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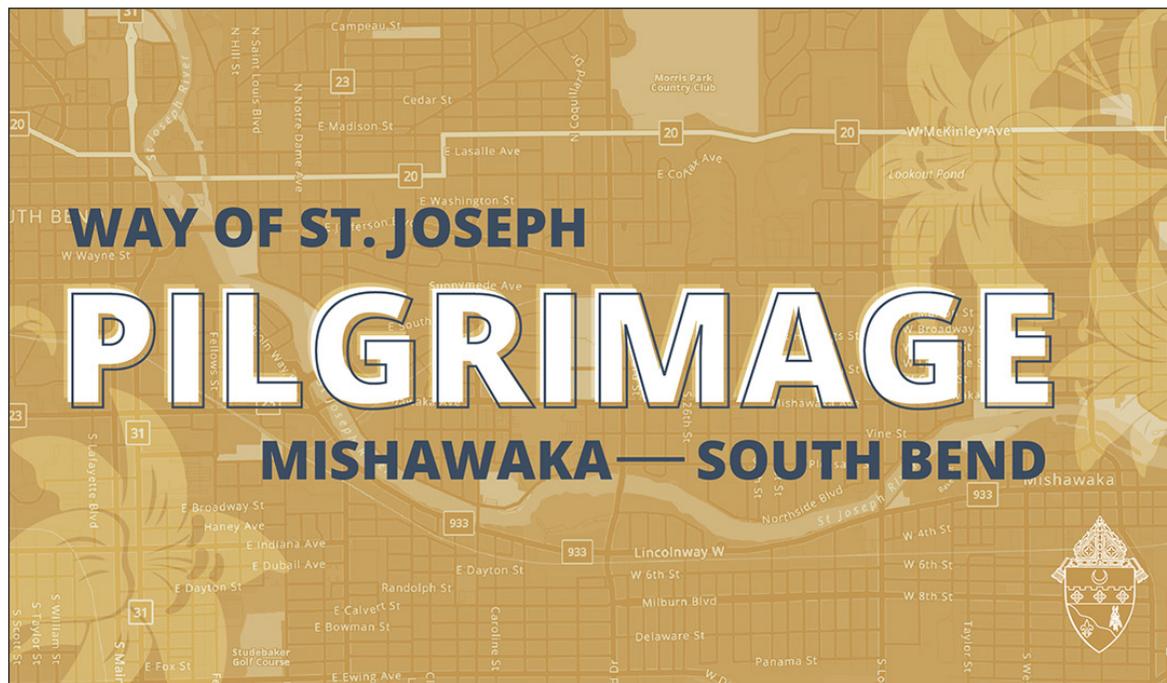
St. Joseph parishes linked for feast day pilgrimage

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Pilgrimage has long been a part of Catholic tradition. It has roots in Jewish history, where the Israelites were expected to make yearly pilgrimages to Jerusalem for festivals, particularly Passover. Sometimes, people think of pilgrimages as long, costly, involved voyages they cannot afford to undertake. However, a collaboration between the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the two St. Joseph parishes in South Bend and Mishawaka will provide a local pilgrimage opportunity in honor of the holy spouse of Mary.

The Way of St. Joseph will take place May 1, the feast of St.

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Archbishop prays for shooting victims, a stop to 'senseless violence'

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — Expressing sorrow for the loss of life in yet another mass shooting in the U.S., this time at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis, Archbishop Charles C. Thompson prayed for the victims and their families.

He also prayed that “these senseless acts of violence will stop.”

“Once again our nation is mourning the loss of lives in a mass shooting and this time it is eight of our own neighbors who were killed at the Indianapolis FedEx Ground center,” Archbishop Thompson said. “We pray for the victims and loved ones of those who were murdered as well as those who were injured.”

The facility is near the Indianapolis International Airport and the shooting took place the night of April 15. CNN quoted a police official as saying law enforcement arrived to “a very chaotic scene, with victims and witnesses running everywhere.”

Eight people were killed and several others were wounded by a gunman who killed himself after his shooting spree. In a late afternoon story April 16, The Associated Press said the shooter had been identified as 19-year-old

Brandon Scott Hole of Indiana, a former employee who last worked for the company in 2020.

“We again need prayer and concrete acts of charity for the families, and for all victims of violent crime, said Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.

“Again and again, we react in horror to these violent acts, but many cannot agree on how to stop them,” he said in a statement issued late April 16. “In the spirit of Easter, let us pray for renewed reverence for the gift of life, and faith that by the grace of God, we can always begin again and work toward peace.”

Deputy Police Chief Craig McCartt told AP and CNN that witnesses said the gunman “got out of his car, and pretty quickly started some random shooting” in the parking lot then went inside the facility and continued shooting.

By the time police arrived, he had not gotten too far inside and “apparently killed himself shortly before police entered the building,” AP said.

According to April 19 news reports, the motive for the shoot-



CNS photo/

Mykal McEldowney, IndyStar via Reuters

People embrace April 16 after learning their loved one was safe after a mass casualty shooting at the FedEx facility in Indianapolis.

ing was still being investigated. Hole was known to federal and local authorities, after his mother raised concerns about his mental state and said he had a potential for violence, according to three law enforcement sources familiar with the matter who spoke to CNN. However, Hole was able to

buy two assault rifles legally.

“The U.S. Catholic bishops have long supported changes in the law to control the sale and use of firearms,” the Indianapolis archbishop said in his statement. “May we all recognize that we are made in the image and likeness of God and continue to do what we can to end this senseless violence and to live together in peace.”

Archbishop Coakley likewise said the U.S. bishops “continue to support a number of policy measures to try to reduce homicides and suicides.”

“In this Easter season, when we are reminded that there is always hope, even when we seem to be at a dead end, I would ask our political leaders, and all people of goodwill, once more to examine this issue and propose prudential solutions,” he said.

“It is good that President (Joe) Biden and some leaders in Congress are drawing renewed attention to this. For a comprehensive and long-lasting path to peace, it will take bipartisan cooperation,” Archbishop Coakley added.

Four of the eight who were killed were members of Indiana’s growing Sikh community.

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Pharmaceutical companies urged to stop using abortion-derived cell lines

BY JULIE ASHER

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities has launched a campaign urging Catholics to write letters to pharmaceutical companies urging them to stop the use of abortion-derived cell lines in the development and testing of vaccines.

Among the companies singled out are Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson for their COVID-19 vaccines, GlaxoSmithKline for its Shingrix shingle vaccine, and Merck for its MMR, Chickenpox, and Hepatitis-A vaccines.

The secretariat provides sample letters on the USCCB website, <https://www.usccb.org/resources/letters-pharmaceutical-companies>. The letters include the names of top officials and the address for each company.

Each letter starts out with a thank-you to the company for developing its lifesaving COVID-19 vaccine, in this case Moderna, but goes on to say: "It is my understanding, however, that in testing this vaccine, Moderna made use of a cell line derived from an aborted baby.

"I am respectfully urging Moderna to stop relying on such cell lines. ... I believe it is immoral to use abortion-derived tissues and/or cell lines in the production, testing or manufacture of vaccines and other pharmaceutical products."

In December, as the first COVID-19 vaccines developed by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the companies geared up to begin to distribute their two-shot vaccines around the country, concerns were raised over their testing and development and any connection they may have had to abortion-derived cell lines.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Doctrine, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, issued a number of joint statements on these concerns.

They confirmed that "an abortion-derived cell line was used for testing" the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, but this cell line was "not used in their production." They also noted that cell lines used were derived from fetuses aborted in the 1970s.

Later, after a third, one-shot COVID-19 vaccine developed by Johnson & Johnson received FDA approval, the prelates said this vaccine had "additional moral concerns" because it was "developed, tested and is produced



CNS photo/Alessandro Garofalo, Reuters

A nurse prepares a dose of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in Fasano, Italy, April 13.

with abortion-derived cell lines."

The prelates said the Pfizer and Moderna connection to these troubling cell lines was more remote than that of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, adding that "if one can choose among equally safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, the vaccine with the least connection to abortion-derived cell lines should be chosen."

However, "what's most important is that people get vaccinated," Bishop Rhoades said. "It can be an act of charity that serves the common good. At the same time ... it's really important for us to encourage development of vaccines that do not use abortion-derived cell lines. This is very important for the future."

The USCCB letter-writing campaign is aimed, then, at encouraging the development of vaccines that do not use these cell lines.

In promoting this campaign, Valerie Schmalz, director of the Office of Human Life and Dignity in the Archdiocese of San Francisco, urged Catholics there to participate in it because "we can never allow ourselves to become calloused to this gross violation of human dignity and

life. We have an obligation to speak up for life and for a return to respect for all life in our society."

The list of companies provided by the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities on the USCCB website includes one that comes in for overall praise: Sanofi Pasteur,

of the pro-life secretariat sent an alert to diocesan pro-life directors about the development and asking them to in turn send a message of thanks to Sanofi Pasteur.

"One important step we can take to ensure the production of ethical vaccines is to recognize and thank drug companies, like Sanofi Pasteur, when they move away from unethical vaccine production," Schleppenbach said in his alert. "We can hope that, with some encouragement, other vaccine manufacturers may consider creating other morally acceptable vaccines."

Similarly, Archbishop Naumann and Bishop Rhoades wrote to all bishops to share this same news and asked them to in turn share the information with diocesan leaders and especially with Catholic health care leaders.

In his alert, Schleppenbach also noted that the Pontifical Academy for Life recommended in 2005 — and reiterated in its 2017 "Note on Italian Vaccine Issue" — that "a long-term solution lies in working to ensure that future vaccines and other medicines are not based on cooperation with practices that demean human life."

"One important step we can take to ensure the production of ethical vaccines is to recognize and thank drug companies like Sanofi Pasteur."

GREG SCHLEPPENBACH, USCCB ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
OF THE SECRETARIAT OF PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES

the largest biotech company in the world devoted entirely to vaccines.

Last fall, Sanofi Pasteur decided it would no longer use an aborted fetal cell line to produce its polio combination vaccines Pentacel and Quadracel.

After the move was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Greg Schleppenbach, associate director

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

BY JODI MARLIN

“Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest” Jesus’ instruction, found in Matthew 9:38 and Luke 10:2, is the motivation for World Day of Prayer for Vocations, promoted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout the Church, observance of the designation “affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life.”

“Vocation” is a well-worn word, used in the Catholic sense to mean a career, service or a calling that a person determines to be from God and serving Him according to His will and utilizing the talents of the person. However, the USCCB, while appreciating all vocations, focuses its attention during World Day of Prayer for Vocations on vocations requiring ordination — priests and deacons. Prayers for consecrated life — male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life and consecrated virginity — and the missionary life, as well as secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership, are encouraged on the day as well.

For the 58th anniversary of World Day of Prayer for Vocations on April 25, Pope Francis shared a message that examined what the example of St. Joseph suggests about vocations. St. Joseph “did not do astonishing things, he had no unique charisms, nor did he appear special in the eyes of those who met him. He was not famous or even noteworthy: the Gospels do not report even a single word of his. Still, through his ordinary life, he accomplished something extraordinary in the eyes of God,” he pointed out.

“Saint Joseph suggests to us three key words for each individual’s vocation. The first is dream, the life dream of a person whose heart is directed to God,” the pope said. He also mentioned service, which for St. Joseph was not an ideal but a rule of daily life; and fidelity, nurtured “In the light of God’s own faithfulness.”

Men and women who are considering a vocation say that prayers — their own, as well as the prayers of others — are critical to their discernment. Even once a decision has been made to pursue the priesthood, diaconate, missionary life or consecration, however, the prayers of the faithful continue to be welcome and appreciated.

“I think that it is sometimes forgotten, but very necessary that we as Christians pray for perseverance in our vocation to holiness, and our particular vocations,” said seminarian Mark Hellinger, who will be ordained



Today’s Catholic file photo

to the diaconate for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend May 22. “We live by God’s grace, not our own will power or desires. So, praying for the grace to persevere in holiness and in priesthood is something that I often do and which I would appreciate the faithful’s prayer for as well. I think of a frequently repeated phrase in the Church’s rites related to vocations: ‘May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfillment.’”

Within the diocese, prayer has led dozens of people to the vocations that will lead the Church to the doorstep of the 22nd century. Today’s Catholic inquired about the specific prayers they would request as they study in the seminary or in other ways are formed for the life to which they have been called.

Anne Therese Stephens will be consecrated to a life of perpetual virginity by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in October. As she readies herself for the commitment, she hopes others will pray that she will allow God to prepare her heart to its fullest capacity to enter into the vocation of consecrated virginity lived in the world.

“The reason I am asking for this prayer is that the more a heart is prepared for a vocation

the more effective the vocation will be,” she said. “I have willingly chosen to act upon God’s invitation to this vocation, but I do not want to be lazy in the way I enter into it. I want to do it in the best possible way: I want to enter it with my heart wide open to receive all the graces and gifts He has prepared for me. Please also pray that many will be able to attend my consecration Oct. 3.”

Hers will be a spiritual wedding, and as with any wedding, there will be wedding gifts. But the wedding gifts in this case will be spiritual in nature and come from the hands of God the Father Himself, she explained. “Please pray that many will be receptive to ‘tap into’ the spiritual wedding gifts which God will shower upon our diocese on that day.”

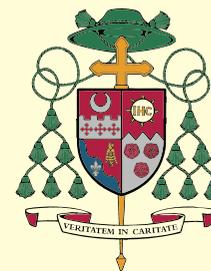
LeeAllen Fortin, a seminarian of the diocese, is preparing to be ordained on a future date. Fortin notes that there are some “good Dominicans” who wrote a book called “Christian Totality,” which is mainly about consecrated life but begins by explaining how all Christians are called to live out the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, obedience to some



ANNE THERESE STEPHENS



LEE ALLEN FORTIN



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

- Sunday, April 25: 6 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Elkhart
- Monday, April 26: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Fort Wayne
- Tuesday, April 27: 8:15 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, St. John the Baptist School, Fort Wayne
- Wednesday, April 28: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Fort Wayne
- Thursday, April 29: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Blessed Sacrament Church, Albion
- Friday, April 30: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Mary of Lake Church, Culver
- Saturday, May 1: 9:30 a.m. — Baccalaureate Mass for University of Saint Francis, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Saturday, May 1: 2 p.m. — Commencement Exercises of University of Saint Francis, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne

degree, he said.

“This semester the study of the theology and spirituality of the priesthood has brought about an awareness that priests are called, by virtue of their ordination, to live these counsels to high degree because they free the heart for true holiness, perfection in charity. Please pray that I, other seminarians, and those already ordained would be inspired and moved by grace to live out the counsels as fully as possible according to our state,” Fortin asked. “Please pray that we would be set on fire with divine love so as to effectively sanctify the world for the glory of God and lead a multitude to salvation. I deeply desire to be a saint and to be able to help others become saints, too. Please pray that I cooperate with all that the Lord is doing in this regard.”

Prayers for the grace of per-

severance in their call from the Lord, and for fidelity and courage, are also fortifying for Hellinger and other seminarians; fidelity to the truth of the Gospel and the Church and courage to proclaim the truth in charity.

“Like the grace to persevere, these two virtues are something I ask for especially in recognition of the role I will be taking on as a minister of the Gospel, Hellinger said. “Faithfulness to the truth which Jesus has revealed to us and which the Church protects through the ages by the power of the Holy Spirit and the courage to proclaim that Gospel, always in charity, to those whom the Lord will send me.”



MARK HELLINGER

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A SAFE ENVIRONMENT



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month
diocesefwsb.org/prevent-child-abuse

USCCB pro-life chairman calls HHS proposed rule 'terrible policy'

BY JULIE ASHER

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has published a proposed rule to rescind the Trump administration's enforcement of a Title X provision that "draws a bright line between abortion and family planning," as the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee chairman has described it.

Title X, enacted by the Family Planning Services and Population Research Act of 1970, covers reproductive health care services for low-income patients such as wellness exams, cervical and breast cancer screenings, contraceptives, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections.

Section 1008 of the law states that "none of the funds appropriated under this title shall be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning."

In February 2019, the Trump administration implemented the "Protect Life Rule" enforcing Title X's ban on taxpayer funds from being used to promote or provide abortion as family planning. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the rule Feb. 24, 2020.

The Biden administration's proposed rule to rescind this "is terrible policy," said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities. "It would reintegrate

abortion into what is supposed to be a pre-pregnancy family planning program."

"In spite of explicit prohibitions in federal law and clear congressional intent that abortion may not be a part of this program, it has repeatedly been coopted by abortion supporters as a funding stream for organizations, programs and facilities that directly promote and provide abortions," the archbishop said in an April 16 statement.

HHS published its proposed rule April 15 in the Federal Register, opening a 30-day period for public comment.

"While the USCCB has always had strong objections to government promotion and funding of contraceptives, we have also long supported clear financial and physical separation between Title X-funded projects and programs and facilities where abortion is a method of family planning," Archbishop Naumann said.

"I strongly urge the Biden administration to suspend this proposed rule and leave the Title X program as it was intended and authorized to be — a program entirely separate from abortion," he added.

On Jan. 28, Biden announced he would rescind the Trump-era rule. He stated this in his "Presidential Memorandum to Protect and Expand Access to Comprehensive Reproductive Health Care," which also included his actions to rescind the "Mexico City policy," which

blocked U.S. funding for non-governmental organizations that perform or actively promote abortion as a form of family planning in other nations.

"The act specifies that Title X funds may not be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning, but places no further abortion-related restrictions on recipients of Title X funds," Biden said in his memorandum.

Trump's rule prohibited recipients of Title X funds "from referring patients to abortion providers" and imposed "other onerous requirements on abortion providers," Biden said.

In a statement Jan. 29 reacting to Biden's memorandum, Archbishop Naumann said with enforcement of the "Protect Life Rule," Title X "draws a bright line between abortion and family planning."

"In addition to the program explicitly prohibiting taxpayer funding for abortion, its authors further emphasized this intent by stating that 'the funds authorized under this legislation (shall) be used only to support preventive family planning services, population research, infertility services, and other related medical, informational and educational activities,'" the archbishop said.

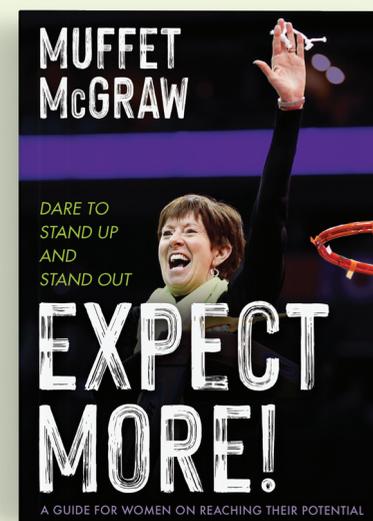
Federal appeals court says Ohio can enforce Down syndrome abortion law

CINCINNATI (CNS) — A federal appeals court April 13 upheld a 2017 Ohio law that prohibits doctors from knowingly participating performing an abortion because of a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome. In a 9-7 decision, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit, based in Cincinnati, overturned an injunction against the state's Down Syndrome Non-Discrimination Act, saying ruled the law "does not create a substantial obstacle to a woman's ability to choose or obtain an abortion," as its opponents contend. Ohio "has legitimate inter-

ests in enacting such a law," it said. The 6th Circuit said these interests are threefold: "protecting the Down syndrome community from the stigma it suffers from the practice of Down syndrome-selective abortions; protecting women whose fetuses have Down syndrome from coercion by doctors who espouse and advocate the abortion of all such fetuses; and protecting the integrity and ethics of the medical profession by preventing doctors from enabling such targeted abortions." It noted the lower court found "a likelihood that is an impermissible infringement on women's 'unfettered right to choose whether to terminate, or continue, a pregnancy pre-availability' and therefore enjoined the defendants from implementing or enforcing" the law, also known as H.B. 214.

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Catholics pray for an end to abortion during a June 15, 2019, procession and rally outside Planned Parenthood's facility in Charlotte, N.C. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in a Feb. 24, 2020, ruling, upheld the Trump administration's "Protect Life Rule" that stops Title X family planning funds from going to abortion providers, like Planned Parenthood, but the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has now published a proposed rule to rescind its enforcement.

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Advocates continue quest to help those in deepest poverty

As the 2021 legislative session drew to a close this week, the Indiana Catholic Conference and other advocates were hoping to see a long-sought-after update to a crucial cash assistance program for the neediest Hoosiers.

But that pivotal portion of the legislation concerning Indiana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program appeared to be heading for another roadblock. During a conference committee meeting on Monday, lawmakers removed recently added language to a TANF bill that would have increased cash payments to families in deep poverty for the first time since 1988.

"While we are very grateful that many important provisions in the bill remain, it is disappointing to get this close yet again to making a meaningful expansion to TANF and not reaching the finish line," said Jessica Fraser, program manager for the Indiana Institute for Working Families and a longtime advocate on this issue.

At press time, lawmakers were taking final action on a several-times-revised bill concerning TANF, which is funded by a block grant from the federal government. As in previous years, Sen. Jon Ford, R-Terre Haute, had led the charge to modernize TANF in Indiana by pushing for the first monthly increase in cash payouts in 33 years and dramatically expanding eligibility for the program.

"It's not even costing the state of Indiana to make these changes," said Ford, who introduced Senate Bill 233 to address the issues.

But after easily passing the Indiana Senate, the bill never received a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee. Instead, late in the session, the language from Senate Bill 233 was amended into House Bill 1009, another TANF-related mea-

sure. A dissent to the amendment led to Monday's conference committee to reconcile differences in the House and Senate versions of the legislation.

Authored by Rep. Chuck Goodrich, R-Noblesville, House Bill 1009 would ensure that income earned through internships or apprenticeships by dependents under age 24 do not disqualify an eligible household from receiving TANF benefits and are not considered in determining the amount of assistance a family receives. It also would increase the Earned Income Tax Credit to 10% from 9%, providing additional relief to lower-income working Hoosiers, according to Goodrich.

"I really want to get this done for families," Goodrich said.

The lawmaker estimated that the EITC increase could put roughly \$11 million back into the hands of financially challenged working families each year. In addition, he said removing barriers for young Hoosiers looking to gain work experience and skills without jeopardizing their family's assistance through TANF is more critical now than ever.

"As the economy continues bouncing back from the disruption caused by COVID-19, skilled workers are needed to fill in-demand jobs across the state," Goodrich said. "However, some Hoosiers are not pursuing free education and work-based training opportunities because a higher paycheck could disqualify their family from benefit programs like TANF."

TANF itself encourages workforce development for all eligible adults through intensive job training, child care and other services, with self-sufficiency the ultimate goal, according to Ford.

"It's everything we say as a state that we want," Ford said. "We want people to have better training and certifications so that

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

they can get better jobs. This program helps people get on their feet and get to a place where they can provide for their families — everything that people need when they're down on their luck."

For those in deepest poverty, TANF's cash assistance payments are a lifeline. But those monthly payouts — \$288 for a family of three, for example — have not been increased since they were set by state law 33 years ago.

Moreover, only a fraction of the poorest families in Indiana currently receive even those modest benefits from the federal

program because of outdated eligibility guidelines — another issue that Senate Bill 233 had been designed to address.

Currently, only six in 100 families in deep poverty are being helped by the program, according to Ford. The primary reason is that Indiana's eligibility level for TANF is the fourth-lowest in the United States, behind Louisiana, Arkansas and Alabama. To be eligible for TANF, the maximum income of a Hoosier family must be less than 17% of the federal poverty level.

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.

Had the provisions from Ford's bill remained, House Bill 1009 would have expanded eligibility for TANF and increased the monthly payment amounts for a family of three from \$288 to \$513. Those amounts also

would have been modified annually using Social Security cost-of-living adjustment rates.

"We were glad to see the language from Sen. Ford's bill added to House Bill 1009 and are dismayed that it was once again passed over," said Angela Espada, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. "Beyond the cash benefits, which are certainly critical, TANF also promotes the dignity of workers. Especially considering the devastation that many families have gone through because of the coronavirus pandemic, the needs have never been greater."

Advocates are frustrated and puzzled as to why efforts to modernize TANF in Indiana continue to stall at the Statehouse.

"Families in Indiana need these changes, and they have needed them for a long time," Fraser said. "We will keep up the fight."



DEO GRATIAS!

The Congregation of Holy Cross gives thanks to God for the priestly ordination on April 10, 2021, of Rev. Felipe Campos Reséndez, C.S.C., Rev. Robert Lisowski, C.S.C., Rev. Geoffrey Mooney, C.S.C., and Rev. David Smith, C.S.C.



Rev. Felipe Campos Reséndez, C.S.C.



Rev. Robert Lisowski, C.S.C.



Rev. Geoffrey Mooney, C.S.C.



Rev. David Smith, C.S.C.

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Head of Irish bishops calls new law on Mass attendance 'draconian'

DUBLIN (CNS) — The head of the Irish bishops' conference said the government's move to criminalize attendance at Mass as part of COVID-19 regulations was a "potential infringement of religious freedom and of constitutional rights. The precise provisions are unclear and at first reading appear to be draconian, going further than the restrictions we have been cooperating with throughout the pandemic to date," said Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh, Northern Ireland. "We shall be seeking legal counsel to advise on several questions concerning the extent of the statutory instrument." He also said the bishops were seeking "an immediate meeting" with the government "and we request the suspension of this harsh and unclear statutory instrument." Churches in the Irish Republic have been closed for public worship since Dec. 26, but the government has claimed that this was just a matter of regulation rather than law. However, on April 16, Health Minister Stephen Donnelly signed a new law — known as a statutory instrument — making it a criminal offense. "We consider the publication of this statutory instrument, together with associated penal provisions, to be provocative and formally enacting a potential infringement of religious freedom and of constitutional rights," Archbishop Martin said.

Bishop urges unity to find solutions to violence after Knoxville shootings

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — Bishop Richard F. Stika of Knoxville offered prayers for a teenager who was killed and an injured police officer involved in a school shooting. The bishop also expressed concern in a statement April 12 following the incident for "the series of tragic events" that have resulted in the deaths of four other teens since Jan. 27 who were former or current students at the Knoxville public school as well as concern for mass shootings in several cities nationwide in recent weeks. Such incidents, he said, "demonstrate that violence in our society remains a serious, almost daily occurrence and that it claims victims in many different ways. As a nation, we must commit ourselves to work to turn away from violence and find real solutions that lead us to love, compassion and decency." Bishop Stika said in a statement released following the death of an Austin-East Magnet High School student. Bishop Stika also pledged to "do what I can to help. Prayers are important, but communities must come together to find positive solutions to this ongoing problem in our country,"

Church in Haiti calls for national strike following violence, kidnappings



CNS photo/Valerie Baeriswyl, Reuters

People pray near the Church of St. Roch in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, April 12. A French priest, two nuns and three laypeople who were abducted together on their way to the parish April 11. In response to recent kidnappings of clergy and religious and growing anarchy in the Caribbean nation, Catholic schools, churches and other entities called for a national strike April 15. A "Mass for the freedom of Haiti" led by 11 Haitian bishops in Pétion-Ville, a suburb of Port-au-Prince, turned violent that same day when police fired tear gas into the church.

he said. Knoxville Police Officer Adam Willson, who was serving as a school resource officer at the school, was recovering from surgery after being shot, officials reported April 13.

St. Teresa of Avila's life of prayer made her 'exceptional,' pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While St. Teresa of Avila was outstanding in many ways, her union with Christ through prayer made her an "exceptional woman," Pope Francis said. In a video message April 15 marking the 50th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Teresa of Avila as a doctor of the church, the pope said the Spanish saint's "audacity, creativity and excellence as a reformer are the fruit of the interior presence of the Lord. We are dealing with a person who was outstanding in many ways," he said. "However, it should not be forgotten that her recognized relevance in these dimensions is nothing more than the consequence of what was important to her: her encounter with the Lord, her 'determined determination,' as she says, to persevere in union with him through prayer." The pope's video

message was played during a conference titled "Exceptional Woman," held at the Catholic University of St. Teresa of Avila in Spain. In his message, the pope said holiness is not a virtue reserved to "specialists of the divine" but is the "vocation of all believers." Saints, like St. Teresa, "stimulate and motivate us, but they are not for us to literally try to copy them," he said. "Holiness cannot be copied because even that could lead us away from the unique and different path that the Lord has for each one of us."

Archbishop Hebda encourages prayers, peace after fatal police shooting

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — After a night of protests and vandalism April 11 in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, following the police shooting of Daunte Wright, Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda of St. Paul and Minneapolis urged prayers for justice and peace. "I hope that as a community, we might be able to pause and pray, particularly during this time of already heightened tension due to the Chauvin trial," the arch-

bishop said in an April 12 statement referring to the current trial in Minneapolis of former Police Officer Derek Chauvin over the May 25, 2020, death of George Floyd while he was in police custody. "I am encouraged and inspired by the pleas for peace that have continued to come from the family of George Floyd" over the Wright shooting, he added. At a news conference April 12, Brooklyn Center Police Chief Tim Gannon, who later resigned, said it appeared from police body camera video the officer accidentally fired her gun while intending to use her Taser. The officer was later identified as Kim Potter, a 26-year veteran of the Brooklyn Center Police Department. Wright, a 20-year-old Black man, was hit by a single bullet after officers stopped him for a traffic violation because the car he was driving had expired registration tags but officers then discovered that he had an outstanding warrant. According to news reports, a struggle ensued as an officer on the driver side of the vehicle began to handcuff Wright, who jumped back into the driver's seat and was shot. The local medical examiner said Wright "died of a gunshot wound of the chest."

FDA criticized for lifting in-person requirement to receive abortion drug

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The decision by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's acting commissioner to suspend enforcement of the agency's in-person prescribing requirement for the abortion drug endangers women's health and possibly their lives, pro-life leaders said. On April 12, Dr. Janet Woodcock said the FDA will "exercise enforcement discretion" regarding its own requirement for mifepristone as long as President Joe Biden's declaration of a public health emergency for COVID-19 remains in place. The brand name for mifepristone is Mifeprex. Also called RU-486, it is used to end pregnancies during the first 10 weeks. Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said April 16 it was difficult to see the FDA's decision "as anything other than callous capitulation to the requests of abortion activists without regard for the health and safety of the women involved. With this decision, not only are women being sold the lie that abortion will solve their problems, but also that chemical abortion is a safe and easy way to go about it," he said in a statement. Women and their unborn children "deserve so much more," he added.

Apostolic nuncio to Mexican bishops: 'Look reality in the eye'

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — The apostolic nuncio to Mexico urged the country's bishops to "look reality in the eye" as the country's non-Catholic population increases and Mexicans increasingly identify as nonreligious. Speaking April 12 at the opening of the Mexican bishops' conference biannual gathering, Archbishop Franco Coppola also told the virtual audience to rethink their pastoral approaches as fewer people participate in parish life and don't get married in the Church. "The decline in the Catholic population in this land of Guadalupe is extremely worrying," Archbishop Coppola said. "We're seeing now with ever more clarity just how much in recent decades the formation of the faith has not been able — as we thought or would have wanted — to permeate those who are baptized. We have to recognize that, if the Gospel and our Lord Jesus Christ will always continue to be attractive, it's evident our 'traditional' methods today don't work, nor can they work in any of the areas of evangelization." Mexico's most recent census, in 2020, showed the Catholic population declining by 5 percentage points to 77.7% of the population. Observers see the decline as part of a trend of people falling away from the Church throughout Latin America.

Christ Child Society 'Diaper Drop'

MISHAWAKA — This Mother's Day, the Christ Child Society of South Bend wants to make the lives of infants, toddlers and Moms in the community better, healthier and safer.

A "Diaper Drop" will take place Wednesday, May 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Christ Child Society Clothing Center in the Town and Country Shopping Center, Mishawaka. Diapers can be dropped off in front of the

building with no need to leave the care. It is a no contact way to help local Moms.

When a baby cries, one of the first things Mom checks is his diaper. How do you soothe a crying baby if you don't have a clean, dry diaper? Imagine the stress

and despair moms feel when they can't soothe their baby in a most basic way.

Diapers will be delivered to the following agencies: El Campito, St. Margaret's House, YWCA,

Center for the Homeless and St. Vincent de Paul Society. All of

these organizations refer clients to the Christ Child when, every autumn, thousands of children from birth through age 12 receive new coats, clothing, shoes and books at the CCS Clothing Center.

Despite interruptions in regular fundraising efforts, the Christ

Child Society is working hard to continue serving the children of St. Joseph County. The new CCS Clothing Center opened in August after facing the challenges of moving during a pandemic, but volunteers were determined to continue the agency's services. Children still needed warm clothing and coats, even while they were learning at home.

To contribute to helping children in the community, visit www.christchildsb.org. One hundred percent of donations is used for children in St. Joseph County.

Young cantors inspire Walkerton parish

BY JENNIFER BARTON

When older vocalists needed to step away from the choir loft during the COVID-19 pandemic, four youths at St. Patrick Parish in Walkerton stepped up to sing at parish Masses. Karah Schutz, Reese Palmater, Nicholas Beem and Delilah Phelan have been using their musical talents to bring joy and life to their parish since the beginning of the quiet days of the last year.

"If it wasn't for the kids, it'd just be plain music," St. Patrick music director Anna Chaffee commented. She said no words could express her gratitude and admiration for the four young people, who helped continue the liturgical celebration for months. Without singing, "It's just not the same."

Each of the youths and their families were involved in parish life at St. Patrick. Their parents serve as sacristans, money counters, lectors and one of their grandmothers is a cantor. They had all sung in church before, but with the pandemic, some found themselves soloing for the first time. All have unique reasons for stepping up to this momentous task.

Oldest of the four, Schutz is now a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin. She has studied music for years, starting with violin in the second grade and all through her high school years, adding other instruments to her repertoire. Last summer, she brought her talents to the Mass, playing violin and then singing when it was allowed again.

She recalled the first time she volunteered with the church choir. "I don't know what if it was God or just the community; I felt that I wanted to go up into the balcony, introduce myself and be like 'I'm a singer.'" She did and continues to sing at her home parish during her holiday breaks from college.

Reese, Nicholas and Delilah were altar servers. They range in age from 11 to 14. When the opportunity to move into the balcony came along, all three made that transition easily.

Reese has a musical background as well and sometimes



Jennifer Barton

Walkerton parish cantors Delilah Phelan, Karah Schutz and Reese Palmater, from left, and Nicholas Beem (not pictured) have helped keep the music ministry going in their home parish of St. Patrick during the long months of the pandemic. Second from right is music director Anna Chaffee.

played violin in duet with Schutz over the summer. "I was singing before Covid; I really liked it," she stated. "Everyone here is just so nice, I decided I really wanted to sing throughout Covid and I never really stopped."

"What kind of got me here was my grandma. She kind of introduced singing in the church choir to me," Nicholas said. He began singing the Alleluia with her, then started with other songs, eventually performing for his own first Communion celebration.

Delilah shared, "I first got into music when I was very young. I would sing in church — not in the choir, just normally with the people. Then we moved and I had the opportunity to join the choir, so I did."

With the onset of COVID-19, some of the older members of the choir chose to remain at home for their well-being. Though no one asked the younger people to take over the singing duties, they all saw a need and showed maturity by filling that gap.

"At the time, it was me and one other lady, and that was it,"

Delilah explained. "When Covid started, she stopped coming, and so I felt like I needed to at least fit in that role and stay and help. I do like singing, too, so I was comfortable with it."

"I figured I wouldn't do that good, but I did way better than I expected."

NICHOLAS BEEM

Chaffee explained that Reese and Nicholas generally sing at the 10:30 a.m. Mass and Delilah sings by herself at the 8 a.m. None of the youths were nervous to sing without the influence of older adults.

"Ever since I was little, I've been doing dance and I've been dancing in front of audiences and stuff, so I'm kind of used to being in front of a crowd,"

Delilah said.

"And if you don't want to look at the people, you can look at the music," Schutz added jokingly.

Each have their favorite memories of singing at St. Patrick. One of these special moments was the dedication of the new altar, which took place last year just prior to the onset of the pandemic.

Both Nicholas and Delilah recalled how many hours of practice it took to learn the Glendalough Mass, which is an Irish Mass.

Nicholas shared, "The bishop seemed blown away by it. He, as my grandma would say, was just tickled pink. It was just so satisfying, after all that practice, to do it. It was well worth it."

Easter Vigil was another special occasion for Nicholas.

"I was very, very nervous. I didn't want to go; I had a fear of messing up," he admitted. But he faced that fear to perform his first solo at church.

"I just blew myself away. I figured I wouldn't do that good, but I did way better than I expected. That's now my favorite psalm to

sing." Additionally, he said he loved the transition from darkness to light and solemn song to glorious praise that represents Jesus' triumphant return from the dead.

As an older member of the impromptu choir, Schutz sees herself as a mentor to younger musicians.

"It's really fun for me to teach them about music and the different meters ... so it was fun to watch them learn that way, too."

Though they may not recognize those changes in themselves, others do.

Reese's mother, Joyce, remarked, "As a parent, I can say that I see my daughter understanding the Mass at a deeper level. When you're singing the Psalms, the Gloria — they're involved in paying attention to the parts of the Mass that I don't think most kids even consider. I've seen that personally, with Reese."

Both the youths and their relatives give credit to Chaffee for "encouraging and building them up." Chaffee welcomed young parishioners into the role of cantors and helped to develop their talent. But she is insistent that it is the young Catholics who deserve full credit. She sees their influence as a tremendous positive for the parish, bringing their friends into the choir and helping it to grow.

"We're fortunate that we have what we have, during Covid especially. These kids come in with masks singing; it's very hard, because you can't breathe that well. It's also hard to play violin with a mask."

Father Donald Davidson, CPPS, took over as pastor of St. Patrick in September and is one of the many members of the parish who is grateful for the lovely music the young people contribute to the liturgy. "I'm just happy we have singers and musicians; it's really nice. They do a great job. I'm always the lucky one, because I can see them."

The faith of these young parishioners gives Chaffee hope for the future of the Church and the parish.

"It's very special to have them," she commented. "They're very talented. I'm so fortunate."

Efforts around diocese focus on

Climate crisis subject of May conference at St. Therese, Little Flower Parish

BY KEVIN KILBANE

Members of the Social Justice Commission at St. Therese, Little Flower Parish in South Bend see climate change as the most pressing issue of our time.

"There's no time to lose," said Bill Odell, a commission member who also volunteers as coordinator of the parish's Whatsoever You Do Outreach Ministry. "If we don't move swiftly, we have everything to lose."

To help Catholics address the issue, St. Therese, Little Flower will host a two-part conference on climate change on the Zoom videoconferencing platform. From 7 to 8:15 p.m. May 13, Philip J. Sakimoto, director of the University of Notre Dame's Program for Academic Excellence and a former NASA official with expertise in climate science, will speak on "Why Catholics must act on climate change Now!" Then, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. May 27, Sakimoto will serve as moderator for a panel discussion on what Catholics can do now to address the climate crisis. Panelists will be Father Emmanuel Katongole, professor of peace studies and theology at Notre Dame and founder of the Bethany Land Institute in his homeland of Uganda; Paz Artaza-Regan, national coordinator of Creation Care Teams for the Catholic Climate Covenant organization; and Sister Damien Marie Savino, FSE, a mem-



Provided by Philip Sakimoto

Climate expert and Notre Dame faculty member Philip Sakimoto of St. Pius X Parish in Granger will be a guest speaker and panel discussion moderator for a virtual climate crisis conference at St. Therese, Little Flower Parish in South Bend.

ber of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist and dean of sciences and sustainability at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

People throughout the diocese are invited to take part in the conference. Live participation is limited to 100. Registration is free and required for each session by going to the St. Therese, Little Flower website, littleflowerchurch.org. Under the "Serve with Us" link, click

on "Social Justice Commission." Recordings of each conference session will be available later on the parish website.

Each year, the parish organizes a way to recognize the anniversary of Pope Francis' release of "Laudato Si," his May 24, 2015, encyclical on "Care for our Common Home."

Along with the climate change conference, this year the parish will use its bulletin and website to publish one commandment each week for 10 weeks from the book "The Ten Green Commandments of Laudato Si," Odell said.

St. Therese, Little Flower has a long history of concern for social justice issues, he noted.

Members realize there are many serious problems in today's world, such as racism, economic injustice, poverty and war. According to Odell, people have time to solve those troubles, if they have the will to do so. That time isn't available for the problem of climate change. Evidence now indicates that the problems caused by climate change will happen sooner than expected originally, and some will be irreversible. However, there's still time to avoid the worst consequences.

Social Justice Commission members believe action must be taken now to protect the Earth. "This is a God-given gift to us," Odell added. "What does it say about God if we don't care for this gift He has given us?"

BY KEVIN KILBANE

Pope Francis stressed the need to care for each other and for God's creation in his 2015 encyclical "Laudato Si." People around the world also are reminded to care for the world each April 22 on Earth Day.

A number of parishes, schools and groups in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are already engaged in caring for our common home.

Using the sun

Encouraged by the Pope's words in "Laudato Si," St. Anthony de Padua Parish in South Bend applied for and received a \$24,000 grant from the nonprofit group Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light to install solar power in fall 2015 and become more energy efficient, said Andrew Turba, a 20-year parish member who recently became its director of facilities and maintenance.

The 40 solar panels on the gym roof, which were installed at virtually no cost to the congregation, generate about 10.4 kilowatts of electricity per year, about the same annual usage as a family of four, Turba said.

A login allows people to monitor the panels' electrical production, which has been useful for the parish and for student learning at the school. The parish also replaced all old fluorescent lighting in the school with LED lights in 2016. With rebates available from its electrical utility, it cost the parish only about \$1,200.

With rebates, "You most likely can switch an entire school (to LED lights) for a couple thousand dollars," he noted.

St. Anthony replaced all lights in the church with LED bulbs in 2017 and did the same with all gym and outdoor lights in 2020, Turba added.

The parish now realizes energy savings of about \$1,200 per year from the solar panels and about \$13,800 a year from installing LED lights in all its buildings, he said.

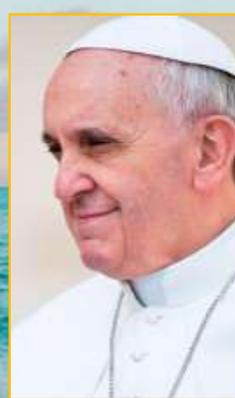
The parish also installed high-efficiency boilers to replace decades-old units in the church, school and gym and put insulation in the school, gym and rectory.

"Sometimes we fail to look beyond what obviously needs repaired and assess how efficient our spaces are operating," said Father Benjamin Muhlenkamp, who became St. Anthony's pastor in June 2020. "It is very common that a lot of our schools and churches are not insulated as well as they should. This generates higher heating costs.

"Also, making the change to all-LED bulbs can be a large project that doesn't seem urgent but the energy savings are worth it!" Father Muhlenkamp said. "I am grateful as a priest that the Lord has always provided me with parishioners who have stepped up and helped me with these challenges."

Catholics and Climate Change

Marking the 6th Anniversary of Pope Francis' Encyclical, "Laudato Si," ("On Care for Our Common Home")
May 24, 2015



St. Therese, Little Flower Parish

St. Therese, Little Flower Parish in South Bend and its Social Justice Commission will host a virtual conference in May on how Catholics can respond to the climate crisis. The sessions are open to people throughout the diocese.



Sam Tepes, greenhouse specialist for the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Center at Donaldson. The Poor Handmaids religious order has taken a

n care for creation



Provided by St. Pius X Creation Care Team

Prior to the pandemic, students from St. Pius X School in Granger came out to help with tree planting on parish grounds organized by the parish's Creation Care Team.

Inspired in ministry

After the release of "Laudato Si'," parishioner Phil Sakimoto of St. Pius X Parish in Granger gave a four-part lecture series on the encyclical, parish member Delaina Wilkin recalled. The presentations led to the founding of the parish's Creation Care Team, which raises awareness about caring for the world God created.

Before the pandemic, the team organized events such as an Earth Day Fair, planting of about 200 trees on the St. Pius grounds and an LED lightbulb education display where team members assisted people with ordering LED lightbulbs, Wilkin said. The team also implemented more-intensive waste recycling at the annual parish picnic.

Creation Care Team members participated in planning for the solar panel array that now powers the parish rectory, said Chuck Bueter, one of the team's leaders.

"We were hopeful that installation would fuel more interest in the parish," he said.

Some people contacted him about installing solar panels at their home or business, but not as many as hoped, he added.

The parish has been shifting to use of energy-saving LED lights in its buildings. Creation Care Team members also have met with their area's elected officials to express concern about care of the environment.

Bueter said reading "Laudato Si'" inspires him in his faith. Each paragraph in the encyclical is like a prayer in itself, he said.

Joining the Creation Care Team also strengthened Wilkin's beliefs.

"For me, my faith is very much connected into our world and the gifts we have been given," said Wilkin, who joined the Catholic Church about five years ago.

In the future, she and Bueter hope the Creation Care Team can make the rectory solar array's electrical production data available to St. Pius X School for possible use in classroom lessons. The team also will explore ways to improve recycling at St. Pius X School and how to reduce the parish's carbon footprint -- the amount of carbon dioxide and other carbon compounds emitted by fossil fuel use.

and a few parishioners, Stein cleaned up the property, cleared out invasive brush and built the mulched trail. For his effort, he earned an Eagle Scout Award.

About 3 miles away, Bishop Luers High School acquired about an acre of undeveloped land adjoining its campus, principal James Huth said. School officials have discussed installing either a rosary walk or Stations of the Cross walk on the land while also making sure not to disturb any sensitive plants.

They hope an Eagle Scout candidate or school service

CREATION, page 11

Taking action

Since the release of the Earth Charter in 2000, members of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ religious order have approached care for the Earth more intentionally, said Sister Joetta Huelsmann, PHJC, the order's provincial. The Pope's release of "Laudato Si'" in 2015 strengthened their efforts at what is now The Center at Donaldson, just west of Plymouth, and at convents the sisters have elsewhere in Indiana and in Chicago.

The Center at Donaldson includes five ministries: Ancilla Domini College, Catherine Kasper Life Center, Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center, MoonTree Studios, and Ancilla Beef and Grain Farm.

Actions taken to care for creation include adding a fen, or marshy area, on the 1,100-acre campus; installation of solar panel arrays, geothermal heating and electric car charging stations; purchase of hybrid and electric cars; farming several fields organically; cooperative composting; and developing sustainable agricultural ecosystems.

"Caring for creation does impact one's faith life," Sister Joetta said. "Creation was the first Scripture that God gave us. If one is aware of all of creation around them, it leads them to God and His generous gift to us, that God asked us to care for."

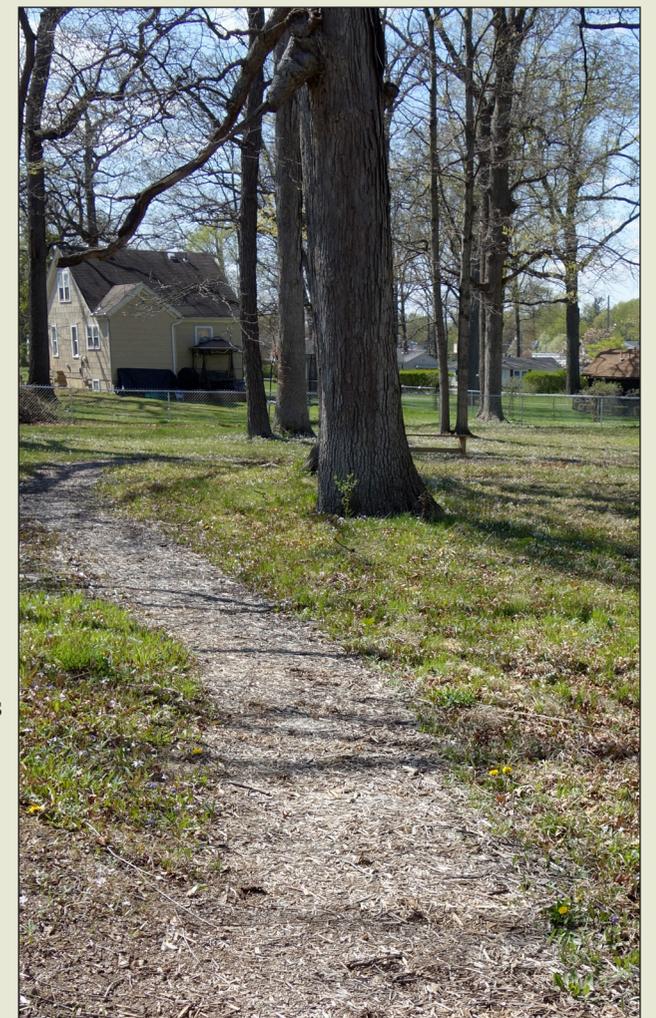
The reality of God is revealed through creation in Romans 1:20, said Geoffrey Williams, the center's executive director of ecological services.

"Jesus used imagery of nature in His teachings," Williams added. "He spent His final moments in prayer in a garden. From the moment of our creation (Genesis) and all through the Bible, we are called to be stewards of the Earth."

Saving spaces

Separate projects have saved small plots of land containing woods and wildflowers on the south side of Fort Wayne.

St. Therese Parish bought a half-acre of wooded land next to the parish in 2017. To protect wildflowers growing there, parish member Betsy Yankowiak worked with Eagle Scout candidate Charles Stein in fall 2019 to install a trail around the outer edge of the lot. With help from extended family



Kevin Kilbane

An Eagle Scout project cleaned up and cleared brush from a lot acquired by St. Therese Parish in Fort Wayne. The work also included installing a mulched trail to allow people to walk through the woodlot to experience creation and see its many wildflowers.



Provided by Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

ist, tends lettuce plants in one of the campus greenhouses at The more intentional approach to care for creation.

Reaffirming the holiness of infertility — Retreat aims to support, uplift and affirm couples

BY JODI MARLIN

Phil and Stacey Huneck were high school sweethearts in Fort Wayne. They married in 2015 and are heavily involved in youth and young adult ministry at St. Charles Borromeo Parish. Their life, they feel, is generally fulfilling; but as many young couples do, they longed for it to be made even richer by having children.

"We got into marriage kind of expecting that at some point I would be staying home because we'd have kids. We're very open to life or whatever God has in store for us," Stacey shared.

Shortly after they married, however, Stacey was diagnosed with polycystic ovarian syndrome. While not all women with such a diagnosis have trouble conceiving, polycystic ovarian syndrome is the leading cause of infertility.

She underwent surgery to relieve some symptoms and submitted to a few treatments to help her body overcome one of the limitations of the diagnosis, but the treatments were unsuccessful. The couple's expectation of having children started to fade.

Occasionally, Stacey would interact with some of the online communities of couples who also found themselves dealing with

issues of infertility. Her and her husband's deep faith and trust in God's will for their lives manifested itself in her posts, which stood out for their uplifting nature in what too often functioned as "an echo chamber of pain and grief," as she described it.

That inspiration was noted by the leadership team of Springs in the Desert, a Catholic community dedicated to spiritually accompany those experiencing fertility and loss while maintaining hope that God is transforming their suffering into fruitfulness. Stacey was asked to write for its online blog. In 2019, she became a member of the leadership team.

On May 7-9, Springs in the Desert will host its third annual Mother's Day weekend retreat for men and women in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. This year's retreat, which is free of charge, will be virtual. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will offer a blessing and Stacey is scheduled to be among the presenters. Special messages will be provided by members of the religious community The Sisters of Life.

Mother's Day and Advent are times of the year that are particularly painful for couples who long to have children, Stacey explained: Advent because of the focus on the expectant Mary, and Mother's Day for obvious reasons.



"It's particularly hard when, at Mass the priest asks anyone who's a mother to stand up, and then gives them a blessing," she shared.

Given that one in eight couples struggle with primary or secondary infertility, miscarriage and other forms of loss, and because infertile Catholic couples in particular often feel that without children their marriage lacks purpose, the theme of the retreat is "Belonging."

"We want to fill them with that sense," Stacey said. "So many couples are abandoning the faith either because they feel that He is punishing them or has abandoned them, or because they want to pursue something against what the Church teaches, like IVF. We want to create an overall sense that their marriage still matters, even though

children are so important to the Catholic understanding of the purpose of marriage. We want to give them someone to connect with." Other sessions will discuss how even couples suffering with infertility still wholly belong to the Church, to Christ, to each other in marriage and to their community. A virtual Mass will be celebrated.

Among other topics that will be discussed is the encouragement of women struggling with infertility to open themselves up to spiritual motherhood.

"It's a gift, but for women who are still hurting, it's a hard one to accept. It's a hard thing to talk about, because they experience it like a consolation prize." Stacey has spiritual mothers in her own life, as well as a strong devotion to the saints. So, she

has embraced the idea of spiritual motherhood but acknowledges it can be an extremely difficult proposition.

Expanding on her desire to affirm the life-giving hope available to infertile couples in Christ and His Church, Stacey and Springs in the Desert are also working with Anna McKeever, founder of the South Bend-based infertility ministry Hope for the Journey, and the diocesan Office of Marriage and Family Ministry to incorporate and expand the local ministry's support of couples who are not able to conceive. Their hope is that the initiative will become a complementary and valuable resource at the local level.

To register for the Springs in the Desert retreat, visit www.springsinthedesert.org.



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"Next to baptismal grace, the call to the religious life is the greatest grace that could come to us. How grateful we must be!"

Bl. Maria Theresia Bonzel

CREATION, from page 9

group will take on the project in collaboration with the school's pastoral minister, Huth said. He also envisions science classes using the land for laboratory work. Theology classes also can visit the area for prayer after installation of the rosary walk or Stations of the Cross walk.

Growing awareness

Luers students also have combined service and care for the environment.

Green, healthy leaves of bibb and romaine lettuces, basil, arugula, kale and rainbow chard stretch out from their spots in the tower garden in biology teacher Heather Briggs' class. The futuristic-looking device features grow lights hanging on arms from its top. Water in the base circulates periodically up to the plants, which grow in a sponge material rather than in soil.

Luers received the tower garden about a month ago through a grant from Parkview Health's Youth Well-Being program. Sophomores Genevieve Cicchiello, 16, Bea Burton, 16, and Ariana Barzola Delgado, 17, took responsibility for raising the plants. They hope to donate produce from the tower garden to a food pantry, Cicchiello said.

All three young women take steps at home to protect the environment, such as composting, growing gardens, reducing water use or buying food grown locally to minimize the impact of transporting it here. They also are interested in starting an environmental club next year at Luers.

So many people are destroying the Earth and not caring for what God gave us, Burton said. "The Earth is a beautiful gift," Cicchiello added. "We think we should take care of it for the many generations that come after us."

Luers also has helped the Little River Wetlands Project in Fort Wayne with preparing native plant seeds for germination and planting in its nature preserves and the community.

This year, several of the school's Sodalitas student service groups separated native plant seeds from chaff in two different rounds, Briggs said. Students cleaned a combined total of nearly 34,000 wild senna seeds and nearly 1.2 million blue vervain seeds, which saved LRWP nearly \$200 in seed costs.

"Luers actually played an important role for us this year," said Yankowiak, LRWP's director of preserves and programs. Students provided 140 hours of volunteer labor, which would be valued at about \$3,800 at the federal volunteer rate.

The nonprofit normally invites out school groups and other volunteers to separate wildflower seeds from flower heads, Yankowiak said. That didn't happen with the pandemic, but Luers' Sodalitas groups filled the void.



Kevin Kilbane

Bishop Luers High School sophomores, from left, Bea Burton, Ariana Barzola Delgado and Genevieve Cicchiello have taken on responsibility for a tower garden project growing lettuce and other produce. They hope to donate some of the produce to a food pantry.

LRWP sends the seeds to area schools with greenhouses, where students grow seedlings that can be planted in LRWP preserves or in the community.

Seeking change

Members of SECO, the Social and Ecological Concerns Organization at Saint Joseph High School in South Bend, work "to create awareness and inspire action surrounding the environmental and social issues within our community," said senior Tessa Berente, the group's president.

About 10 students participate regularly, but many more help with SECO events. Those events include a Conscientious Christmas Cafe each December where SECO members sell fair-trade products. Members also have joined in climate marches in South Bend and have hosted climate "think tanks" with speakers at their school, she said.

Many activities had to be put on hold because of the pandemic, Berente noted. Members hope to resume them next school year and to create a bigger focus on recycling in the school cafeteria.

"SECO influences my faith through allowing me to see the love and reflection of Christ in every person as I work with fair-trade vendors and learn artisans' stories," she said. "Many artisans create these products just to get by, but do so with so much joy I can't help but see God's light in them."

"Also, I have had the opportunity to truly appreciate the beauty that God has put into His creation: the Earth. In our work with climate protection and environmental awareness, I am continuously put on a path toward glorifying God and His amazing work."

Community effort

As a community-service project, middle school students at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Fort Wayne have helped for the past few years with sorting seeds into packets for distribution to students participating in the annual citywide School Children's Flower and Vegetable Association show organized by the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department.

This year, the parks department wasn't allowing volunteers to come on-site because of the novel coronavirus, so a staff member asked if St. Elizabeth students could count seeds into packets at their school, said Sarah Steffan, a parent volunteer who coordinates St. Elizabeth's participation in the annual plant show.

The parks department provided the seeds and packages to put them in, Steffan said. One day in late March, fourth- and fifth-grade students took time during their science classes to count seeds by type and put 10 or 20 seeds into each package, she said. They counted a combined total of nearly 35,000 gourd, zinnia, beet and pumpkin seeds.

"Everything we touch is part of God's creation," Steffan said. The seeds grow into food we eat or into flowers we can give to another person.

"I made it very clear we are helping our community," she added. Students were excited the seeds they packaged would go to students at other Fort Wayne schools.

St. Elizabeth school students and their families also are volunteering during Fort Wayne's Great American Cleanup on May 1. Volunteers go out citywide that day to collect trash from roadsides, parks, trails and riverbanks.

St. Elizabeth's volunteers will clean up the school grounds and parish campus, principal Lois Widner said.

Faith in action

The "Ecumenical and Interreligious Guidebook: Care for Our Common Home" offers theological and practical resources to take action on care for creation. It was prepared by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers, and Catholic Climate Covenant.

To view the guidebook, go to creation.cadeio.org/ecumenical-and-interreligious-guidebook-care-for-our-common-home/.



How to help

Here are everyday things to do to care for God's creation:

- Use as many natural elements on your land as possible, rather than chemicals.
- Walk or bicycle more to avoid polluting the air by driving a vehicle.
- Grow your own fruits and vegetables.
- Live locally by shopping locally and at local farmers markets.
- Conserve water, using only what is needed.
- Compost food scraps to reduce waste and create a healthy alternative to chemical fertilizers.

Information provided by Sister Joetta Huelsmann, PHJC, provincial of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, and Geoffrey Williams, executive director of ecological services at The Center at Donaldson.



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Should suffering shake our faith?

Premier Christian Radio in the U.K. just sponsored a survey that investigated how the COVID-19 crisis has affected religious beliefs and attitudes. There were three major findings — namely, that 67% of those who characterize themselves as “religious” found their belief in God challenged, that almost a quarter of all those questioned said that the pandemic made them more fearful of death, and that around a third of those surveyed said that their prayer life had been affected by the crisis. Justin Brierley, who hosts the popular program “Unbelievable?,” commented that he was especially impressed by the substantial number of those who, due to COVID-19, have experienced difficulty believing in a loving God. I should like to focus on this finding as well.

Of course, in one sense, I understand the problem. An altogether standard objection to belief in God is human suffering, especially when it is visited upon the innocent. The apologist for atheism or naturalism quite readily asks the believer, “How could you possibly assert the existence of a loving God given the Holocaust, school shootings, tsunamis that kill hundreds of thousands of people, pandemics, etc.?” But I must confess that, in another sense, I find this argument from evil utterly unconvincing, and I say this precisely as a Catholic bishop — that is, as someone who holds and teaches the doctrine of God that comes from the Bible. For I don’t think that anyone who reads the Scriptures carefully could ever

conclude that belief in a loving God is somehow incompatible with suffering.

There is no question that God loves Noah, and yet He puts Noah through the unspeakably trying ordeal of a flood that wipes out almost all of life on the earth. It is without doubt that God loves Abraham, and yet He asks that patriarch to sacrifice, with his own hand, his beloved son Isaac. More than almost anyone else in the biblical tradition, God loves Moses, and yet He prevents the great liberator from entering into the Promised Land. David is a man after the Lord’s own heart, the sweet singer of the house of Israel, and yet God punishes David for his adultery and his conspiracy to murder. Jeremiah is specially chosen by God to speak the divine word, and yet the prophet ends up rejected and sent into exile. Israel is God’s uniquely chosen race, His royal priesthood, and yet God permits Israel to be enslaved, exiled and brutalized by her enemies. And bringing this dynamic to full expression, God delivers His only begotten Son to be tortured to death on a cross.

Once again, the point, anomalous indeed to both believers and nonbelievers today, is that the biblical authors saw no contradiction whatsoever between affirming the existence of a loving God and the fact of human suffering, even unmerited human suffering. Rather, they appreciated it as, mysteriously enough, an ingredient in the plan of God, and they proposed various schemata for understanding this. For instance,



WORD ON FIRE

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

sometimes, they speculated, suffering is visited upon us as punishment for sin. Other times, it might be a means by which God effects a spiritual purification in His people. Still other times, it might be the only way that, given the conditions of a finite universe, God could bring about certain goods. But they also acknowledged that, more often than not, we just don’t know how suffering fits into God’s designs, and this is precisely because our finite and historically conditioned minds could not, even in principle, comprehend the intentions and purposes of an infinite mind, which is concerned with the whole of space and time.

Practically the entire burden of the Book of Job is to show this. When Job protests against what he takes to be the massive injustice of his sufferings, God responds with a lengthy speech, in fact his longest oration in the Bible, reminding Job of how much of God’s purposes His humble human servant does not know: “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth . . .”

Once again, whether they half-understood the purpose of human suffering or understood

BARRON, page 13

Letting Christ work through us in the here and now

Jason Adkins, the executive director of the Minnesota Catholic Conference, recently invited me to appear on the conference’s podcast, “Bridge Builder: Connecting Faith and Politics,” to discuss the practical implications of my column, “For Christians, the ends do not justify the means.” “Man has,” I wrote, “only one true end: to know, love and serve God. All other ends — all of the goals of our life — must be ordered to that true end.”

This is basic Christian theology, but even in the best of times, we can lose sight of that which should be the most obvious, just as we sometimes suddenly awaken with a start to the face staring back at us from the mirror. Yes, we know that everything we do should be directed toward God, but what does that really mean, in practice?

There is no magical set of actions — do this, avoid that — that amount, in themselves, to the proper ordering of our life toward God. The entire New Testament, especially the writings of St. John the Evangelist and St. Paul, makes it clear that, if we orient all of our thoughts and words and actions toward Christ, we will fulfill the law, but if we begin with a slavish adherence to the law, we will always fall short of true unity with Him.

“I want to learn only this from you,” St. Paul wrote to



ALL THINGS NEW

SCOTT P. RICHERT

the Church in Galatia, “did you receive the Spirit from works of the law, or from faith in what you heard?” (Gal 3:2)

Christianity is not a blueprint, moral or otherwise; it isn’t a series of steps to be followed in order to create a just society, or even personally to get to heaven. It consists, rather, of the good news that Christ, in sacrificing Himself for us and rising again to new life, has offered each and every one of us the opportunity to share in that life and to recover through faith in Him the moral freedom that Adam and Eve discarded through their sin.

That moral freedom lifts a tremendous weight off our shoulders: not only, as St. Paul understood, the weight of the law, which no man could ever fulfill on his own, but the weight of modern moralism, the insistence that all of our actions — and, increasingly, all of our words and even thoughts — should be ordered not toward Christ but toward an

RICHERT, page 13

The Good Shepherd laid down His life for us



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Fourth Sunday of Easter John 10:11-18

The first reading for Mass this weekend is from the Acts of the Apostles. Acts is fascinating. It reveals the priorities and beliefs of the first Christians.

The setting is Jerusalem. A Christian community has formed, very visibly and deliberately clustered around Peter and the other Apostles. Prayer, total devotion to the Lord, great charity and a sense of unity characterize this community. Also vital to the community is its solemn responsibility to make Jesus known far

beyond the circle of believers.

In this reading, Peter preaches. He speaks for all the other Apostles and indeed for the community itself. Peter obviously is the unchallenged leader of the Christians.

Acts says that Peter was “filled with the Holy Spirit.” Peter was speaking in and with the power and grace of God. He emphasizes that in healing a cripple, recalled earlier in Acts, he acted with the healing ability of Jesus.

In his sermon, Peter insists that no salvation is possible without Jesus, because God gave Jesus to the world as the redeemer of humankind.

The First Letter of John is the next reading. The three epistles, attributed to John but actually in the tradition of John, all have an eloquence and depth that is most appealing. The passage offered in this reading in fact is rather brief, only two verses: It nonetheless is most expressive, reassuringly a declaration of the theological fact that believers are nothing less than God’s beloved children.

The imagery is strong. No other human relationship so directly and well conveys the notion of love, caring, and life giving, than that of a parent and child. This reading also says that those who are worthy of being God’s children one day will see God and will be with God.

St. John’s Gospel supplies the last reading, and it is a glorious revelation about the Lord Jesus.

Everyone at the time knew what herding sheep was all about, Roman Palestine was, by and large, an agricultural nation in which shepherding was a major industry.

The image of sheep is important. Sheep are gentle animals, vegetarian and not at all aggressive. They also are quite vulnerable. Predators easily make sheep their prey. Aggressors hunt for them, particularly the weak, young and unhealthy. Unable because of their placid nature to fight for their lives, sheep very much need their shepherds. Good shepherds care for the sheep, helping them to overcome the vulnerability created by their

meekness and lack of fighting skills.

Jesus, in this passage, compares humans to sheep.

Reflection

In the Gospels, Jesus, on several occasions — not only in this reading — compares humans and sheep. The likeness is a fact, but a fact that humans prefer to forget. We are vulnerable. We need the shepherd. Jesus is the good shepherd. He lays down life itself for us. He wishes that none of us be lost.

He is the Good Shepherd. It is an image that has survived the cultural transition in much of the world from the agrarian to the technological.

This weekend’s liturgy builds on this image, presenting it in this marvelous reading from the fourth Gospel. When the superb literary technique of this Gospel is added to the process, the image is stunning and beckoning in its brilliance. Its meaning is clear because of the frankness of the Gospel.

It is vital that believers, indeed all people, realize that humans are very much like sheep. In so many ways, humans are at risk. Our instincts do not always serve us well. Sin threatens our eternal lives.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who supplies all that we lack. He defends us against peril. He leads us to safety. In Jesus alone is life, as Peter proclaimed.

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 4:8-12 Ps 118:1, 8-9,

21-23, 26, 28, 29 1 Jn 3:1-2 Jn 10:11-18

Monday: Acts 11:1-18 Pss 42:2-3; 43:3-4 Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26 Ps 87:1b-7 Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8 Jn 12:44-50

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25 Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25-27 Jn 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33 Ps 2:6-11b Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 14:7-14 Mt 13:54-58

Countering Catholic misinformation about vaccines

A priest recently mentioned to me that he was not planning to get the COVID-19 vaccine. He told me he was concerned that RNA vaccines could alter our DNA and he heard there were also risks to fertility.

I replied that those particular concerns were unsubstantiated, and not scientifically correct, and encouraged him to be vigilant about various forms of misinformation, including “Catholic” misinformation that can spread rapidly on social media.

In a January 2021 article in Crisis Magazine, for example, AnnaMaria Cardinali repeats several errors regarding a cell line widely used in vaccine production and research. Her comments appear to be based on a problematic LifeSite News interview by John Henry Westen with former graduate student Pamela Acker:

“Acker speaks about her research into the HEK-293 cell line specifically, and talks about the number that’s at the end of that cell line name. ‘HEK’ stands for Human Embryonic Kidney and the ‘293’ actually reveals the number of experiments that a specific researcher did to develop that cell line. ‘It doesn’t mean there were two hundred and ninety-three abortions, but for two hundred and ninety-three experiments, you would certainly need far more than one abortion. We’re talking probably hundreds of abortions,’ Acker shares.”

In reality, the HEK 293 cell line was obtained from a single fetus, and only one abortion occurred, not hundreds. Cells were removed from the kidney, modified, and grown subsequently for many years in the laboratory of Alex van der Eb in Leiden, the Netherlands. This cell line, generated in 1972 or 1973, underwent many “passages” and purification steps, leading to the number “293.”

Whether there were hundreds of abortions or just one is not the key issue, since harvesting cells from even a single abortion is still unethical. However, in Acker’s interview, the sense

of outrage for the audience is ramped up in proportion to the overstated claims about the number of abortions. This phenomenon is understandable, since there are some Catholics who do not seem to grasp the problem with abortion-derived cell lines at all, or minimize it, which can generate frustration among others who may be tempted to overstate their case.

When Catholics disseminate incorrect medical, scientific or factual information in their discussions, or subscribe to urban legends and conspiracy theories, it raises serious concerns. Some of this scientific fake news comes from those who are generally opposed to vaccinations and perhaps more gullible when it comes to false scientific claims. We face a particular obligation to get our facts straight because “the establishment” will fact-check us very strictly even as it allows certain liberal distortions of truth to pass unchallenged, particularly when it serves the narrative that the Church is “anti-science.” In terms of COVID-19 vaccines, we spend a fair amount of time at the National Catholic Bioethics Center countering “Catholic” misinformation and/or disinformation about cell line usage from abortions, whether from those who believe one can never get vaccinated, or from those at the other end of the spectrum who believe there is no moral problem at all with the continued use of these cell lines in research.

Cardinali also offers the claim that the HEK-293 cell line was obtained from a living baby because once a child dies, the cells are basically no longer useful: “HEK stands for human embryonic kidney. To harvest a viable embryonic kidney for this purpose, sufficiently healthy children old enough to have adequately-developed kidneys must be removed from the womb, alive, typically by cesarean section, and have their kidneys cut out. This must take place without anesthesia for the child, which would lessen the viability of the organs.”



FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

These claims are not correct, and there is no historical evidence that a C-section was ever done to obtain the HEK-293 cell line. Rather, procurement of the kidneys relied on standard abortion techniques. It is also noteworthy that extracted kidneys can survive and even function for many minutes following the death of an individual — that is how cadaveric kidney transplantation between adults originally took place — and cells can be successfully derived from kidneys quite some time after their removal from the body.

The best response to these forms of misinformation from well-intentioned Catholics is to provide accurate guidance and scientific explanations to our Catholic faithful, hoping they will have ears to hear and hearts open to dialogue and reflection when presented with factually correct information.

None of this is to reduce the obligation we have to object strongly to the continued use of abortion-derived cells in vaccine work and other forms of research, as I have emphasized in several recent essays available at nbccenter.org and fathertad.com.

But Catholics have to be on guard against anti-science prophets, no matter how well meaning, and the false witness they bear. We should give witness to the truth in all its forms, including in the important and highly influential worlds of science and medicine.

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

BARRON, from page 12

it not at all, no biblical author was tempted to say that said evil is incompatible with the existence of a loving God. To be sure, they lamented and complained, but the recipient of the lamentation and complaint was none other than the God who, they firmly believed, loved them.

I don’t for a moment doubt that many feel today that suffering poses an insurmountable obstacle to belief in God, but I remain convinced that this feeling is a function of the fact that religious leaders have been rather inept at teaching the bibli-

cal doctrine of God. For if human suffering undermines your belief in God, then, quite simply, you were not believing in the God presented by the Bible.

I want to be clear that none of the above is meant to make light of the awful experience of suffering or cavalierly to dismiss the intellectual tensions that it produces. But it is indeed my intention to invite people into a deeper encounter with the mystery of God. Like Jacob who wrestled all night with the angel, we must not give up on God, but rather struggle with Him. Our suffering shouldn’t lead us

to dismiss the divine love, but rather to appreciate it as stranger than we ever imagined. It is perfectly understandable that, like Job, we might shout our protest against God, but then, like that great spiritual hero, we must be willing to hear the voice that answers us from the whirlwind.

Bishop Robert Barron is an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for April 25, 2021

John 10:11-18

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Cycle B: “Good Shepherd Sunday.” The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

GOOD	LAYS DOWN	HIS LIFE
THE SHEEP	HIRED	A WOLF
LEAVES	SCATTERS	I KNOW
THE FATHER	OTHER SHEEP	BELONG
THIS FOLD	I MUST	IN ORDER
TAKE IT UP	AGAIN	NO ONE
TAKES IT	FROM ME	POWER

A WOLF COMING

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L T H I S F O L D E P S
Y A D E H J R E W O P C
L K W N I S E V A E L A
I E O O S T A K E S I T
P I N O L L E H C A J T
E T K N I F S G H G F E
E U I A F R R O O A G R
H P N R E D R O N I N S
S C A H I R E D M N O L
E D T E L A I U R M L W
H O N W O D S Y A L E K
T H E F A T H E R M B X
    
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RICHERT, from page 12

ever-changing vision of secular justice. The centralizing forces of our age insist that they can create a blueprint for a just society, but having lost sight of man’s true end, what they have drawn is a floor plan for something like the Winchester Mystery House, where stairs lead to nowhere; interior doors open suddenly to the outside, well above ground level; and windows look back into other rooms, rather than letting the sun shine in.

For centuries, we Christians, too, have felt the weight of the modern insistence on human perfectibility, the idea that, if we simply try hard enough, we can bring an end to all injustice (“sin” being an outmoded concept, like “truth”) through our own will. We have become convinced that we must spend our efforts on finding a universal “solution” to the problem of,

say, abortion or poverty or racism rather than counseling our neighbor who, in her distress, is considering ending the life of her child, or helping our fellow parishioner find a job, or treating each person we encounter as if he were Christ Himself.

But it was Christ Himself who told us that we would be judged on how we treat, not people in the abstract, but the hungry and the poor and the prisoner we encounter in the course of our daily lives. Or, in other words, on the actions that flow from orienting ourselves toward our one true end, and letting Christ Himself continue His work through us, right here and right now.

*Christianity is not a blueprint,
moral or otherwise;
it isn't a series of steps
to be followed in order to
create a just society,
or even personally
to get to heaven.*

Scott Richert is the publisher of OSV. Visit OSVNews.com.



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Cardinal Turkson keynote speaker at USF commencement

FORT WAYNE – The University of Saint Francis is pleased and honored to announce Cardinal Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson as the featured speaker for the school's 2021 commencement.

"Cardinal Turkson's appearance at our commencement is a tremendous honor for the university. We are grateful for his willingness to come to Fort Wayne and share his wisdom with our graduates and the community. We look forward to his appearance with great anticipation," USF president Father Dr. Eric Albert Zimmer said.

Commencement will be at 2 p.m. on May 1 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Avenue, Fort Wayne. This year's ceremony is for 2020 and 2021 USF graduates. Updated information on attendance will be available at commencement.sf.edu. The cardinal will also attend a baccalaureate Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades for the graduates earlier in the day at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.



**CARDINAL
PETER
TURKSON**

Cardinal Turkson was appointed by Pope Francis as the first prefect for the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development in January 2017. Working closely with Pope Francis, Cardinal Turkson leads the Vatican's teaching and advocacy on issues of justice and peace, economic inequality and global solidarity.

Cardinal Turkson was named the first Ghanaian Cardinal in 2003. He was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace in 2009 and reconfirmed by Pope Francis in 2013. A champion of environmentalism and sustainability, Cardinal Turkson provided the draft of "Laudato Si'," On Care for Our Common Home, to Pope Francis prior to the declaration of the pontiff's encyclical on the environment and human ecology in May 2015.

Cardinal Turkson began his higher education at St. Teresa's Seminary in Amisano, Ghana, and St. Peter's Regional Seminary in Pedu, Ghana. He earned a master of theology degree from St. Anthony-on-Hudson, Conv. Franciscan Seminary, New York. He continued his studies in Rome at the Pontifical Biblical Institute, earning a license in Sacred Scripture, and then began work on his doc-

toral thesis. In addition, he has been awarded numerous honorary degrees and speaks six languages: Fante, English, French, Italian, German and Hebrew.

Early in his career, Cardinal Turkson served as staff, chaplain and lecturer at seminaries in Ghana and on the Ivory Coast. He was appointed Archbishop of Cape Coast by St. John Paul II in 2003. In addition, he served as president of the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference for 17 years, has been a chancellor of the Catholic University College of Ghana since 2003, and has held various memberships and officer positions for councils and boards, including chairman of the Ghana Chapter of the Conference of Religions for Peace and Ghana National Peace Council. He participated in the conclave of April 2005, which elected Pope Benedict XVI, and in the conclave of March 2013, which elected Pope Francis.

For more information on Cardinal Turkson's appearance or the USF commencement, contact Trina Herber, coordinator for academic affairs, at 260-399-7700, ext. 6000, or therber@sf.edu.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT FRANCIS WELCOMES **CARDINAL PETER TURKSON**

COMMENCEMENT 2021 GUEST SPEAKER
MAY 1 AT 2 P.M. IN MEMORIAL COLISEUM

Serving as Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Cardinal Turkson works closely with Pope Francis and leads the Vatican's teaching and advocacy on issues of justice and peace, economic inequality, and global solidarity.

USF Commencement is closed to the general public, but will be livestreamed through commencement.sf.edu.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

Sacred Heart Cemetery spring cleanup
SOUTH BEND — Sacred Heart Cemetery, corner of Pine Road and Western Avenue, will conduct the annual spring cleanup April 26 through May 1. All decorations should be removed by this time. Contact Patrick Nowak at 574-287-7125 or narohaz@aol.com.

Queen of Angels kindergarten open house
FORT WAYNE — Do you have a child ready to enter kindergarten? A kindergarten open house will take place at Queen of Angels School on Wednesday, April 28, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Meet the kindergarten teacher, visit her classroom and learn about the school day and the classroom routines. Enrollment and financial assistance information will be available during the open house. Come meet new kindergarten friends and learn how to join the "Royal" family.

Creighton Model System teacher-training program - Phase I
HUNTINGTON — For those who have a passion for teaching and are ready to learn from the leading experts in women's health, the Creighton Model System teacher-training program provides the credentials to teach the CrMS to women and couples. Upon successful completion of this 13-month program, participants will be adequately equipped to be a FertilityCare Practitioner of the CrMS. Phase I is Saturday, May 1, to Saturday, May 8, at St. Felix Friary, 1280 Hitzfield St. Registration ends April 30. For more details visit:

<https://tcnaf.org/practitioner-program>. Contact Theresa Schortgen at 260-494-6444 or theresa@tcnaf.org.

Cathedral Artists Music Series premiere
FORT WAYNE — The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 1102 S. Clinton St., is announcing The Cathedral Artists Music Series. The purpose of this series is to give Cathedral musicians performance opportunities, to highlight the beautiful and historic building and to more fully integrate with the societal and cultural community of downtown Fort Wayne. The performances are free and will feature cathedral artists. A performance of British composers will be Sunday, May 2, at 6:30 p.m. The concert will feature music by Ralph Vaughn Williams, John Rutter, Herbert Howells and George Frederick Handel. Visiting artists will include violinist Marci Trentacosti, cellist Martyna Bleke, and oboist Pavel Morunov, along with the University of Saint Francis String Ensemble.

NET Retreat
FORT WAYNE — A Strength in Numbers NET Retreat will be put on by NET Ministries for all 7-12 grade students Wednesday, May 5, from 5-9 p.m. at Queen of Angels Parish, 1500 W. State Blvd. Build relationships across parishes centered in Jesus. Food will be available along with a snack later in the evening. RSVP to youthministry@queenofangelsfw.org by April 27. Visit www.queenofangelsfw.org/youth-group. Contact Samantha

Reitman at 260-704-4571 or youthministry@queenofangelsfw.org.

Masses interpreted for the deaf
SOUTH BEND — Masses interpreted for the deaf are on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 11 a.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral, 1701 Miami St. An interpreter from Community Services All Deaf provides American Sign Language. A Mass interpreted for the deaf will also be celebrated on the second Sunday of each month at the 11:30 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne. An interpreter from Deafink, a service of The League for the Blind and Disabled Inc., will provide ASL. Contact Allison Sturm at asturm@diocesefwsb.org or at 260-399-1452 for information.

REST IN PEACE

Arcola
Maurice O'Daniel, 89, St. Patrick

Edward Grill, 84, St. Charles Borromeo

Wabash
Sandi Kastner, 79, St. Bernard

Fort Wayne
Ida D. Cambron, 79, St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel

Rita M. Strack, 92, St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel

Alice Martin, 93, St. Bernard

Harold L. Crouse, 85, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Granger
Jeanne Wells, 94, St. Pius X

Deaths elsewhere
Sister Patricia O'Bryan, 86, Greensburg

South Bend
Brian Hipskind, 50, St. Matthew Cathedral

Building Manager

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is looking for a full time Building Manager. This management position is responsible for the overall appearance and successful operation of the Archbishop Noll Center (located in Fort Wayne) and its components including but not limited to: office set-up, moving furnishings for meetings, ensuring the good working order and maintenance of boilers, air conditioning, ventilation, elevators, lighting, generator, plumbing, maintenance supplies and equipment.

The Building Manager is also responsible for the purchasing of building equipment, making sure the Archbishop Noll Center is in compliance with all applicable regulations, and maintaining proper vehicle registration/title work for all diocesan-owned vehicles.

Apply at www.diocesefwsb.org/careers.



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PRINCIPAL

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Goshen, Indiana

Starting: July 1, 2021



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- A vision of academic excellence

For more information, contact: Stephanie Howe, Personnel Assistant, Catholic Schools Office 260-422-4611 X-3335 or showe@diocesefwsb.org

Go to <https://theapplicantmanager.com/jobs?pos=DF391> to apply. Application Deadline: May 15, 2021



Queen of Angels Catholic Church in Fort Wayne is looking for a full-time Pastoral Associate. The Pastoral Associate functions as an integral member of the parish staff, assisting the pastor with religious education as well as the planning and implementation of his vision for parish ministries and operations.

The Pastoral Associate:

Works independently or part of a pastoral team; is flexible; professional and confidential; communicates effectively with stakeholders through verbal, written and digital means; multi-tasks to handle varied workload and demonstrates a high level of technology proficiency.

The Pastoral Associate must have a deep understanding of the Catholic faith and be an active practicing member of a Roman Catholic faith community. Three years' experience in parish work or related field is desired. A bachelor's degree in religious education or theology is preferred.

Apply at <https://diocesefwsb.org/careers>
Queen of Angels Church and School • 1500 W. State Blvd.
www.queenofangelsfw.org

Submit your event at www.TodaysCatholic.org/event

PILGRIMAGE, from page 1

Joseph the Worker. It will be a walking pilgrimage, beginning at St. Joseph Church in Mishawaka, following the Riverwalk and ending at St. Joseph Church in South Bend. Adoration will be available prior to the pilgrimage, and Father Chris Lapp, pastor of St. Joseph in Mishawaka, will give an opening prayer at 9 a.m. Prayers will also be said at various stations along the route as well as a closing prayer at completion.

The full length of the pilgrimage is 5 miles, but there are three additional locations where participants who prefer a shorter walk can join: the parking lot at Veteran's Memorial Park at 10 a.m., Joe Kernan Park at 10:30 a.m. and Howard Park around 11 a.m. All times are estimated.

Free bus shuttles to all four parking areas will be provided for the return trip.

It was intentional that the Way of St. Joseph pilgrimage came to fruition during the Year of St. Joseph in an area so steeped in the saint's honor. The county, river, churches and numerous organizations in the area bear his name. "Clearly, the Holy Spirit was at work" in the namings, stated Will Peterson, one of the event organizers.

Peterson founded a non-profit organization called Modern Catholic Pilgrim after he experienced the power that pilgrimages can have on one's life. Last year, MCP led a young adult pilgrimage from Christ the King Parish to St. Joseph Parish in South Bend, and Peterson saw the potential for a similar one linking the two parishes named for St. Joseph, both along the Riverwalk. He reached out to the two parishes and to Sean Allen, director of Young

Adult and Campus Ministry, to inquire about arranging one centered around one of the saint's feast days.

"Being the Year of St. Joseph, everyone was trying to plan something to celebrate it," Allen stated. The idea of an outdoor event that could serve the entire area, rather than simply a single parish or organization hosting an event, greatly appealed to the collaborators. "It has just been snowballing with support."

The solemnity of St. Joseph,

March 19, was first discussed as a potential date, but with Indiana's unpredictable late-winter weather, a later date was more appealing. Because the pilgrimage was intended for everyone, the diocesan offices of Marriage and Family Ministry and Young Adult Ministry joined with MCP and the parishes to help coordinate it. The Hispanic Ministry is reaching out to those faith communities as well, ensuring that all are invited to the devotion to St. Joseph.

Families are especially encour-

aged to attend, and parents can aid young pilgrims focus on the spiritual meaning of the event by having them carry an item such as a prayer card, drawing or prayer intention.

"I believe firmly that pilgrimage, especially walked pilgrimage, is a tremendous mix of old and new," Peterson said. "It is one of our oldest prayer practices as Christians." The goal of his organization is "to have pilgrims running back to everyday life on fire and ready to change them-

selves and others."

Peterson considers the location of the two parishes to be providential and hopes that Catholics can increase their devotion to St. Joseph by making a pilgrimage such as this "when-ever they can, whether that is May 1, next May 1, or any other time of the year."

Fellowship is also an important aspect of pilgrimage. Upon reaching the South Bend destination, participants will have the opportunity to socialize, purchase food prepared by the Knights of Columbus and enjoy live music in a fenced-in area where children can play.

Allen reported that more than 50 people had registered within a few days of the webpage going live, so he's hoping to see a good turnout of pilgrims.

"It is resonating with people who were aware of the Year of St. Joseph. A lot of people are doing the consecration," he said.

Father Donald Calloway's 30-day consecration to St. Joseph – arguably a popular book on the subject – is meant to end on a day dedicated to St. Joseph, so many people are choosing to complete theirs on May 1.

"Part of the benefit of making a pilgrimage is not merely the walking but seeing what a pilgrimage is. Life on earth is a pilgrimage," Allen remarked.

He recommends approaching it in a prayerful, sacrificial manner, trying to focus on the spiritual aspects of the walk; meditating on the ways God touches a person's heart during the walk and carrying that into daily life.

"It's not just a secular walk, like when you're raising money for a cause. It's about the journey, not just the destination."



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Today's Spotlight: Andrew Weiss, FICF, LUTCF®



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- Joined the Knights of Columbus in 2008 at the University of Notre Dame Council #1477, currently a member of Santa Maria Council #553 in South Bend, 4th Degree Member.
- Became a Field Agent in 2014.
- Qualifying member of the Supreme Knight's Club (SKC) and Court of the Table member of the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) – the premiere association of financial professionals in the world.
- Member of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA) and the National Association of Fraternal Insurance Counsellors (NAFIC).
- Andrew and his wife Danielle are parishioners at St. Joseph Parish in South Bend. They have two children Titus (2.5), Philomena (1).
- *Fun fact:* during his free time, Andrew is an Assistant Coach for the Cheerleaders and Leprechauns at the University of Notre Dame.
- Andrew is licensed in Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois and primarily serves the Catholic Families of South Bend, Granger, and the University of Notre Dame community. Discover the Catholic Difference of doing business with a company that shares your values, and consider scheduling a complimentary Financial Analysis with Andrew. Visit: www.AndrewWeissKofC.com to schedule your visit and learn more about the financial services Andrew offers! *Virtual or in-person meetings available.

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