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November 29, 2020

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 94 No. 40

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*O come, desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
bid ev'ry sad division cease
and be thyself our Prince of peace.*

HOPE

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

(ISSN 0891-1533)
(USPS 403630)

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

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

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

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

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

Today's Catholic may be reached at:
Today's Catholic,
P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN
46856-1169; or email:
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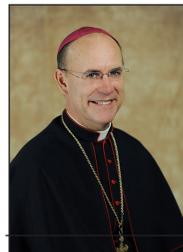
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Advent hope during the pandemic



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Advent is a time of waiting, of expectation and of hope. This year, we are all waiting, expecting and hoping for an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. We wait for and expect a safe and effective vaccine. We look forward with hope to a return to normal life, to not have to worry about getting too close to people, to be able to gather again with family and friends, to travel, and to worship and praise God in song at our liturgies.

We wait in joyful expectation for the coming of a vaccine. We hope that soon it will be widely distributed. We look forward to going out to eat and shopping without worry of contracting the virus. We look forward to attending sports events and enjoying full stadiums. We look forward to continual in-person classes in our schools, without worrying about having to resort to virtual classes.

We wait with hope to being able to visit our loved ones in hospitals and nursing homes and those who have had to stay home during this pandemic. We look forward to visiting them without the worry that we may be carrying the deadly virus.

We wait to go to church and gathering closely again as we worship the Lord. We hope to see our churches full without necessary empty pews to keep people apart. We look forward to singing without worrying about spreading the virus. We look forward to exchanging the sign of peace with our neighbors.

We wait and we hope. Yet even when life returns to normal, there will not be an end to sickness and suffering. There will not be an end to all loneliness and isolation. The sorrows of life will not disappear. The production of a vaccine, a wonderful accomplishment of science, which we have hoped and prayed for, will not bring peace to the world. As wonderful as it is, a vaccine will not eradicate the diseases of the spirit that are part of our life in this valley of tears. It will not eradicate sin and injustice. A vaccine will not bring eternal life. It will not inoculate us against sin and death.

We hope for a vaccine and an end to the pandemic, but this is not our greatest hope. Deep down, we will still feel a longing for something greater, a longing for unending happiness, a longing for joy, peace and love. In a word, we long for salvation. We long for a Savior. We long for God. Without Him, we have no ultimate hope and will not find joy and peace. Without Him, we go through life as a journey toward death. With Him, we go through life as a journey toward the fullness of life.

The season of Advent focuses on this great hope. It is a time of waiting for and expecting the coming of God among us. Our God is the God-who-comes. He is not a God far away in the distant cosmos, a God unconcerned about us and our life. He is the God who became one of us, who sent His Son that we might have life, life in abundance. He is Love and, therefore, He comes to save us.

The angel told Joseph to name the child to be born of Mary "Jesus." He said: "You



Nate Proulx

are to name him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21) This message gives us hope. The name of the Messiah is Jesus, which means "Savior." The purpose of His coming was to save us from our sins. In His infinite love, God sent His Son to rescue us from sin and death. And so we pray to Him: "Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free."

During these weeks of Advent, we prepare for Christmas, the celebration of God's entrance into human history 2,000 years ago in the little town of Bethlehem. We prepare to celebrate the Birth of our Savior. He is our hope. Without Him, we fall into despair. St. Augustine prayed the following: "How much you have loved us, kind Father! If your Word had not become flesh and had not dwelt among us, we would have had to believe that there was no connection between God and humanity and we would have been in despair."

Advent not only focuses on God's coming in history 2,000 years ago, but also on His future coming at the end of time when He will be seen in glory and majesty. In this second coming in glory, Jesus will come to judge the living and the dead, as we profess in the Nicene Creed. In Advent, the Church invites us to think about this second coming of Christ, His glorious return, which is the final destination of our pilgrimage through life. We don't know when this will take place, but the Scriptures teach us to be vigilant and prepared for the Master's return. The expectation of the second coming should spur us on, motivate us to be vigilant in prayer and active in good works, to be ready for the judgment.

As we prepare to commemorate Christ's

coming at Christmas and as we await His glorious return, we also recognize that He comes now. When Jesus ascended into heaven, He did not leave us here alone. He comes to us in the grace of the sacraments. He comes into our souls and in the community of the Church. We need only open our hearts to Him and His love. In Advent, we are called to intensify our prayer so as to welcome the Lord more fully into our lives. We are to be watchful in prayer for the coming of the Lord, preparing to receive the Lord who comes to show us His mercy and give us His salvation.

Jesus, who came among us at Christmas and will return in glory at the end of time, constantly comes to us in the events of our lives. He is always near us. He accompanies us in every situation, in joys and in sorrows, in health and in sickness. He is always close to us. And He has given us His Mother to accompany us as well. In Advent, we will celebrate her Immaculate Conception and also her appearance in America as Our Lady of Guadalupe. In this season of hope, we turn to her, Our Mother of Hope, to guide us. In her heart and in her womb, she bore the Incarnate Son of God. She directs us to Him. Mary our Mother encourages us and supports us with her love and her prayers as we await the coming of her Son.

As we await and hope for the end of the coronavirus pandemic, let us even more importantly await the coming of the Lord and place our hope in Him. In this season of Advent, let us turn our gaze and our heart to Him who is our Savior, in spiritual union with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Advent! May God bless you with a blessed and fruitful Advent!



Provided by Mary Cris Miranda

Parents Mary Cris Miranda and Gerardo Reyes of South Bend were overjoyed to welcome a son, also named Gerardo, to the family in October. The couple's wait to become pregnant was long: During that time they found hope and fulfillment in their faith, including by attending the diocesan Marriage and Family Ministry's Hope for the Journey group.

Family welcomes baby after 13 years

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

Mary Cris Miranda and Gerardo Reyes met at a regional Mexican youth group dedicated to St. Therese, the "Little Flower," in 1999. Currently attending St. Therese, Little Flower Parish in South Bend, prayer and Christian fellowship have been an essential ingredient in their shared journey ever since. On Oct. 15, the couple welcomed their son, Gerardo Reyes-Miranda, shortly before celebrating their 13th wedding anniversary.

Miranda said children have always been attracted to her husband, who currently plays a paternal role in the lives of the 7-to-9-year-olds he coaches in soccer. She too has exercised motherliness, preferring teaching and mentoring students to research in her academic profession; she has taken a personal interest in her students' lives that goes beyond academics. The couple also enjoy being the godparents of six young people.

Miranda and Reyes came from large, supportive extended families in Mexico, so it was natural for them to envision a large family for themselves after they married in 2007. She wanted to have her first child before she turned 30, so they began trying after she finished her master's degree and he was stable in his civil engineering job. Nothing happened. After being married five years, they began seeking

explanations.

The first gynecologist they consulted suggested artificial reproductive technology. Seeking a second opinion, they consulted a doctor trained in Natural Procreative Technology and the Creighton method.

They loved the introductory session. During it, Miranda began thinking, "I'd love to learn how to be a fertility care practitioner." After it was over, Reyes turned to her and said, "You'd be really good at doing that." Shortly afterward, she began her training.

Miranda compares the approach to fine-tuning an old-fashioned radio. Instead of zeroing in on infertility, it tries to optimize every aspect of a person's physical, emotional and spiritual well-being, viewing pregnancy as the natural consequence of health. Even if no pregnancy results, one's quality of life gets better and better in the process.

The couple is committed to doing everything they can to cooperate, "but at the end of the day," as Miranda puts it, "God decides whether and when and how we have a child."

Infertility is tough on couples. "Having your husband by your side is absolutely essential," testified Miranda. She and Reyes have learned to be thankful for every single blessing they receive: being alive, having food to eat, a roof over their heads, supportive family and friends. This protects them from focusing

exclusively on having a baby, as if everything else will fall into place when they achieve that one objective and life has no purpose until they do.

"Our prayer began to change. We kept asking for the baby we so desired, believing God had given us that desire, but we also prayed to be happy with God's plan," says Miranda. "We determined we'd live a full life, whatever God had in mind for us."

When they came to Notre Dame in 2015 so Miranda could pursue her Ph.D., they began seeing doctors at St. Joseph OB/GYN Specialists and Midwifery. Suzy Younger, her fertility care practitioner there, told Miranda about Hope for the Journey. She attended its first meeting at Anna McKeever's home, only blocks from their house.

"I was a little apprehensive," she admits, "but it was wonderful. Infertility can be such a lonely journey. It can be difficult to open your heart and tell your story, but these ladies understood, and each brought a slightly different perspective that enriched us all. We all shed tears as we shared, but our meetings weren't sad. We helped each other explore what it means to live up to our full potential as women."

Miranda served on the committee that helped plan last year's Evening of Hope and Healing. She greeted couples at the door, giving each a rose and a copy of a prayer to Our Lady that Lisa Everett, director of



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, November 29: 9 a.m. — Mass, St. Mary of the Presentation Church, Geneva
 Sunday, November 29: 6:30 p.m. — Lighting of Diocesan Christmas Tree for an Evening of Heavenly Lights, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
 Monday, November 30: 10 a.m. — Meeting of the Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, Fort Wayne
 Tuesday, December 1: 10:30 a.m. — Virtual Advent Day of Recollection for Priests
 Tuesday, December 1: 5:30 p.m. — Meeting of Diocesan Review Board, Wyndham Garden Hotel, Warsaw
 Wednesday, December 2: 10 a.m. — Virtual Advent Reflections with Our Sunday Visitor
 Thursday, December 3: 3 p.m. — Virtual Meeting of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Region VII
 Thursday, December 3: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Christ the King Church, South Bend
 Friday, December 4: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Christ the King Church, South Bend
 Saturday, December 5: 10 a.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Monica Church, Mishawaka
 Saturday, December 5: 4 p.m. — Mass, St. Hedwig Church, South Bend

Marriage and Family Ministry for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, had found. The evening served as a powerful reminder that Jesus is the divine healer.

Miranda didn't know what to expect when the prayer team laid hands on her and Reyes, but it was wonderful, something like heaven opening and a flood of light penetrating each of them on a deep level, she said. "I didn't even know what was broken and in need of healing, but deep inside I felt myself being restored." Her husband had a similar experience. They were also touched when Father Terrence Coonan prayed over them in Spanish.

Of course this wasn't the first or the last time the couple prayed about their infertility. While home in Mexico for Christmas in 2018, they visited a Bridgettine nun with a charism for praying over childless couples. She gave Miranda a blessed cincture to wear around her waist and gave them a written prayer to offer every time they went to Mass. Daily they prayed the prayer they received at the Evening of Hope and Healing.

Since they only have one car, Reyes driving his wife to work every morning provides an opportunity to start every day by praying together. They said novenas and sought help from saint friends including Bridget of Sweden and Gerard, patron saint of mothers and motherhood. They also followed every suggestion offered by their doctors.

"Sometimes it's hard to keep the faith and hold onto hope," admitted Miranda. "It's tempting to think, 'Why are we doing all this when nothing ever happens?'"

On a Sunday early this year, they checked their chart. Sure enough, it was the right day for a pregnancy test. They picked one up at Costco, along with supplies for Miranda's birthday party the following week. Miranda took the test, but she was reluctant to look at the result so her husband saw the good news first. With joyful tears and disbelief, they called to let friends and relatives know they were pregnant and to ask for prayers.

Reyes' father wasn't surprised. He told them he'd been dreaming about that phone call for a week and was just waiting for it. Their 8-year-old niece had also told her parents that her godparents would be having a baby in 2020.

Miranda struggled with how to tell her Hope for the Journey group. She was pregnant. She knew they'd be happy, but she didn't want to invade that safe space with a sudden announcement. She decided to make a video and send it to each member of the group so that each would have time to process the news in her own way. Their responses, including a return video, were wonderful expressions of joy and hope.

Because of the pandemic, their Mexican baby shower was virtual. Several people confessed they'd been praying for them and greatly admired their patience in waiting for God's timing.

Despite years of biological infertility, the couple has always loved teaching and nurturing children, so now that she is a new mom, Miranda offered this advice:

BABY, page 5

McGivney family, others 'thrilled' Knights founder is beatified

BY KAREN A. AVITABILE

HARTFORD, Conn. (CNS) — John Walshe of Bridgeport, Connecticut, remembers the unveiling of the Father Michael J. McGivney statue in downtown Waterbury, Connecticut, when he was in eighth grade.

Dozens of years later, he was proud to attend the beatification Mass for his relative, now-Blessed McGivney, which was celebrated Oct. 31 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford.

"I thought it would never happen," said an emotional Walshe, who is referred to as the McGivney family expert. One of Blessed McGivney's sisters, Rose McGivney Finn, was Walshe's great-grandmother.

Walshe's first cousin, Joseph Finn, also in attendance, said, "We've been hearing about Father McGivney our whole lives."

Walshe and his cousin were among the limited number of congregants who were allowed to attend the beatification Mass in person. They were among the attendees interviewed by the Catholic Transcript, the magazine of the Archdiocese of Hartford.

The number inside the cathedral was limited by COVID-19 restrictions, and those who were there had to wear face masks and remain socially distanced from one another. Eternal Word Television Network broadcast the Mass and the Knights livestreamed it online.

The Vatican announced May 27 that Pope Francis approved a decree recognizing a miracle attributed to the intercession of Father McGivney, paving the way to his beatification.

The miracle involved the healing of Michael "Mikey" McGivney Schachle in utero from what would have been a fatal

case of fetal hydrops. Michael, his parents, Daniel and Michelle Schachle of Dickson, Tennessee, and several of the couple's other children, attended the beatification.

"It's unbelievable, it's indescribable," said Daniel Schachle, a sentiment echoed by his wife. "It's all very surreal and humbling." He added that he hoped people walked away with a "really deep pro-life message." Little 5-year-old Mikey said he had "fun" on his trip to Connecticut, especially swimming in the hotel pool.

Sister Veronica Mary Sullivan who was raised in Waterbury, credits Blessed McGivney with saving her brother Dennis, who had suffered a massive heart attack at age 41 in 2006.

His heart stopped beating for 26 minutes and doctors were ready to give up but gave him five more minutes. Doctors got a response in that time frame, but the situation still looked grim. He recovered completely and went on to live life to the fullest for another 12 years.

A member of the Sisters of Life, Sister Veronica traveled from New York to attend the beatification, "the day my family has been waiting for," she said. "I'm flooded with thoughts of how much grace is going to be poured on the world because of this."

Father James Sullivan is another of Sister Veronica's brothers. He is the rector of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury, where Blessed McGivney received his sacraments, including his first Communion. The priest said he would do "cartwheels," if he could, over the beatification.

"We are thrilled for the archdiocese, the laity, everybody," said Father Sullivan, who has had a lifelong devotion to Blessed McGivney. "We knew it



CNS photo/Aaron Joseph, Archdiocese of Hartford

Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and members of the Schachle family pay their respects Nov. 1 at the sarcophagus near the entrance of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., where the remains of Blessed Michael McGivney are entombed.

would happen. It feels right now, during a pandemic."

Msgr. John J. Bevins, a former rector of the basilica, called the beatification "a dream come true. It is just so great."

Father Joseph Crowley, pastor of St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Thomaston, Connecticut, formerly St. Thomas Church, where Blessed McGivney served as pastor and later died there, characterized the beatification as "awesome." He added, "It's a great example of what an individual can do for the rest of the world."

Blessed McGivney, the first American parish priest to be beatified, can be viewed as a martyr of a pandemic. When he died of pneumonia complications at age 38 in 1890, he was tending to the faithful during an out-

break of influenza known as the Russian flu in Thomaston. Some recent evidence, according to the Knights, indicates the outbreak may have been the result of a coronavirus.

One of the authors of the biography "Parish Priest: Father McGivney and American Catholicism," made the trip to Hartford from outside of Syracuse, New York. "I truly feel like he is a friend of mine," historian Julie M. Fenster said. "It's a beautiful day."

Fenster wrote the book with fellow historian Douglas Brinkley. It was published by William Morrow/Harper Collins in 2006.

Blessed McGivney served as parochial vicar at St.

Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut, and formed the Knights of Columbus in the basement church hall. The current pastor, Dominican Father John Paul Walker, said the beatification is a "unique moment in history" and to be part of it is a "great honor, a great joy and a great grace."

Brian Caulfield of the Knights of Columbus, who has served as vice postulator for Blessed McGivney's cause for sainthood since January 2012, called the beatification the "culmination of many years of hard work," adding that he hopes a second miracle will be reported and confirmed soon to pave the way for Blessed McGivney's canonization.

In 1997, Father McGivney's cause for sainthood officially opened in Hartford by now-retired Archbishop Daniel A. Cronin, 92. "I didn't think I would live this long," Archbishop Cronin said at the beatification. "I never thought I'd live to see this day. It's just wonderful."

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson said the beatification serves to encourage the vision of lay leadership and fellowship. He announced that the Knights Museum in New Haven will be transformed into the Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center to serve pilgrims who travel to New Haven to learn about Father McGivney and to pray at St. Mary's Church, where Father McGivney's remains are entombed.



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BABY, from page 3

“When you see a couple who don’t have children of their own, you may not know their desires or struggles. But you can quietly pray for them and actively encourage them by pointing out how they have already manifested fruitfulness, perhaps by listening attentively, fostering reflection or growth in others.” She also suggested inviting couples without children to child-centered events like birthday parties, rather than automatically excluding them.

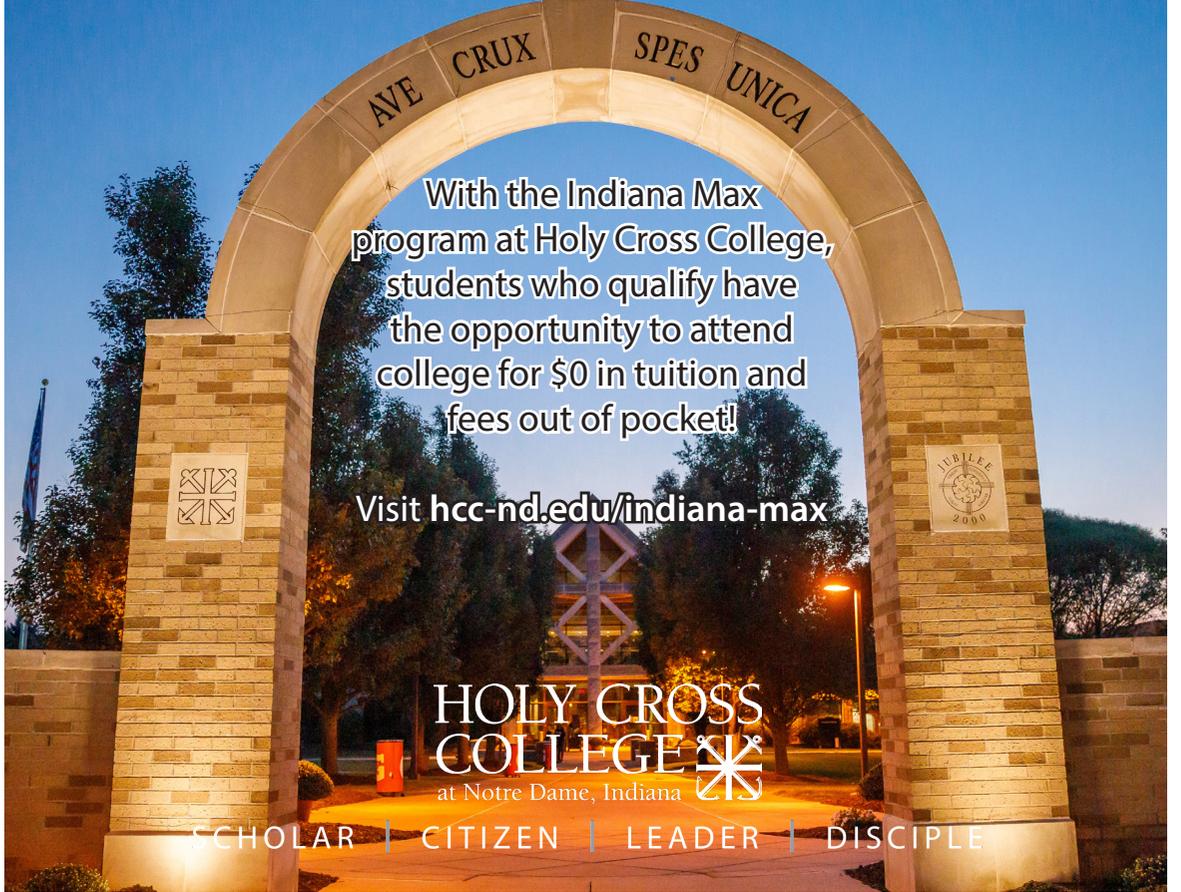
Despite their difficulty conceiving, the pregnancy was healthy and uneventful. Gerardo,

the fourth generation to bear that name in his family, was born sound and healthy.

Hearing the hospital chimes announcing his birth brought tears to Miranda’s eyes as she was wheeled to the postpartum room, she said.

“This baby is already fulfilling his mission, bringing hope. He is a sign of God’s faithfulness and goodness.”

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NEWS BRIEFS

Bishops reauthorize anti-racism ad hoc committee for three more years

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops renewed the mandate of their Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism for a second three-year term. The proposal was aired Nov. 16, the first day of the bishops' Nov. 16-17 fall general meeting, which this year is being conducted entirely online. The vote to reauthorize the committee, taken via email Nov. 16, was 194-3 with one abstention; results were announced Nov. 17. The renewal required passage by a majority of bishops present and attending; 301 bishops participated in the meeting at its peak Nov. 16. Created in August 2017 for a single three-year term, its mandate would have expired in August. However, with the cancellation of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' spring meeting in early June due to the pandemic, the USCCB Executive Committee approved an action item later that month from its Committee on Priorities and Plans in mid-June to continue the ad hoc committee's authorization "until the next USCCB General Meeting." The ad hoc committee has drafted an operational plan for the USCCB's 2021-24 strategic plan focusing on "combating racism in education, training the trainer to support theological, liturgical and pastoral needs, youth and young adult engagement, formation ...

Priest volunteers for COVID-19 vaccine trial



CNS photo/courtesy Father John Fields

Father John Fields, an archpriest of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia (in green shirt), is seen in this undated photo with a University of Pennsylvania research group undergoing trials for the Moderna Inc. COVID-19 vaccine. On Aug. 31, Father Fields, director of communication for the archeparchy, received his first injection in the vaccine study. The priest says he didn't hesitate when asked to be part of the trial because wanted to 'contribute in some small way' in the effort to end 'the pandemic and the fear.'

advising dioceses" and "collaborating with ecumenical partner organizations."

Bishops add COVID-19, anti-racism elements to four-year strategic plan

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although the U.S. bishops' four-year strategic plan was adopted one year ago, it was not scheduled to go into effect until January 2021. That gave the bishops a window to address two issues that have captured the world's attention since last November: the coronavirus pandemic and racial inequality. Addendums to the strategic plan were approved during the Nov. U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' fall general meeting conducted entirely online. The 193-3 vote, with two abstentions, was taken via email Nov. 16, and results were announced Nov. 17. The modifications to the strategic plan required a majority email vote of those bishops present and attending; at its peak Nov. 16, 301 bishops had logged on to the meeting. The addendums in the plan, presented to the bishops by the USCCB Committee on Priorities and Plans, included making pandemic recovery become a new priority for the plan, with the priority to "promote the healing of the personal, spiritual and societal wounds of COVID-19 through the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ, the Divine Physician." The May 25 killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis brought about further revision to the strategic plan in include anti-racism efforts.

Working group formed to deal with conflicts between Biden policies, Church teaching

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron of Detroit will head up a special working group of the U.S. bishops to address issues surrounding the election of a Catholic president and policies that may come about that would be in conflict with Catholic teaching and the bishops' priorities.

Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic bishops, announced the establishment of this working group at the end of the public portion of the bishops' Nov. 16-17 meeting, held this year completely online. Among the members of the committee is Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Doctrine.

Archbishop Vigneron is vice president of the USCCB. Other members of the working group will be USCCB committee chairmen in a number of areas where disagreement is expected

between the Church and President-elect Joe Biden.

"We are facing a unique moment in the history of our country" with the election of only the second Catholic as president, Archbishop Gomez said. "This presents certain opportunities but also certain challenges."

While "the president-elect has given us reason to believe his faith commitments will lead to certain policies that we favor," Archbishop Gomez said, listing immigration, aid to refugees and the poor, racial justice, capital punishment and climate change among them, there also is the expectation that "he will support policies that are against some fundamental values we hold dear as Catholics," the archbishop said. "This includes repeal of the Hyde Amendment and his support for Roe v. Wade."

The 1973 Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision allowed legal abortion virtually on demand throughout the United States. The Hyde Amendment forbids the use of federal funds to be used for abortions, with exceptions in cases of rape or incest or



ARCHBISHOP JOSÉ H. GOMEZ

to save the life of the mother.

The USCCB's quadrennial statement "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," Archbishop Gomez said, has "a preeminent priority of elimination of abortion."

He also listed "unequal treatment of Catholic schools," the Equality Act and the "restoration of the HHS mandate."

In 2011, under the Obama administration, coverage of contraceptives was added by the federal Department of Health

and Human Services to a list of preventive services covered by the Affordable Care Act that employers would cover in their employee health plans without requiring a copay.

"These policies pose a serious threat to the common good whenever any politician supports them. We have long opposed these policies strongly and we will continue to do so," Archbishop Gomez said.

"When politicians who profess the Catholic faith support them there are ... problems," Archbishop Gomez added. "And one of the things it creates confusion among the faithful about what the Church actually teaches on these questions."

The HHS mandate included an exception for houses of worship and offered an accommodation for religious employers whereby they could ask a third party to cover contraceptives.

In separate cases, the family-owned Hobby Lobby Chain and the Little Sisters of the Poor won the right from the Supreme Court to be exempt from the mandate.

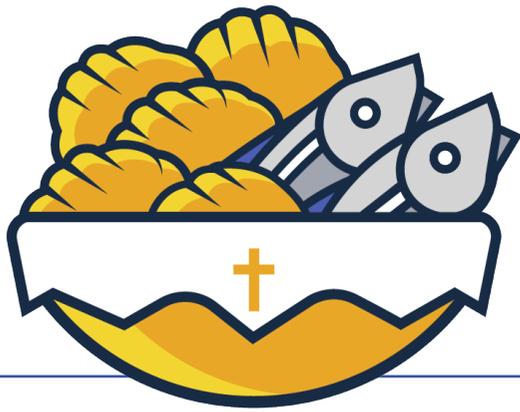
But the Little Sisters were

still in litigation over it for years. A Trump administration policy exempted them from the mandate. It was challenged again in the courts, and in July of this year, the Supreme Court again ruled in favor of the religious order.

Also serving on the working group announced by Archbishop Gomez will be the chairmen of the USCCB committees on doctrine and on communications.

Archbishop Gomez reminded his fellow bishops that after President Donald Trump was elected four years ago, there were "critical issues" that needed to be addressed. "Then as now, the committee existed to address those issues and the goal was to emphasize our priorities and enhance collaboration."

"Thank you, brothers for raising these concerns," Archbishop Gomez said to the committee chairs who had initially raised these concerns to him, "and please stay tuned as this develops further." The U.S. bishops were to enter into an executive session following the close of the public portion of the meeting.



#iGIVECATHOLIC

As they prepare for the Christmas season, many people focus on acts of charity and aiding their neighbors in need. The Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana is sponsoring a local iGiveCatholic Campaign for charities and ministries within the diocese to benefit the Annual Giving Tuesday, Dec. 1. Taking place just after Thanksgiving, this campaign is a way for faithful Catholics to put the gratitude displayed over the holiday into action by supporting organizations that are of greatest important to them. Learn more at fwsb.igivecatholic.org.

#iGiveCatholic – Help Catholic organizations by donating in December

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Giving Tuesday is a global movement that began in 2012 as a means of encouraging generosity to charitable organizations. It takes place on the first Tuesday following Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday. This year's date is Dec. 1.

A group of Catholics took Giving Tuesday one step further, creating the organization #iGiveCatholic to specifically support Catholic ministries. This website can serve as a way for the faithful to counter the commercialism and materialism of society's secular celebration of Christmas by giving to Catholic organizations in need.

"The #iGiveCatholic is a day where Catholics come together and give as one unified community impacting the lives of others. ... The goal is to inspire the greater Catholic community to come together as faithful stewards." — Mike Shade, chief executive officer for the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana

Donate in a single location

This year, the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana is making it easier to give Catholic on Giving Tuesday by providing a donation platform for over 40 local Catholic churches, schools and apostolates.

To accomplish this, the CCFNEI sent informational packets to parishes, schools and ministries within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to help them register under the CCFNEI banner. The CCFNEI chose to make this a gift to the organizations who need additional financial help amid the coronavirus pandemic by covering all setup costs and allowing Catholic organizations to have their own profile page on the platform.

Through the website, fwsb.igivecatholic.org, donors can look through 46 different ministries, read about their missions and give to those that they wish to support.

The need is great

"It was inspiring that CCFNEI and the diocese could join 39 other dioceses and Catholic foundations, as well as many national Catholic ministries across the country, and assist parishes, schools and ministries within our diocese to raise funds, especially this year during the pandemic when so many organizations are in need!" — Mike Shade, chief executive officer for the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana

Dec. 1 is not the only day people can give. Advanced Giving Days began on Nov. 16 and continue through 11:59 p.m. Dec. 1. Donations can be made online via credit card throughout those days.

Participating ministries in Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

- A Mother's Hope
- Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne
- Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne
- Catholic Charities of Northeast Indiana
- Catholic Community Foundation
- Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne
- Christ the King Church, South Bend
- Exodus, Inc.
- Father Solanus Casey Vocation Society
- Holy Cross Parish and School, South Bend
- Holy Family, South Bend
- Immaculate Conception Church, Auburn
- Kingdom Builders
- Marian High School, Mishawaka
- Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic, Fort Wayne
- Our Lady of Good Hope Church, Fort Wayne
- Our Lady School, Fort Wayne
- Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne
- Redeemer Radio
- St. Adalbert Parish, South Bend
- St. Aloysius Catholic School, Yoder
- St. Anne Communities and Retirement Home
- St. Anthony de Padua Parish and School, South Bend
- St. Augustine, South Bend
- St. Bernard Parish, Wabash
- St. Casimir Parish, South Bend
- St. Charles Borromeo Church, Fort Wayne
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, Fort Wayne
- St. John Bosco Church, Churubusco
- St. John the Baptist Church, Fort Wayne
- St. John the Baptist Church, New Haven
- St. John the Evangelist Church, Goshen
- St. Joseph High School, South Bend
- St. Joseph School, Garrett
- St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel, Fort Wayne
- St. Joseph Missions Women's Shelter
- St. Jude, Fort Wayne
- St. Mary of the Assumption Parish and School, Avilla
- St. Mary's Soup Kitchen
- St. Paul of the Cross Church, Columbia City
- St. Pius X Parish, Granger
- St. Robert Bellarmine Church, North Manchester
- St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Elkhart
- St. Vincent de Paul Society, Fort Wayne
- University of Saint Francis

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DECEMBER 1

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#iGIVECATHOLIC



PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Church Leaders Rally To Address A Food Crisis In The World's Poorest Nations

Even before COVID-19 had entered the scene and created so many hardships in the world, Catholic leaders in several developing countries had raised a red flag over their concerns about another serious problem threatening the lives of the poor — extreme hunger and malnutrition.

The appearance of COVID-19 has done nothing to improve the situation, of course. It has only intensified the food crisis.

Guatemala has been particularly hard hit. As one of Central America's most populous countries, it has long suffered from some of the worst rates of chronic malnutrition in the region, and the statistics for children are particularly grim.

Nearly two-thirds of Guatemala's children live in extreme poverty. Impoverished parents, especially those in rural areas, lack the means to provide healthy, nutritious meals for their children, and as a result, nearly 50% of children born in Guatemala will suffer from malnutrition.

Fortunately, local Catholic leaders have not been daunted by this formidable challenge and have been working hard to find solutions. If they receive support from Catholics in the U.S., they believe much can be done to provide better food sources in Guatemala, vastly reducing the cases of serious malnutrition.

Why is help from U.S. Catholics so critical? Because their financial support is needed to ship in food and extend its distribution in poor communities.

"While the Catholic ministries in Guatemala are well positioned to help the poor and their staff members make many sacrifices to serve those families, they are usually operating with a very limited budget and need our help, especially with the shipment of food," explained Jim

Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, an official Catholic ministry known for its support of Church-run missions in developing countries. One of Cross Catholic Outreach's key missions is to educate U.S. Catholics about the ways they can support the Church's work overseas by funding specific projects and contributing to programs that deliver food to areas in need.

"One of our most successful outreaches secures large donations of food in the U.S. and ships those commodities to Catholic missions in Guatemala and elsewhere," Cavnar said. "It's an incredibly effective program. For example, when a U.S. donor contributes \$200 to that effort, it allows us to deliver more than 1,300 meals to the poor. That's an incredible impact, and you can imagine how eager the Catholic missions in places like Guatemala are to get that help. It effectively supercharges their feeding ministries. And for the poor parent struggling to feed her child, it is also an answer to prayer."

Cavnar added that feeding families isn't simply an act of mercy to end hunger pain because malnutrition is more than a simple hardship or physical inconvenience. Extreme malnutrition can do serious physiological harm, producing lasting physical and mental damage — even death in some cases.

"As Americans, it's hard for us to imagine a child suffering from stunted growth or permanent mental damage for lack of food, but that can and does happen in developing countries because the poverty is that extreme," he said. "But the good news is that Catholic missions are aware of these hardships and ready to respond. Most have schools or other centers where food distributions can take place. They simply need regular



Church leaders in developing countries are grateful for the supportive role American Catholics are playing in fighting hunger and protecting children from malnutrition.

supplies of nutritious food to distribute. That's where Cross Catholic Outreach and its donors come in. We are experts in procuring and shipping food, and when our donors help us cover the cost of transportation, we can get incredible things done."

According to Cavnar, some generous Catholics have even become monthly donors to support this kind of outreach regularly. Their consistent giving helps ensure missions get dependable food shipments and families can rely on having food for their children.

"As a ministry, we are always striving to make poor families self-sufficient, but there are always times — particularly after a natural disaster or bad harvest — when help with food is necessary," he said. "At times like those, a parent often lives in fear, not knowing where their next meal will come from. The

dependability of our food outreaches is critical then. Beyond ensuring people are spared the risks of malnutrition, the reliability of our food shipments gives mothers and fathers peace of mind. God's love is confirmed and hope is restored."

Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach food programs and other outreaches to the poor can contribute through the ministry brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01565, PO Box 97168, Washington DC 20090-7168. The ministry has a special need for partners willing to make gifts on a monthly basis. Use the inserted brochure to become a Mission Partner or write "Monthly Mission Partner" on mailed checks to be contacted about setting up those arrangements.

Cross Catholic Outreach Endorsed by More Than 100 Bishops, Archbishops

Cross Catholic Outreach's range of relief work to help the poor overseas continues to be recognized by a growing number of Catholic leaders in the U.S. and abroad.

"We've received more than 100 endorsements from bishops and archbishops," explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach (CCO). "They're moved by the fact that we've launched outreaches in almost 40 countries and have undertaken a variety of projects — everything from feeding the hungry and housing the homeless

to supplying safe water and supporting educational opportunities for the poorest of the poor. The bishops have also been impressed by Cross Catholic Outreach's direct and meaningful response to emergency situations, most recently by providing food, medicines and other resources to partners in Haiti, El Salvador and areas of Belize impacted by natural disasters."

Archbishop Thomas Rodi of Mobile, Alabama, supports this mission, writing, "It is a privilege for me to support Cross Catholic Outreach. This organization funds

ministries to our neighbors in need in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, and the Pacific. Through the generosity of so many, the love of God is made visible to many who are coping with the most difficult of daily living conditions."

In addition to praising CCO's accomplishments, many of the bishops and archbishops are encouraged that Pontifical canonical status was conferred on the charity in September 2015, granting it approval as an official Catholic organization. This allows CCO to participate in the mission of the Church and

to give a concrete witness to Gospel Charity, in collaboration with the Holy Father.

"Your work with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development is a strong endorsement of your partnership with the work of the Universal Church," Archbishop Cordileone of San Francisco said. "By providing hope to the faithful overseas by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, delivering medical relief to the sick and shelter to the homeless, and through self-help projects, you are embodying the Papal Encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*."

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

American Catholics Have Tremendous Impact on Hunger by Empowering Two Effective Missions Serving the Poor

Isolated deep in the rural mountains of Guatemala, a child cries for food — but there is nothing for her to eat. As her impoverished parents watch helplessly, the little girl's hunger pangs grow stronger, and within days, her physical condition deteriorates further. Her muscles begin to atrophy and patches of her hair fall out. Soon, her mother knows, she will even lose the strength to cry.

Many miles away, a similar situation unfolds, but this time, the home isn't a rustic mountain hut. It is a patchwork shack of wood, plastic and sheet metal built on the outskirts of the city. The location is very different, but the poverty and hunger are the same.

The children in both places are suffering and their parents are desperate to find answers — but they lack the money and influence to provide any relief.

“Thank God, Catholic missions in these developing countries are doing something to help. Those outreaches can make the difference between life and death,” explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, a U.S. based ministry founded to support Church-run outreaches to the poor around the globe. Cavnar's team works with compassionate American donors to supply the food, medicines and other resources Catholic missions need to save lives and restore hope.

Among the many projects they assist are a program for malnourished infants and children in Mazatenango, Guatemala, and The Franciscan Social Center in Cochabamba, Bolivia, which operates a lunch program to feed the area's poorest individuals lunches several days a week.

Both outreaches, run by devout Catholics, demonstrate the power of the Church to save lives and restore hope in desperate communities.

In the case of the Guatemalan mission, the focus is on children, and the needs being addressed are severe.

In the department of Suchitepéquez, Guatemala, poor families typically rely on farming for survival. The villages are remote and isolated, so many families become very dependent on the success of their local harvest. This can become a dangerous gamble in years when nature does not cooperate.

The region is already extremely vulnerable to both flooding and drought, and in recent years, crops have been devastated several times by inadequate rainy seasons.

In cases like those, the poorest families resign themselves to eating one small meal of tortillas each day, and some watch in anguish as their



ABOVE: Families in rural Guatemala face terrible living conditions and extreme hunger. We can offer them help and hope. BELOW: Sister Julieta of The Franciscan Social Center takes a cart of prepared food out to the feeding program of the mission.



malnourished children languish on the brink of starvation.

The program Cross Catholic Outreach supports with donor contributions is a godsend to these families because it helps feed those at greatest risk. Its staff also makes a special effort to provide the comfort only a loving, spiritual embrace can provide.

“This mission is working hard to transform lives with food and

unconditional love,” Cavnar said, “but, like many Catholic ministries operating in developing countries, it operates on a shoestring budget. That's why the support of U.S. Catholics is so important to them. It fuels their great work, and in the case of their outreach to children, it provides food to stop malnutrition and ensures that recovering kids remain healthy.”

Donations from U.S. Catholics are just as critical to the outreach in Bolivia — and to the many other worldwide missions Cross Catholic Outreach supports. In the case of The Franciscan Social Center in Cochabamba, the contributions are essential to cover the

expenses of its special feeding program serving destitute children, their families and the at-risk elderly.

“When Jesus Christ walked the earth, he addressed both material and spiritual hunger. Were he to travel to Guatemala or Bolivia today, he would certainly be heartbroken to see so many of its people suffering from extreme poverty and so many facing intense hunger on a daily basis,” Cavnar said. “Hunger and poverty clearly remain a challenge for the poor, just as they were in Christ's time on Earth. As Jesus' followers, we can and should see ourselves as God's instruments of mercy to end suffering and restore lost hope.”

How to Help

To fund Cross Catholic Outreach's effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01565, PO Box 97165, Washington DC 20090-7168. The brochure also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.

If you identify an aid project, 100% of the donation will be restricted to be used for that specific project. However, if more is raised for the project than needed, funds will be redirected to other urgent needs in the ministry.



Giving the gift of faith to everyone on the

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Those who are eternal students of life and of Catholicism would benefit, for example, from adding any number of books to their personal libraries. From books on history to prospective papal candidates to devotions, there is always something new in the Catholic literary world. Pope Francis' "Christ in the Storm: An Extraordinary Blessing for a Suffering World" and Mike Aquilina's "History's Queen" are both new this year, along with "The Vatican Christmas Cookbook," which is a feast for the eyes and the stomach and makes a lovely gift.

Devotion to St. Joseph has spread throughout the world this year, partly through Father Donald Calloway's book "Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father." This excellent book is a way to grow in love for this great saint. One way to enlist his powerful aid is by placing prayer requests beneath a sleeping St. Joseph statue, which would pair well with the book as a gift.

While presents are not essential to the celebration of Christmas, giving gifts to others shows love and fellowship. Everyone is searching for something in their lives, and gifts that uplift the soul and point toward God's love and peace can hold special meaning.



Seekers on a journey

In 2020, travel plans were canceled and trips postponed, but if a pilgrimage to Rome or the Holy Land is on a loved one's bucket list, Verso Ministries is offering Catholics new opportunities for spiritual pilgrimage in 2021. Book a trip now as a gift for a loved one and secure their 100% money-

back guarantee for all trips booked before the end of the year. Any trips booked Nov. 27-30 will also receive \$400 off with the code "THANKFUL." For a free glimpse into the experience of a pilgrimage, Verso Ministries is offering an e-book on its website, <https://versoministries.com/>, called "Christmas Around the World."

featuring a Catholic Indiana Jones-style hero and his friends.

Graphic novels of the saints use creative, modern means to educate youngsters with saintly heroes as well. Younger readers might enjoy learning about Marian apparitions with the book "Our Lady's Wardrobe" or discover an old Christmas legend in "The Spider who Saved Christmas."

For those who learn through play, there are numerous Nativity sets for all ages, including a brick-building one. And in the same vein as the Nativity set is a brick Advent wreath and even a Mass playset that are excellent tools for letting children practice the faith.

Seeking childhood joys

One of the great joys of Christmas is watching a child's face on Christmas morning — the wonder, the bliss, the awe. Childhood should last forever. And parents who want to feed the minds, hearts and souls of their little ones have wonderful options for this.

Take an adventure as a family or give an elementary reader a Catholic adventure of his or her own with the McCracken series. Written by Mark Adderley, these fun stories teach children about history and foreign lands while



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Seekers of beauty

Jewelry is a popular gift for the ladies, so why not give them pieces both that are both beautiful and a statement of their faith? Centered Jewelry has something to meet every style, from sparkly glam to casual earth tones in everyday wear. Does she have a sentimental religious medal that she doesn't wear? Religious items, once blessed, are considered sacred and should never be discarded, but Centered Jewelry can remake them into bracelets that are similar to their Salt of the Earth Collection. This special jewelry line incorporates religious medals from all over the world – particularly from Carmelite sisters – with lovely bead bracelets to create a beautiful way to literally wear the Catholic faith. Years of prayers and devotions have followed these antique medals that are just waiting to be treasured again.



cent paintings of Christ and the saints, as well as Christmas decorations and tree ornaments, make beautiful mementos. For customized orders, several of the businesses listed in the Crafter's Guide — also in this week's edition of Today's Catholic — are able to meet these needs in stylish ways.

Seeking the home life

Simple, deliberate and tasteful are popular trends in home design these days, and with more time being spent in the home there are ample opportunities for decorating the great indoors Catholic-style. Inspirational signs, magnifi-

Beyond decor, deepening the faith life of the home has been at the forefront of many families' lives this year. Books

such as "The Domestic Church: Room by Room" or "Theology of Home" are good guides for building a godly home.

Seeking financial wisdom

Generosity is often touted at Christmastime, and there are many charitable organizations that desperately need help this year. For example, the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, which maintains a presence in

the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has its own catalog of financial gifts that support the sisters' endeavors in education, spirituality and ecology and would also honor a loved one.

In lieu of gifts, some children receive money; this could be a good opportunity to instill personal financial responsibility in young ones. Notre Dame Federal Credit Union has special savings plans for children from birth all though college age, to plan for their future.

Seeking the unknown

Every shopping list seems to have that hard-to-buy-for person. But everyone likes food, especially the no-prep, no-mess kind, so why not try out some

new restaurants?

There has never been a better time to support small businesses. Eateries such as Caruso's in Angola, St. James in Avilla, The Italian Connection in Fort Wayne and The Galley in Decatur cater to different appetites and are all Catholic-owned businesses.

Some parishes also support local businesses while simultaneously raising money for themselves by participating in SCRIP or parish rewards programs. Before buying gift cards or services elsewhere, checking into these two options might have the added benefit of returning a portion of the money spent to one's parish.



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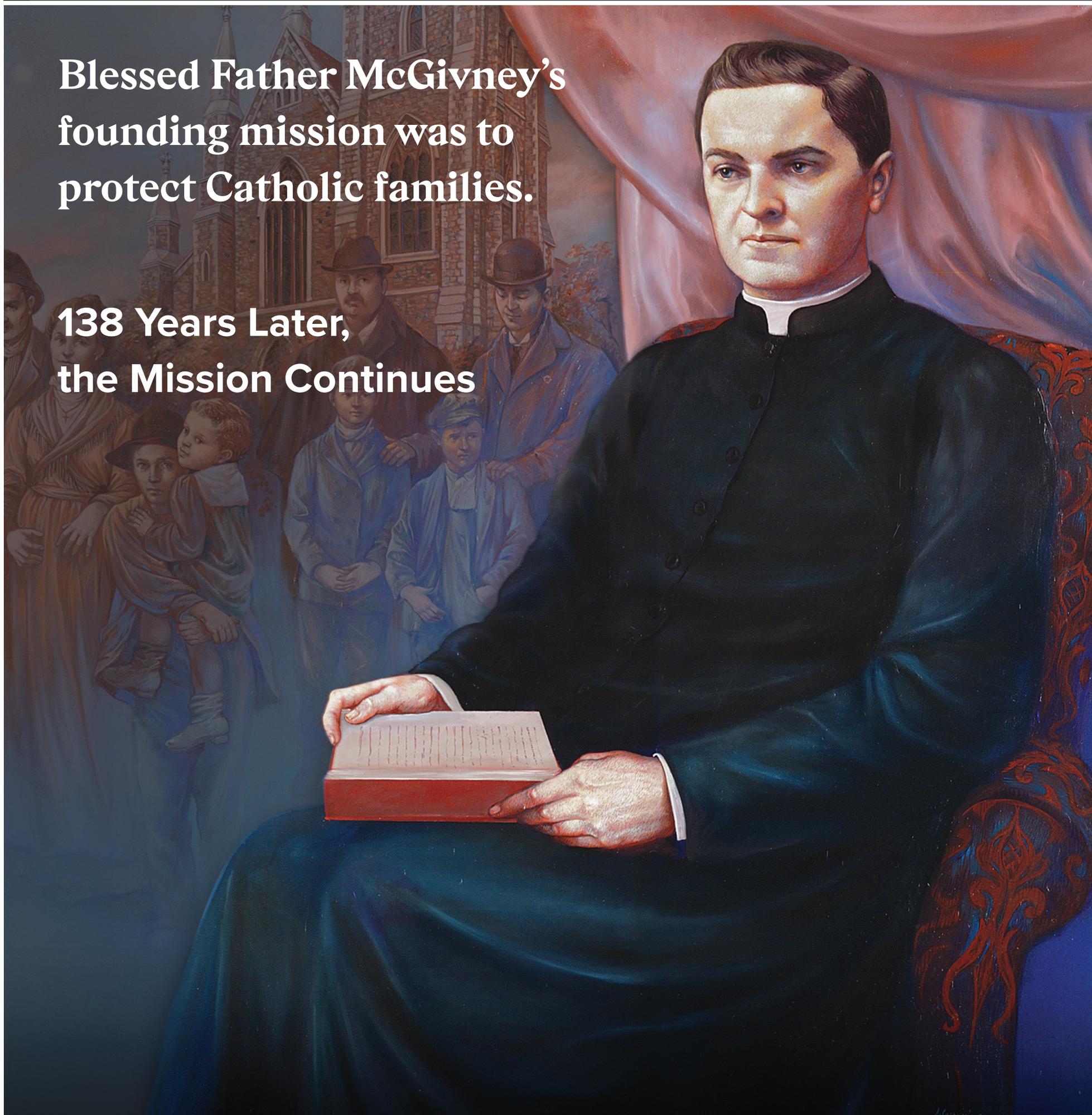


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Hobby crafters feel pinch of canceled Christmas bazaar season

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Local artists and crafters work for months to prepare their unique items for sale, and the parish Christmas bazaar season usually offers them one of the best opportunities of the year to put those goods in front of customers.

But most parish holiday bazaars have been canceled this year, stymieing homebased businesses, small brick-and-mortar businesses and Christmas shoppers alike. Catholic social teaching encourages making gift purchases from local crafters and manufacturers to help support the welfare of one's neighbor, however; and many artists make this possible even in a COVID-19 year by maintaining websites a person can browse from home.

Rosaries and religious jewelry

Handmade Rosaries and Jewelry, Mishawaka, offers high-quality gemstone rosaries and jewelry at a reasonable price so that a person can grow closer to Jesus through Mary.



handmaidrosaries.com

Born Again Rosaries, Fort Wayne, uses new and upcycled beads and designs unique and traditional rosaries to be beautiful, durable, feel good in the hand and lead deeper into prayer through symbolism.



bornagainrosaries.com

Totus Tuus Rosaries, Fort Wayne, offers quality, custom handmade heirloom rosaries. Visit totustuusrosaries.com.

Fearfully Made, Fort Wayne, makes rosaries and rosary-inspired items for Catholics of all ages, including silicone children's rosary decades and essential oil diffusing wood and lava bead chaplet keychains.



etsy.com/shop/FearfullyMadeBabes

Sweet Little Ones Shop, Roanoke, offers wall art printables, prints, magnets, stickers, banners, window clings and other home decor.



etsy.com/shop/sweetlittleonesshop

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, Fort Wayne, includes a "Catholic Corner" in the store with free prayer cards and booklets, plus religious statues, crucifixes, Bibles and rosaries at affordable prices. Visit thriftstoresvdp.org.

Frei Creations, LLC in Yoder is a source for religious and personalized kitchen towels, including Christmas towels.



FreiCreationsShop.etsy.com

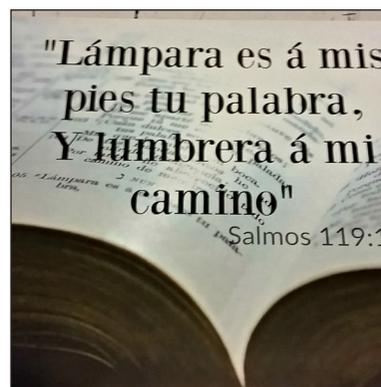
Good Shepherd Books and Gifts, Fort Wayne has books and gifts for baptisms, weddings, first Communion, confirmations and much more. Free parking in attached parking garage. Visit goodshepherdbookstore.org.

Just Basically Blessed, South Bend, offers faith-inspired, classy earrings to make women feel beautiful but also lift their hearts and minds to God; includes liturgical seasons.



etsy.com/shop/JustBasicallyBlessed

Canvas and Wall, Syracuse, takes favorite pictures, both digital and original prints, and turns them into pictures mounted on canvas.



canvasandwall.my-free.website

Hardy Design and Photography, Fort Wayne, offers Catholic modern farmhouse décor and gifts — wooden farmhouse signs, religious shirts, Catholic face masks, kitchen towels, mugs, vinyl stickers. Visit etsy.com/shop/hardydesignphoto.



Merry Christmas

"TODAY IN THE TOWN OF DAVID A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU; HE IS THE MESSIAH, THE LORD."

— LUKE 2:11



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etsy.com/shop/MadeforSainthood

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Fawnly.com

Miscellaneous gifts

Grand Expression, Granger, makes over 100 different saint dolls, all hand-painted and varnished with non-toxic materials, labeled with the saint's name and feast day. Visit etsy.com/shop/grandexpression.

Divine Mercy Gifts, South Bend, stocks Catholic books, rosaries, scapulars, statues, Bibles, Advent wreaths, candles and calendars, nativity sets, Christmas cards, crucifixes and books. Visit divinemercygifts.net

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FREE E-BOOK

What the McCarrick report means for the Church

Two years ago, Pope Francis called for a full accounting of how Theodore McCarrick was able to rise through Church ranks, and he promised to make the report public. Some people disbelieved such a report would ever see the light of day. Others feared it would.

On Nov. 10, Pope Francis kept his word. The report is unprecedented, reading like no other Vatican document I can recall. It is not clothed in dense Church-speak or vague references to misdeeds. It is at times graphic and always revealing. As a whole, it is a devastating portrait of personal deception and institutional blindness, of opportunities missed and faith shattered.

For those of us who have experience with Vatican documents and Vatican investigations, the report is amazing in its efforts to be transparent. At 449 pages, the report is exhaustive and at times exhausting. Not only were over 90 interviews conducted, but extensive quotations from relevant Vatican correspondence and documents reveal the internal back and forth between individuals and offices.

There are heroes to be found, even in the unsettling story of how McCarrick rose through the ranks despite persistent rumors that he was sharing his bed with seminarians and priests. Cardinal John J. O'Connor, for one. He not only raised his concerns, he did so in writing, trying to stop McCarrick's ascendancy to the cardinalate see of New York.

More courageous still were the victim survivors who tried to speak up, the mother who sought to protect her children, the counselors who warned of the allegations they were hearing.

Unfortunately, the lasting impression is that those who wanted to raise concerns were not listened to, and rumors were dismissed rather than investigated thoroughly.

Like many large and not particularly efficient organizations, the Church is a series of silos, inhibiting close communication and collaboration. Also like large organizations, it is inherently cautious and self-protective. Add to this the deference given to rank and hierarchy, and it is too easy to see how the default was to explain away, ignore or hide.

There are still elements that I wish had been explored further. One is the money trail. While the report says McCarrick did not buy his appointment to Washington, it makes clear that he was a prolific fundraiser and valued as such. He spread his largesse around in the form of gifts to many Church officials that in retrospect raise ethical concerns. An audit of the money trail seems in order.

Also disturbing is that there were many seminarians and priests in the dioceses where McCarrick served who had firsthand knowledge of what happened at his beach house because they were there, too. What has happened to those



AMID THE FRAY

GREG ERLANDSON

men? Have they continued to remain silent? If so, what does this tell us about the culture that may still remain?

The most important lesson may be simply this: If you see something, say something. Fear of retaliation, fear of being ignored, fear of authority can no longer govern laity or clergy. Even anonymous allegations must be paid attention to.

At the same time, an allegation is not a conviction. A man's vocation cannot be ruined because of a rumor. Justice demands we do not simply convict by allegation, but it also demands that allegations not be ignored.

The sin of abuse, the sin of covering up or ignoring the abuse will not disappear with this report. Pope Francis, who himself failed to meet his own standards in places like Chile, knows the challenge. He must continue to press for accountability and transparency without fear or favor, and both laity and clergy must continue to press for reform and renewal.

Greg Erlandson is director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service.

I met a new friend at adoration: St. Thérèse

GUEST COMMENTARY

SCOTT WARDEN

During a fundraising event that seems like it took place 18 years ago instead of 18 months — when it was safe to congregate by the hundreds (maskless!), shake hands with new friends and hug old ones whom we hadn't seen in a while — my wife and I were seated next to a priest from our diocese who is pastor of a large suburban parish. At the time, we had recently attended Mass there, and afterward I picked up a church bulletin on the way out. I remember flipping through it during brunch and noticed how thick it was; it had to be 16 or 20 pages long — much of it filled with updates from a seemingly endless list of parish-based apostolates and ministries.

Making small talk, as one does (or did) at such events, I asked the priest about a couple of specific groups, how they got started and whether or not they were succeeding in their missions. Mostly, I complimented him on the variety of outreaches at his parish. From the outside looking in, it was clear that this was a

The witness of St. Thérèse and her family have proven that sainthood is possible when the home is centered on a love for Christ, which then naturally, and selflessly, flows outward.

parish whose members had a passion for the Church and zeal for spreading the Gospel. He listened and smiled, and when I was finished, he said that he was blessed to serve at such a large, active parish. Then, in the most humble of ways — almost embarrassed by riches — he said something I haven't forgotten: "Our parish is a bit like Catholic Disneyland; we have something for everyone."

A year and half later, after my wife was hired to teach second grade there, we're now members at the Happiest Parish on Earth. Because we joined during the year of the plague, we haven't

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We anxiously await the Lord's return in glory



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

First Sunday Of Advent Mark 13:33-37

This weekend, the Church begins Advent. It begins the use of biblical readings from Year B of its three-year cycle.

It also is the start of a new liturgical year. Each liturgical year is carefully planned so that the seasons and the major feasts guide us, through our very own worship, to a closer relationship with God in Christ.

The first reading is from the third section of Isaiah, composed when the Jews were in a quite difficult situation. Years before, the exiles had been allowed to return to the Holy Land from

Babylon, but this return brought the exiles home to no paradise. Life was miserable.

The prophet called for faith in God, not only as almighty, but as unfailingly true to the covenant, to the divine pledge that God would protect the chosen people.

The prophet appealed to God, in the name of the people, for relief. He did not say God was treating the people unfairly or putting them in a place of anguish and want. Instead, the prophet made clear that sin led the people away from God and that this estrangement produced their woes.

Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians provides the next reading. Counseling the Christians of Corinth challenged St. Paul. Not only did temptation and vice surround them at every side, but they also argued among themselves. Paul had to call them to faithfulness, and additionally, he had to try to influence them to put their differences with each other aside.

He saw unity among disciples as having great religious poten-

tial. He saw unity as possible, if despite all odds produced by their surroundings and the human inclination to sin, they drew themselves more closely to God and therefore to each other. Then, they could infuse the goodness of Christianity into the circles in which they moved.

St. Mark's Gospel is the source of the last reading. It offers us a theme found quite often in the New Testament, namely that Christ will come to earth again as the great victor and the judge of all creation.

When the Gospels were written, certainly in the case of the Gospel of Mark, the oldest of the four as they now exist, Christians were numerous enough and geographically distributed enough to catch the public eye, but not numerous enough or powerful enough to withstand their enemies. The culture was an enemy.

Soon, the political system would be an enemy. Professing Christianity became a capital crime, as the martyrs were horribly to know.

Understandably, the atmosphere was tense, uncertain, and frightening. Thoughts of the second coming naturally were appealing. Jesus would come again, but they did know not when. Neither do we.

In the meantime, they had to acknowledge God, live in God's law, and trust in their reward. So do we.

Reflection

The formal prayers of the Mass are the united statements of all believers, spoken with, and by, the celebrant, to proclaim our faith but also our trust in Almighty God.

We speak with the priest, but are we speaking with the voice of faith? Are we sincere? Are we good Catholics? When the priest prays the Orations at Mass, do we join him, prompted by a genuinely authentic faith? Bluntly, are we absolutely committed to Christ?

Mark's Gospel assists us to have solid faith and to believe that only God is permanent and real.

Advent is an opportunity to achieve union with God, to realize that God's love for us is also real.

If we respond to the opportunity given to us by Advent, then Christmas becomes not a national holiday, or even a holy religious commemoration, but the moment when we encounter God, firmly believing that Jesus will come again, but also believing that here and now we know the Lord.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7 Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 1 Cor 13:9 Mk 13:33-37

Monday: Rom 10:9-18 Ps 19:8-11 Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:7-8, 12-13, 17 Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a Ps 23:1-6 Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6 Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Ps 147:1-6 Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Healing the malady of division starts with friendship

The headline grabbed my attention: “You are no longer my mother”! The Reuters article, written a day prior to the 2020 U.S. presidential election, shared the story of a mother disavowed by her own son. The reason: political differences.

The story, unfortunately, is not new. We have heard it far too many times. Many of us perhaps can tell our own version because we have experienced something similar in our families and communities. It is a malady.

When parents disavow their children and children their parents, when spouses stop talking to one another, when relatives are not welcomed into our homes any longer and friendships abruptly end, all because of political and ideological differences, we must acknowledge that something is not OK.

When Catholics fail to see one another eye to eye, when families are exiled from their parishes because they “do not fit” any longer, when Catholics shop around for preachers and teachers “friendlier” to their non-religious convictions, when your Catholic identity is questioned, all because of political and ideological differences, we must acknowledge that something is not OK.

A society, a faith community or a family that normalizes the conviction that allegiance to a politician or a political party or an ideology — regardless of the good that any of these may embody — takes precedence over the bonds of love that are

to unite us as parents, children, spouses, neighbors, parishioners and friends is bound to self-destruct.

We have an obligation as Catholics to confront these realities. We cannot foster attitudes and practices that fuel division and rancor. Doing so negates the Gospel. If I have done so in any way, I apologize. As Catholics, we have a responsibility to model a nobler way of being Church and society: the way of Christ, the way of communion.

The malady of division that pains our families and communities today did not emerge overnight. Decades of messaging, strategizing, silencing and being silent, tolerating intolerance and ignoring our shared responsibility to sustain the common good as a priority are yielding bitter fruits.

How do we move forward? What can we do? It will take decades, perhaps generations, to heal and rebuild relationships and the social structures that make possible for the common good and ecclesial communion to thrive. We must start somewhere. I propose friendship.

In his 2020 encyclical “Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship,” Pope Francis drew our attention to the idea of social friendship. Friendship is not just a mere set of benevolent actions, said the pope. Friendship demands more than tolerance or being nice. Friendship begins with love.

“Our love for others, for who they are, moves us to seek the best for their lives. Only by culti-



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

HOSFFMAN OSPINO

vating this way of relating to one another will we make possible a social friendship that excludes no one and a fraternity that is open to all,” insisted Pope Francis. (No. 94)

Friendship demands the maturity and intentionality of wanting to be in relationship with others, even when we disagree with them: “As couples or friends, we find that our hearts expand as we step out of ourselves and embrace others.” (No. 89)

It sounds commonsensical. Yet, most of us fail at this level. It is time to restore those friendships broken by division and rancor.

As we prepare the table of Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter; celebrate births, birthdays and baptisms; mourn those who left us; and learn to agree and disagree with respect, let us predispose ourselves to say, again: “you are my mother,” “you are my son,” “you are my beloved,” “you are my fellow companion in the faith,” “you are my friend.”

Hosffman Ospino is professor of theology and religious education at Boston College.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for November 29, 2020

1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37

Following is a word search based on the Second Reading and Gospel for the first Sunday of Advent, Cycle B. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

GRACE	PEACE	(our) LORD
ENRICHED	KNOWLEDGE	CONFIRMED
GIFT	REVELATION	FAITHFUL
CALLED	FELLOWSHIP	DO NOT KNOW
(the) TIME	A MAN	HOME
IN CHARGE	WALK	EVENING
COCKCROW	MORNING	ASLEEP

REVELATION

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

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NARCISA DE JESUS MARTILLO MORAN

1832-1869 FEAST DECEMBER 8



After she was orphaned as a young person in rural Ecuador, Narcisa moved to Guayaquil, a large coastal town, where she did manual labor for 15 years while devoting herself to prayer and good works. In 1868 she went to Lima, Peru, lodging in the hostel of the Lay Brothers of St. Dominic. This laywoman sought holiness through prayer and self-mortification, often praying alone for eight hours daily and doing penance for four hours nightly, sometimes wearing a crown of thorns or suspending herself from a cross. She was beatified in 1993 and canonized in 2008.

WARDEN, from page 16

really had the opportunity to embrace all that the church has to offer, but we are taking full advantage of its newest — and, frankly, its best — attraction. Earlier this fall, the parish opened a beautiful perpetual adoration chapel that is unlike any I’ve seen; no expense was spared, and no detail overlooked.

Before the pandemic came and ruined so many things, when my co-workers and I commuted to OSV headquarters every day, we had eucharistic adoration in our chapel once a month. While it was only half an hour on the first Fridays, it was a spiritual break amid a busy workday that I cherished. After being away from the office for more than nine months, I’ve missed that quiet time with the Lord. So when our new parish extended us an invitation to commit to a weekly hourlong spot, my wife and I both jumped at the chance.

A few months ago, I wrote that my prayer life has been lacking lately. I’ve been in a spiritual rut. Our new weekly appointment before the Blessed Sacrament couldn’t have come at a better time. There is much to pray for in a year that has delivered so much unexpected sorrow.

But there is also much to be thankful for, including making a new friend. After it’s been sitting on my bookshelf for years, I’ve decided to use a portion of my time in adoration to read — finally — St. Thérèse of Lisieux’s autobiography “Story of a Soul.” I’m only a few dozen pages into it, but it hasn’t taken long to see why so many have been inspired by her “little way” of holiness.

Reading it, I can only think about our three daughters — my own “little queens,” as St. Thérèse’s father, St. Louis Martin, affectionately called her — and their ever-growing relationship with Christ. And as I read, I’m inspired to deepen my own relationships — with them, with my wife, with our three sons and, especially, with Our Lord. The witness of St. Thérèse and her family have proven that sainthood is possible when the home is centered on a love for Christ, which then naturally, and selflessly, flows outward.

The first step, I truly believe, is spending time with the Real Presence of Christ. What better way is there to spend Saturday nights?

Scott Warden is managing editor of Our Sunday Visitor.

PAID ADVERTORIAL

Paying it forward: Saint Anne Communities

FORT WAYNE — As the end of another year approaches, the staff at Saint Anne Communities is reflecting on all the goodness that has come to them through residents and family members, staff and volunteers. When they say they are blessed, they also say that somehow that doesn't seem to fully describe the 2020 story and the gratitude and gratefulness that they feel for so many.

In addition to the staff, Saint Anne Communities has dedicated volunteers who have offered to help however they can; always asking, "What do you need?" There are too many to mention each individually: however, there are two or three dedicated individuals who volunteer each day to assist the pastoral care team in delivering residents to and from Mass. They also administer the most holy Communion to all those residents who were unable to attend Mass. When these volunteers approach a resident, their faces light up, knowing that they are receiving the body of Christ. During these uncertain times, with the loneliness that is felt by many, God is truly providing the light in their lives through the holy Eucharist.

Many members of the staff and these same volunteers were once "family members." Their loved ones resided at Saint Anne, and after their passing they felt the desire to give back to other families for what they had been given. Part-time Pastoral Care Associate Sharon Dosen and her husband and volunteer Tom Dosen often reminisce about the time they spent at Saint Anne when their mothers were both residents. According to Sharon, "There is something different about Saint Anne's. The call to service I felt from the staff as well as the peaceful atmosphere I felt when my mother was a resident. I still feel those same things today when I walk down the halls. Saint Anne's is a special place!"

Kathy Jarboe, whose parents were both residents at Saint Anne years ago, agreed with Sharon and will soon celebrate 20 years of volunteering her time and talent.

Most people have heard the term "paying it forward"; this is a shining example of doing God's good works and offering love, respect and care for the most vulnerable popula-

Kathy Jarboe's parents were residents at Saint Anne Communities years ago, and she will soon celebrate 20 years of volunteering at the center. Jarboe considers her work "paying it forward," although she also does it because she is grateful for the care her parents received those many years ago.

tion. During these difficult times, it is helpful to remember the words of Gal. 6:9: "Do not get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessings at the appropriate time."

During this holiday season, the staff of Saint Anne wishes readers many blessings, from their families to yours.

Information provided by Saint Anne Communities



Photos provided by Annie Bazar



"Saint Anne's is a special place," say Tom and Sharon Dosen, whose mothers were both residents. Tom is now a volunteer at Saint Anne Communities and Sharon is a pastoral care associate.

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Advent Lessons and Carols presented with John Angotti at St. Vincent de Paul FORT WAYNE — Begin the Advent season with John Angotti for "Advent Lessons and Carols: A Journey to Christmas via Music and Scripture" on Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 6:30 p.m. in St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 1502 E Wallen Rd. This performance will also be streamed at saintv.org, YouTube and Facebook. Visit www.saintv.org for information.

Evening of Praise with Santiago Fernández MISHAWAKA — An evening of Spanish-language Advent praise will take place virtually on Dec. 15 from 7:30-8:30 p.m., featuring the piano music of Santiago Fernández, a liturgical composer whose work is published by Oregon Catholic Press. This Facebook Live event can be accessed at MinisterioHispanoFWSB. For more information, contact Kristah Quijada at kquijada@diocesefwsb.org or 574-234-0687.

Sisters to host virtual Taizé SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS — Join the Sisters of Providence for song, quiet contemplation and inspired readings during the ecumenical Taizé Prayer livestream service Tuesday, Dec. 8, from 7-8 p.m. People of all faith traditions are invited to the gatherings, which take place on the second Tuesday of each month. The 2020 theme for Taizé is "Act justly. Love tenderly. Walk humbly." The monthly Taizé service is free to attend.

REST IN PEACE

Bremen

Mary Zieger, 80, St. Dominic

Fort Wayne

Mary L. Heinkel, 85, St. Charles Borromeo

Clayten Stuart, 15, St. Charles Borromeo

Arthur Tebbe, 74, St. Vincent de Paul

New Haven

Marshall L. Gladieux, 73, St. John the Baptist

Wanda S. Snyder, 79, St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame

Brother James J. Lakofka, CSC, 102, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

South Bend

Jeannette Blondia, 81, St. Matthew Cathedral

Yvonne Cullather, 86, Holy Cross

William Hindsley, 71, St. Matthew Cathedral

Dolores I. Kalil, 91, Holy Family

Elenor Onderdonk, 90, Holy Cross

Lillian R. Skarbek, 93, Holy Family

Harry Waite, 81, St. John the Baptist

Gertrude Warrell, 93, St. Matthew Cathedral

Wabash

Richard S. Hipskind, 75, St. Bernard

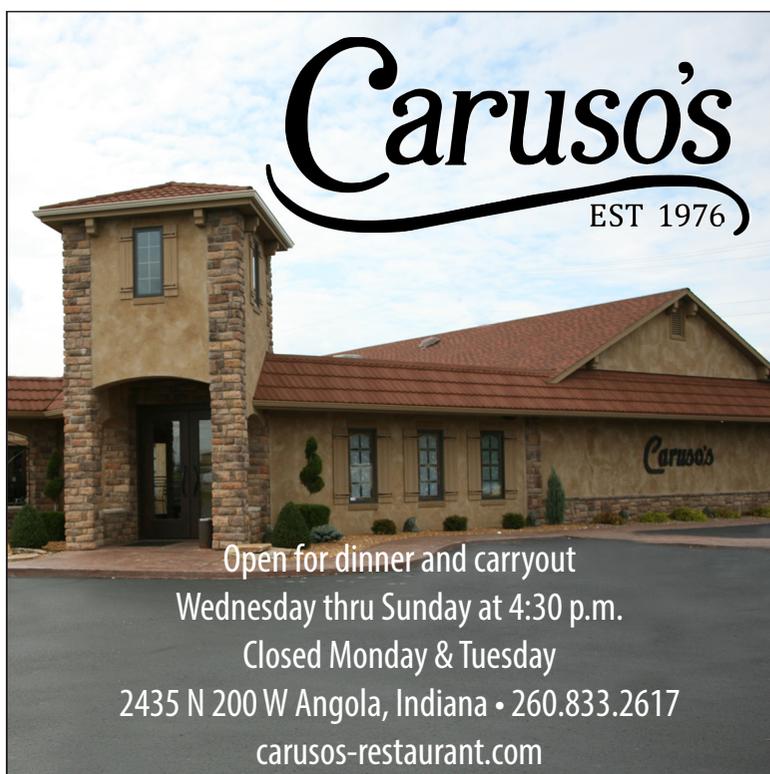
Warsaw

Mary Hernandez, 69, Sacred Heart

St. Nicholas sale

FORT WAYNE — Good Shepherd Books and Gifts will have a St. Nicholas sale Dec. 5-12 offering 20% off entire purchase, with some exceptions, of anything

in the store. Free refreshments and free parking in the attached garage. Hours: M-F 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit www.goodshepherd-bookstore.org for details.



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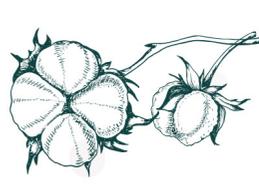
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- Ex 10:2

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Pope Francis
World Communications Day,
January 24, 2020



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