harm to the victim."

Bishop Brennan celebrated the Oct. 3 Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling. It was co-hosted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth and livestreamed on the Wheeling-Charleston Diocese's YouTube channel and Facebook page.

In his homily, the bishop recalled that as a young priest, a woman tried to get across to him in subtle language that her husband was hurting her.

"I was too naive to grasp what she was saying, or to wonder why she was wearing a long-sleeve blouse on a warm summer day," Bishop Brennan said, "So I was of no help to her."

Some years later, the bishop said, he was doing sidewalk counseling outside of an abortion facility and managed, with others, to convince a young woman not to go in for an abortion.

"Her boyfriend was forcing her to get it, she said, and she was afraid of him," Bishop Brennan said. "Did she want to leave him? I asked. Yes, she said, but she wasn't sure how. She needed help. I drove her to their apartment, helped her load her things into my car and took her to the home of some friends."

In her case, the violence was obvious enough to recognize it, Bishop Brennan said, indicating that it was the man's desire to control her by insisting that she abort her child against her own good judgment. Bishop Brennan said he later took a seminar on domestic violence and learned



CNS photo/Colleen Rowan, The Catholic Spirit

**Bishop Mark E. Brennan of Wheeling-Charleston, W.Va., delivers the homily during a vigil Mass he celebrated Oct. 3 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling, in observance of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.**

that violence might be physical, but also could be psychological.

An abuser will isolate his victim from family and friends to increase dependency on him, he said, adding that abusers also will stalk victims to instill fear.

In a family suffering domestic violence, the bishop said, children are victims as well. There is a high correlation between violence toward women, and violence toward children, he said.

"Children suffer from seeing their mother treated as a thing, not a woman deserving of respect,"

Bishop Brennan said. "Boys may assume that this is how you treat women, and girls might grow fearful of men. If a child tries to stop the violence toward his or her mother, the man often beats the child."

"Our American

bishops have said, 'We state as clearly and strongly as we can that violence against women inside or outside the home is never justified. It is sinful, and often a crime as well. The person being assaulted needs to know that acting to end the abuse does not violate the marriage promises,'" Bishop Brennan said, quoting their pastoral, "When I Call for Help: A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence Against Women," released in 1992.

The document was reissued in 2002 to mark the 10th anniversary of the document. It

encourages pastors to dedicate at least one weekend of October to inform people how they can recognize and respond to the signs of abuse.

Many ask why women stay in these violent homes, the bishop said.

"Some feel pressured to keep the family together and all costs," he said. "Some belong to ethnic groups that frown on revealing a family problem to outsiders. Women of color may distrust the legal system, immigrants may not know how to use it, while women in rural communities — we have many in West Virginia — may find themselves more isolated and with fewer resources.

"And there's always that fear that the violence could get worse if the man suspects the woman is planning to leave."

Some men resort to murder to assert their absolute control over a woman, the bishop said.

He prayed "for any woman suffering domestic violence will come to understand that it is always wrong, never justified by God's Commandments; and that there is a way out, if it is carefully planned."

Bishop Brennan noted the National Domestic Violence Hotline is 800-799-7233, which he said was being flashed on the screen in the livestream of the Mass. Victims also can approach a priest or other minister of her religion for help.

Priests and others who work for the Church need to know about domestic violence and how to help, said Bishop Brennan, who organized workshops on domestic violence for staff of his last parish. He plans to do the same, he said, for clergy and parish staffs in the statewide

Wheeling Charleston diocese.

Men who use violence to control women come from every race, religion and socioeconomic status, Bishop Brennan said. For men who accept it, he said, help is available as some may benefit from therapy or anger management courses.

"Men who hurt women can change," Bishop Brennan said. "Our faith believes in conversion, that God's grace can help us to change for the better, to love others as God loves us. But no woman has to stay with a man who refuses to stop being violent. All of us can pray for those who suffer from this rejection of true love, and can offer them our support."

The Church's long-term goal in speaking about domestic violence is to foster good marriages and happy families, Bishop Brennan said. "We want marriages and families filled with light not with darkness; to sail on calm seas, not through endless storms."

Bishop Brennan thanked God that there are many good husbands and fathers who love their wives and their children.

"I have known a great host of them," he said. "My prayer is that there will be even more. A good husband will give his family the benefit of his energy and wisdom and will rejoice to see his wife and children grow in healthy exercise of freedom — the freedom to do good. Then the Lord's vineyard, the family, which is the domestic church, will produce good grapes, not bitter grapes, and will give God a rich harvest."

**Editor's Note:** The text of the USCCB's pastoral Statement "When I Call for Help" is available in English and Spanish at <https://bit.ly/3nQxhht>.

Rowan is executive editor of *The Catholic Spirit*, newspaper of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.



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## COVID-19, race, abortion and Supreme Court top issues for Pence, Harris

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The COVID-19 pandemic, abortion and the Supreme Court, and race were among the top issues debated by Sen. Kamala Harris, the Democratic vice presidential nominee, and Vice President Mike Pence Oct. 7 at Kingsbury Hall on the campus of the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. “I am pro-life. I don’t apologize for it,” Vice President Mike Pence said, adding that he and President Donald Trump would like to see *Roe v. Wade* overturned. “I will always fight for a woman’s right to make a decision over her own body. It should be her decision, not that of Donald Trump or Mike Pence,” said Harris. Pence said he does not know how Trump’s nominee to the high court, Judge Amy Coney Barrett, would vote on overturning *Roe* if she is confirmed and if such a case would ever reach the court. He does hope Barrett, a Catholic, gets a fair confirmation hearing and is not subjected to “the kinds of attacks on her Christian faith that we saw before,” referring to the 2017 hearing for her current seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit. At that time, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-California, told Barrett: “The dogma lives loudly within you, and that’s a concern.” Barrett stated her Catholic beliefs “would not bear in the discharge of my duties as a judge.”

## French bishops rally Catholics against bioethics bill

PARIS (CNS) — The French bishops’ conference has urged Catholics to join mass protests against a government-backed bioethics bill that would liberalize abortion and embryo research and allow in vitro fertilization for lesbians and single mothers. “Pressure is mounting on the National Assembly to further extend abortion terms under the guise of women’s rights and equality and to reduce filiation to a simple act of will by those wishing to become parents — a child is no longer received, but sought, produced and chosen,” said the conference’s 10-member Permanent Council. “We invite all citizens, especially Catholics, to inform themselves about these matters and make their reservations and opposition known. Our society must not let itself be surreptitiously drawn along a dangerous path for humanity’s future,” it said. The message was published Oct. 6 ahead of a nationwide weekend of demonstrations against the draft “Law Concerning Bioethics,” set to be cleared this fall for final enactment. It said France’s Catholic bishops had long voiced concerns about the measure, which is widely expected to spur similar legislation in other countries, and

## The beauty of autumn



CNS photo/Sam Lucero, The Compass

A bronze statue of Jesus on the cross at Allouez Catholic Cemetery in Allouez, Wis., is surrounded by fall colors Oct. 9.

counted on legislators to “take the subject seriously.”

## Religious jewelry maker provides items, support for women who have miscarried

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — It began, as many good things do, with a trip to Michaels. Alison Rizzuto had been given several religious medals since she came into the Catholic Church a few years ago and she wanted a way to wear them. “I wanted some-

thing kind of funky, something modern, and I couldn’t find it,” she said. “So, I thought, ‘Oh, I’ll just make it.’” She put her daughter Charlotte on the back of her bike, and they rode to the nearby craft store. What started as a hobby has become Humble Mission Beads, a shop on the website Etsy — [etsy.com/shop/HumbleMissionBeads](https://www.etsy.com/shop/HumbleMissionBeads) — and it’s where Rizzuto has sold more than 1,000 pieces of faith-inspired jewelry and other products. The platform and the profits support her passion of helping women who have experienced a miscarriage. Rizzuto’s jewelry collection ranges from chunky, 10-bead

rosary bracelets to delicate silver and gold necklaces, all featuring a dangling religious medal. The medal often sets the tone for the piece. The Our Lady of the Snows bracelet is made with pearls and white stones; the St. Francis of Assisi bracelet has wooden beads; and a Holy Spirit bracelet has beads meant to be dipped in essential oils so the fragrance can linger for hours. All the Humble Mission items have one thing in common: “God gives me a story for every piece of jewelry,” said Rizzuto. “The idea is a gift. It’s definitely inspiration that I get.”

## Catholics decry Cuomo’s ‘broad brush’ order to close schools in ‘hot zones’

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s order closing all schools in “hot zones” where cases of COVID-19 seem to be increasing is “a broad-brush approach that penalizes all schools, children and families needlessly,” said the New York State Catholic Conference. “We strongly urge that any action taken addresses actual problem schools where there is a sustained high rate of infection,” the conference said in an Oct. 5 statement issued on behalf of the New York archdiocese and the Brooklyn diocese. “The Catholic schools throughout our state and, particular in the densely populated New York City metropolitan area, have rightly been held up as a model for safety in these uncertain times,” the statement said. “Our Catholic schools opened for full-time, in-person learning weeks before the New York City public schools and have had no significant COVID-19 outbreaks to date.” Based in Albany, the state capital, the conference is the public policy arm of New York state’s Catholic bishops. Reporting on Cuomo’s Oct. 5 news conference at the Capitol, where he announced the closures, WXXI News said the governor has targeted certain ZIP codes.

## Pope Francis’ teaching in encyclical called ‘profound and beautiful’

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In his new encyclical, “Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship,” Pope Francis reminds the faithful that “God’s plan for humanity has implications for every aspect of our lives,” said the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. These aspects range “from how we treat one another in our personal relationships, to how we organize and operate our societies and economies,” said Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles in a statement Oct. 4, the day the encyclical was released by the Vatican. He called the pope’s teaching “profound and beautiful,” and said that “like ‘Laudato Si’ before it, ‘Fratelli Tutti’ is an important contribution to the Church’s rich tradition of social doctrine. In analyzing conditions in the world today, the Holy Father provides us with a powerful and urgent vision for the moral renewal of politics and political and economic institutions from the local level to the global level, calling us to build a common future that truly serves the good of the human person,” Archbishop Gomez said. “For the Church, the pope is challenging us to overcome the individualism in our culture and to serve our neighbors in love,” he said, “seeing Jesus Christ in every person, and seeking a society of justice and mercy, compassion and mutual concern.”

## Ave Maria Press to publish notetaking Bible

NOTRE DAME — Ave Maria Press has announced that it will publish The Ave Catholic Notetaking Bible in two editions in 2021. This will be the first Bible in Ave's 155-year history and the only Bible on the market with comprehensive cross-references to the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It will be available in March.

"The decision to publish a Bible stems from the heart of who we are as an apostolate of the Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priests and Brothers," said Karey Circosta, publisher and CEO of Ave Maria Press. "Our mission is to be educators in the faith and to make God known, loved and served in publishing Catholic resources for schools, parishes and individuals. We are excited to share such an important resource with the faithful."

The Ave Catholic Notetaking Bible will include essays by Mark Hart, chief information officer and executive vice president of Life Teen; Sarah Christmyer, co-developer and founding editor of The Great Adventure Catholic Bible study program; John Bergsma, theology professor at Franciscan University of Steubenville; Anthony Pagliarini, assistant professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame; and Bible study evangelist Sonja Corbitt.

Ave Maria Press was founded by Father Edward Sorin, CSC, in 1865 and is recognized as a leader in publishing Catholic high school religion textbooks, parish resources and books on prayer and spirituality.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## World Apostolate of Fatima Mass and breakfast



Bob List

The World Apostolate of Fatima commemorated the anniversary of the 1917 apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Portugal with an early morning breakfast Oct. 3 in Fort Wayne, followed by a procession to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for a Mass celebrated by Father Glenn Kohrman. Three youngsters representing the children who witnessed the apparitions — Jacinta, Lucia and Francisco — led the morning's events.

## Catholic Charities sees 296% increase in requests for assistance

FORT WAYNE — To date, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has received \$463,500 in COVID-related funds earmarked for direct assistance to clients. In turn, the organization has been able to assist 2,286 individuals, which represents a 296% increase over the same period in 2019.

Assistance has been given for basic needs such as food, utilities, rent, car payments, mortgage payments and transportation for any household that has experienced the loss of a job or been furloughed due to the pandemic and its associated stay-at-home orders. Catholic Charities has also made referrals for those suffering from mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, isolation and thoughts of suicide.

CCFWSB serves the entire 14-county area of the diocese. Among those seeking relief are many people who have never needed assistance before.

"This is the first time many families have had to choose between paying the rent and paying the utilities," said Kortney Harms, Resource and Referral coordinator in Auburn. "Many have no idea where to go or who to turn to."

"As the state implements the governor's Stage 5 of reopening, there will still be many out of work," said Marde Martin, resource and referral coordinator in Fort Wayne. "As a result, we expect demand for assistance to remain high for the foreseeable future."

To contact Catholic Charities, call 260-422-5625 in the Fort Wayne area; 574-234-3111 in the South Bend area; 260-925-0917 in Auburn; or visit: <https://www.ccfwsb.org/covid-19>.

## Knights prep classrooms for a COVID-19 fall



Dennis Redding/Provided by Justin Purdy

Preparing for the 2020 school year was a challenge for school administrators. So when Rob Sordelet, principal of St. Charles Borromeo School, Fort Wayne, approached Knights of Columbus Council 451 with a request to design, build and install table partitions for the school, volunteers jumped into action. The Knights considered the project a wonderful opportunity to serve the parish and help protect its youngest members.

## Feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary



Jennifer Miller

Parishioners and staff of Christ the King Parish, South Bend, observed the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary Oct. 7 with their first nonliturgical parish event since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Socially distanced and masked, outside, participants stood on markers placed in the shape of the rosary. About 80 people of all ages came to pray, both individuals and families. They also donated around 1,100 diapers to the parish's annual Women's Care Center diaper drive — making a total of 5,900 that will be donated this fall.



Provided by Trisha Trout

A family on bicycles was among those who came to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne Sept. 27 for a drive-by blessing from pastor Father David Voors.

## Drive-by blessings shared at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

BY TRISHA TROUT

Older parishioners of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne were extended a special invitation on Sunday, Sept. 27 – to enjoy a drive-by blessing in the parish parking lot.

They drove up in their cars to receive a blessing from Father David Voors, Father Stephen Felicichia or Deacon Jim Kitchens. This also allowed older parishioners and others who have not yet returned to Mass to once again feel connected to the parish during these challenging times.

While people waited in their cars, the parish staff stood outside with signs encouraging those driving by to participate as well. With masks on and socially distanced, the staff was able to talk with those who accepted the invitation and share in their joys and struggles they are experiencing during the pandemic. “Many people said they appreciated the blessing so much,” said staff member Raeann Mullen. It’s been too long since they have been able to come to St. Elizabeth church. They really miss coming to Mass and look forward to the day they can come back.”

Many parishioners also shared how appreciative they are for the parish’s livestreamed Masses. It helps them feel connected, they said, especially when the celebrating priest reaches out to welcome those who are participating virtually.

It was estimated that around 100 cars — and even one bike

group — came during the 1-2:30 p.m. time frame. People were joyful, and some brought to tears, over finally being able to connect with their priests and deacon. Many hadn’t yet met Father Felicichia, who was assigned to the parish in June.

In preparation for the event, the staff and volunteers called parishioners age 75 and older to invite them to the blessing. Even those who were unable to attend were so grateful to have a friendly voice to talk to from the parish, the callers reported. Those parishioners are staying away for safety reasons, but are filled with a great longing to come back to the parish again in person, and especially to receive the sacraments.

Other opportunities St. Elizabeth Ann Seton provides for those staying home have included livestreamed eucharistic exposition, with the praying of the rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The parish has also hosted nights of Facebook Live Q-and-A. These and other videos are posted to YouTube so all are able to watch at their convenience.

The drive-by blessing was a great success in getting people out of the house, providing prayers for all in need and connecting people to each other. The parish hopes to continue to find ways to reach out to parishioners and the community. Weather cooperating, another drive-by blessing is planned for the future.

*Trout is the Evangelization and Communications coordinator at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne.*

# Catholic Camporee teaches love o

BY JENNIFER BARTON

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has offered the annual Camporee event since 1985, a joint collaboration for the Fort Wayne and South Bend sides of the diocese since 2012. Young Scout members and their siblings are given the opportunity to grow in their faith while gaining a greater love of the great outdoors. This year, on Oct. 9-11, the weekend campout took place on the grounds of Ancilla College near Plymouth.

Theresa Dirig is on the diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, the National Catholic Committee for Scouting and is Scoutmaster for the newly chartered girls’ Troop 519 at St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne. Dirig stated that the purpose of the Camporee is “to enhance the kids’ faith life and expose them to local Catholic sites to keep them interested in the faith.”

She explained that this is why Ancilla College was selected as the site of the Camporee this year: She believes it is important to show young people the Catholic colleges and shrines within the diocese. “These are great resources for the youth.”

In previous years, the Camporee has taken place at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, Holy Cross College in Notre Dame and St. Felix Retreat Center in Huntington. All of these locations, Dirig reported, have outdoor Stations of the Cross, which are incorporated into the weekend activities.

Each Camporee includes Catholic elements such as Mass, reconciliation and recitation of the rosary. This year, the campers used glow sticks as they said the rosary around the campfire. Each student broke their glow stick to mark their prayer.

The Scouts take on leadership roles by emceeing the stations and reading at Mass.

“We also try to tie in local Catholic history, like this year helping the Scouts and parents learn about St. Katharina Kasper,” Dirig added. “Last year we were at St. Felix in Huntington and shared information about Father Solanus Casey and Bishop Noll.”

During the summer, several of the Scout troops had to shut down their programs temporarily, so Camporee provided a blessed opportunity to spend time together as a troop and with other Scouts from around the diocese. Throughout quarantine, Dirig had to find alternate



At an annual gathering of Catholic Scouts Oct. 10 in Donaldson, members of the St. John Baptist Boy Scout troop from Fort Wayne listen to a presentation by Geoffrey Williams, director of ecological services for the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, who tells the history of the Poor Handmaids in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

ways to reach the Scouts and, as chairperson of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting

*“When the families work together on (activities), often the kids end up teaching the parents.”*

THERESA DIRIG

– Religious Activities, she was able to facilitate the creation of a virtual lesson on St. Faustina for Divine Mercy Sunday. Carl Loesch, head of the diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, contacted the Marian fathers at the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Stockbridge,

Massachusetts, who agreed to lead the virtual class. Roughly 270 families participated in the lesson, and it is still available online.

Attendance at Camporee used to earn the participating Scouts a badge, but the production of badges discontinued in 2015.

However, the committee produces other opportunities for Scouts to earn badges, including the newest activity that Dirig is especially proud of called “Eastern Catholic Awareness.” This teaches young people about the beauty of the Eastern Catholic tradition, of which many of them are unaware. Around 80 families attended that online event.

“When the families work together on these, often the kids end up teaching the parents,” Dirig said. “It helps the kids realize that in all different walks of life, you can be a saint.”

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has been supportive of the Camporee and often attends the event. He has been known to interact with the young people and challenge them to go further in their Scouting experience, particularly toward earning their Pope Pius XII emblem, designed for older participants.

This year campers came from St. Pius X Parish in Granger, St. John the Baptist in Fort Wayne and other Fort Wayne parishes such as St. Therese, St. Elizabeth

# of faith, nature



Photos by Jennifer Barton

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ory of



Mark Allen, Nick Allen and Eleanor Veselik, from left, young Scouts from St. Pius X Parish in Granger, receive a hands-on demonstration of invasive and native plants by Matthew Celmer in the environmental area of Ancilla College.



Sam Tepes, far right, runs the greenhouses at Ancilla College. From him, attendees of the Catholic Camporee got the opportunity to learn about organically enhancing the soil and viewed the chickens he helps care for.

Ann Seton and St. Vincent de Paul in Fort Wayne. The event is open to all Catholic Scout troops, though Dirig said historically the Cub Scouts and the Boy Scouts are the most represented at Camporee.

Ancilla College, founded by and still run by Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, is located on 1,100 acres of what is mostly natural landscapes. Three presenters taught Scouts about the importance of maintaining the land in its natural form, particularly encouraging the growth of native plants and utilizing natural energy sources.

Scouts had the opportunity to visit the greenhouses that Ancilla greenhouse specialist Sam Tepes cultivates. Here they learned ways to enhance soil to allow for more environmentally friendly growing, especially the use of biochar, a soil amendment. Some even tasted the edible charcoal.

Matthew Celmer, director of MoonTree Studio on the PHJC campus, showed off the campus's solar panels and wind turbine, explaining how the college is trying to generate as much of its own electricity as possible, as well as filtering its own water. He also pointed out the native plant life and the importance of such plants as milkweed.

The college groundskeeper, Geoffrey Williams, led the Scouts on a nature hike, pointing out methods for sustainable livestock rearing that Ancilla has begun to put into place. He also told the story of the Poor Handmaids and how they came to the Hessen Cassel area near Fort Wayne in the 1860s, establishing St. Joseph Hospital. Williams informed campers of how the Potawatomi tribes who once made their home in northern Indiana managed the growth of plants by using fire, similar to how Ancilla rejuvenates its prairie land today.

Most of the Scouts agreed that their favorite part of the Camporee was being out in nature and learning about the world around them. Connecting with nature combines caring for God's creation with their faith. Older Scouts even engaged in a service project to help beautify the grounds.

But a love of nature is not all that Scouts took home from the trip. New friendships were made and old friends reunited. There was time for relaxing; for fishing or tossing a football with peers, along with "enhancing Scouting skills" by making lanyards for finger rosaries.



The Scouts attended Mass at Ancilla Domini Chapel during the weekend.

Provided by Theresa Dirig



Photos provided by Tami DeLucenay

Teens from St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne, gather at the home of youth minister Stacey Huneck for a small-group talk this fall. Huneck wants young people to know they are not alone on life's journey; that others, including Jesus, want to walk with them.

*Ministry with youth —*

## Superstars of service: Stacey Huneck

BY TAMI DELUCENAY

Stacey Huneck, youth ministry coordinator for St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne, felt called to serve the Church as a teen. Rural Catholic family roots nurtured her life of service, along with her parents' dedication to providing Catholic education.

"I grew up in Avilla, and my family attends St. Mary of the Assumption. I was baptized at Queen of Angels and received first Communion, confirmation and was married at St. Mary. I have three sisters and two brothers, and as we each began our high school careers, we all did the 40-minute drive one-way to attend Bishop Dwenger High School," she recalled.

Huneck's passion for ministry developed during participation in a girls club called Challenge in high school.

"I attended a retreat led by a community of consecrated women in Cincinnati, which inspired my relationship with Jesus. I knew I wanted to pursue a degree in theology, so I attended the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne. I started out as an education major, but soon transitioned to a theology major."

Huneck is also a recent graduate of the University of Notre Dame Master of Theology pro-

gram through the Our Sunday Visitor diocesan program.

"I began serving the parish as the high school youth ministry coordinator in 2013," she said. "Our ministry to the teens consists of small faith sharing groups called YDisciple. I recruit and train volunteers who feel called to work with young people and equip them to lead each small group." St. Charles has eight small groups that meet once a week.

### Youth Ministry Leaders

The groups' study topics are specific to the area of interest of the teens. "Our topics of discussion vary, and include social justice issues, friendships and virtue, and the Church. One group wanted to know about finance and how that is seen in the view of the Church.

"As the leaders engage their youth in discussion, it allows time for deeper dialog and tools to answer the difficult questions the teens are facing."

Along with the small groups, the teens engage in large-group activities. St. Charles hosts two retreats a year in Huntington at the St. Felix Catholic Center.

"Our spring retreat in March was cancelled due to COVID-19 and turned into a virtual retreat. We rescheduled the retreat with the St. Felix center to take place on June 13, but that too had to be transitioned to a virtual retreat. However, we were able to meet in person for Mass, adoration and confession at St. Charles.

"After we wrapped up, one of the parents mentioned to Father Tom Shoemaker that it was my husband's, Phil, and my five-year anniversary, and he asked us if we wanted to renew our wedding vows. Some of the teens came back into the church to witness our vow renewal."

Huneck leads a small group on Sunday evening for senior girls.

"Through the witness talks that take place on our retreats and in our small groups, we hope to have these talks be conversion engines to help teens grow in their relationship with Jesus. It can't just be a one-time experience, but an ongoing relationship. I want the young people to know they are not alone, and that we are here to accompany them on their journey. Jesus, too, wants to walk with them."



# Choosing to live differently: Red Masses celebrated

BY JENNIFER MILLER

“The Red Mass is a votive Mass of the Holy Spirit. Every year at this Mass, we pray for members of the legal profession, lawyers, judges, students and professors of the law, and also for civic officials,” Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades preached at the annual Red Masses, which took place Sept. 30 in South Bend and Oct. 5 in Fort Wayne.

“We ask the Holy Spirit to guide them and bless them with His manifold gifts. This year, when there is so much disunity and polarization in our nation and even within the Church in our nation, I invite you to pray for unity. The Holy Spirit is the principle and source of the Church’s unity.”

At the start of each judicial year, Catholic administrators of justice in the legal profession gather together to pray and worship together, asking the invocation of the Holy Spirit. The St. Thomas More societies of South Bend and Fort Wayne hosted the Red Masses, which were livestreamed for those unable to attend in person. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, receptions and dinners that normally follow the Masses were canceled.

This year, Bishop Rhoades suggested to those present to keep in prayer the new Supreme Court nominee, Judge Amy Coney Barrett — Catholic wife, mother, professor of law at the University of Notre Dame Law School and



John Martin

**Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades begins a Red Mass celebrated for those in the legal profession at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, Oct. 5 in Fort Wayne. He asked those present to be sensitive to offenses that cause unjust harm, specifically, “the sins of rash judgement, detraction, calumny and defamation.”**

parishioner of St. Joseph Parish, South Bend, as she begins the confirmation process in the U.S. Senate.

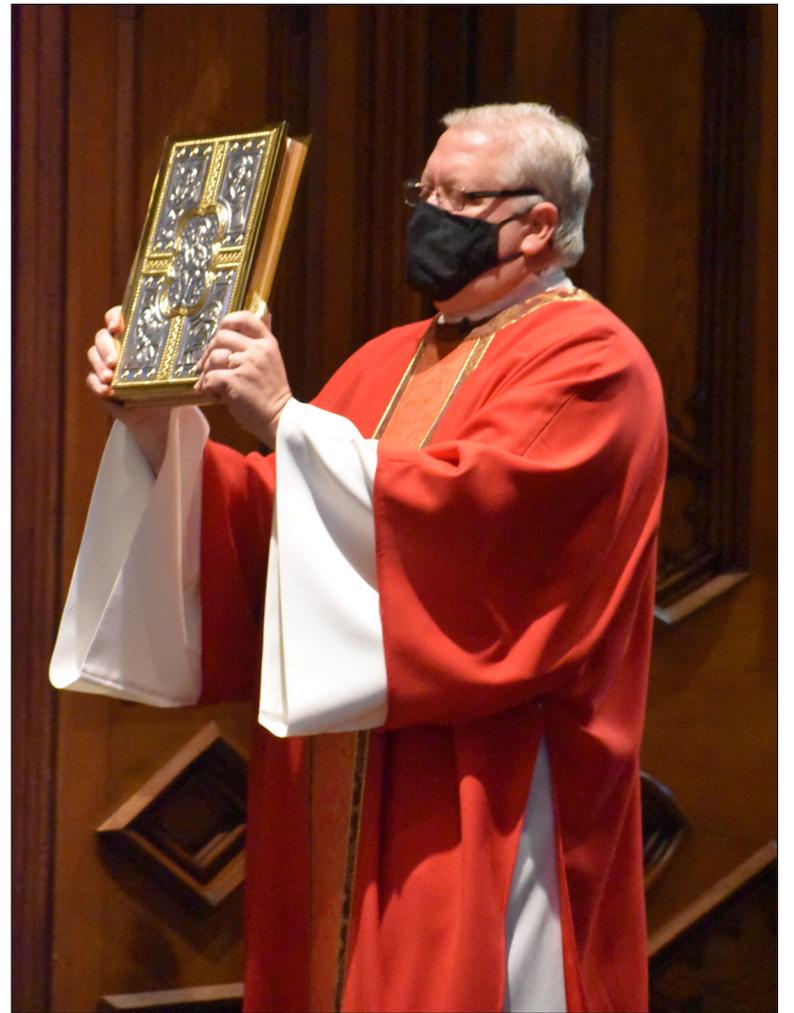
This theme of unity, being one in and with Christ and His Church, was heard throughout Bishop Rhoades’ homily, which was on point with the current climate in the country.

“One might have expected that the COVID pandemic would have united Americans in fight-

ing the spread of the virus, but it has divided Americans even more. So we have not only a coronavirus pandemic, but another pandemic – a pandemic of anger,” he illuminated.

“Social media, including Twitter, Facebook and blogs have

More photos are available at [www.todayscatholic.org](http://www.todayscatholic.org)



Jennifer Miller

**Deacon Frederick Everett, JD, prepares to read the Gospel at the South Bend Red Mass Sept. 30 at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame.**

often become forums used more for the expression of divisive and nasty commentary than for constructive and civil dialogue. Traditional social mores and norms of conversation are thrown to the wind. Respect for those with whom one disagrees is often missing,” he pointed out.

“It has become culturally acceptable to abuse and injure other people and damage and destroy their reputation. Even many Christians engage in such a manner, seemingly oblivious to the Eighth Commandment’s prohibition of rash judgment, defamation, slander, and cal-

umny. The anonymity of social media emboldens some people to behave badly. We must not forget that we are not anonymous to God.”

Bishop Rhoades reminded the faithful present, “As lawyers and judges, you know the importance of the Eighth Commandment, the gravity of false witness, perjury, and how it can lead to innocent people being found guilty or guilty people being exonerated. The exercise of justice is thus gravely compromised. As

**RED MASS, page 14**

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## Pregnancy-associated cardiomyopathy

Recently, I was emergently called to see a beautiful 34-year-old mom at a local hospital. She had delivered her sixth child about five days before. Her baby had respiratory distress after delivery and was still in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Mom had been discharged, but unfortunately just three days later came back to the hospital with fever and shortness of breath. After admission she suddenly became so breathless that a “rapid response” was called.

Specially trained nurses, respiratory therapists, and in-house physicians are trained to respond immediately to these calls to try to promptly diagnose and treat these distressed patients. It was after the team discovered that this young lady was in acute congestive heart failure that I was asked to consult. An echocardiogram had been completed stat before I got to the bedside. As I pulled up the heart ultrasound on the computer to review, I was fairly confident that I already knew the diagnosis.

My concerns were confirmed as I looked at the echocardiogram, which showed a low ejection fraction. This mom had a pregnancy-associated cardiomyopathy. Her left ventricle was very weak with poor pump function, or low ejection fraction.

As I walked into the room, I was immediately greeted by the mother and father of this young lady. I introduced myself as Dr. Kaminskis, the cardiologist asked to consult. They quickly responded, “We know.” It turns out that this family was Catholic and was familiar with

my Today’s Catholic articles and had also heard my “Faith and Medicine” segments on Redeemer Radio.

The young lady greeted me as she sat in the hospital bed. She was no longer in respiratory distress. She had already responded to the IV diuretics given for the pulmonary edema, or fluid in the lungs. I followed my usual protocol by taking a history and doing a complete physical exam. It was at this point that her husband entered the room, sat next to his wife and lovingly held her hand.

There are times when I believe it is best to take several days with multiple conversations to discuss the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment plan with a new and serious diagnosis such as this. There were extenuating circumstances in this case: I was not going to be available at this particular hospital the rest of the week, and I had all the right people in the room right now. Therefore, I decided to lay it all out at one sitting. By the time I had finished this young lady was sobbing in her husband’s arms. She was overwhelmed with all the information I shared, and I wished I had taken a different approach.

The medical term most commonly used for this diagnosis by physicians is peripartum cardiomyopathy. In the United States the rate of its occurrence is about 1 in 2,000 births. African Americans have a substantially higher incidence. In some parts of the world it is a lot higher, like Nigeria, where young women have as high as a 1 in 100 chance of being stricken with this serious heart problem. The cause is unknown and is



DR. DAVID KAMINSKAS

### THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

likely multifactorial. Genetics may play a role.

The presenting complaints are usually shortness of breath and leg edema, or swelling. For about 2% it is a life-threatening illness. These young moms can have cardiac arrest, refractory congestive heart failure and shock (dangerously low blood pressure). Nearly 5% do so poorly they need a cardiac transplant. The mortality at two years from diagnosis is estimated to be 10%. The good news is that there is complete recovery in about half of the women. But if these women who have fully recovered get pregnant again, they have a 20% chance of developing the cardiomyopathy for the second time.

In those women who, despite optimum medical treatment do not have full recovery of their heart function after their pregnancy, getting pregnant again can be very risky. It is estimated that 50% of these women who have persistent left ventricular dysfunction will have further deterioration with another pregnancy. I have taken care of a young lady who chose to have a second pregnancy, and unfortunately, it led to her death. As

KAMINSKAS, page 13

## Our balm for 2020: the communion of saints

Paula Kraus wasn’t afraid to utter the wish burning on her heart, the one that seizes so many preparing to lose a loved one.

The Minnesota mom yearned for some kind of indication that, though she and her dying father would soon be separated, they would remain connected. And being a Catholic, Kraus had the vocabulary to express it.

She had come for a one-on-one visit with her dad on a Saturday afternoon. His death appeared imminent, so she knelt at his side and peered into his hazel eyes.

“Will you send me a sign?” Kraus asked. “I really want to believe in the communion of saints. I want to believe that you hear my prayers.”

“I will if I can,” he whispered.

The next day, Kraus brought her young children to see their grandpa. On the drive home, she explained to them that a metamorphosis was underway in him, much like a caterpillar turns into a butterfly.

Early the next day, Fritz Koshiol died – a beloved 86-year-old father of 11 from Plymouth, Minnesota. Paula, his 10th child, was at his side. She promptly called her sister Maria, who exclaimed: “Oh, Paula, you just woke me from a dream about a cocoon changing into a big butterfly. It landed on a hospital bed in our old house.”

The following day, Kraus and her mom met with their priest to plan the funeral. They took



CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

### TWENTY SOMETHING

the back roads home, which led them by their previous house, where they had lived until Paula was 7. The owners were outside, so Kraus felt comfortable asking for a walk-through.

As she entered the house, she felt a strong sense of her dad’s presence. Then they walked into the bedroom where Maria’s dream had taken place right as her dad was dying. The owner moved a file cabinet, revealing a poster of a butterfly taped to the wall. It said: “There is strength in loving. If you love someone, you must be strong enough to allow them to be.”

Kraus wept.

The day of Fritz’s burial at Fort Snelling was blustery. After the ceremony, as the group walked back to their cars and the wind whipped, a big black swallowtail flew between the group and up into a tree.

It felt like the sign she had asked her.

Finally she could truly believe in the communion of saints. She could feel it in her heart. She could feel her father close.

As the years pressed on, and

CAPECCHI, page 13

## The Lord is king, and there is no other



### THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 22:15-21

The second part of the Book of Isaiah provides this weekend’s first reading. The context was a very bad time for God’s people. The two Hebrew kingdoms no longer existed, both having been victims of a military onslaught from neighboring, and very strong, Babylonia.

Invasions had swept away the structures of the two kingdoms. Their dynasties were eradicated. They lost their independence. Many people died. Survivors were at the mercy of the invaders.

Victorious invaders took many of the survivors to Babylon, the

capital of the empire, where the Hebrews were kept not exactly as hostages; but their lives were miserable.

Times eventually changed, however. The Babylonians themselves fell before the intrusion of a powerful neighbor, Persia.

Cyrus, the Persian king, had no interest in holding the exiles from the once-Hebrew kingdoms, so he allowed them to return home. For them, it was a day of unequalled joy.

A most novel turn of phrase was the prophet’s depiction of King Cyrus as an instrument of God. It was a novelty, since Cyrus was a pagan. He was not in any sense a son of Abraham. He had no knowledge of, or regard for, the One God of Israel. His ancestors had never followed Moses across the Sinai Peninsula in the Exodus.

Yet, God used Cyrus to accomplish the divine will. The divine will was responsible for the survival and return to peace and security of the children of Abraham.

This weekend’s second reading is from the First Letter to the

Thessalonians. Thessalonica was a Greek city on the Greek mainland of the Balkans. It is one of the few New Testament cities still existing as an important center, site of the modern Greek city of Saloniki.

The epistle comes from Paul, ministering with his disciples Silvanus and Timothy.

Paul reassured, encouraged and strengthened Thessalonica’s Christians, trying to exist amid a hostile, pagan culture. He also forcefully asserted his own credentials. Paul insisted that he was a most devout believer in the message of the Lord Jesus, and an Apostle, specially chosen by Christ. His authority came from the Lord.

St. Matthew’s Gospel provides the last reading. It is one of the best-known passages in the New Testament.

The reading does not teach that two reservoirs of authority exist on earth, equal but distinct, removed from each other: one the state, the other God.

Detractors thought that they could trick Jesus. If the Lord spoke against paying taxes,

Roman law would be violated, and the Romans were unforgiving. If Jesus approved paying taxes, then the hated Roman conquest and occupation would be validated.

Jesus fell into neither trap, bluntly stating that God’s law is supreme. The emperor’s image on the coin was important. Give it back to him. It only is metal, an earthly invention.

### Reflection

Sadly, this magnificent lesson from Matthew’s Gospel often is distorted in interpretations of the separation of church and state in the American constitutional context.

The Bill of Rights responded to the widespread practice at the time of preferring and legally supporting one denomination over another. England maintained Protestantism. France and Spain enforced Catholicism.

Constitutionally, in America, primacy was given to personal conviction, including religious conviction. The state should not frustrate or complicate individual

conscience by elevating one stated theology over another.

Civil authority has rights and dignity, because it enables justice and the common good. But today, Christians who detest legal abortion, which is frankly now the law of the land, are fully within their human and constitutional, rights.

Even in democracies, civil authority comes from fallible human judgments. Divine revelation is from God.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Is 45:1, 4-6 Ps 96:1, 3-5, 7-10  
1 Thes 1:1-5b Mt 22:15-21

**Monday:** Eph 2:1-10 Ps 100:1b-5 Lk 12:13-21

**Tuesday:** Eph 2:12-22 Ps 85:9-14 Lk 12:35-38

**Wednesday:** Eph 3:2-12 (Ps) Is 12:3, 4c-6 Lk 12:39-48

**Thursday:** Eph 3:14-21 Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 11-12, 18-19 Lk 12:49-53

**Friday:** Eph 4:1-6 Ps 24:1-4b, 5-6 Lk 12:54-59

**Saturday:** Eph 4:7-16 Ps 122:1-5 Lk 13:1-9

# Is mandating a COVID-19 vaccine ethical?

Virginia State Health Commissioner Dr. Norman Oliver told a local news station in August that he planned to mandate COVID-19 immunizations for Virginians once a vaccine becomes available to the public. The following day, the Governor, Ralph Northam, pulled rank on the commissioner and announced there would be no vaccine mandate after all. The health department walked back the commissioner's earlier comments while the governor's office issued a statement focusing on vaccine accessibility and fair distribution, not a mandate.

Virginia law, nevertheless, does empower the commissioner to issue a vaccine mandate under certain conditions. Virginia has a religious exemption for vaccines generally, but not if the state declares an "emergency or epidemic of any disease of public health importance for which a vaccine exists." In the emergency situation, the only exemption would be for serious medical reasons, i.e. the vaccine would be detrimental to the health of the recipient, as certified by a physician.

State legislators have been pushing to update the Virginia law to include a religious exemption in an emergency declaration.

The contentious discussions in Virginia raise broader questions about vaccine mandates and exemptions.

It can be helpful to distinguish local vaccine mandates from universal ones.

A local mandate means an immunization is required for services or employment, insisting, for example, that children be vaccinated prior to admission to the local school, or workers in a hospital system be compliant with Centers for Disease Control immunization schedules as a condition for employment.

A universal mandate, meanwhile, involves a demand that all residents of a particular geographical area, such as a township, county, state or country be immunized.

Generally speaking, vaccinations should not be universally mandated, considering the unique manner in which a

vaccine can impose itself upon the inner workings of the human body, and in consideration of the potentially complex set of risks that may accrue.

Especially for newly developed vaccines with uncertain profiles of efficacy, adverse events and long-term consequences, universal mandates are ethically problematic.

Only in the face of a highly virulent and deadly pathogen, with few or no alternative treatments available — and it would be doubtful whether any vaccine for COVID-19 could ever qualify in this way — might a broader, universal-type mandate become justifiable.

Even in such high risk situations, however, only a "soft universal mandate" would be justifiable, one that allowed for at least three exemptions to be liberally available to the populace: a conscience exemption, a religious exemption, and as noted earlier, a medical exemption. These exceptions provide the basis for appropriate "opt outs" to occur and for basic human freedoms to be duly safeguarded.

A local vaccine mandate to ensure the safety of a school or work environment can be acceptable and not unduly coercive, in part because no one is compelled to seek employment in the field of health care, nor to be educated in one specific school setting. Also, exemptions are oftentimes available within schools or certain health care settings.

How would a religious exemption differ from a conscience exemption?

A religious exemption would apply if the teachings of the faith of the individual to be vaccinated held that vaccines in general were immoral and contrary to God's will, as might be the case for members of the Christian Science Church founded by Mary Baker Eddy. Since there is no Catholic teaching that the reception of vaccines, including those that rely on fetal cell lines from abortions that happened long ago, is sinful, Catholics cannot claim a religious exemption from the requirement of immunization.

A conscience exemption,



## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

meanwhile, would refer to the situation in which an individual in conscience believed that it was immoral to be vaccinated.

Some individuals might claim a conscience exemption if they were convinced, even following extensive safety and efficacy testing, that the risks of being inoculated outweighed the potential benefits.

It is Catholic teaching that one must follow one's informed judgment of conscience even if one is in error because the conscience is our last best judgment about what is right or wrong.

Some Catholics might claim a conscience exemption out of a mistaken but sincerely held conviction that vaccinations themselves are always wrong, or that it is always immoral to receive vaccines made out of cell lines from abortions when that is the only option available.

Some states and jurisdictions do not distinguish between religious and conscience exemptions. They only make available a religious exemption, by which they often intend to include and subsume under the same heading the exercise of conscientious objection.

In sum, state-sponsored or legislative coercion through a universal vaccine mandate raises ethical concerns, especially when appropriate exemptions are unavailable.

Health officials should instead seek to educate those under their authority, through careful and patient explanation, about the importance of receiving a vaccine, so they might freely choose to do so on their own initiative.

**Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D.** serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for October 18, 2020

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b; Matthew 22:15-21

Following is a word search based on the Second Reading and Gospel for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: about conviction in faith. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

TIMOTHY	CHURCH	GRACE
PEACE	PRAYERS	LABOR
CHOSEN	GOSPEL	POWER
CONVICTION	PLOTTED	ENTRAP
SENT	HERODIANS	TEACHER
WE KNOW	THE WAY	LAWFUL
MALICE	HYPOCRITES	CAESAR

### MALICE

```

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

## ST. SIMON AND ST. JUDE

FEAST: OCTOBER 28



Listed among the Twelve Apostles in the New Testament, Simon is "the Canaanite" to Matthew and Mark and "the Zealot" to Luke; Jude is "Thaddeus" to Matthew and Mark, "Judas of James" to Luke, and "Judas, not Iscariot" to John. After Pentecost, they disappear. However, according to Eastern tradition, Simon died peacefully

in Edessa, while Western tradition has him evangelizing in Egypt, then teaming up with Jude, who had been in Mesopotamia, on a mission to Persia, where they were martyred on the same day. Simon is the patron saint of tanners and lumberjacks; Jude is the patron of desperate causes, possibly because early Christians would pray to him, with a name evoking Judas Iscariot, only when all else failed.

### CAPECCHI, from page 12

Kraus lost her mother and raised her children, this belief turned into action. It became a way to live, on this side of heaven, a state of being that remains attached to those on the other side.

"I don't feel a separation from my parents," she said. "I feel like I can access them any time."

She talks to them regularly. She prays to them during Mass, when all the angels and saints gather. She speaks of them in

the present tense.

She has turned her dad into a patron saint for her four young kids, invoking him whenever they depart on a road trip by remembering his penchant for taking the back roads. They pray an Our Father, a Hail Mary and a Glory Be, then say, "Grandpa, King of the Scenic Route, pray for us."

As All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day near this difficult year, when COVID-19 has claimed more than 200,000 lives, we should embrace the commu-

nion of saints, Kraus said. "The saints have experienced plagues and beheadings and riots. They know this human struggle."

Look for little signs. Pay attention to that feeling of nearness. Talk to your loved ones in heaven. And utter those powerful words: "All you holy men and women, pray for us."

**Christina Capecchi** is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.

### KAMINSKAS, from page 12

a physician, I need to counsel these moms about the risks of future pregnancies. Ultimately though, the final decision is for the couple and God to decide.

Some cardiologists go years at a time without seeing a pregnancy-related cardiomyopathy, since it is infrequent in the United States. I, on the other hand, have seen multiple cases in the last year. I hope I was not only able to improve their chances of recovery, but also help them feel

the love and compassion that they deserve from their medical care team. The young mom whom I wrote about to open this article thankfully made a quick and complete recovery. After all, she had six children to attend to. Praise the Lord.

**Dr. David Kaminskas** is a board-certified cardiologist and member of the Dr. Jerome Lejeune Catholic Medical Guild of Northeast Indiana, [www.fortwaynecma.com](http://www.fortwaynecma.com).

**RED MASS, from page 11**

members of the legal profession, you are rightly sensitive to these grave offenses against truth. We all need to be sensitive to, and opposed to, the other offenses against the Eighth Commandment that cause unjust harm, as I mentioned, the sins of rash judgment, detraction, calumny and defamation."

Quoting Pope Francis, Bishop Rhoades noted that, "Christians too can be caught up in networks of verbal violence through the internet and the various forums of digital communication. Even in Catholic media, limits can be overstepped, defamation and slander can become commonplace and all ethical standards and respect for the good name of others can be abandoned" (*Gaudete et Exultate 115*).

He explained, "This lack of civil dialogue and respect for others is a moral and spiritual problem, an area in which Christians should be setting a good example. As Catholics, we should be

part of the solution, not part of the problem that we face in our polarized society. We are called to be better."

He encouraged the faithful to be actively engaged in the world, while not being of the world. "We should not withdraw from the culture nor shirk our political responsibilities. As Catholics, we must not shirk our responsibility to promote the common good. We are called to be faithful citizens, which means putting our Christian discipleship ahead of allegiance to one's political party and fidelity to the Church's teaching ahead of any political ideology."

From the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, president of the Fort Wayne St.

Thomas More Society, Judge Kenton Kiracofe shared, "The Red Mass is an event I look forward to each year to reflect on my role as a Catholic member

Commandment, not just the obvious sins of false witness and perjury but the sins of defamation, calumny, rash judgment and detraction which seem to be

very common on social media."

Stephen Judge, president of the South Bend St. Thomas More Society, concurred. "The St. Thomas More Society of South Bend is very grateful to Bishop Rhoades for celebrating the Red Mass again this year and for helping make a

livestream available for those prevented from attending in person by the pandemic. We especially appreciated his moving homily and his vital call for unity in these deeply divisive times. We are blessed by the bishop's genuine care and concern for the legal community."

Numerous law students and professors also attended, broadening the community as children and extended families were welcomed.

"While we are saddened that the coronavirus pandemic made it difficult for many colleagues to attend in person and prevented our usual post-Red Mass reception, we look forward to resuming that tradition in future years," Judge mentioned.

Attorney Scott Hall expressed similar sentiments.

"The 'experience' this year for the Fort Wayne Red Mass was truly different with respect to face masks, social distancing and the lack of a supper with keynote speaker following the Mass," Hall observed. "Still, despite those issues, attendance was pretty good. To me, that shows the true meaning and importance of the Red Mass persevered for many despite the obstacles and concerns of the times. Bishop's references in his homily to our obligations as Catholics with respect to social media were very insightful, and timely."

*"This lack of civil dialogue and respect for others is a moral and spiritual problem, an area in which Christians should be setting a good example.*

*As Catholics, we should be part of the solution, not part of the problem*

*that we face in our polarized society. We are called to be better."*

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

**St. Joseph Missions: Road Rally Bingo**  
**FORT WAYNE** — Oct. 24 is National Make a Difference Day, and St. Joseph Missions is offering a Road Rally Bingo from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. to make a meaningful difference in the lives of single homeless women. For more details and how to play visit [www.stjosephmissions.org](http://www.stjosephmissions.org) or contact Lisa Fabian 260-200-3774 or [lisa@stjosephmissions.org](mailto:lisa@stjosephmissions.org). Cost is \$20 per bingo card.  
 Designed as a fun, safe, and family friendly event, Road Rally Bingo matches a list of sponsors to clues on a bingo card. To earn a square, participants travel to the business matching the clue, snap a selfie and post it on their Facebook and Instagram pages. When players complete a double bingo, they will head to the finish line, where their card will be entered into one of several drawings for a prize package.

**Mass at St. Patrick Oratory**  
**LAGRO** — A new Mass time of 11 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month is now in place for St. Patrick Oratory on Main Street. In keeping with COVID-19 state rules, please wear a mask and socially distance.

**White Mass**  
**FORT WAYNE** — Bishop Rhoades will celebrate a White Mass for health care workers with the Fort Wayne Catholic Medical Guild at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27. Anyone is invited, especially health care workers. There will be no meeting afterward. Visit [www.fortwayne.cathmed.org](http://www.fortwayne.cathmed.org) or contact Julie Bryan at 260-222-6978 or [fortwayne.cathmed@gmail.com](mailto:fortwayne.cathmed@gmail.com) for information.

**Memorial Mass for those who have lost a child**  
**FORT WAYNE** — Those who have lost a child before or after birth — whether recently or long ago — are invited to a special Memorial Mass on Friday, Oct. 23, at St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, celebrated by Father Andrew Budzinski. Contact Caty Burke 260-422-4611 or [cburke@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:cburke@diocesefwsb.org) for details.

**Fish and tenderloin fry hosted by Knights**  
**BLUFFTON** — A fish and tenderloin fry, drive-thru only, will be from 4-30-7:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 16, at St. Joseph Parish, 1300 N Main St. Adult meals \$10; child meals \$6.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend: virtual**  
**FORT WAYNE** — Worldwide Marriage Encounter is now bringing the weekend experience to all Nov. 14-15 via Zoom, with presentation team couples during this two-day live event. Discover the same thing thousands of other couples discover every year: There's always more room for greater love. Visit [wwme.org](http://wwme.org) or apply online at [wwme-ni.org](http://wwme-ni.org). Call Jen and Greg at 260-422-0803 for information.

**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, Nov. 3, will feature Deacon Dan Koehl. For information, contact Christine Nix at [cbonahoom-nix@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:cbonahoom-nix@diocesefwsb.org).

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Marjorie J. Kaminski, 92, Holy Family

**Fort Wayne**  
 Roland Clements, 67, St. Vincent de Paul

**Monroeville**  
 Robert Johnson, 75, St. Rose of Lima

James Laskowski, 69, St. Anthony de Padua

Rita Grzeticz, 89, St. Charles Borromeo

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# October is Respect Life Month

## Catholic Charities' ECHO Program helps teen mom choose life and build a future

BY CATHOLIC CHARITIES STAFF

**“A**ll you need is support,” said Janet. “When you have a person who believes in you, that’s all you really need.”

Janet was just 14 when she got pregnant. She was frightened and confused, a state compounded by a troubled home life. Her father was absent frequently and fought often with her mother. Her mother was routinely critical of her and responded poorly to the news of her pregnancy. In the midst of this, Janet’s school performance suffered and her self-confidence was shattered.

Fortunately, she enrolled herself in the School Age Mothers Program through the South Bend Community Schools system. There she received vital information from the professionals on staff and friendship from other teen moms in her same situation. Most importantly, she was introduced to the Catholic Charities ECHO Program.

“We are here to be a resource and provide encouragement,” said Lauren Jankowski, Janet’s ECHO case manager. “The key to the program’s success, though, is the long-term relationship we have with these young moms. For many, we are the only source of stability in their lives.”

ECHO, which stands for Education Creates Hope and Opportunity, is designed to help pregnant teens stay in high school and complete their diploma, all while still raising their children. ECHO also helps young mothers continue their education beyond high school.

Like many other teen moms, Janet, now 23, faced the possibility of dropping out. And without a high school diploma, she would have very poor job prospects. With the right support, however, she could get an education and land better-paying jobs so she could keep her young family afloat.

In financial terms, the Catholic Charities ECHO Program has been a great success. Moms like Janet have a higher than



Provided by Nicole Kurut

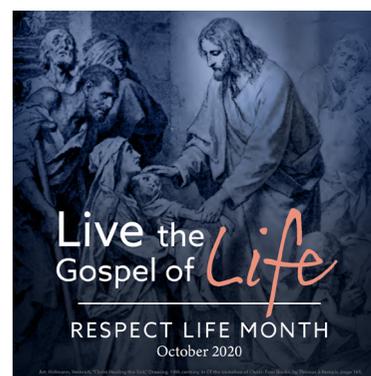
**Education Creates Hope and Opportunity is a Catholic Charities program designed to help young mothers complete their education. Janet, a participant, has graduated high school and hopes to become a social worker in order to provide a good life for her son.**

90% graduation rate, which compares to only 40% for teen moms nationally. It is estimated that every mother on assistance costs the government a minimum of \$640,000 in services over her lifetime. In the last 20 years, ECHO has helped thousands of young mothers avoid poverty in our diocese.

“But the program is about more than avoiding poverty,” said Jankowski. “ECHO is about helping them be accountable and

helping them realize their potential.”

Early on, Janet was plagued with worry and self-doubt. How would she provide for her son? Who could she turn to? Who would love and support her? Her ECHO case manager was a godsend. She provided crisis intervention and monitored Janet’s prenatal care and well-baby care. She ensured that Janet had all the supplies she needed for parenting and school. She



helped her prepare for life after high school. She also worked closely with her family members to repair relationships. All the effort paid off when Janet graduated on time with her class.

To make ends meet, Janet worked a variety of minimum-wage jobs. She knew, though, that furthering her education

was the only way to move up the income ladder. Her ECHO case manager helped her create a plan. The first step was to earn her Child Development Accreditation, a certificate that enabled her to get a full-time job as a teacher at Head Start.

“My ECHO case managers helped me with everything: applying for school, setting up day care, finding a place to live, managing my finances,” said Janet. “They were always there for me.”

Janet credits Jankowski and her other case managers with helping her organize and prioritize her life so she could continue her studies while raising her son. More importantly, Janet said she feels that advancing her education will help her stay out of poverty and provide the life she wants for herself and her family.

Her self-growth and maturity have helped her restore her

relationship with her mother. “Now that I’m a mom, I understand some of things she was going through,” she said. She is also closer to her younger brother and sister. Today her son, Daniel, is enrolled at St. Adalbert School in South Bend and Janet is a parishioner at Our Lady of Hungary. She has also healed her relationship with Daniel’s father, and today they co-parent.

In 2018, Janet experienced a traumatic event with a loved one that has taken a great emotional toll. Once again, Jankowski acted as a stabilizing influence, helping her stay strong for her son, maintain her home, connect with support groups and pursue her dreams of going back to school, getting married, having more children, buying a home and helping others.

“I want to go back to school to become a social worker,” she said. “I want to help people who are in the same circumstances as me. I’ve been given so much. Now I want to give back.”

JANET

When asked what she would say to other teen moms about her experience with the

program, Janet encouraged them to contact ECHO right away.

“They are like Google: they will help you find whatever you need,” she said. “But more important, they are always there for you. You will never be alone.”

*Janet’s last name withheld to protect her privacy.*