

# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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## National Marriage Week

*Loving one's spouse begins with a relationship with Christ*

Pages 8-9

## Federal actions, executive orders

*Bishops speak up in support and opposition*

Pages 2, 6

## World Day of the Sick

*COVID-19 adds dramatic new dimension to ministry*

Pages 3, 4

## Indiana Catholic Conference

*TANF benefit should be increased to help poor*

Page 5

## Catholic News Service 100th anniversary

*Pope talks journalism, Iraq and Church in the US to agency*

Page 11

# Pro-life enthusiasm outshines cold, pandemic



Jennifer Miller

**Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades stands with eighth grade students from St. Matthew Cathedral School as they peacefully protest the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling Jan. 29 in downtown South Bend. The Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion at all stages of pregnancy is remembered across the U.S. each year near the anniversary date of the decision.**

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

Students from Marian High School, Mishawaka, and Christ the King and St. Matthew Cathedral parishes in South Bend, as well as home-schooled students, attended a Mass offered to “pray for the cause of life” — as Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades said — at St. Patrick Church Friday, Jan. 29. The Mass was concelebrated by Father Glenn Kohrman, pastor at Holy Family; Father Zachary Rathke, CSC, parochial vicar at St. Adalbert and St. Casimir; and Father Daniel Niezer, parochial vicar at St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart, as well as chaplain at Marian. Deacon Mel Tardy, from St. Augustine Parish, South Bend, proclaimed the Gospel.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades told the story of a wide receiver in football being interviewed on TV.

“He said to the reporter: ‘I have never been caught directly from behind by a player on the opposite team.’ The reporter was surprised and asked him: ‘How do you account for that, since you are not that fast and most of the defensive players on the other teams are quite fast?’ The player answered: ‘After I catch that football, I don’t break my stride. I keep my eyes fixed on the goal line, and I just keep saying to myself, ‘I’m going to get there! I’m not going to let anyone stop me!’ We need that attitude in our Christian lives — that kind of determination. We’re going to keep our eyes fixed on the goal line. That’s important for the pro-life movement as it

was for the civil rights movement. It’s actually important for our whole Christian life and all our works for the Kingdom,” the bishop said.

He underlined the exhortation in the day’s reading from Hebrews: “do not throw away your confidence... You need endurance to do the will of God and receive what He has promised.”

“The virtue the pro-life movement needs today is endurance,” Bishop Rhoades continued. “We can’t give up in our fight for justice, for the right to life of our unborn brothers and sisters. In the face of the many challenges the Church faces, ... we must not allow ourselves to become demoralized or discouraged by cultural or political setbacks.”

“Endurance isn’t grim and pas-

sive waiting. True endurance is joyful and active,” he continued. “Like the civil rights movement, the pro-life movement “demands commitments that require perseverance, most importantly, the commitment to love. That’s what it’s all about: to love one another, to love those who are suffering, to love those whose lives are at risk, to pray for changed hearts for those who support abortion... The Lord is always with us, so we should never lose heart.”

Worshippers Mark and Louann Kensinger from St. Monica Parish, Mishawaka, identified with the theme of endurance for the long haul. They have been standing on street corners during the annual Right to Life Michiana protest for

**MASS, RALLY, page 16**

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# Bishops, other pro-life leaders decry Biden action ending 'Mexico City policy'

BY JULIE ASHER

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' pro-life and international policy committees said President Joe Biden's memo rescinding the so-called "Mexico City policy" Jan. 28 is a "grievous" action that "actively promotes the destruction of human lives in developing nations."

"(It) is antithetical to reason, violates human dignity, and is incompatible with Catholic teaching. We and our brother bishops strongly oppose this action. We urge the president to use his office for good, prioritizing the most vulnerable, including unborn children," the prelates said.

The statement was issued by Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, and chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Illinois, chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace.

The policy, first announced by President Ronald Reagan during an international conference on population in Mexico City in 1984, blocked U.S. funding for nongovernmental organizations that perform or actively promote abortion as a form of family planning in other nations.

Republican presidents since then have upheld the policy and Democratic presidents have overturned it. Opponents of the policy call it a "gag order."

"As the largest nongovernment health care provider in the world, the Catholic Church stands ready to work with him and his administration to promote global women's health in a manner that furthers integral human development, safeguarding innate human rights and the dignity of every human life, beginning in the womb," Archbishop Naumann and Bishop Malloy said.

"To serve our brothers and sisters with respect, it is imperative that care begin with ensuring that the unborn are free from violence, recognizing every person as a child of God," they said. "We hope the new administration will work with us to meet these significant needs."

A number of other national pro-life leaders also criticized Biden for his decision, which was included in a "Presidential Memorandum to Protect and Expand Access to Comprehensive Reproductive Health Care."

Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Defense and Education Fund, in a tweet called it "a deeply disturbing move, especially when the president says he wants national unity."



CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn

People gather during the annual March for Life rally in Washington Jan. 24, 2020.

His action "goes against the wishes of an overwhelming majority of Americans — in fact, consistent polling shows that 77% of Americans oppose taxpayer funding for abortion overseas," said Mancini in her tweet. "The government should never force taxpayers to fund abortions, either here or abroad, but should work to protect the inherent dignity of all persons, born and unborn."

The March for Life organization sponsors the annual rally and march that takes place in Washington near the Jan. 22 anniversary of Roe v. Wade, which legalized abortion nationwide in 1973.

This year participation in the event was primarily virtual because of pandemic restrictions and unprecedented security in Washington following the riot at the U.S. Capitol Jan. 6. Tens of thousands of pro-lifers normally come from across the country for the event.

Only a small group, led by Mancini, were on the National Mall for speeches Jan. 29. Afterward, the group walked to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Biden's decision to rescind the policy that began with Reagan was expected once he was inaugurated as the nation's 46th president.

A Catholic, Biden also has said he wants to see an end to the long-standing Hyde Amendment, which outlaws federal tax dollars from directly funding abortion except in cases of rape, incest or when the life of the woman would be endangered.

A week earlier, Dr. Anthony

Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and now Biden's chief medical adviser, said the president would take action on the policy "in the coming days."

It is part of the new president's "broader commitment to protect women's health and advance gender equality at home and around the world," Fauci told the World Health Organization's executive board Jan. 21. He made the comments after Biden chose him to head the U.S. delegation to WHO.

Released Jan. 27, results of the annual Knights of Columbus-sponsored Marist poll on Americans' opinions on abortion continue to show that "a majority of Americans do not support the sweeping pro-abortion changes to law that are sought by President Biden and the Democrat Congress," noted Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life.

"Pursuit of this radical pro-abortion agenda shows just how out of touch they are with their constituents," she said.

On the issue of "using tax dollars to support abortion in other countries," a majority of respondents — 77% — oppose this, the poll showed. This percentage includes 64% who identify themselves as "pro-choice." Overall, 58% of respondents "oppose using tax dollars to pay for a woman's abortion."

"U.S. foreign policy — and the foreign entities we fund with billions of dollars in grant money — should consistently affirm, care for, and tangibly assist women and children —

including unborn baby girls and boys," Rep. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, who is co-chair of the Congressional Pro-life Caucus, said Jan. 28.

He wrote a letter signed by at least 118 members of Congress calling on Biden to reconsider and reverse his decision on the Mexico City policy. Signers include Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy of California, Republican Whip Steve Scalise of Louisiana and Republican Conference Chairman Liz Cheney of Wyoming.

On Jan. 23, 2017, President Donald Trump, in an executive order, reinstated the policy, which had been suspended by his predecessor, President Barack Obama. President Trump expanded it to create the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance Policy.

In August 2020, then-Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar issued the administration's second report on implementation of the expanded policy. He said it showed the vast majority of foreign nongovernmental organizations — 1,285 out of 1,340 — had complied "with this policy with minimal disruption of health services and no reduction in funding."

"Many countries throughout the world have been besieged by aggressive and well-funded campaigns to overturn their pro-life laws and policies," Smith said in his statement. "The Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance Policy was designed to mitigate U.S. taxpayer complicity in global abortion."

# Verify before sharing 'news,' pope says in Communications Day message

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In the age of instant communications and fake news, journalists — like everyone else — need to recover the practice of going out and verifying information before they share it, Pope Francis said.

"'Come and see' is the simplest method to get to know a situation. It is the most honest test of every message, because, in order to know, we need to encounter, to let the person in front of me speak, to let his or her testimony reach me," the pope wrote in his message for the Catholic Church's celebration of World Communications Day.

The message was released Jan. 23, the eve of the feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron saint of journalists. At the Vatican and in most countries, World Communications Day will be celebrated May 16.

Pope Francis chose "'Come and See' — Communicating by Encountering People as They Are" as the theme for the 2021 celebration, explaining that "Come and see" is the invitation Jesus gave to his first disciples and the invitation they gave to others as faith in Jesus spread.

The pope paid homage to journalists who have risked their lives going into the field to cover, verify and share stories the world needed to know, especially "about the hardships endured by persecuted minorities in various parts of the world, numerous cases of oppression and injustice inflicted on the poor and on the environment, and many wars that otherwise would be overlooked."

"It would be a loss not only for news reporting, but for society and for democracy as a whole, were those voices to fade away," he said. "Our entire human family would be impoverished."

But he also railed against those who report or share information that has not been verified and that has no basis in fact.

"We have known for some time that news and even images can be easily manipulated for any number of reasons, at times simply for sheer narcissism," he said.

"All of us are responsible for the communications we make, for the information we share, for the control that we can exert over fake news by exposing it," the pope wrote. "All of us are to



CNS photo/Vatican Media

**Pope Francis speaks during his weekly general audience at the Vatican in this Nov. 11 file photo. In a message for the Catholic Church's celebration of World Communications Day, Pope Francis said that in the age of instant communications and fake news, journalists — like everyone else — need to recover the practice of going out and verifying information before they share it.**

be witnesses of the truth: to go, to see and to share."

Recognizing the limits many media outlets face because of budget constraints and the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the pope nevertheless pleaded for a return to real investigative and on-the-spot reporting and serious efforts to get away from simply repeating an outlet's "standard, often tendentious narrative."

Without real, honest reporting, he said, media cannot help people understand the truth of what is happening in the world and in the lives of other people.

Television, newspapers, radio, the internet and social media can make people feel connected, he said, but "we remain mere spectators" if they don't also allow people to encounter others and hear their stories.

"In communications, nothing can ever completely replace seeing things in person," he said. "We do not communicate merely with words, but with our eyes, the tone of our voice and our gestures."

Interaction and dialogue are essential to real communication, Pope Francis said. He quoted

William Shakespeare, who described someone who "speaks an infinite deal of nothing."

"We think of how much empty rhetoric abounds, even in our time, in all areas of public life, in business as well as politics," the pope said. Unfortunately, the same thing happens "to us as Christian communicators."

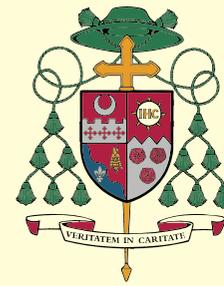
"The Good News of the Gospel spread throughout the world as a result of person-to-person, heart-to-heart encounters with men and women who accepted the invitation to 'come and see,' and were struck by the surplus of humanity that shone through the gaze, the speech and the gestures of those who bore witness to Jesus Christ," the pope said.

Catholics using the media, professionally or personally, must do so in a way that spreads faith in a loving God and attracts people to Christ, he said, adding that he was convinced St. Paul, "that great communicator," would "certainly have made use of email and social messaging" to share the Gospel.

But St. Paul's communication skills were not the key to his success, the pope said; "it was his faith, hope and charity."

The pope ended his message with a prayer for communicators, asking God to help them go out in the search of truth, to listen and to shun prejudice and "hasty conclusions."

"Grant us the grace to recognize your dwelling places in our world and the honesty needed to tell others what we have seen," the prayer said.



## Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, February 7: 10 a.m. — Mass, St. Aloysius Church, Yoder  
Monday, February 8: 10 a.m. — Meeting of the Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne  
Monday, February 8: 12 p.m. — Virtual Meeting of Board of Directors of Exodus 90  
Tuesday, February 9: 10 a.m. — Virtual Meeting of Our Sunday Visitor Governance Committee  
Wednesday, February 10: 1:30 p.m. — Meeting of the Priest Personnel Board, Wyndham Garden Hotel, Warsaw  
Thursday, February 11: 9:30 a.m. — Mass, Marian High School, Mishawaka  
Saturday, February 13: 4:15 p.m. — Mass, St. Anthony de Padua Church, South Bend

## World Day of the Sick is Feb. 11 — For priests, pandemic increases ministry's urgency, danger

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

Visiting the sick is one of the seven corporal works of mercy. In ordinary times, parish priests, deacons and lay eucharistic ministers call on the sick in their homes, in hospitals and nursing homes. Priests may celebrate Mass, hear confessions and anoint the sick. Lay people often lead a recitation of the rosary, bring Communion or simply spend time listening and praying with ailing individuals and families, because times of illness are also often times of loneliness and stress.

The arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic last winter dramatically altered these traditional outreaches, in part because many of the volunteers were themselves over the age of 70. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, on the South Bend side, Congregation of Holy Cross seminarians stepped in to help by distributing holy Communion.

The disease was scary, uncertain and frightening in its intensity and relentless in its spread, said hospital chaplain Father Joachim Oforchukwu, CSSp. Visitors were barred from nursing homes and hospitals. Pastors wanted to visit their parishioners in the hospital, but in many cases it was deemed that their exposure would endanger too many people. Even family members could only communicate with their loved ones by tapping on windows and using electronic devices, often

with the assistance of the chaplains.

"We had to limit the spread of COVID-19 by eliminating in-person visiting," confirmed Joe Czolgosz of St. Joseph Regional Medical Center Hospital in Mishawaka. "But that was a challenge and a heartache for families and staff."

Eventually, hospitals began to make exceptions for the family of a patient who was clearly dying, providing personal protective equipment and allowing them into their loved one's room. "Our special protocols allowed us to relax the 'red rule' in these special circumstances," said Czolgosz.

Catholics who were gravely ill or facing death also needed access to the sacrament of anointing of the sick.

## Compassionate, courageous response

Sarah Sampson, coordinator of spiritual care at Memorial Hospital, South Bend, said Father Oforchukwu "always responds rapidly when I call him." Father Oforchukwu said simply, "My presence is a continual reminder of God's presence to the COVID-19 patients. It is a privilege to minister to them. It has not been easy, but I rely on God's grace." He also finds strength by praying the rosary. "I have absolute trust in Jesus Christ, who is the greatest healer and physician of all ages."

SICK, page 4



CNS photo/Kacper Pempel, Reuters

**SICK, from page 3**

Several months ago, Father Andrew Budzinski, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne, was called to Lutheran Hospital to anoint a barely conscious man he had never met. At a desk set up at the hospital entrance, they said they were expecting him.

It was so early in the pandemic that he had no idea what the protocols might be. They helped him “vest,” layer upon layer, in a hairnet, booties, gown, gloves, N95 mask, goggles and face shield — an unforgettable experience. Alone in a room, the patient received the anointing of the sick at the hands of the Church’s minister.

It was all part of the vocation for Father Budzinski. “You receive the call, and you go,” he said.

Father Michael Mbonu has also been ministering, full-time, at SJRMC in Mishawaka.

“This has been a very challenging experience for all of us,” he said. “These patients are suffering greatly. When I listen to them, I can’t help sharing their pain, and yet I know I have to be strong in order to encourage them. I want them to know that even in the darkest times, God is right there.” He prays for God’s healing presence and tries to support the patients every step of the way, visiting Catholic patients in the hospital daily.

Father Stephen Felicichia began ministering to those with COVID-19 shortly after he was ordained in June. Assigned to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, a few miles from Lutheran Hospital, he found it logical to take on the ministry in order to help reduce the risk to older clerics.

“The nurses and doctors are the real heroes,” he said. “They do a terrific job, working under tremendous stress.”

“I’m not afraid; I’m blessed to be able to take the Lord in,” Father Felicichia said.

Having served in the military, he’s used to following orders and



Provided by Father Eric Burgener

**Father Eric Burgener is flanked by nurses at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne last week. For the past year Father Burgener’s ministry has been focused heavily on COVID-19 patients at Parkview and Dupont hospitals; he extols the selflessness and dedication of the hospital staff, who have remained on the front lines of the pandemic for the last 12 months, but he has been right there with them — showing compassion and administering sacraments.**

putting on protective gear.

“It’s in the nature of the job, so you do it. You prepare as well as you can, and you trust your equipment to protect you against ambush.” He has had to self-quarantine, but never because of his hospital ministry. So far, he has always tested negative for the virus.

He admits it can be challenging to hear someone’s confession through an oxygen mask, but “people need and deserve to receive Jesus Christ, especially when they may be dying,” he said.

He regards it as a privilege to pray with people as they accomplish the final leg of their journey to heaven. “You love people and you want to give them every pos-



Jodi Marlin

**In the midst of the ravages of the virus, chaplain Father Joachim Oforchukwu, CSSp, knows his presence is a calming and reassuring one for patients at Memorial and St. Joseph Regional Medical Center hospitals in South Bend.**

sible grace of the Church. There’s Jesus right there in the sick person.”

### ‘You forget about yourself’

Father Eric Burgener, too, uplifts the staffs of Parkview and Dupont hospitals in Fort Wayne, who keep him informed about their patients’ deepest needs.

Sometime in the fall, he stopped counting the number of patients he had anointed during his hospital ministry. At that time, it was over 100.

Taking on the full-time role

of on-call chaplain at Dupont Hospital and several Parkview Hospital locations changed many of the details of Father Burgener’s life. Although he helps out at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, by hearing confessions, he hasn’t celebrated Mass in the main church there in months. He also moved out of the rectory and into a suite in the parish’s former rectory in order to isolate and protect the parish’s other priests.

At first, hospitals were reluctant to let anyone in to minister to patients, he said. But he worked through both the bureaucracy and his own hesitation.

“Jesus pushed me in,” he said. “Once you see the suffering, you forget about yourself.”

In June, Father Burgener contracted COVID-19. It was easy for him to recognize the symptoms, so he proceeded to an emergency room, where he tested positive. He remained out of commission for several weeks, combating from home a fever, cough and difficulty breathing. Then he headed back into the fray.

As a frontline hospital volunteer, Father Burgener was able to schedule a vaccination in January. But on his way to get it, he received a call to anoint someone in the emergency room. He administered last rites a minute before the man died.

Pope Francis has elaborated on two safe ways for people with COVID-19 to be anointed. Father Felicichia uses a Q-tip to put the oil on the person’s hands and forehead. Father Burgener prefers to wear gloves, being careful to dip into the oil with a different finger if he is anointing more than one patient.

Both observe careful protocols to cleanse themselves and their clothing. Father Burgener uses a high-power, ultraviolet lamp in his room. They respect both the disease and the sacrament by eventually burning anything that has come into contact with the patient and the blessed oil or host.

### God’s efficacious grace

There have been many memorable moments. Some patients have recovered after being anointed. An 82-year-old clearly consented to be received into the Catholic Church. A dying woman had two final wishes; Father Burgener was able to bring her both a rosary, which turned out to be just like the one she received at her first Communion, and an order of Kentucky Fried Chicken they shared — to the edification of her nurses, who had been too busy to fulfill the request.

Father Mbonu noted that facing a crisis like COVID-19 makes both patients and their families face their mortality. He encourages them to verbalize their feelings and is especially gratified by patients like the one who not only recovered from the virus but resolved to become more involved in his church and his faith, to proclaim the mercy of God he had experienced.

Father Burgener urges family members to call a priest in earlier rather than later when a loved one is in the hospital. “This is such a powerful, beautiful sacrament,” he testified. “You can just see strength and peace settle over the person.” He’s thrilled to also be able to offer an apostolic pardon, which not only forgives sins but eternally remits the damage due to sin.

On the “altar” of the hospital bed, “Jesus the priest and the great physician is working within the person’s heart — and I get to witness it!”

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# Advocates for Indiana's poorest families seek updated support

Life has changed dramatically since 1988, when the internet was still in development, the average rent was \$420 per month and gas cost 96 cents a gallon.

But one thing remains frozen in time: the monthly payout that Hoosier families in deep poverty receive to help them temporarily in the most dire circumstances. That amount was set at \$288 then by state law, and so it remains 33 years later.

Indiana lawmakers and advocates for the poor — including the Catholic Church — are once again aiming to change this reality. Sen. Jon Ford, R-Terre Haute, is leading the charge to modernize the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, which is funded by a block grant from the federal government. Only a fraction of the poorest families in Indiana currently receive even those modest cash benefits from the federal program because of outdated eligibility guidelines — another issue that Senate Bill 233 is designed to address.

"This is money that families depend on for survival," said

Ford, the primary author of the proposed legislation. "But right now only six in 100 families in poverty are being helped by this program."

The primary reason is that Indiana's eligibility level for TANF is the fourth-lowest in the United States, behind Louisiana, Arkansas and Alabama. In a Jan. 25 hearing before the Senate Family and Children's Services Committee, Ford pointed out that to be eligible for TANF, the maximum income of a Hoosier family must be less than 17% of the federal poverty level.

"The poverty level for a family of three is around \$20,000," Ford said. "So what a family in the state of Indiana has to meet to qualify for TANF is roughly \$3,400 in annual income. States around us like Ohio, Kentucky and Michigan have eligibility levels of a little over \$10,000 for a family of three."

Indiana set its income requirements to qualify for TANF in the mid-1990s, when welfare reform was signed into law by then-President Bill Clinton. Those eligibility guidelines have not been adjusted for inflation since then. Among other provisions, Senate Bill 233 would increase monthly TANF payment amounts — for a family of three, from \$288 to \$513 — and modify them annually using Social Security cost-of-

## INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

living adjustment rates.

If enacted, the legislation also would update TANF eligibility guidelines to enable far more Hoosiers to take advantage of the program, which also includes intensive job training assistance and other services to lift people out of poverty for good.

The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 43-5 Feb. 1 and now will move to the House of Representatives for consideration. The proposed legislation has a broad base of support, including from the Indiana Catholic Conference.

"We are in favor of this bill for a variety of reasons based on Catholic social teaching," said Angela Espada, executive director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. "From the standpoint of solidarity, when our brothers and sisters are in need, we must do what we can to help them. Beyond the cash benefits, which

are certainly critical, TANF also promotes the dignity of workers, from providing job training to helping with transportation to work, uniforms and other necessities. Especially considering the devastation that many families have gone through because of the coronavirus pandemic, the needs are greater than ever.

"We are calling on the Catholic faithful and all advocates for families in need to encourage members of the House to pass this bill."

One of the staunchest supporters of modernizing TANF is the Indiana Institute for Working Families, which for years has been promoting legislation like Senate Bill 233. To bring home the point that it has been more than three decades since TANF was updated in Indiana, Jessica Fraser, program manager for the organization, routinely shows lawmakers a photo of herself from 1988 — when she was seven years old.

"We need to make this change," said Fraser, a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis. "Families in Indiana need this and have needed it for a long while. TANF is the only program for families in deep poverty to have cash in their pocket so that they can take care of their day-to-day needs that aren't covered by

other programs. Income matters for families."

She and other advocates emphasize that other government assistance programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, more commonly known as food stamps, place limits on what can be purchased with the funds. TANF payouts can help close that gap.

"TANF provides cash assistance that families can use for expenses that no other program can address — things like gas money, diapers, clothes for school and medication, to name a few examples," said Emily Weikert Bryant, executive director of Feeding Indiana's Hungry, another organization backing Senate Bill 233. "This does not even begin to touch on the other valuable supports that TANF provides, like child care and workforce training. We support the purposes of Senate Bill 233, to raise both the eligibility guidelines and benefit levels for TANF. Both are long overdue and vital to help families with few resources to better provide for their children."

**To follow this and other priority legislation of the ICC, visit [www.indianacc.org](http://www.indianacc.org). This website includes access to I-CAN, the Indiana Catholic Action Network, which offers the Church's position on key issues.**



SEN. JON FORD



## Elkhart rallies for life

Advocates for the lives of the preborn gather Saturday, Jan. 30, on the streets surrounding St. Thomas the Apostle Church, encouraging passing motorists to remember all human life is sacred. The outdoor awareness event took place following a Mass celebrated at the church. A peaceful protest took place in Goshen at the same time, at the Elkhart County Courthouse. Protests, rallies and marches like these happen across the country every year since the 1973 Roe v. Wade federal decision legalizing abortion during all nine months of pregnancy.



Photos by Denise Federow

## Archbishop welcomes federal actions on housing, hunger as pandemic continues

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' domestic policy committee welcomed the extension of the federal eviction moratorium and an increase in nutrition assistance to families struggling through the coronavirus pandemic. Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, who chairs the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, said Jan. 27 that the steps by the incoming President Joe Biden administration were necessary for anyone experiencing hardship as the pandemic continues. The Centers for Disease Control announced Jan. 20 that it was extending its order temporarily halting residential evictions until at least March 31. On Jan. 22, the Department of Agriculture announced a 15% increase in food stamp benefits at least through June under the coronavirus aid package passed by Congress in late December. About 29 million people, including as many as 12 million children, live in households struggling to afford food, the department said.

## U.S. bishops' pro-life chair calls plan to codify Roe in federal law 'tragic'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee called it "deeply disturbing and tragic" that any U.S. president would mark the Jan. 22 anniversary of the Roe decision that legalized abortion by praising it and committing to codifying it in law. The U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling "denies unborn children their most basic human and civil right, the right to life, under the euphemistic disguise of a health service," said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities. Catholic teaching affirms "the moral evil of every procured abortion, and this 'has not changed and remains unchangeable,'" the archbishop said in a statement released late Jan. 22 in response to a statement on Roe by President Joe Biden, a Catholic, and Vice President Kamala Harris. They said their administration "is committed to codifying Roe v. Wade and appointing judges that respect foundational precedents like Roe." Meanwhile, Virginia's Catholic bishops decried the state Senate's passage of a measure to expand abortion. In Texas, the state Catholic conference endorsed two major pro-life bills that have bipartisan support in the Legislature.

# NEWS BRIEFS

## Prayers needed for Myanmar, says Yangon's auxiliary bishop



CNS photo/Navesh Chitrakar, Reuters

Activists hold placards during a protest in Kathmandu, Nepal, Feb. 1 after Myanmar's military seized power from a democratically elected civilian government and arrested its leaders. After the coup and detentions, the auxiliary bishop of Yangon, Myanmar's largest city and former capital, called for prayers, caution and stocking up on provisions for the people. "We must live in a spirit of vigilance and prayer," Auxiliary Bishop John Saw Yaw Han of Yangon told Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. Concerned that the situation could become critical, Bishop Saw Yaw Han also called on the Church to "provide food reserves to avoid shortages" and "also take care of stocks of medicines to ensure the health of the people," Fides reported Feb. 1.

## 14-nation survey shows U.S. faith has stayed strongest amid COVID-19

WASHINGTON (CNS) — According to a new poll by the Pew Research Center, more Americans say the coronavirus pandemic has strengthened their religious faith than those in 13 other nations that possess what Pew called "advanced economies." On the other side of the coin, though, a majority in every country, the United States included, said the pandemic has made no difference in the level of their faith. With the exception of Australia, Canada, Japan and South Korea, the other nations surveyed were all European: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The survey, released Jan. 27, showed that 28% of Americans said the pandemic had strengthened their own religious faith, and 28% said it had strengthened the faith of people in their country. The countries

closest to the United States were Spain, where 16% of respondents said the pandemic had strengthened their faith, with 17% saying it had strengthened the faith of other Spaniards, and Italy, where 15% said it had strengthened their own faith and 19% said it had strengthened the faith of other Italians.

## U.S. bishops welcome Biden's order not to release census citizenship data

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The leaders of two U.S. bishops' committees applauded President Joe Biden's executive order reversing a policy of the previous administration that excluded unauthorized immigrants from the census count. "We welcome this return to more than a century of American precedent that ensures all residents will be counted and included in the census and apportionment," said Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the Committee

on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of Washington, chairman of the Committee on Migration. "This return to our previous policy reflects the inalienable truth that all people matter and are imbued with human dignity," they said in a joint statement Jan. 22. Biden's census order — among several that he signed his first day in office — reversed two of President Donald Trump's directives related to the 2020 census. The former administration had sought to determine the citizenship status of every U.S. resident through administrative records and also planned to exclude those in the U.S. illegally from being counted in the process of apportioning state congressional seats.

## Biden action on Title X makes abortion part of family planning program

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Joe Biden's decision to rescind

a regulation governing the Title X family planning program that was enforced by the Trump administration "will force abortion" to be part of the program and "may be unlawful," said the chairman of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee. Started in 1970, the Title X Family Planning Program is a federal grant program for low-income patients to receive family planning and reproductive health services, such as contraception, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, and breast and cervical cancer screenings. In February 2019, the Trump administration implemented the "Protect Life Rule" that enforces the Title X rule banning taxpayer funds from being used to promote or provide abortion as family planning. On Feb. 24 the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the rule, which is what Biden is revoking. With enforcement of the rule, Title X "draws a bright line between abortion and family planning," said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities. "Forcing abortion into a pre-pregnancy program specifically designed to exclude abortion," he added, is "immoral, impractical and may also be unlawful."

## Academy for Life urges quick action to increase production of COVID-19 vaccines

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Saying there is "too much antagonism and competition" as well as an obvious "risk of severe injustices" in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, the Pontifical Academy for Life called for international cooperation in setting up vaccine production sites around the world. The same kind of collaboration that went into the development of the vaccines must now be employed to ensure there is an adequate supply available, including for the world's poorest countries, the academy said in a statement Jan. 22. Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the academy, and Msgr. Renzo Pegoraro, the academy's chancellor, insisted swift action must be taken to avoid some countries receiving the vaccine "very late because of shortages due to the prior purchase of large quantities by the richer states." In an earlier statement, the academy had asked governments "to overcome the logic of 'vaccine nationalism,'" with wealthy nations reserving massive amounts of the vaccine without considering how poorer countries would access doses. The academy called for international agreements "to manage patents" on the approved vaccines so that, using the same formulas, doses could be produced around the world and distributed locally.

# Young people urged to be 'persistent in highlighting' the sacredness of life

BY RICHARD SZCZEPANOWSKI

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The continuing COVID-19 pandemic and strict restrictions intended to slow its spread did not stop young people and others from rallying, praying and standing up for life Jan. 29.

As it has done for nearly 30 years, the Archdiocese of Washington hosted its regular "Rally and Mass for Life" prior to the annual March for Life. However this year, because of the ongoing pandemic, the D.C. event was virtual, with no traditional large in-person gathering at the Capital One Arena.

The 48th annual March for Life, which marks the anniversary of the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion, also was primarily virtual.

Using YouTube and other social media platforms, young people from across the country — and as far away as Australia — "gathered" for the rally and Mass at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington.

The event — which included a recitation of the rosary, talks, musical performances and reflections — was hosted by the Archdiocese of Washington Youth Leadership Team.

"I hope it is a joyful time for all those who are participating virtually. Our young people bring with them an energy that is life-giving," Washington Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory said. "I hope we realize as we do this from a distance that we are really close and united."

He asked young people to be "persistent in highlighting the importance of human life."

"Our young people know how to use social media and I ask them to use it effectively, persistently and consistently to flood (it) with the truth and do it in such a way that the truth is undeniable."

He also asked young people to pray because "we are people of faith, and we have to anchor whatever we do in prayer. If our prayer is sincere, we will be successful."

Cardinal Gregory was the principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass for Life. Concelebrants included Washington Auxiliary Bishops Mario E. Dorsonville and Roy E. Campbell Jr.; Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl, retired archbishop of Washington; Archbishop Christophe Pierre, papal nuncio to the United States; Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore; Bishop Barry C. Knestout of Richmond, Virginia; and other bishops from throughout the region.

Prior to the start of Mass, Archbishop Pierre noted that



CNS photo/Andrew Biraj, Catholic Standard

**Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory of Washington waves after celebrating a Mass for Life at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington Jan. 29. The Mass and a youth rally were held before the annual March for Life. Because of the ongoing pandemic, the D.C. event was virtual and livestreamed across various social media platforms, as was the national March for Life.**

rallying, praying and marching for life is "so important because life is a gift from God. We do not possess life, we receive it and we have to be careful about it."

Reading a message from Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, issued in the name of Pope Francis, Archbishop Pierre said: "His Holiness trusts this generous public witness to the deepest conviction of our faith will contribute to fostering a culture of life."

Speaking to "my dearest young sisters and brothers in Christ," Cardinal Gregory during his homily reminded those virtually attending the Mass of "the inalienable value of human life at every moment of its existence. The word of the God exhorts us that it is no longer fashionable to hate — and it never was."

"For 48 years, regrettably the people of our nation have been given all types of deceptive excuses to continue our dreadful practice of killing infant children within the womb," Cardinal Gregory said.

"Various people have called it merely a choice, others claim it as a human right, some have defended it as a personal decision," he continued. "A few even suggest it as just a womanly act of self-determination — anything to keep from accepting God's standard of respect and love for every human life — even that which is waiting to be born."

He said that society has found itself "hopelessly mired" in other "acts of brutality" against the

also are attacks against life.

"We continue to pursue unspeakable human brutality against other people with whom we might disagree," he said. "We look for any grounds to avoid the divine standard of respect for every living person. Yet we are called to a standard that dares to demand that we become perfect, just as our heavenly Father is perfect."

Referring to the beatitudes as "categorically the greatest and most enduring transformation in standards that any of us will ever be asked to accept," Cardinal Gregory said that Jesus' words call the faithful "to a new standard, a higher standard, a divine standard — and one that will not pass away as ever being outmoded or obsolete."

"The beatitudes are the new standards that dare to suggest that we are to view life itself and our opinions about other people in a different way," he said. "These new standards are even so revolutionary as to propose that no life, no person, and no class of people are beyond our love and respect."

The cardinal stressed that "there is no such thing as an inopportune life or a reason, no matter how grave, no matter how serious, no matter how convincing that renders any life useless and deserving of hatred or destruction."

"Let us pray for a widely

accepted way of viewing and valuing all human life — God's way — an old fashioned yet perfectly contemporary way of seeing every life as sacred, holy, and inalienable."

At the end of the Mass, Cardinal Gregory also asked young people to consider a religious vocation because "the Church is in need of joyful, energetic holy men and women."

"If the Lord is calling you to a vocation, please say 'yes.' We need you," he said.

The youth rally prior to the Mass focused on training young people how to engage in civil dialogue and pro-life apologetics.

Josh Brahm, president and co-founder of Equal Rights Institute — a national organization training pro-life advocates to think, reason and argue persuasively — urged young people to "utilize practical dialogue" when speaking of the pro-life movement.

In a series of videos, he taught "three essential skills" for presenting a pro-life argument: asking clarification questions then responding with your own thoughts, listening to understand and find genuine common ground when possible; and making a compelling argument for the rights of the unborn.

*Szczepanowski is managing editor of the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington.*

# 40

## FACES OF LENT

Today's Catholic readers, we would love to share your inspirational Lenten stories in our upcoming feature "40 Faces of Lent." Particularly in light of the continuing pandemic, we would like to hear how honoring the Lenten season has transformed your faith life. If you are interested in being included, please submit a 50-word response to one of the questions below — along with a high-resolution headshot — to [jbarton@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:jbarton@diocesefwsb.org).

**What does Lent mean to you?**

**What is one way you observe Lent?**

**How does the Lenten season bring you closer to God?**

Responses will be published in Today's Catholic or online at [todayscatholic.org](http://todayscatholic.org).

## National Marriage Week: February 7-14

# TIPS TO IMPROVE MARRIAGES CENTER

BY DENISE FEDOROW

**K**eeping God at the center of a couple's marriage is a tip agreed on by local Catholic marriage experts. In honor of National Marriage Week Feb. 7-14, Today's Catholic asked local clergy and family life leaders for more ideas to strengthen and add vibrancy to the sacramental union.

Father Polycarp Fernando, parochial vicar at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, said a happy marriage starts before the wedding ceremony.

"People getting married need to have an understanding of what marriage is," he said. "Many think it's a romantic thing."

But Father Fernando said it starts with Jesus' response to the disciples regarding divorce. He said once married, a couple is "no longer two, but one flesh and what God has joined together no man should separate."

He said marriage is not like a job or a career. Those things can be changed. "Marriage is a total union for life — the coming life and now."

The sacrament of marriage as covenant is so important that many things — the potential challenges as well as the joys — should be considered during courtship so that the marriage can be lived to its fullest and the couple completes one another.

"The danger time of courtship is that the couple see each other at their best. Money is not yet a problem and there are no children, so it's like a rose garden. During marriage they see each other not at their best."

To give their marriage a good chance of success he advises long acquaintanceships. This way, the couple really gets to know each other.

"Know your partner well — their family background, values, how they handle money. All are important," he said.

He shared that during marriage preparation classes he asks the couple, "Why do you love him or her?" He likes all of the answers he receives, he said, because they all reveal knowledge of who the person is.

"God loves us not because we're good or bad. He loves us unconditionally. We also have to love God back. All Christian marriages are between three parties: husband, wife and God. God calls us to married life so, He must be in the center."

To keep marriages strong Father Fernando recommends remembering and pondering the Scriptures chosen for the marriage ceremony. Also, couples must find time and learn to pray together and with children when they come.

"More than just Sunday Mass — praying together at home is a must."

He added that while mixed-faith marriages can be successful, it's an easier



path when both members share the same religion. When that's not the case, respecting one another's faith is best.

Pxfuel

### Prioritize a relationship with the Eucharist

Deacon Dave Elchert, St. John the Evangelist, Goshen, has been married for 58 years to his spouse, Donna. "First and foremost and most importantly, stay close to Christ and the Eucharist," was his advice for an enduring marriage.

Secondly, being considerate of one another and anticipating and filling the desires of your spouse goes a long way. Get to know your spouse inside and out, he recommended.

Being generous with the Church — time, talent and treasure — goes a long way as well.

"The more you share with others, the happier you are with those around you. When you give, especially when you give to God, you can't outdo Him. He'll always pay you back greater."

Deacon Elchert said it pays to stay affectionate. Hug, hold hands and kiss a lot. "You raise your children by teaching them to love God by setting the example."

"Keep Christ in the center of your marriage and family and realize you need the help of the Holy Spirit to guide your marriage," he added. "Pray and talk to Him every day. Pray daily and to the extent you can, pray together as a couple."

Deacon Elchert said the overriding reason for he and Donna's marital success is that they truly love each other.

"That starts in courtship. Look for a person you think will be a good wife and mother. If you have marriage in

Unsplash

# ON PRAYER



your heart, get serious about your mate." It's not enough that "they're cute or make you laugh," he warned.

He also advises couples should "keep the faith."

"Don't give up when times are tough. Keep the faith and pray."

## Tools and exercises

Deacon Frederick Everett, secretary for Evangelization and Discipleship, and his wife, Lisa, director for Marriage and Family Ministry, have been married more than 34 years.

Lisa said there are four things to keep in mind so that communication with one's spouse is clear. They're also the four things Pope Francis talks about as ways to speak to God, and they encourage intentionality in communication.

1. Give him or her praise and be specific and sincere.
2. Express gratitude and give thanks. It's easy to start to take a spouse for granted.
3. Ask for forgiveness for the things you've done and for the missed opportunities, the things you failed to do.
4. Ask for what you need. Don't assume your spouse can read your mind or should know by now. Honestly and charitably ask for what you need; your spouse may not be aware of it.

Deacon Frederick said one of the benefits of these four suggestions is that they get couples out of the mindset of thinking negatively about their spouse. Instead, they're actively looking for opportunities to thank and praise the other person.

He also said he and Lisa have found

it helpful when couples determine and understand the five love languages, from the book by therapist Gary Chapman.

"Sometimes we make a mistake thinking that something that is meaningful for me is also meaningful for another person," Deacon Frederick said.

Based on his years of notes of couples misunderstanding how love is expressed, Chapman classifies five areas he calls the "love languages":

1. Words of affirmation
2. Acts of service and kindness
3. Quality time spent together
4. Giving gifts — which don't have to be huge or expensive
5. Physical touch — including sexuality but also hand-holding, hugs, acts of affection.

The deacon mentioned a colleague whose husband wanted to take her out to celebrate their anniversary; but a better gift for her was acts of service, and she wanted him to clean out the garage. So, he did that for her and then they went out dancing for him.

"Learning those different ways to meet the expectations of the other is important," he said.

Lisa suggested couples take the free, 10-minute profile online. They can score the profile and exchange results with their spouse to start an interesting conversation.

"It can be a game changer," she said. "We were raised with the Golden Rule — do unto others as you'd have them do unto you — but if you approach marriage that way you could be missing the mark."

## Resources to explore further:

Find out primary and secondary love languages at [www.fivelovelanguages.com](http://www.fivelovelanguages.com).

The next opportunity to participate in The Marriage Course online is in April.

Visit [www.diocesefwsb.org/marriage-course](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/marriage-course)

For couples who are seriously struggling, the next Retrouvaille weekend will be a virtual weekend via Zoom March 4-7. Go to [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org) or call coordinators Jerry and MaryKaye Wells at 317-748-6520.

# Justice for unborn called 'foundational' principle of pro-life movement

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Supreme Knight Carl Anderson urged the pro-life movement to remain committed to four foundational principles: justice, truth, democracy and compassion.

"The first is our commitment to justice," he said, adding that "since the day Moses returned from Mount Sinai" with the Ten Commandments, "we've known that it is always wrong to intentionally kill an innocent human being."

"As Americans, we understand that this idea is at the heart of justice and our entire justice system. Because a government that will sanction the killing of the innocent is capable of sanctioning anything," he said in an address accepting the 2021 Pro-Life Legacy Award Jan. 29.

"It matters little that this sanction is camouflaged in the language of freedom," he added.

Presented during the 39th annual March for Life Rose Dinner, which was held virtually, the award recognizes the Knights of Columbus CEO for "a lifetime of leadership in defense of the unborn." Anderson, who has been involved in the pro-life issue for 50 years, has headed the Knights since 2000.

"No one has done more to advance the pro-life cause than Carl Anderson. He is a true pro-life warrior, and his work and tireless dedication to the cause is an example to us all," Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Defense and Education Fund, said in her award presentation.



CNS screen grab

**Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, CEO of the Knights of Columbus, is seen in this screen grab Jan. 29 from the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council's YouTube channel. He was awarded the 2021 Pro-Life Legacy Award during the March for Life Rose Dinner, held virtually this year because of the pandemic.**

The Rose Dinner is one of several events held as part of the March for Life marking the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion nationwide. This year, due to the ongoing pandemic and concerns about security in the nation's capital, the march was mostly virtual; only a small group gathered on the National Mall and walked up to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In his remarks, Anderson said the Roe ruling is riddled with "falsehoods and misstatements of history," and justice is possible only when laws are based on truth, he said.

The high court said the "unborn child has never been recognized in law as a person in the whole sense" and then "went on to act as though the unborn child has no rights at all," he said. "This approach is essentially incoherent. The fact that a human being's age does not entitle him to all rights does not mean that he has no rights."

The more fundamental question, he said, is "what are the rights every human being is entitled to simply by the fact he is a human being with a human nature? The answer to that question is clear: We must all have the basic right to life — a right enumerated in the language of both the Fifth and Fourteenth amendments to our Constitution."

The second great principle of the pro-life cause," Anderson said, is the "insistence our governmental institutions must tell us the truth."

"By denying what everyone knows to be true — that the unborn child is a living human being, Roe v. Wade rests upon the greatest legal falsehood since the court's terrible decision upholding the fiction of 'separate but equal' racial segregation in Plessy v. Ferguson," he explained.



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The successful candidate will be a Catholic in good standing, a bachelor's degree is required (master's degree preferred) in human-resources management, organizational development, business administration or a related field. At least five years of previous experience in humanresources management is required. Designation as a Senior Professional in Human Resources or Professional in Human Resources is preferred. The successful candidate also must complete a full Criminal History Clearance.

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# Pope talks about Iraq trip, Catholic journalism, Church in US

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis said that unless there is a serious new wave of COVID-19 infections in Iraq, he has every intention of visiting the country in early March.

Even if social distancing requirements mean most Iraqis will see the papal events only on television, he said, “they will see that the pope is there in their country.”

“I am the pastor of people who are suffering,” Pope Francis told Catholic News Service Feb. 1. He also said that if he had to, he would consider taking a regular commercial flight to get there.

The pope is scheduled to travel to Iraq March 5-8. St. John Paul II had hoped and planned to go to Iraq in 2000, particularly to visit the city of Ur, birthplace of Abraham, recognized as the patriarch of faith in one God by Jews, Christians and Muslims.

Tensions in the region made the trip impossible, and St. John Paul “wept” that he could not go, Pope Francis said, adding that he does not want to disappoint the people a second time.

The meeting with Catholic News Service marked the 100th anniversary of the news agency of the U.S. bishops’ conference.

Asked about the role of U.S. Catholic journalists today, Pope Francis said, it is to promote unity and to “try to get people to talk to each other, reason together and seek the path of fraternity.”



CNS photo/Vatican Media

**Pope Francis meets with members of the Catholic News Service Rome bureau at the Domus Sanctae Marthae at the Vatican Feb. 1. The meeting was in recognition of the 100th anniversary of CNS. Pictured on the couch are Carol Glatz, correspondent, and Cindy Wooden, bureau chief.**

“A divided Church is not the Church,” he said.

“The Church in the United States is a Church that has been courageous — the history it has and the saints — and has done so much,” the pope said. “But if the communications media throw gas on the fire on one side or another, it doesn’t help.”

“The path of division leads nowhere,” he said. “Remember the prayer of Jesus, ‘That they may all be one’ — unity that is

not uniformity, no. Unity with differences, but one heart. ‘I think this way, you think that. We can discuss it,’ but with the same heart.”

“There are perhaps traditionalist groups in the United States, but there are here in the Vatican, too,” he said.

Pope Francis said that when he met with a newspaper association in Buenos Aires, Argentina, years ago, he told them to beware of four sins and

that those sins are still a threat to news media today: “disinformation” or giving only part of the story, because the nuances of the whole story are essential for discovering truth; “calumny, which is a grave sin, ruining the reputation of another” with a lie; “defamation,” which is similar, but often involves publishing something from someone’s past, “even though changed their lives”; and “coprophilia,” which he described as “a love of dirt,”

because “scandal sells.”

“Don’t fall into these sins,” he said.

After missing several big liturgies and appointments over the new year and again in late January because of a flare-up of sciatica, a painful nerve condition, Pope Francis said he can tell when an attack is coming on, and he tells his doctor. The physician’s advice, he said, is to cancel or postpone events where he would be standing for long periods, because the pressure would make the condition much worse the next day.

But, he said, the doctor told him, “But do the Angelus or people will say you are dead.”

Asked his opinion of the Church in the United States, Pope Francis said it is “a Church that is alive, vivacious.” He pointed in particular to the vast network of Catholic schools and to the Church’s efforts to assist and help integrate immigrants; he specifically mentioned the leadership of Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles and Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas.

“It is a Church that is ‘catholic’ in the sense of universal because of immigration. What the Church has done for immigrants is great. And, also, it is very generous in helping others and it is humble because of how much it suffered from the crisis of sexual abuse,” he said. “And it’s a Church that prays.”

“You know its defects better than I do,” he said, but “I look at the U.S. Church with hope.”

## Visual storytelling has always been integral to 100 years of CNS coverage

BY THOMAS N. LORSUNG

In the 1920s, it was news sheets with pictures; today it’s instant delivery of still photos and videos — a news service history of giving the Church a visual record of the important events of the time.

The National Catholic Welfare Council (later Conference) News Service, under the direction of its founding editor, Justin McGrath, produced a weekly Picture Service in 1922 — “The Catholic World Through the Camera.” The photos were provided in matrix form to 13 subscribers.

According to a news service article in 1947, “Not only a pioneer effort in the field of Catholic journalism, the idea of a full page of news pictures was something unique in the secular journalism field. ... It was not until five years later that The New York Times decided that the trend was definitely toward news pictures.”

The article also expressed a philosophy that has carried through to the present day: “Every effort is made to synchronize the pictures with stories

appearing in the NCWC News Service. Sources of pictures include all the major news-photo gathering agencies ... and scores of correspondents ... throughout the world.”

Among photos on a 1922 page are images ranging from relief efforts in Russia to the funeral of Michael Collins, assassinated head of the Irish Free State, and an injury to Harry Heilman, Detroit Tigers right fielder and a member of the Knights of Columbus.

By the 1960s, photo clients had an option to choose glossy photos over the matrix system.

In August 1995, an advisory on the news service wire announced: “Today is a special day in the history of Catholic News Service. It’s the official launch of the digital photo service via the CNS Bulletin Board System (CNS BBS). For the first time, you can receive CNS photos on demand, 24 hours a day, via electronic means.”

Clients dialed into the system via modem to retrieve the digital files. The CNS Bulletin Board System was an inexpensive alternative to satellite delivery. The new BBS was appreciated during

the October 1995 trip by St. John Paul II to New York, New Jersey and Maryland.

Then-photo editor Nancy Wiechec recalled, “I remember being back in the modem room ... and watching the system go nuts when we posted the first photos of the pope’s arrival. At that time, we were shooting film, developing it and then scanning select negatives to post to the BBS.”

In 2000, CNS purchased its first digital cameras — Canon D30s. About a year later, CNS photographers shot exclusively digital.

When CNS launched its website in 1999, the digital photo service moved to that platform. By 2005 it made “select photos available for use on client websites ... in an easy to use format.”

The news service covered the Vatican photographically by relying on other news agencies and freelancers, but Wiechec and Tony Spence, director and editor-in-chief, saw the value in establishing a photographer job in Rome. They had a ready candidate in Paul Haring, who joined the staff in 2004.

Since 2009, Haring has covered the papacy and the Vatican full time. He traveled on 34 international papal flights including all of Pope Francis’ international trips. He also covered many papal visits within Italy.

CNS staff photographer Bob Roller said he hears from client editors every week that they value having a news service photographer in Rome.

He cited the grueling schedule Haring faced during “ad limina” visits. “I don’t know how he did it,” Roller said appreciatively.

Haring’s background included everything from yearbook and wedding photography to working on military publications in the D.C. area. In 2001, he was one of the first photographers on the scene of the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon. His work with the military also provided training in the new digital photography before it was mainstream.

CNS launched its video service in September 2009, following the lead of the larger media groups, which began to add video to give their audience a way of being transported into the story in the same way that broadcast television had been doing for decades.

By 2012 CNS made the video service part of its basic package.

When Pope Benedict XVI announced his impending resignation from the papacy in early 2013, CNS decided to document the historic event and the eventual election of Pope Francis in video.

CNS saw the popularity of the video service and viewership grow dramatically during this period. Now if it’s a big Catholic event, like World Youth Day, CNS sends a videographer/video producer along with staff reporters and photographers to give its clients complete media coverage.

For the past several years, CNS Multimedia Editor Chaz Muth has reported his stories using photography, videography and print.

Video is no longer a novelty at CNS. It’s a standard in its media offerings. The videos are mostly embedded in CNS stories on clients’ websites, but they also are used in social media and on Catholic television stations.

As of Feb. 1, the CNS YouTube channel had more than 13.6 million views. That’s a lot of “zest” in a new form.

## The perils of isolation

The COVID-19 pandemic has claimed many victims, beginning tragically with the death of hundreds of thousands of our neighbors. Some of its harms are more intangible but equally real.

Precautions needed to contain the spread of the virus — masks, social distancing, the closing of public venues — also tend to isolate us from others. And that can leave us with no trusted person to tell us when one of our bright ideas is incredibly stupid.

For me, as for many married people, that person is my spouse. For others, it can be other relatives or a friend, neighbor or fellow parishioner. But when deprived of their usual close connections with those who can offer a different perspective, people starved for love and acceptance gravitate toward those who see things exactly as they do. And that can help create the kind of tunnel vision that leads to violence.

This, of course, can happen without a pandemic. Studying those who incite violent protests at both extremes of our political culture, social commentator Mary Eberstadt cites many broken families and fatherless homes in their backgrounds. They find a new family in a tribe that nurtures internal solidarity and contempt for other tribes.

And that helps lead to some incredibly stupid and destructive actions, from the storming of the U.S. Capitol by the “Proud Boys” and others to antifa’s riots in Portland, Oregon, and Seattle a few days later — protesting the inauguration of President Joe

Biden, as it turns out.

With less overt violence, but broader tragic consequences, the polarization of our politics has become self-sustaining. In recent years, politicians have interacted chiefly with members of their own tribe. The bipartisan cooperation once seen in Congress, and even the personal friendships that used to cross party lines, seem largely a thing of the past.

And if I never get to know my opponents, it is much easier to treat them with contempt. If my side loses an election, it must be fraud; if my side wins, I must complete the punishment of those who lost.

At his inauguration, President Biden called for unity, civility and cooperation in building a better society. That is a welcome message, which is in considerable tension with stances he has taken on abortion and religious freedom.

One of the most divisive of these is his newfound opposition to the Hyde Amendment, which saves Americans from having to subsidize elective abortions with their taxes. The amendment, first enacted in 1976, has been approved each of the past 45 years by congresses and presidents of both parties.

In a country about evenly divided between those who identify as pro-life and pro-choice, it has said to pro-life Americans: “We have some minimal respect for you and your convictions. While the law allows abortion as a private choice, we will not force you to support it as a public good.”

In fact, even some abortion



### A MORE HUMAN SOCIETY

RICHARD DOERFLINGER

practitioners have called abortion an act of violence. And even many “pro-choice” Americans oppose public funding of abortion.

Rejecting Hyde undermines that minimal respect and that regard for the will of the people. As the act of a president said to be a “devout Catholic,” which can only mean a Catholic who accepts Catholic teaching, it seems to show disrespect even for himself.

This is a great danger in what is almost a one-party government. No one close to you will point out which of your bright ideas is divisive, stupid and even violent. The Catholic bishops have rightly urged the president to listen to the better angels of his nature, and we should join our prayers and efforts with theirs.

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

## The Christian call to become people of encounter

The pope’s message for World Communications Day, released every year on the feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron of writers, is always something to which I look forward. I value the reminder of how communication is key to every aspect of our lives: how it can be so broad as to shape our knowledge and understanding of the world, and yet so personal that it can make or break our closest relationships. To be functioning members of society, we have to be able to communicate effectively.

I have always been more comfortable with written communication than verbal. When I was 12 or 13, in anticipation of the stereotypical angst-ridden teen years to come, I bought my mom a small, purple, spiral-bound notebook. Over the years, whenever we had trouble talking to one another in person, I’d express my thoughts and feelings in its pages and leave it on her pillow. She would respond, leaving it on mine. We created our own little path toward better communication, forging it out of mutual love for the written word and mutual love for one another.

That anecdote seems so quaint given where technology has propelled us in the past 25 years. At my fingertips, I have multiple ways to talk face to face with someone on the other side of the planet. I can share my



### GUEST COMMENTARY

GRETCHEN CROWE

thoughts with thousands of people on Twitter or Instagram any time I feel like it. I can text my husband from the basement or the bathroom or the same room. We can talk to pretty much anyone pretty much anywhere at pretty much anytime.

It’s ironic, then, that at a moment when it’s never been easier to communicate with one another, we still manage to be so very bad at it. Our social media-fueled, me-first culture has elevated the “clever zinger” and dismissed listening. Hiding behind screens, we easily overlook the individual behind the handle. And if we do actually manage to connect with another person directly, and with empathy, we stumble over content.

And so I appreciated Pope Francis’ recent message for World Communications Day for two reasons. First, he calls us to a healthier form of communication — to actually encounter the individual with whom we are

CROWE, page 13

## Those who put their trust in Jesus have hope



### THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

#### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mark 1:29-39

The Book of Job is the source of this weekend’s first reading. Scholars disagree as to when this book was written. This book furnishes few details about the identity of Job. It is nonetheless one of the great literary works in the Old Testament since it so remarkably captures the struggle experienced by many believers as they try to match their faith in the merciful God to problems in their lives.

A misreading of Job has led to a phrase that has gone into English common speech, the “patience of Job.” Clear in

many places in this book is the fact that Job was not always so patient with God. For example, in this weekend’s reading, Job vents his impatience. He asks if life on earth is not, in reality, drudgery.

Each human being, Job writes, is a slave to this fate. Personally, Job says he has been assigned “months of misery.” “I shall not see happiness again,” he writes drearily.

St. Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians provides the second reading.

The same source has given earlier weekend liturgies this winter their second readings. In this passage from First Corinthians, Paul insists that he was free to accept the call to be an Apostle or to spurn the call. He chose to accept the call.

He evangelizes. He proclaims the good news. He explains the identity and mission of Jesus. Paul’s own Christianity compels him to evangelize. It is an act of service and of love, given for people who otherwise would not know Jesus. People’s needs in this regard are so great that Paul’s obligation,

correspondingly intense, makes him their slave.

For its final reading, the Church offers us a selection from St. Mark’s Gospel. It is the story of the Lord’s curing of Peter’s mother-in-law. Matthew and Luke have their versions of the same story.

The story is clear. Merely by touching her hand, Jesus cured the woman. She was so fully cured, in fact, that she immediately rose from her sickbed and began to wait on Jesus and the disciples. She was healthy again, and she used her health to care for others. For all Christians, the impulse to serve others is true stamina.

While the cure is extraordinary, Mark does not make the fortunate mother-in-law the centerpiece of this reading. Rather, Jesus is the focus of the story.

Christians long have remembered this miracle. Indeed, archeologists found traces of this mother-in-law’s house in Capernaum. They confirmed their discovery by the fact that ancient Christian inscriptions were found

on the walls.

As the story continues, Jesus heals the sick and drives demons away. He ordered the demons not to speak, and they obeyed.

Alone, Jesus went to a distant place to pray. Since there are no deserts in the vicinity of Capernaum, Jesus must have gone some distance, or at least to a barren place. The Apostles pursued Jesus, longing to be near the Lord, needing the Lord.

When at last they found Jesus, He reminded them that the messianic role was to reach all people.

### Reflection

The Church continues to introduce us to Jesus, a process begun weeks ago at Christmas and underscored in the lessons of the feast of the Epiphany and in those of the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Jesus is Lord, the Son of God, with all power, given to us to bring humanity to God’s mercy and perfection.

The condition of Peter’s mother-in-law, and the

anxiousness with which Peter and the others search for Jesus, tell us about ourselves. Conditions trouble our lives, such as this persistent pandemic. In their worries, Job, Paul and Peter’s mother-in-law would be at home with us. We are helpless, but we are not doomed. Jesus is with us.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Jb 7:1-4, 6-7 Ps 147:1-6 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23 Mk 1:29-39

**Monday:** Gn 1:1-19 Ps 104:1-2a,

5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c Mk 6:53-56

**Tuesday:** Gn 1:20—2:4a Ps 8:4-9 Mk 7:1-13

**Wednesday:** Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17 Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30 Mk 7:14-23

**Thursday:** Gn 2:18-25 Ps 128:1-5 Mk 7:24-30

**Friday:** Gn 3:1-8 Ps 32:1-2, 5-7 Mk 7:31-37

**Saturday:** Gn 3:9-24 Ps 90:2-4c, 5-6, 12-13 Mk 8:1-10

# What we know about St. Joseph

On Dec. 8 of last year, Pope Francis unexpectedly declared the Year of St. Joseph, from then until Dec. 8 of this year, as a special time to get to know the foster father of Jesus. The pope attached many indulgences to meditating about St. Joseph or praying the Litany of St. Joseph or other prayers directed to the spouse of the Blessed Virgin.

But how can we meditate about St. Joseph when we really know so little about him? Pope Francis himself called him "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence."

What do we know about St. Joseph? What are we not sure about? And what can we conjecture?

We know through Scripture that he was descended from King David, but we're not sure about his father's name. According to Matthew's Gospel, it was Jacob (Mt 1:16), but Luke's Gospel says it was Heli (Lk 3:23).

We think of Joseph as a carpenter, but he apparently was more than that. The Gospels use the Greek word "tekton," which is a master builder, somebody who works on the various materials needed for construction work, including timber and iron, but usually stone. Since there is so much stone in the Holy Land, most homes and other structures are built with stone.

We know that Joseph lived in Nazareth in Galilee. We can speculate he did construction work in Sepphoris, about an hour's walk from Nazareth. Sepphoris was the capital of Galilee at the time and a much larger city than Nazareth.

How much older was Joseph than Mary? Again, we don't know. Most paintings of the Holy Family depict Joseph as an older man. Where did that come from?

It originated from a document called the Protoevangelium of James, one of the more than 15

noncanonical accounts of the life of Jesus, probably written in the middle of the second century. The Church eventually decided that it was not divinely inspired but accepts portions of the work. For example, we got the names of the Blessed Virgin's parents, Anne and Joachim, from the Protoevangelium, which tells of events prior to those in the canonical Gospels.

According to the Protoevangelium, Mary spent her childhood in the Temple in Jerusalem. When it was time for her to leave when she reached puberty, the priests called widowers together and chose Joseph to be Mary's husband. The

*Pope Francis himself*

*called him*

*"the man who goes unnoticed,*

*a daily, discreet*

*and hidden presence."*

Western Church rejected that story, but the idea persisted that Joseph was considerably older than Mary.

Joseph was most likely older than Mary, but probably not as old as some old paintings depict.

We know that Mary conceived of the Holy Spirit after she and Joseph went through the first part of the Jewish wedding procedure, the betrothal, but before the second part when the groom took the bride into his home.

## GUEST COMMENTARY

JOHN FINK

How did Mary explain that to Joseph? Whatever she said, Joseph did not believe it because he decided to divorce her quietly. He changed his mind when he was told that it was through the Holy Spirit that Mary conceived.

According to the Protoevangelium, Joseph blamed himself when he learned of Mary's pregnancy because, he said, "I received her as a virgin out of the Temple of the Lord my God and have not protected her."

Then Joseph shows us how resourceful he was when they went to Bethlehem and Jesus was born. He and Mary undoubtedly went prepared to stay for a while rather than return with a newborn baby, at least for 40 days until Mary's purification and Jesus' presentation in the Temple. Perhaps Joseph led an extra donkey with their belongings and tools he needed to support them while they were gone. He didn't expect his family to become refugees from Herod's soldiers, but they did, and he led Mary and Jesus to Egypt.

After their return to Nazareth, the only time Joseph appears again in the Gospels is when Jesus remained in Jerusalem when he was 12. Joseph quietly cared for his family until his happy death, undoubtedly in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

John Fink is the editor emeritus of The Criterion, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

### CROWE, from page 12

speaking, to listen and to seek understanding. "Come and see" is the simplest method to get to know a situation," he writes. "It is the most honest test of every message, because, in order to know, we need to encounter, to let the person in front of me speak, to let his or her testimony reach me."

And second, because he challenges us to make sure that what we, as disciples of Jesus Christ, share with one another is

the truth. Calling attention to the misinformation spread so easily and quickly on the internet, Pope Francis said: "All of us are responsible for the communications we make, for the information we share, for the control that we can exert over fake news by exposing it. All of us are to be witnesses of the truth: to go, to see and to share."

That type of "discernment and responsibility for contents both sent and received" applies not just

to a decision of whether or not to share a story on Facebook. It gets to the very heart of any effective communication. What we share, in big ways and in small, must always be true, and we have the responsibility of seeing that it is so. This applies when on social media, when gossiping with friends, when in the office and when at home.

By becoming people of encounter committed to the truth, 21st-century Christians might have a chance not only at being able to communicate easily, but at being able to do so well, too.

Gretchen R. Crowe is editorial director for periodicals at OSV.

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for February 7, 2021

Mark 1:29-39

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: work at home. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

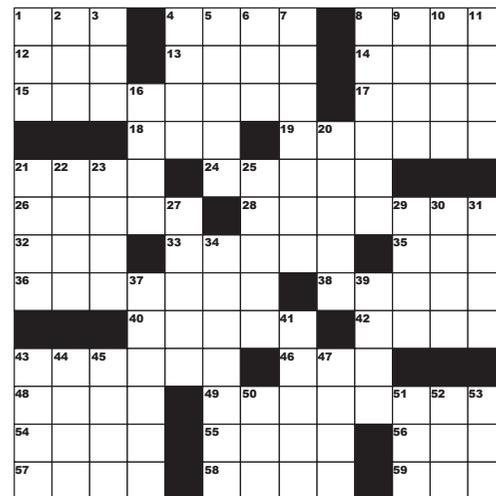
HOUSE	SIMON	JOHN
FEVER	HAND	HELPED HER UP
LEFT HER	SICK	POSSESSED
WHOLE TOWN	GATHERED	THE DOOR
DISEASES	DROVE OUT	SPEAK
EARLY	PRAYED	LOOKING
LET US GO	VILLAGES	PREACH

### GATHERING

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

## The Cross Word

February 7 and 14, 2021



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Readings: 1Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39 and Lev 13:1-2, 44-48; 1Cor 10:31-11:1; Mk 1:40-45

### ACROSS

- 1 Constrictor snake
- 4 Among
- 8 Fish hook
- 12 Flow away
- 13 Had on, as clothing
- 14 Horse does on 2 legs
- 15 Jesus cured these
- 17 Canal
- 18 Easter egg color
- 19 New Orleans' food
- 21 African country
- 24 Would not allow demons to
- 26 Country next to Egypt

### DOWN

- 28 Flavoring
- 32 College football conference (abbr.)
- 33 "Ladies and \_\_\_"
- 35 Communication Workers of America (abbr.)
- 36 Letter
- 38 Anesthetic
- 40 Leper did before Jesus
- 42 Leprosy mark
- 43 Low ranking naval officer
- 46 Epoch
- 48 Mark's animal symbol

- 49 Snubbing
- 54 Bridge
- 55 Space ship builders
- 56 North by east
- 57 Catch sight of
- 58 Dell
- 59 Tiger \_\_\_

### DOWN

- 1 Mother-in-law was in
- 2 Kimono sash
- 3 Brake system
- 4 "\_\_\_ in a Manger"
- 5 "The Law of \_\_\_"
- 6 Wrath
- 7 Lineage
- 8 "Jews and \_\_\_"
- 9 Air (prefix)
- 10 Not succeed
- 11 No charge
- 16 Swirl
- 20 God did for Jesus
- 21 Chowder ingredient
- 22 Audio-system
- 23 Alphabet
- 25 Jury
- 27 Growing older
- 29 Reverberate
- 30 Pitcher
- 31 Challenge
- 34 "After sunset"
- 37 Too thin
- 39 Russian ruler
- 41 Uptight
- 43 Otherwise
- 44 Tiny sips of liquor
- 45 Comes in bars
- 47 Colored horse
- 50 "My \_\_\_ Sal"
- 51 Business title ending
- 52 BB association
- 53 Receive

Answer key can be found on page 15

### Serra Club prays for vocations

SOUTH BEND — Co-presidents Ray and Sue Vales conducted a virtual South Bend Serra Club meeting Jan. 20 at 6 p.m. For the first time eight members were present, as well as chaplain Father Daryl Rybicki and one guest. Since there was no guest speaker, members prayed the glorious mysteries of the rosary for the intention of seminarians.

The next regular meeting of the club would fall on Ash Wednesday, so the next meeting will take place Wednesday, March 17, either in-person or virtually.

The organization is open to anyone who would be interested in helping promote and pray for more religious vocations. For information contact Randy Blum at randyblum75@gmail.com.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

### Light of Christ Award given by parish

FORT WAYNE — For a decade following the death of Father Tom O'Connor, and at the urging of Bishop John D'Arcy, St. Mary, Mother of God Parish honored individuals in the wider community who, through their own efforts or by their work with others, encouraged "The next generation of Father Toms." With only one exception, and by design, recipients of the Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award were not members of the parish.

After the phasing out that recognition, a new award was created to honor members in the parish for their service, especially

within the parish's own faith family. This award is presented close to or on Jan. 1 of each year, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. The recipient of the 2021 St. Mary, Mother of God Parish Sharing the Light of Christ Award is Rosemary Diehl Mausser.

A native of Detroit and the eldest of eight children, Mausser graduated from the University of Dayton where she met her late husband, Ron. They were married more than 45 years and had three children. He died in 2017.

Rosemary's professional career involved working with actuaries at Lincoln National Life and later, after a number of years as a volunteer, as purchasing manager at the local 3 Rivers Natural Grocery and Food Co-op.

Her involvement with St. Mary parish reaches back decades. Raising their own children meshed with Ron and Rosemary's work with the baptismal preparation program. Rosemary still serves on the parish finance committee, is a lector and commentator, serves on the liturgical committee and has for many years scheduled the parishioners who fill the many liturgical and service roles during each Mass. She has provided transportation to Mass and appointments and has served on numerous other committees over the decades: everything from making use of her mathematical expertise on the finance committee to preparing Chinese chicken salad for funeral luncheons and writing Christmas cards to the sick

and homebound to searching for volunteers to help with cleaning during the pandemic.

### 'Zoom and See' helps single Catholic women discern religious calling

ADRIAN, Mich. — Single Catholic women age 19-35 who are trying to discern their call in life are invited by the Adrian Dominican Sisters to spend a weekend with them and with other young Catholic women who are discerning their future.

A virtual Zoom and See for Yourself weekend will take place Friday and Saturday, Feb. 12-13. It will include time for prayer, silence, faith-sharing, and fun, as well as the opportunity to learn about the life of a religious sister and the Dominican life.

Register online at tinyurl.com/ADSDiscern. For information contact Sister Tarianne DeYonker, OP, vocation co-director, at tdeyunker@adriandominicans.org or call or text her at 517-920-1395.

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**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.

**Lenten Life in the Spirit retreat**  
**FORT WAYNE** — A Lenten Life in the Spirit retreat will begin on Feb. 18 and continue for seven Thursdays until April 1, from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Cathedral Hall basement, 1102 S. Clinton St. The retreat will focus on the work of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life using real-life examples. Call 260-385-5717 to register. There is a suggested donation of \$10 for materials. Handicapped accessible. Contact Beverly Armstrong at 260-385-5717 or [bevaa48@frontier.com](mailto:bevaa48@frontier.com).

**Christ Child Society celebrates virtually**  
**SOUTH BEND** — Angelo DiCarlo will emcee the gala Let Love Shine, a virtual event in support of the Christ Child Society of South Bend on Thursday, Feb. 11, from 7-8 p.m. Included will

be a silent auction and an opportunity to see the new Clothing Center as it transformed from an empty store to a vibrant center of philanthropy. Visit [www.christ-childsb.org](http://www.christ-childsb.org) for more information.

## The CrossWord

February 7 and 14, 2021





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**MASS, RALLY, from page 1**

many years.

"We're worried about our country," said Louann. "What does it say about us when we throw away God's greatest gift?"

Anne Oliva from Queen of Peace Parish, also in Mishawaka, has been active in the pro-life movement all her life. She remembers her father manning a Right to Life booth at the 4-H fair.

"Nothing else is more worthy to fight for. How can anybody think killing right up to the moment of birth is okay?" she asked. She and friend Rachel Myers said they saw themselves wearing out the knees of their pants in the coming months.

A dozen Congregation of Holy Cross seminarians attended the Mass as well. Brother James Walters said he was excited that even though he couldn't go to the national march this year, he was able to join his fellow seminarians in showing support for life locally.

After the Mass, Bishop Rhoades and most of the worshippers — from 48-year veterans of the movement to toddlers — headed to the federal courthouse downtown to hold up pro-life signs and encourage honks from passing motorists.

Many of the signs were handmade. "As a former fetus, I oppose abortion," proclaimed Joseph Towers' sign. The message from Rachel Myers, from St. Monica, was, "Unity Begins in the Womb."

Marian student Monica Kloska's sign listed a host of pro-life issues, including immigration reform, mask-wearing and opposition to the death penalty. Another sign pointed out that pro-science is pro-life.

St. Pius X, Granger, parishioner Sandra Schneider needed her walker at the march, but she still came to support life on the cold afternoon. Kathy Downey, also from St. Pius, brought her nine children. A homeschooling mother, Downey said she was grateful for the opportunity the Mass and rally presented.

"This is something we can do to help support the culture of life, to pray and to come out and be present." She hoped to teach her children to be part of the change they want to see.

Many young people were among the 400 people at the rally. Seventh grader Joseph Heckaman said he was there because, simply, "This needs to stop."

Ben Horvath agreed. "Life is the most fundamental right."

Natalie Navarette from St. Matthew Cathedral School said, "Babies don't deserve to die without a chance."

Colette Cline, president of Marian High School's pro-life club, appreciated the symbolism of the annual event but pointed out that a pro-life commitment should be lived out every single day.

The cancellation of the



Photos by Jennifer Miller

**Before Right to Life Michiana's annual pro-life gathering, which this year took place Jan. 29, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrates a Mass for Life at St. Patrick Church, South Bend. Many Catholic schools were represented at the Mass by their pro-life clubs, including Marian High School, Mishawaka, Christ the King and St. Matthew schools in South Bend and several homeschooling families.**



**Marian junior Monica Kloska stands up for all life with her homemade sign at the 2021 Right to Life Michiana gathering in front of the federal courthouse in downtown South Bend. Her sister, mother and cousins joined her at the 400-person event to support life in all of its stages and abilities.**



National March for Life event this year was disappointing to many of the students, who said they had hoped to show President Biden the power of the pro-life movement. Instead, many of them came to the South Bend protest. At the same time, however, grade school students who sometimes participate in the local march for life were unable to attend this year because the pandemic halted all field trips.

Instead, Right to Life Michiana organized a virtual rally. The young students received a virtual tour of the rally, heard a talk by Marian teacher Sister Marie Morgan and had a chance to ask questions.

Because the St. Joseph County and Elkhart County right to

life organizations merged in 2019, Jackie Appleman, executive director of Right to Life Michiana, helped organize events in two counties over the weekend. Pointing out that 61 million Americans have died since Roe v. Wade, in South Bend Appleman underlined the organization's educational efforts throughout January. "So many people have no idea Roe v. Wade made abortion legal through all nine months of pregnancy. We want to let the community know all of us oppose this, that we demand protection for every life from conception to natural death. Abortion isn't wanted or needed in Michiana. We support women here."