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# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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## 'Amoris Laetitia' family portraits: Sometimes messy, but grace-filled



CNS photo/Vatican Media

**Pope Francis greets newly married couples during his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican in this Sept. 30, 2015, file photo. The "Amoris Laetitia" Family Year, which opened March 19, is an opportunity for Catholics to read Pope Francis' 2016 document and discover its reflections on family life.**

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Sometimes the Catholic Church has "proposed a far too abstract and almost artificial theological ideal of marriage, far removed from the concrete situations and practical possibilities of real families," Pope Francis wrote in his 2016 exhortation, "Amoris Laetitia."

And too often, people thought that because the Church had an ideal for the family, it meant the Church was for ideal families only.

"Of course, there aren't any perfect families, and Pope Francis says this in effect in 'Amoris Laetitia.' The reality of a man and a woman is an imperfect reality, but they can perfect themselves with the sacrament of marriage, with the grace of the sacrament,"

said Gabriella Gambino, under-secretary of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life.

"Marriage is a vocation; it is a path of holiness, which is perfected day by day," she told Catholic News Service April 21.

Pope Francis opened the "Amoris Laetitia" Family Year March 19, encouraging people to read the document, strengthen their families and support other families who may be struggling.

Gregory K. Hillis, a professor of theology at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky, has been posting tweets about his marriage and family life with the hashtag #AmorisLaetitia almost since the document was published.

Often the tweets are humorous, like from Palm Sunday 2017: "It took a mere 10 seconds for my children to begin using their palm leaves as swords this

morning. #AmorisLaetitia." And, shortly after Easter this year: "Discount Easter candy purchased. Now to hide it from the kids #AmorisLaetitia."

"The tweets are a way for me to highlight that 'Amoris Laetitia' is so much more than just about the issue of divorce and remarriage," the issue that attracted the most media coverage, he told CNS. "It is about the nitty-gritty of family life in a way that truly spoke to me as a father and husband."

With the tweets, "just like 'Amoris Laetitia,' I wanted to be honest about both the humorous and less-than-humorous aspects of family life," he said.

"'Amoris Laetitia' spoke about families honestly and openly, and in a way that was refreshing," Hillis said. "The ideal is there, but the messy reality is also clearly recognized and honored."

The coronavirus pandemic and its various lockdowns and periods of working from home and attending class virtually have put added stress on families, but also underlined just how essential family relationships are to health, happiness and survival.

Gambino and her husband have five children: a 23-year-old university student, an 18-year-old and 12-year-old triplets. They were all together, in the same apartment, during Italy's severe lockdown in March-May 2020.

The children attended school online and both she and her husband were working from home, but they did not have seven computers or even seven devices. The Wi-Fi would slow down and crash and, at the end of the day, all seven of them would be screen

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# At Holy Cross College, Scott Hahn speaks of St. Joseph: 'Silent Knight, Holy Knight'

BY JENNIFER MILLER

**“A**ll of the humble, the ordinary (of life) is redemptive,” Dr. Scott Hahn illuminated about St. Joseph. “His supremacy is the heart of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

On Friday, April 23, Hahn, of the University of Steubenville, shared a scriptural reflection on St. Joseph, the silent, humble and holy husband of Mary, father of Jesus, at Pfiel Auditorium on the campus of Holy Cross College in South Bend. The presentation was made to both a livestreamed and a socially distanced and masked in-person audience. Invited by his former student, Director of Campus Ministry Andrew Ouellette, Hahn's visit celebrated the Year of St. Joseph, declared by Pope Francis Dec. 8.

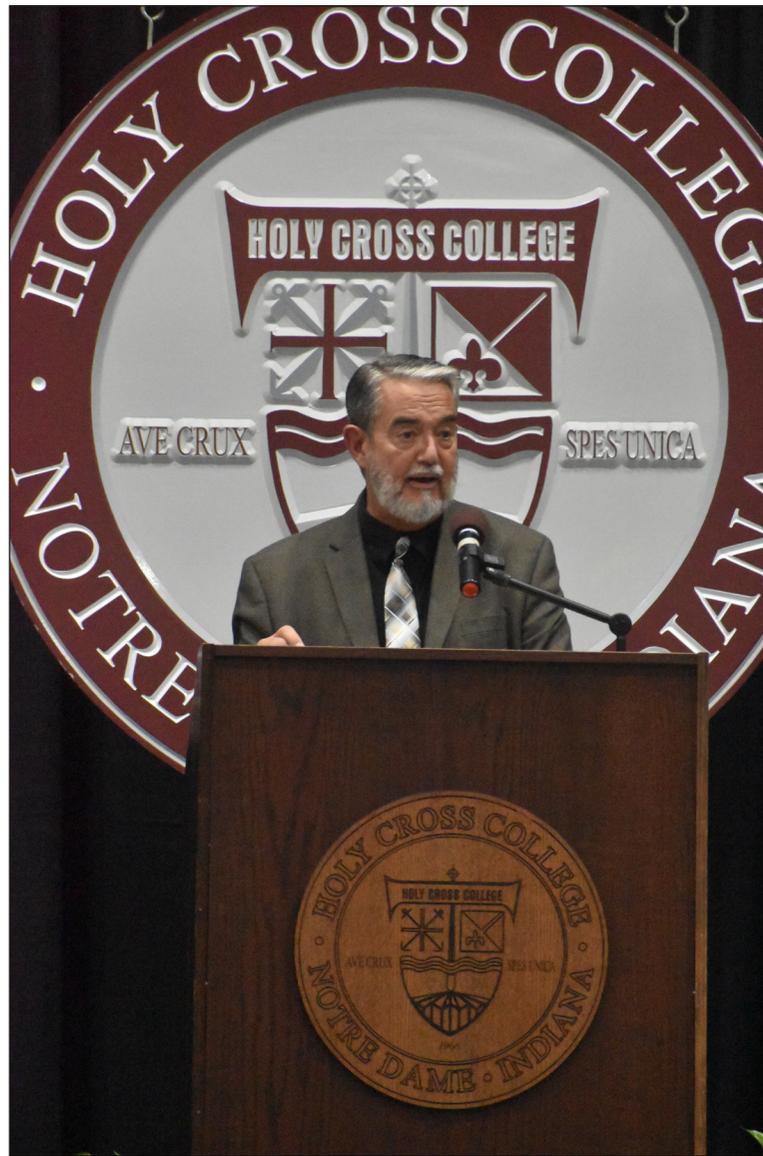
He encouraged listeners to read Pope Francis' apostolic letter on the saint, “Patris Corde,” where Joseph is described as a tender, loving, obedient, accepting father, “creatively courageous” and working in the shadows.

One of Hahn's strengths during the presentation was a solid, theological narrative clearly supported by his personal prayer and faith life. Hahn's examples and antidotes, from being a grandfather of adopted children to being the father of a seminarian about to be ordained, fleshed out the rich ponderings.

He proposed the question, “Is he a father?” as Joseph did not play a biological role in the conception of Jesus. He read from Matthew Chapter 1, which he called the “St. Joseph annunciation” because the Davidic genealogy is described, and Joseph is named as “the husband of Mary.” According to Jewish custom at the time, Joseph then would have had the legal rights of a father in the naming of a child — as written in Verse 25 — as well as the duties of protecting the mother and child. Jesus, too, then had full hereditary rights through this line.

Hahn explained adoptive fatherhood, which transcends the biological. Citing Luke Chapter 2, Verse 33, he presented Joseph as an earthly image of Jesus' heavenly father and noted that Jesus is described as the carpenter's son.

Explaining how the theological can be greater than the biological, Hahn used the example of God being more of a father to his own six children than he himself is. “Fatherhood originates in the relationship in the mystery of the Trinity, that is, life giving,” he said. Here there is eternal generation. It truly was



Photos by Jennifer Miller

**Dr. Scott Hahn spoke about St. Joseph and his model of fatherhood to a virtual and live audience at Holy Cross College April 16, during a year dedicated to the saint.**



the privilege of St. Joseph to be the earthly father of Jesus, Hahn said.

He continued to unfold Scripture, noting that “the Old Testament points forward to the New Testament and the New Testament is revealed in the Old Testament.”

Hahn's presentation highlighted how God works through the ordinary in salvation history. St. Joseph is a prime example of such divine movement. “Day after day, week after week, year after year, man and woman doing the same work.”

“The Blessed Trinity is the only thing that eternally exists,” he pointed out. “It is not a corporation, but a family. We're not just citizens or employees. We are born as a son or daughter, a relational ontology, not as an individual. In the natural order of things, they point us to the supernatural. Don't reduce it down. Be a daughter or son of God. The Holy Family still is an earthly outpost of the heavenly home, here and now.”

His persuasive speaking style was reminiscent of an engaging, dynamic style of preaching, complete with gestures, but subtle and refined enough to allow the listener to feel as if they were listening to their own grandfathers speak from a rocking chair. Explaining how even Joseph was “not given an easy street” to live on — “anything but!” — he encouraged the audience to live their baptismal call to be a child of God, despite obstacles or difficulties in life.

“The Holy Family is the proper context of our salvation to come. We're not just acquitted or healed: We are adopted, reborn and regeneration for life. We are children of God,” he said in closing.

**Hahn signs Holy Cross College students' copies of his new book, “Hope to Die: The Christian Meaning of Death and the Resurrection of the Body,” which was released in March 2020, providentially in time for the COVID-19 pandemic.**

# 'Patients are ... dying in front of my eyes,' says India hospital director

BY ANTO AKKARA

THRISSUR, India (CNS) — Catholic hospital directors in India told Catholic News Service they did not have enough facilities to treat patients as India set records for the number of COVID-19 deaths — numbers many people believe were underreported.

"The situation is very bad. No beds available anywhere in the hospital. Patients are on the corridors and many are dying because no beds, no oxygen," Father P.A. George, director of the Holy Family Hospital in New Delhi, told CNS.

"I have no place even in emergency (area) to give oxygen. Patients are just dying in front of my eyes. Feeling so distressed and frustrated and helpless. It is horrible and the disaster is beyond the imagination. Please pray to God (to) give us strength to save some lives," said the priest, who heads the largest Catholic hospital in New Delhi.

Though the hospital has a limit of 340 beds, it is accommodating nearly 400 patients, he added.

In Gujarat state, Syro-Malabar Father Thomas Nadackalan, director of Christ Hospital in Rajkot, told Catholic News Service April 26, "We have to turn away around 600 cases daily."

"We are struggling to get oxygen in time to save the lives of those admitted," he said. Of the 70 beds in the hospital, he added, 40 are set apart for those needing oxygen treatment.

The inadequate care and treatment in government hospitals in Ahmedabad, commercial capital of Gujarat, drew national attention as even the widespread

deaths were underreported by the state government.

The National English daily The Hindu carried an investigative story exposing the hollowness of the government claim of only 78 deaths April 16, citing cremation of 689 bodies in seven cities alone under COVID-19 protocol in the state.

"We have lost a dozen members of our community here," P.T. Chacko, president of Gujarat Syro-Malabar Catholic Association, told CNS April 26. He, his wife and daughter were recovering from COVID-19.

Cardinal Oswald Gracias, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, offered the Church's full support in "the war against the dreadful COVID-19 situation in the country."

"There was lack of planning and lack of foresight. Otherwise, we would not have been in the awful situation we are in now," Cardinal Gracias, archbishop of Mumbai, told Catholic News Service April 25. That day, India's health ministry recorded nearly 354,000 new infections and more than 2,800 deaths. In the week of April 18-25, India witnessed exponential spread of the pandemic across the country.

"The world is concerned about the situation in India and I am getting several calls," said Cardinal Gracias, endorsing widespread criticism in India against the federal government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for its laxity and failure to prepare for the second surge.

COVID-19 infections had peaked at 93,000 cases in mid-September in India, with 1.38 billion people. The infections declined steadily to 11,000 cases by February with daily death toll below 100. However, the

fresh infections soon started rising with daily counts reaching 52,000 on April 1.

Following the deadly second surge, India media has been witnessing an unprecedented avalanche of criticism for the severe shortage of medicines, vaccines and even oxygen that the government had been exporting to other countries. The newspaper India Today reported the government failed to act on a February parliamentary committee report that had urged it to augment its oxygen production and supply system in preparation for a second surge.

The oxygen shortage has become the scourge of the nation, with hundreds of breathless COVID-19 victims dying even in hospitals struggling to get adequate oxygen supply

Responding to reports of states blocking and even hijacking trucks carrying liquid oxygen to various hospitals, Cardinal Gracias said, "When traffic signal fails and there are no policemen at crossroads, there will be chaos."

"The government has to increase oxygen supply and set up strict monitoring to ensure each hospital gets enough oxygen so that people do not die in hospitals," he added.

"The nation has to fight against this pandemic on war footing. We have already opened ... centers and (are) ready to extend all our support with our personnel and institutions in this fight," he said.

On April 25, Cardinal George Alencherry, major archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, urged federal and state governments "to treat the availability of medical oxygen as a basic human right."



## Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, May 2: 2 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Anthony of Padua Church, Angola  
 Monday, May 3: 7 p.m. — Mass with Sacrament of Confirmation and the Rite of Reception Into Full Communion, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame  
 Tuesday, May 4: 12:30 p.m. — Meeting of Priest Retirement Board, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne  
 Tuesday, May 4: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. John the Baptist Church, New Haven  
 Wednesday, May 5: 1:30 p.m. — Meeting of Diocesan Budget Committee, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne  
 Wednesday, May 5: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass for St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elkhart, at St. Pius X Church, Granger  
 Thursday, May 6: 12 p.m. — Meeting of Board of Directors of Saint Anne Communities, Randallia Place, Fort Wayne  
 Thursday, May 6: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass for St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elkhart, at St. Pius X Church, Granger



## Priest appointment

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following appointment, effective April 10, 2021:

**Reverend Geoffrey Mooney, C.S.C.**, to Parochial Vicar, Christ the King Parish, South Bend

## Holy Cross priests ordained



Barbara Johnston, University of Notre Dame

Four members of the Congregation of Holy Cross were ordained to the priesthood April 10. The sacrament of holy orders was conferred by the Most Reverend Arthur J. Colgan, CSC, DD, auxiliary bishop and vicar general of the Diocese of Chosica, Peru, on, from left, Father Felipe Campos Reséndez, CSC; Father Robert Lisowski, CSC; Father Geoffrey Mooney, CSC; and Father David Smith, CSC, during the ordination Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame.



CNS photo/Amit Dave, Reuters

A woman is consoled by her relative outside a hospital in Ahmedabad, India, April 26 after her husband died from COVID-19 complications.



DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

# Report abuse

## Report abuse

It remains important for our Church to protect children and young persons from the evils of abuse. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend remains committed to upholding and following its guidelines, policies and procedures that were implemented for the protection of children and young people. These can be reviewed on the diocese's website, [www.diocesefwsb.org](http://www.diocesefwsb.org), under "Youth Protection."

If you have reason to believe that a minor may be a victim of child abuse or neglect, Indiana law requires that you report this to civil authorities. If you or someone you know was abused as a child or young person by an adult, you are encouraged to notify appropriate civil authorities of that abuse. In addition, if the alleged abuser is or was a priest or deacon of the Catholic Church, you are encouraged to contact Mary Glowaski, victim assistance coordinator, at (260) 399-1458 or [mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org); or Rev. Mark Gurtner, vicar general of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, at P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46801; at (260) 399-1419; or at [mgurtner@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:mgurtner@diocesefwsb.org). The diocese is committed to helping prevent the abuse or neglect of children and young people and to assist those who have suffered harm as a result of such abuse.

## Denuncie los abusos

Es importante para nuestra Iglesia proteger a los niños y jóvenes adultos de los actos malvados como el abuso. La Diócesis de Fort Wayne-South Bend se compromete a mantener y seguir las reglas, políticas y procedimientos que fueron implementados para la protección de niños y personas jóvenes. Estos pueden leerse en la página web de la diócesis, [www.diocesefwsb.org](http://www.diocesefwsb.org) bajo la sección de "Protección de Jóvenes" ("Youth Protection").

Si usted tiene motivo de creer que un menor es víctima de abuso o negligencia, la ley de Indiana requiere que usted reporte esto a las autoridades civiles. Si usted o alguien que usted conoce fue abusado, ya sea niño o persona joven, por un adulto, le recomendamos que notifique a las autoridades civiles apropiadas. También, si el alegado abusador es o fue un sacerdote o diácono de la Iglesia Católica, se le insta comunicarse con Mary Glowaski, coordinadora de asistencia de víctimas, al (260)

399-1458 o [mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org); o con el Presbítero Mark Gurtner, vicario general de la Diócesis de Fort Wayne-South Bend, al P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46801; al (260) 399-1419; o al [mgurtner@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:mgurtner@diocesefwsb.org). La diócesis se compromete a ayudar a prevenir el abuso o negligencia de niños y personas jóvenes y ayudar a aquellos que han sufrido daño como el resultado de tal abuso.

## Báo cáo lạm dụng Trẻ em.

Nếu bạn có suy luận cho rằng một đứa trẻ nào đó có lẽ là một nạn nhân đã bị lạm dụng hoặc bị bỏ bê, Pháp luật Indiana yêu cầu bạn báo cáo cho chính quyền dân sự. Nếu bạn hay người nào đó bị lạm dụng với tư cách một đứa trẻ hoặc thanh thiếu niên do người lớn, bạn được động viên đặc biệt thông báo cho chính quyền dân sự về việc lạm dụng này. Ngoài ra, nếu kẻ bạo hành bị cáo buộc là một linh mục hay phó tế của Giáo hội Công giáo, xin vui lòng liên hệ:

Mary Glowaski, Trưởng ban hỗ trợ nạn nhân. (260) 399-1458 email: [mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org)

Hoặc Very Rev. Mark Gurtner, Cha Tổng Đại Diện. (260) 399-1419

Email: [mgurtner@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:mgurtner@diocesefwsb.org)

Giáo phận Fort Wayne-South Bend

Attn: Hỗ trợ nạn nhân PO Box 390 Fort Wayne, IN 46801

Giáo phận Fort Wayne-South Bend cam kết bảo vệ trẻ em và thanh thiếu niên từ các tệ nạn lạm dụng và hỗ trợ những người kêu nài đã bị thiệt hại do hậu quả bị lạm dụng. Lạm dụng một đứa trẻ là một tội lỗi. Chúng tôi cam kết lắng nghe, hỗ trợ, điều tra cùng thực hiện theo các chính sách và thủ tục như đã ban hành của Tòa Giám Mục.

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## မတရားကင်းကင်းနဲ့ ပုဆိုးပေးတဲ့ အသင်းတော်အဖွဲ့အစည်း

ကလေးသူငယ်များနှင့် လူငယ်များကို မတရားကင်းကင်းနဲ့ ပုဆိုးပေးတဲ့ အသင်းတော်အဖွဲ့အစည်းများကို မကောင်းဆိုးဝါးဝါးနဲ့ မှီခိုကာ ကြိုတင်ပေးဖို့ ပြည်သူ့ ကြီးပွားရေး အသင်းတော်အဖွဲ့အစည်းအဖွဲ့အစည်းများသည် အသင်းတော်အဖွဲ့အစည်းအဖွဲ့အစည်းများကို အသိပေးအစောင့်အရှောက်ပေးရန် အားပေးကြပါမည်။

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# School choice expansion among legislative successes for ICC

Social distancing did not deter lawmakers from joining together to pass an overwhelmingly bipartisan budget at the close of the 2021 General Assembly that included a historic expansion to school choice in Indiana.

Only five of 150 legislators voted against the two-year, \$37 billion budget that was boosted by \$3 billion in federal COVID-19 relief funding. The budget saw major increases in funding for K-12 public education, along with sweeping changes to extend the reach and impact of the state's school choice programs. That includes Indiana's Choice Scholarship Program, more commonly known as the voucher program.

The Indiana Catholic Conference and other advocates heralded the hard-fought success, which came exactly 10 years after they played a key role in the passage of the state's original Choice Scholarship legislation that has become a model across the nation.

"Hoosier families won," said John Elcesser, executive director of the Indiana Non-Public Education Association, which represents the state's more than 400 non-public schools, including Indiana's 175 Catholic schools. "Most of the choice expansions lobbied for by the INPEA and the ICC will soon be a reality, and more families will now find non-public school options affordable."

"We thank the legislative leadership for their bold vision for funding Hoosier education."

Among the school choice provisions in the budget passed by lawmakers on April 22 are a dramatic expansion in eligibility for the voucher program and a sizable increase in the scholarship amount that voucher students receive.

The current eligibility for vouchers stands, in most cases, at a maximum family income of 150% of the federal Free and Reduced Lunch program. Under the new guidelines, that threshold would jump to 300% by next year, helping middle and upper-middle-class families still struggling to pay for private school tuition, Elcesser explained.

In addition, eligible families will see increases in the dollar amounts of the vouchers their

students receive. Currently, the program operates under three tiers, with students receiving vouchers of 50%, 70% or 90% of state tuition support based on family income. Going forward, all eligible students will receive a 90% voucher, representing 90% of the state's tuition support for their child if they attended their local public school.

"These are historic developments that will help so many families send their children to the schools that best meet their needs," said Angela Espada, executive director of the ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. "Even the highest quality public school still may not be the best choice for a particular family and their unique situation. We always support what is best for the child, and families are best at making those decisions."

In addition to the school choice legislation, the ICC closely tracked numerous other bills during this long session of the General Assembly, occurring every other year and culminating in the passage of Indiana's biennial budget. As always, the ICC supported certain measures while opposing others, in keeping with Catholic social teaching.

A significant pro-life bill that had strong support from the ICC was headed to Gov. Eric Holcomb's desk for signature at press time. House Bill 1577, authored by Rep. Peggy Mayfield, R-Martinsville, would require abortion providers to offer additional information and resources to women who are considering abortion, including an ultrasound image of their unborn child.

The most intensely debated aspect of the bill concerned offering women information about possibly reversing a chemical, or medication, abortion. This method of abortion in early pregnancy involves the ingestion of two

## INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY VICTORIA ARTHUR

pills within a 48-hour period. Women sometimes change their minds after taking the first pill, mifepristone, and the legislation would require abortion providers to inform them about an option that could potentially save the unborn child – taking the hormone progesterone after that initial abortion pill is consumed.

Another measure headed for the governor's desk was House Bill 1009, which offers some advances related to Indiana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program while stopping short of a long-sought-after increase to monthly cash payments for families in deep poverty. The ICC and its allies say they will continue to lobby for modernizing the implementation of that federal program in Indiana, which has not seen a meaningful update in more than three decades.

The ICC monitored several measures related to the environment throughout the legislative session and strongly opposes one bill awaiting the governor's signature, even in modified form. Senate Bill 389, which originally would have eliminated legal safeguards for up to 90% of Indiana's wetlands, was later amended to reduce some protections rather than abolish them entirely.

"While the amended version of the bill is not as harmful as the original, the ICC is still opposed to this legislation and would like to see the governor veto it," said Alexander Mingus, associate director of the ICC.

"The Church's rich tradition of environmental stewardship and care for creation form the basis of our opposition to this bill."

Mingus and Espada, who just completed their first legislative session together at the helm of the ICC, have plans for keeping the Catholic faithful engaged on important issues like in this in the General Assembly "off-season." One example is delving deeply into "Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home," the groundbreaking encyclical by Pope Francis concerning stewardship of the environment. The ICC leaders want to use their revamped website and other vehicles not only to educate and mobilize Catholics on matters of importance to the Church, but to foster dialogue.

"We have used technology in many new ways, including launching our podcast," Espada said. "These connections with the faithful along with the lawmakers helped tremendously as we worked on a variety of bills

over these past four months.

"Because of COVID, this was an interesting legislative session," Espada continued. "However, technology actually made connecting with legislators easier. We were able to schedule Zoom meetings with lawmakers instead of hoping to catch someone in the hall. These one-on-one meetings gave us the opportunity to present our positions on various bills."

Regardless of how the 2022 General Assembly will operate, Espada and Mingus are counting on the continued support of the Catholic faithful in amplifying the voice of the ICC.

"We are so grateful for everyone's advocacy and prayers during this legislative session," Espada said. "We want people to stay tuned and stay engaged so that we can continue that momentum going forward."

For more information, visit [www.indianacc.org](http://www.indianacc.org).

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## Shrine prayer hotline spurred by pandemic is so successful, it'll continue

EMMITSBURG, Md. (CNS) — When the world shut down last year because of the pandemic, the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton decided it was time to reach outward. The question was how — when, for a time, people couldn't even visit the shrine in Emmitsburg? The answer was simple, profound and one that Mother Seton, America's first native-born saint, would have appreciated: Pray. So, buoyed by dedicated staff members and seminarians from nearby Mount St. Mary's Seminary, the shrine in the Baltimore archdiocese created a prayer hotline last April that has proven so successful, it plans to continue well after COVID-19 has receded. To date, over 2,000 calls have been logged, and many of them have turned into relationships that have changed the lives of people on both ends of the line. The hotline — 866-202-4934 — is available between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. The shrine also has a prayer request page on its website, <https://setonshrine.org/prayer-requests-2>. "We are sometimes the only ones they talk to; the only ones who say their name," said Rebecca Corbell, evangelization programs manager at the shrine. "Having that connection, having a person who knows your name builds a relationship, that is so powerful."

## Risks to life outweigh economic benefits of exploiting nature, cardinal says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The costs of harming nature are greater than any economic benefits drawn from such exploitation, said Cardinal Peter Turkson. So many species and habitats are destroyed "when our conduct and treatment of nature gets abusive," said the cardinal, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. Therefore, "for ethical, moral and theological reasons, it is incumbent upon us to safeguard the biodiversity on earth." The cardinal and Jane Goodall, primatologist and anthropologist, were the two keynote speakers April 20 at a webinar on biodiversity organized by the dicastery and the Vatican COVID-19 Commission's ecology taskforce and held in partnership with numerous other church-based and nonprofit organizations. Coming ahead of Earth Day, which is April 22, the webinar was meant to help inspire and point the way forward for parishes, individuals and communities in preparation for the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in October. The U.N. Global Biodiversity Report for 2020 highlighted the

## Pope chooses theme for July 25 World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly



CNS photo/Paul Haring

Princess Leonore, held by Sweden's Queen Silvia, gives a papal key chain to Pope Francis during her grandmother's private audience with Pope Francis in the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican in this April 27, 2015, file photo. To express the closeness of God and of the Church to every older person the pope has chosen the theme, "I am with you always," for the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which will be celebrated July 25 and every year on the fourth Sunday of July to coincide with the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, Jesus' grandparents.

importance of preserving biodiversity as part of addressing climate change, providing long-term food security and preventing future pandemics.

## Chauvin verdict prompts calls for soul-searching in Portland, Oregon

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — Like many Americans nationwide, Oregon Catholics received the April 20 conviction of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin with mixed feelings: consolation, skepticism, resolve. Portland has been the site of some of the most persistent and destructive protests since Chauvin killed George Floyd in May 2020. By contrast, reaction to the verdict was subdued on the streets and Catholic leaders were reflective. Chauvin, who is white, was found guilty by a jury that deliberated for more than 10 hours over two days of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter in the death of Floyd, an African American. Tony Jones, chairman of the African American Catholic Community of Oregon, said the verdict came as a relief. "Not a dancing in

the street kind of relief, but a relief as in, 'Wow, it could have been worse,'" he told the Catholic Sentinel, Portland's archdiocesan newspaper. The verdict does not change the views he shared with Portland Archbishop Alexander K. Sample this past February during a meeting with the archbishop and fellow members of the community Jones chairs. Prior to the meeting, Jones reflected on what Archbishop Sample has shared in his Friday "Chapel Chats" and other talks — that racism is a sin. "I thought deeply about why it's a sin," said Jones. His conclusion was the sin is "the lie people tell themselves."

## Biden administration appeals block on transgender health care mandate

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Biden administration has filed an appeal April 20 of a Jan. 19 federal court's ruling to block an Affordable Care Act provision barring discrimination by health insurers and providers against transgender people. The regulation was issued in 2016 by the U.S. Department of Health and

Human Services requiring doctors to perform these procedures in children and adults or be held liable for discrimination. Catholic and other opponents of the provision, Section 1557, call it a "transgender mandate" and say forces doctors and hospitals to perform gender-transition procedures against their moral conscience and professional medical judgment. "This is bad for patients, doctors and religious liberty," said Luke Goodrich, senior counsel at Becket, a law firm in Washington that focuses on religious liberty cases. In a series of tweets April 20, Goodrich said: "The Biden Admin shouldn't have appealed. But we look forward to another ruling that protects patients, aligns with current medical research, and ensures doctors aren't forced to violate their religious beliefs and professional medical judgment. 'The government's own doctors during the Obama Admin agreed: 'Based on a thorough review of the clinical evidence ... there is not enough evidence to determine whether gender reassignment surgery improves health outcomes for [patients] with gender dysphoria.'" The lawsuit was filed on behalf of Franciscan Alliance, a religious hospital network serving Indiana

and Illinois that now goes by the name Franciscan Health, and the Christian Medical and Dental Associations. The states of Texas, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska and Wisconsin also joined in the suit.

## Pope calls for month-long global prayer marathon for end of pandemic

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has called for a global prayer marathon for the entire month of May, praying for the end to the pandemic. "The initiative will involve in a special way all shrines in the world" in promoting the initiative so that individuals, families and communities all take part in reciting the rosary, "to pray for the end of the pandemic," said the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization in a press release April 21. "It is the heartfelt desire of the Holy Father that the month of May be dedicated to a prayer marathon dedicated to the theme, 'from the entire church an unceasing prayer rises to God,'" it said. The theme refers to the miraculous event recounted in the Acts of the Apostles (12:1-12) when all the Church prayed for Peter, who was imprisoned until God sent an angel to free him, illustrating how the Christian community comes together to pray in the face of danger and how the Lord listens and performs an unexpected miracle.

## Nuncio tells besieged Mexican town: The Church is with you

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Archbishop Franco Coppola, papal ambassador to Mexico, recently traveled to a town besieged by warring drug cartels to reiterate the Church's commitment to serving populations suffering violence. The ambassador, or nuncio, also wanted to raise awareness of the situation in Aguililla, a town in western Michoacán state, where drug cartels have battled each other and blocked highways, leaving residents unable to travel freely and causing shortages of everything from food to fuel. "We in the Church cannot get involved in war, but we can tend to the wounded, to the people. My visit is to make people feel the Church is close, that they're not alone and will not be abandoned," the nuncio said in Aguililla, where he led a procession and celebrated Mass April 23 for the people. "The Church must be at the side of the people, not fleeing." The nuncio's visit to Aguililla offered a brief respite from the violence gripping the region, which is being disputed by rival criminal organizations: United Cartels and the Jalisco New Generation Cartel. The situation became so severe in Aguililla that eight bodies were found decapitated earlier in April and one cartel used a drone to drop explosives on the police.

# Winter guard show evangelizes with routine, images

BY JENNIFER BARTON

The image of Divine Mercy made it all the way to the Indiana High School Color Guard Association state finals this year with the Bishop Dwenger High School winter guard. Don Cochran is band director at the Fort Wayne school, overseeing all the programs associated with that. He and his wife, Mindy, the school's life skills counselor, began working there in 2016. Mindy assists with many band programs, including the color guard. Together, they look for ways to bring the Catholic faith into the spotlight – literally – through the girls' routines.

Don stated, "Over the last several years, we've tried to find things that the kids could connect with, so we have asked our coaches to try to tie it into something based around our faith."

This was the first year Don and Mindy had the privilege of seeing their students perform at the state level. The team did not place at state, but that doesn't take away from the evangelization opportunity their performance presented. The routine, set to Christian duet For King and Country's song "God Only Knows," focused on the image of the Divine Mercy, as seen by the visionary St. Faustina Kowalska in 1930s Poland.

It seemed providential that the color guard coach, Danielle Burgett, was motivated to create a routine based around the image. Burgett is not Catholic. Yet, her love of her craft and deep respect for her students and their faith helps her to merge the Cochrans' request with her own creative vision.

"She came up with that song and she found this image of Jesus from the Divine Mercy, but she had no clue what it was," Don remarked. "The students themselves are actually able to talk to her about St. Faustina and they helped to educate her on it."

Both he and Mindy are astonished by the influence the students' faith life has had on Burgett over the last four years, even to the point where she requested prayers from them during a difficult pregnancy.

After the initial backdrop design failed to meet the team's expectations, Burgett returned to her original inspiration, with a 6-foot poster of the image and rolls of blue and red fabric for the rays of light coming from the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Don sent a high-quality image of the picture to a local printer, who completed the order within three days. The team was able to perform that weekend with the new backdrop.

Don estimated that the girls on the team probably put in hundreds of hours of practice this season. During that time, he said



Photos provided by Mindy Cochran

**With the image of the Divine Mercy as the focal point of their main routine this year, the Bishop Dwenger High School winter guard used the beauty of their craft as a means to bring the Catholic faith into the spotlight.**



**The Fort Wayne school's winter guard advanced to Indiana High School Color Guard Association state finals this year, the first time since band director Don Cochran took over in 2016.**

they were "able to meditate on the image from the Divine Mercy Chaplet. I just think it was absolutely beautiful."

Having been involved in color guard for 17 years, Burgett has a good understanding of the judges' expectations for routines, particularly when it comes to schools that profess a religious identity. Rather than shying away from bold demonstrations of Christianity that could be perceived as objectionable, Burgett said she knows that routines that explore that faith make a strong statement about the school itself.

"The judges really enjoy seeing faith-based schools doing faith-based shows because public schools don't have that same connection," she explained. Not only that, but the girls that she coaches at Bishop Dwenger are able to draw on their faith to portray the emotional aspects needed to bring the show's story

to life. "What I did last year was try to find a show that not only was faith-based ... but also something that was kind of close to the students."

Last year's show was called "Faith" and featured a cross for the background. To the performers, Burgett remarked, "the faith-based most definitely works for them because they have that strong relationship with it that you don't see in public schools."

"I think it's so exciting that she's able to create these shows that the kids can evangelize with," Don added. "She's talking a lot in terms of dance and in terms of expression, but that crosses over to where she's teaching stories of our faith in a public-school atmosphere." Very few schools that Bishop Dwenger competes against are Catholic or even Christian, so this might be one of the scant opportunities to bring the Christian faith to light for students and parents at those

schools.

The students' expression of their Catholic faith through the routines has already impacted others outside of Bishop Dwenger. Mindy shared how sometimes the judges will comment on the faith-based aspects of the show, and a photographer for the IHSCGA always tells them how much he enjoys their shows. And at St. Jude School, where the Cochrans' daughter showed the video to her teachers and principal, they were duly impressed. "People that understand and know what it is, they're like, 'Wow!'" Mindy commented.

Parents are also pleased with the routines their daughters take part in, Don said. "We've got numerous messages from parents on how much they appreciate that we're trying to tie in pieces of our faith with what they're actually competing with. They believe that that's a good message for their kids."

For next year's routine, Burgett is looking toward the apparitions of Mary at Fatima for her inspiration. Over the next few months, she will have to learn about the apparitions and associated miracles if she hopes to bring it to fruition.

"The hardest part that I struggle with is making sure I'm representing their faith in the correct way and in the truest form that I possibly could."

Don and Mindy are excited to see how the Fatima plans come together and hope that next year the girls team will advance to state again. The team is relatively young, mostly comprised of sophomore and freshmen students.

Mindy is also pleased with how the girls stepped into leadership roles and how they have adapted to pandemic restrictions. Most of all, the Cochrans are proud to see the students living out their faith with each performance.

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Photos by Jennifer Barton

Built in the 1890s, St. Joseph Church in Mishawaka has retained much of its Gothic beauty. During a capital campaign to maintain the parish's church and school structures, pastor Father Christopher Lapp and his team opted to replace worn carpeting with wood flooring, mirroring the church's original look.

## Beauty a priority in church renovation

BY JENNIFER BARTON

The difference a simple improvement makes to a building can be astounding. The floors one walks on can easily be dismissed as an unimportant aspect of a room or even a church, but flooring lays the foundation for a strong space. When St. Joseph Parish in Mishawaka began a capital campaign to correct deferred maintenance issues related to the age of the church, pastor Father Chris Lapp saw an opportunity to be deliberate about making a lasting change in the beautiful, 1890s-era Gothic-style church.

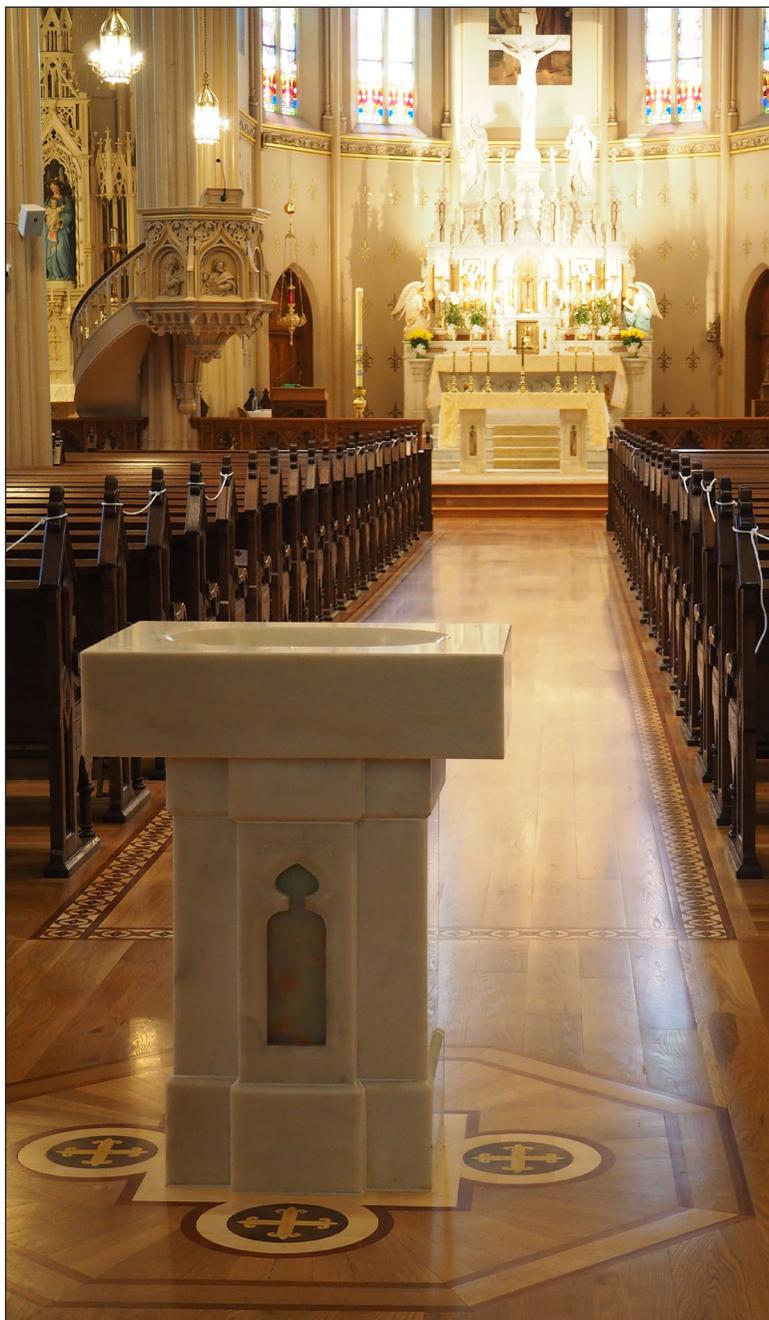
Father Lapp estimates that the parish, originally named Holy Guardian Angels, is on its third or fourth church building since its inception in the 1840s. Msgr. Curt Suelzer, pastor of St. Joseph from 1944-77, maintained the integrity of the church's interior beauty, including retaining the high altars, though he was the first to carpet the floors, a change that the parish made in the last year when new wood floors were installed by Hoosier Hardwood of Goshen.

"When we started the capital campaign to correct all the deferred maintenance, I just wanted to make sure that we did something intentional and better, so my initial thought was we're not going to put carpet back," Father Lapp stated. Instead, his vision was to bring the church closer to the original design envisioned by the early parishioners.

To do this, he enlisted the aid of several parishioners including Caroline Cole, who studied architecture at the University of Notre Dame, a program that specializes in classical architecture. She gave of her own time and talent as a faithful member of

"I think people appreciate that the church is being well taken care of and that beauty is being put as a priority."

— Caroline Cole



the parish. "It's just a beautiful church already to pray in," Cole remarked.

Restoring the original flooring was not an option, as studies done on sections of the floor showed that the pine planks were not suited to refurbishing, and time had forced previous generations to utilize leveling compound to even out warped places in the floorboards. Plywood was placed atop that.

Instead, the parish chose to overlay a new floor made of oak, known for its durability and longevity, over the plywood. With its layers of oil finish, "that brings the wood into harmony with the other wood that's already in there," mainly the doors and the intricately carved altar rail, Cole elaborated. "And we wanted to emphasize the main aisle leading up to the sanctuary and the altar."

The aisle's side border of "intertwined circles and four-petaled flowers" relates to the similar carved flowers on the ends of the pews.

Collaborating with Father Lapp and Rich Brubaker, the facilities director, Cole designed the two medallions placed at the front and back of the aisle. Situated at the apex of the church before the altar, the main medallion, dedicated to St. Joseph, features an "SJ" monogram set over a cross, with a carpenter's square and three lilies, a flower traditionally associated with the saint to depict his purity.

"I think it's cool how the name of the church can kind of

direct what the decoration inside the church is, so then visually you're just kind of drawn to reflect on that saint and that particular saint is praying for the parish," Cole commented.

Of great importance to Father Lapp was the baptismal font. Since the font itself is rectangular-shaped, he wanted to find a way to reflect the traditional octagonal shape of baptistries, representing the eighth day after creation. The design team opted for the font itself to be moved from the front of the church near the St. Joseph altar to the rear entrance and placed amid a specially designed medallion with an eight-sided motif. Each of the four sides is embellished with fleur-de-lis crosses – stylized lilies, another nod to the church's patron saint.

Throughout the renovations, Father Lapp was determined that the parish should "put our best foot forward" and consider renovations that would last for generations, not merely changes offering only short-term solutions. He is aware he is merely a steward of the church, safeguarding it for future generations. There is always more work that could be done to care for the church building, and he is looking at long-term improvements.

The new flooring is a good start, Father Lapp believes, as it gives the parish a solid foundation – in more than one way – on which to continue the process of beautification. "When all the deferred maintenance is done, I'm going to try to set our sights on a more long-term thing, but really keep our eye on the ball of taking excellent care of what we have received."

"I think people appreciate that



The medallion on the floor before the main altar was designed by Caroline Cole, pastor Father Christopher Lapp and Rich Brubaker, and incorporates symbols representing the church's patron saint.

**RENOVATION, from page 8**

the church is being well taken care of and that beauty is being put as a priority," Cole added. "It kind of represents investing in the Church with a capital 'C' by taking care of the church with a small 'c.'"

None of the work could have been completed without the supportive parishioners who comprise St. Joseph Parish. Father Lapp is pleased with the positive feedback he has received from numerous members of the faith community. "I'm thrilled to have a beautiful, historic church that also has a parish community that can reasonably – not just sustain what we have, but also set our sights on really taking excellent care of and even reclaiming and restoring the beauty that we've maybe seen go by the wayside in recent decades."

His greatest concern during the renovation process was how long the church would need to be closed to lay the floor and complete the pew restoration. The pews had to be taken out and

shipped to New York for refinishing by the Keck Group, which took a total of two months. Mass was held in the gymnasium during that time, and the renovations were completed in time to celebrate the solemnity of St. Joseph back in the church building.

Cole stated, "The first big event back in the church was the Mass in the evening on the feast of St. Joseph, so it was really wonderful to be back in the church and celebrate his feast in the Year of St. Joseph. It had been a year since the pandemic had shut everything down. Last year right before the feast of St. Joseph, we had stopped having Masses, so we weren't able to all celebrate together, so it was extra-special."

Father Lapp is extremely proud of what the parish community has been able to accomplish as well as the elegant church itself. In some ways, he considers the completed work a testimony of what can be done to preserve and upgrade other churches in similar situations.

# New books offer unique perspectives on long road to sainthood

BY TIMOTHY WALCH

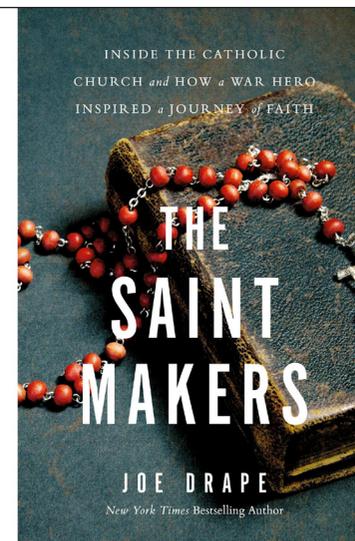
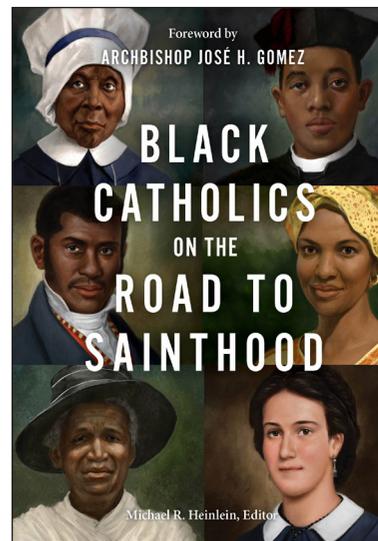
**S**ainthood. It's a matter of faith that Catholics who die in a state of grace join the communion of saints in heaven. Indeed, the Church has codified that recognition in the celebration of All Saints' Day each Nov. 1.

For a few extraordinary Catholics, however, the recognition of sanctity takes a more public form. In a process known as canonization, Vatican officials examine the lives of certain Catholics to determine if they are, indeed, worthy of special commemoration. When the Church is convinced of the truth of sanctity, the pope grants formal sainthood.

The process of canonization can be arduous, so supporters seek to advance these causes through books and articles. Two recent books offer insight into the process; both are informative contributions to an understanding of the canon of saints.

"Black Catholics on the Road to Sainthood" is a compilation of personal reflections issued by the publishing division of Our Sunday Visitor. Editor Michael R. Heinlein focuses on six African American Catholics recognized by the Church for additional consideration.

The six are Pierre Toussaint; Mother Henriette Delille, who founded the Sisters of the Holy Family; Father Augustus Tolton; Mother Mary Lange, who founded the Oblate Sisters



CNS composite/courtesy Our Sunday Visitor, HarperOne

These are the covers of "Black Catholics on the Road to Sainthood," edited by Michael R. Heinlein; and "The Saint Makers," by Joe Drape. The books are reviewed by Timothy Walch.

of Providence; Julia Greeley; and Sister Thea Bowman, a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration.

All six led exceptional lives of service and sacrifice and have been recognized as either "servants of God" or "venerable," the first two steps on the road to canonization. "By their stories of faith and virtue," notes Heinlein, "they show us how to respond to the call of holiness, bringing healing, reconciliation and peace to our wounded nation and world."

This is a timely book that emphasizes the importance and contributions of people of color to the nation and the Church.

The book includes numerous testimonials from prominent Black Catholics as well as a foreword by Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"The Saint Makers" by Joe Drape provides a different approach to canonization. A Jesuit-educated journalist, Drape concentrates on the cause of Father Emil Kapaun, a priest of the Diocese of Wichita, Kansas, and a military chaplain during the Korean War.

Drape begins his journey with

**SAINTHOOD, page 14**



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# Need for kidney transplant strengthens priest's faith

BY DENISE FEDOROW

The power of prayer — even prayer for oneself — has been strengthened anew in Father Robert Van Kempen in recent months after the news came that the beloved priest needs a kidney transplant.

The South Bend native was ordained in 1993 at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend and served at St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne, St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel Parish in Fort Wayne and St. Matthew. He is currently pastor at St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish in Bristol.

He shared that he has been diabetic since 1997, and over the years that disease has taken its toll on his kidneys. "It wasn't until last year that it came to a head," he said.

Father Van Kempen had knee surgery in 2016. Last year, he had surgery on the second knee. Apparently because of the anesthesia and painkillers, his kidneys started to shut down. A few days after the second surgery, he said he was feeling "pretty loopy and confused" and went back to Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center Hospital in Mishawaka. It was discovered his kidneys were shutting down and weren't processing the post-surgery medications: They were all staying in his system, causing his symptoms. He was in the hospital for several days.

He admitted that dialysis was something he didn't want to do. Before the surgeries, he had been going to a kidney doctor every few months and when the suggestion had come that one day he might need dialysis, he didn't want it. He thought that maybe he would have no choice by the time he was 75 or 80, but not in his early 60s.

The doctor and his sister made the decision for him while he was in the hospital. Father Van Kempen admitted thinking, "Oh Lord, now I know you're testing me!" But, he said, "They made a good decision."

Father Van Kempen went three days a week to the DaVita Mishawaka Dialysis Center near Saint Joseph hospital for four hours a day from September until March. Now he's able to do dialysis at home, which is easier, but he needs to be on it for nine hours a night. He said he connects to the dialysis machine around 9 or 9:30 p.m. and remains on it until 6:30 a.m.

"It was challenging at first, but I've gotten used to it," he said.

Once his kidney specialist advised a kidney transplant was necessary, he had to go through a barrage of tests. "Your body has to be strong enough to accept the kidney," he explained.

A physical showed his prostate was enlarged and he had to undergo a heart catheterization.

"That's when my life really



Denise Fedorow

**Father Robert Van Kempen of St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish, Bristol, is in need of a kidney donor. Despite his illness and during the trying time of pandemic, he has seen his faith grow.**

changed," Father Van Kempen said. "I never really prayed for myself. I prayed every day but for everyone else, not myself."

But he admitted he was getting tired. The pandemic had been hard on him, so he turned to God and prayed that his tests would come out OK so the doctors could move forward. It turned out the prostrate was fine, and the heart catheterization found his heart was very strong.

"I thanked the Lord a lot! The power of prayer is really amazing," he said. "This reiterated that for me."

## Strengthened faith

Father Van Kempen said his prayer life had always been good. Besides the Liturgy of the Hours and Mass, spending quiet time in prayer with the Lord and the rosary had always been a part of his daily prayer life.

"I've always been more of a private person in my prayer life — not 'standing on the corner' as they say, but with the pandemic we lost so much. I lost interactions with parishioners at Mass, interactions with staff, and it drained me. I didn't have the connections I normally have," he shared. "That was reflected in my prayer life — it changed and got kind of dry," he said.

But one morning it hit him that he'd been in a dark place for a while. "I realized I need to stop it. I have to be positive and upbeat — it's been a good change in my life and has helped

"I started praying for myself; started giving everything over to the Lord. With the prostrate and heart coming out perfectly it really renewed my belief in the power of prayer," he said.

"I said, 'Lord, whatever you plan, I'm here and I accept it. If I get a kidney, that'd be great — if I don't, I'll continue dialysis. But I trust the Lord will get me a kidney.'"

"Faith and trust in God. You'd think being a priest I'd have that anyway but sometimes even we doubt," he admitted.

Father Van Kempen has had a lot of people praying for him, too. The Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, his brother priests and people everywhere have told him they're praying for him.

"The number of cards I get from parishioners and friends saying they're praying for me has been very powerful," he said. "The bishop sent a note with a holy card of St. Benedict — the patron saint of kidney disease that was very special. It all adds up."

He also really appreciated Father Henry at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center Hospital. "He came every day to bring me Communion. With COVID, we couldn't have visitors but he was there every day. That means a lot to me, that he came every day bringing me my Jesus."

*"The number of cards I get from parishioners and friends saying they're praying for me has been very powerful."*

FATHER ROBERT VAN KEMPEN

me deal with the pandemic and life in general."

He said he realized that he preached to his congregation that every morning when they get up in the morning, they should thank God, thank Him for the day. "So if I preach this, why aren't I living it?"

He said he knew no one wants to be around someone who is 'woe is me' so even when you're not feeling good, if you say that you are, it helps.

He admitted he was getting a little depressed seeing all the doctors he was seeing. "It was tiresome, and I had to call a priest to cover daily Mass three days a week because my dialysis was 6:30-10:30 a.m. I decided to be joyful, positive and allow the Holy Spirit to come dwell with me," he said.



If someone feels God is calling them to be a living kidney donor for Father Van Kempen, they can visit [iuhealth.org/transplant](http://iuhealth.org/transplant). Click on "living kidney donor" and read through the donor education booklet. There's also a short video. Fill out the donor evaluation form or call 800-382-4602.

Now, Father Van Kempen said he's "feeling great, — I got my energy back, my attitude has changed."

## Donors

Father Van Kempen said he now has a whole team of medical professionals working with him. Aside from his kidney specialist, there's a dietician, social worker, nurses and residents in training. Two nurses are on call 24/7 if he has any questions. He sees his doctor once a month and can call her anytime.

He has a new phone so they can call him if they have a cadaver donor: He'll only have five to six hours to get to the transplant hospital and the drive is three hours long. If there's a living donor, that surgery would be scheduled. He's on the donor list for both.

He said now that he is on the list, he should soon be starting a new medication to stop the body from rejecting a new kidney. The medications need to be started before the transplant.

If someone is considering becoming a live donor for Father Van Kempen, he said they can go online and answer the questions.

Father Van Kempen wants Today's Catholic readers to know he's looking for a kidney donor and would greatly appreciate someone considering being one.

"But more importantly, I want them to know to remain strong in your faith no matter what comes your way, God's there. I've really come to realize He's there to carry us when we can't go on," he said.

"Depend on your faith, grow in faith and trust in Him."



Provided by Abigail Fink

Saint Joseph High School students in theology teacher Abigail Fink's class show off their in-class service project of "blessing bags" for individuals experiencing homelessness. They filled the bags as part of the "Joy of Saint Joe" annual day of service April 20. "It was a privilege to pray for and support members of our community," Fink shared. "In receiving these blessing bags, we hope these individuals can experience the love of God and our Saint Joe family."

## Pandemic doesn't mask joy at Saint Joseph High School

BY KATHY KERSHNER

What is it called when 52 charitable organizations, 932 students, 120 faculty and staff and 23 yellow school buses plan to come together on one scheduled day smack-dab at the beginning of a global pandemic? Joy deferred, maybe?

Like so many excitedly anticipated events of 2020, last year's "Joy of Saint Joe" annual day of Christian service at Saint Joseph High School, South Bend, had to send regrets of cancellation. Joining their entire global family, the students and staff sacrificed their intended works of service for the act of mitigating the spread of the coronavirus instead.

But true to the spirit of their mission, that joy deferred emerged merely as joy delayed because this past April 20, the high school community found its way through the complications of viral mitigation to joyfully serve other local schools and the wider community.

Little did the service event's planners imagine when they went home that fateful day last March that a day scheduled for mid-April would prove to still be a bridge too far for their annual day of service. But, using an in-school modified schedule, individual classrooms became like family by choosing for themselves a customized Christian service project that could be done in the safety of their classroom, or in some cases, in the streets of the surrounding neighborhood.

"For my Joy of Saint Joe project, I went around the blocks surrounding Saint Joe and picked up trash. We walked throughout the street and open yards

"It made me feel like I was a part of something bigger. It made me feel like part of a good, faithful community."

— Luke Kaufold

finding rubbish that people had left behind," recounted senior Olivia Agostino. "When picking up trash I felt like I was making a difference. It made me feel full inside [and] inspired me to continue to do similar activities throughout the local community."

The students heartily braved the surprise April freeze and snow, filling over a dozen bags of trash found in the streets and yards surrounding the high school. They returned wet, cold, but happy.

In other classrooms throughout the school, students delighted in preparing first holy Communion packets, confirmation packets, prayer blankets, hygiene "blessing" bags for men and women experiencing homelessness and myriad other acts and works of mercy and joy.

A scan of the artifacts of the day shows an array of beauty in the artwork and the genuine expressions of prayers and thanks in the form of homemade greeting cards prepared for the retired religious and clergy at Holy Cross Village, as well as cards of congratulations for Catholic grade school children approaching the celebration of the sacraments of holy Communion and confirmation.

Students also created and hung posters of encouragement and affirmation for the Saint Joseph community at large, as well as chalked the sidewalks with such messages as, "Joy!" "Be Happy!" "Thank You

Teachers!" "Our Strength is in the Lord," and "We Got This!" Discussing the need for a day of joy and service, John Kennedy, principal, explained, "Serving others is a way of living our faith and doing God's will as a community. It brings powerful feelings of togetherness, purpose and joy, and is one of my favorite days of the year."

Echoing Kennedy's sentiment, freshman Luke Kaufold described his experience.

"It made me feel like I was a part of something bigger. Working together on projects like this can help build a society by sharing joy and prayers throughout the community which will help people recognize God in their lives. It made me feel like part of a good, faithful community."

Though the annual Joy of Saint Joe service day was abbreviated from its typical full school day to a 90-minute block period, athletic director Deb Brown found it to be of great value, nevertheless.

"I think it's always a necessary good, modified or not. Any opportunities we have to model the joy of service should be encouraged and continued," she explained. "While obviously not the same as a whole day devoted to service, the overall lesson is still realized: There is more joy in giving than receiving."

With the ongoing nature of the pandemic, the uncertainties, the delays and the complete out-and-out cancellations of

the some of the most important moments in students' lives and education, Saint Joseph High School reached higher to help faculty and students alike to discover their gifts in the service of their wider community. The music that flowed from the classrooms, the silly dancing videos that preceded and built anticipation for the day and the very act of joyful collaboration between students and their teachers was a welcome springtime gift to the entire community.

Summarized most succinctly by freshman Luke Kaufold, "performing acts of mercy and joy can help heal and redeem a suffering world by being united in Christ to do His will, which is love and mercy. I think it was easier to 'serve with joy' because I was surrounded by people with the same goal of service."

"When something as important as 'service' is at the core of your mission," contemplated Mary Gallagher, vice principal of academics, "you find time and a way to make it happen." For the Saint Joseph High School community and the recipients of their works of mercy, a joy delayed was transformed to a joy realized and shared.

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## Making memories

I saw an ad on television recently that encouraged the observer to start “making memories” with the device on offer, probably a phone of some kind.

My iPhone has, under its Photos icon, a Memories section that undertakes to do this for me. It mashes random pictures together and sets them to music. I can choose tunes that are “Gentle,” “Chill,” “Epic,” “Dreamy,” etc.

This is a strange idea, “making memories.” But it exactly describes the way many of us go about living our lives.

When Pope Francis visited Washington, D.C., in 2015, I attended an event for him at the nuncio’s residence. On the way in, he stopped to shake some hands, including that of a teenage girl standing next to me.

Instead of shaking the pope’s hand, she did what many young people would do: She turned her back on him, held up her phone and took a selfie of herself and the Holy Father looking at the phone.

When the New England Patriots staged their memorable comeback against the Atlanta Falcons in Super Bowl LI, Fox TV showed a similar incident. The Patriots’ quarterback, Tom Brady, is married to a famous model, Gisele Bündchen, and she naturally had a luxury box.

When her husband engineered the crucial touchdown, the television cameras focused on her. She was holding up her cellphone, shaking her hair and recording herself cheering into the phone.

There’s something out of order about this.

When I was just the age of the girl at the nunciature, my family had an audience with Pope Paul VI. It was in St. Peter’s in Rome, and there was a large crowd. I managed to get away from my parents and up to the wooden barrier where the pope was standing. This was before the age of cellphones, so I did the old-fashioned thing: I shook the pope’s hand.

I have a memory of that incident, more precious now that he has been canonized. It’s in my head, not on my phone, and after 50 years it’s lost some of the surrounding detail. I imagine I can still feel the touch of his hand and the look in his eye.

Fifty years from now the girl at the nunciature will have the advantage of me; her picture of her and Pope Francis will still be sharp — unless, of course, it gets lost in the cloud or the technology changes, as it did with floppy disks.

On the other hand, I actually met the pope. She acted a part in a play about meeting the pope. Her audience was the people who would view her Instagram account. Her emotions were not those of a teenager meeting the pope. They were a version staged for the cellphone camera of what someone might look like who was in a picture with the pope.

So too with Gisele. She wasn’t transported with delight at Tom’s victory over the Falcons. She was posing for the camera and her followers on social media, playing the part of someone who was transported with



JOHN GARVEY

## INTELLECT AND VIRTUE

delight.

In this preoccupation with recording electronic memories, we are missing out on the very experiences we want to share. The picture might be sharper than a recollection, though, to be honest, it leaves out smells and touches. But it can never compare with just living through the moment — the thing you miss when you’re too busy putting yourself on the other side of the camera.

In “De Rerum Natura,” Lucretius observes critically, “Some people sacrifice life itself for the sake of statues and a title.” We make the same mistake in trying to immortalize ourselves on the internet.

John Garvey is president of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

## Sharing abundantly

Every morning, as we wait in the drop-off line at school, my daughter Rose and I share a pack of belVita breakfast cookies.

It’s usually my breakfast, half of it siphoned off by an already fed but quickly growing 3-year-old who is about to have quite a full day in her pre-K classroom. I usually don’t mind sharing.

But lately, Rose began asking if we could bring two packs with us in the morning.

At first, I assumed it was so she could have her own, so I said no. But she kept asking, and then one day, she cleverly sneaked an extra pack into her backpack.

Right as I launched into a lecture about honesty and not sneaking things out of the pantry, Sister Mary Hannah — a Religious Sister of Mercy who teaches at the school — walked past our car. Rose hastily rolled down her window and thrust the extra pack of breakfast bars toward the startled nun.

Sister Mary Hannah chuckled, thanked Rose, and took the cookies, walking off with a big smile across her face.

Beaming, Rose turned to me and said, “See, Mom! I just wanted to share with Sister! Because I love her!”

She just wanted to share. Because generosity, at least in the hearts and minds of little children, is the priority. Especially when you love someone.

With all her gumption and strength, Rose was determined to offer something she enjoyed to a religious sister she sees every day and adores.



KATIE PREJEAN MCGRADY

## WINDOW SEAT WISDOM

We are often told many stories about Sister Mary Hannah at dinner. Funny enough, she teaches the middle schoolers, and yet Rose only seems to have eyes for her.

She tells us about her “fun outfit” (her habit), how she’s really good at playing on the monkey bars (I’d pay big money to see a nun running around the playground), and Rose has more than once told us that Sister Mary Hannah is “the best prayer person I’ve ever seen!”

It’s a pure love for this nun that my daughter has, and one that I deeply admire. A love so great, in fact, that she wanted to share some breakfast cookies with her.

And isn’t that what love asks of us? Love asks that we share.

If we truly care for another, valuing them and honoring who they are, acknowledging their dignity and worth, then we must give to them. Give of our time, give of our treasure. Seek to serve them, in whatever small or big way that is needed.

And it took the persistence, and sneakiness, of my daughter wanting to give cookies to a nun that reminded me that I am not called to be stingy or hardhearted.

MCGRADY, page 13

## Without Christ, we are nothing



MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

#### Fifth Sunday of Easter John 15:1-8

The Acts of the Apostles, once again, furnishes the first reading for the liturgy in the season of Easter.

This weekend’s reading is about Paul and Barnabas. In the story, Paul, who was converted on the road to Damascus and who then spent much time learning about Jesus, attempts to join the Christian community in Jerusalem. The community fears him — not without cause. After all, Paul had been a very strident opponent of the Christian Gospel and he indeed had persecuted Jerusalem’s Christians.

Understandably these same Christians must have wondered

what dark purpose lay beneath Paul’s wish to enter their community. Was he looking for ways to entrap Christians, or to gather ammunition to attack them before the authorities?

Barnabas, already part of the community, spoke for Paul, urging Paul’s admission into the community. Eventually Paul was accepted.

Paul remained in Jerusalem, speaking boldly about Jesus wherever he went. Such fervor was not always appreciated among those not of the Christian fold. Some tried to kill him, but the Christians rescued him by taking him to Caesarea, the Roman capital of the region, a seaport on the Mediterranean located slightly north of modern Tel Aviv. There they put Paul on a ship bound for Tarsus.

Meanwhile, as Acts says, the Church in Palestine was growing and its faith was deepening.

Also, once more this season, the First Letter of John supplies the second reading.

As was the case in the readings for the past weekends, this passage is moving and

compelling in its eloquence. It refers to its readers as “little children.” This form of address, in itself, is highly expressive. Believers, as all humans, are vulnerable. They are weak. They are limited. They are “little children,” but God’s children. God will protect them from peril. Sin endangers them.

St. John’s glorious Gospel provides the last reading.

Last weekend, the Lord gave us the beautiful image of the Good Shepherd. He is our leader. He guides us away from danger.

This weekend, the image is no less telling and descriptive. Jesus is the vine. We believers are the branches. This image was as immediate in its message to the first hearers of these words as was the story of the Good Shepherd. The society in which Jesus lived was agrarian. Viticulture was popular. Everyone knew about vines, and everyone knew what vine growers did for a living.

### Reflection

In last weekend’s Gospel,

Jesus appeared as our guide and protector. In this weekend’s reading, the link between believers and Jesus is revealed. His life is within believers. He is bonded with believers. Without Christ, they can accomplish nothing. In Christ, they can live forever.

The key to this wonderful relationship is our willingness to love the Lord. His love for us is uncompromising, constant and complete.

Our love requires absolute trust and commitment.

Achieving this supreme level of love means recognizing the Lord and setting nothing above our desire to be disciples. Paul is a good model. After despising Jesus, he changed his heart, completely, totally.

The image of the vine is useful. Branches die if cut from the vine. Christians die spiritually if cut from the vine, which is Christ. The tragedy in this case is that some willingly cut themselves away from the vine. The blade is voluntary sin.

To look again to Paul as a model, he indeed was

converted. The process was not instantaneous. Elsewhere Acts speaks of his intense study and reflection as he sought to learn about Jesus. For him, discipleship was no solitary experience. He wanted to be part of the Church. Once converted, Paul wholeheartedly turned to Jesus.

A secondary lesson is about evangelization. Barnabas reached out to Paul to bring him into the community.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Acts 9:26-31 Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 1 Jn 3:18-24 Jn 15:1-8

**Monday:** 1 Cor 15:1-8 Ps 19:2-5 Jn 14:6-14

**Tuesday:** Acts 14:19-28 Ps 145:10-13b, 21 Jn 14:27-31a

**Wednesday:** Acts 15:1-6 Ps 122:1-5 Jn 15:1-8

**Thursday:** Acts 15:7-21 Ps 96:1-3, 10 Jn 15:9-11

**Friday:** Acts 15:22-31 Ps 57:8-10, 12 Jn 15:12-17

**Saturday:** Acts 16:1-10 Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5 Jn 15:18-21

# 'Hello World!': advice for grads from a curious Catholic

George Corrigan never met a person who didn't fascinate him. The delivery guy. The plumber. The barista. He wanted to know their names and their life stories, which came tumbling out when he flashed his megawatt smile and asked his earnest questions.

His love of humanity flowed from his love of God, culminating each day at noon Mass. "Going to Mass every day was a binding element for the many parts of him," said his daughter, Kelly Corrigan, who called him Greenie.

You could count on Greenie to sing his heart out – whether or not he knew the words. He delighted in serving as a eucharistic minister. And the sign of peace set his heart aflutter. "I think that can be a worldview," Kelly said.

That worldview now feels antiquated, dating way back to the pre-COVID days, when hugs and handshakes could be given freely and six feet, readily shattered.

Social distancing would have been unfathomable to Greenie, a Villanova, Pennsylvania, native who worked as an ad man and a high-school lacrosse coach.

Every kid on the team was "a great guy" or "one of the all-time greats," his son George said in an interview. "[Greenie] would give every person he met his best. If someone wanted to talk with him for an hour, he'd give them one hour. Because people knew that he cared on such a real level and he was always rooting for you – this was the

magic he brought to every one of his relationships."

It was evident on Feb. 28, 2015, when more than 700 people showed up at Greenie's funeral Mass at the Villanova University main chapel. At 84, he had died after a battle with bladder cancer.

Now the philosophy that brought Greenie so many friends is encapsulated in a children's book and ready for any graduate.

Kelly, a well-established and best-selling memoir writer, decided to switch gears and pay tribute to her dad in a different format. The result: "Hello World!" a bright picture book published last month by Penguin Random House's new imprint Flamingo Books.

Writing for children provided a creative challenge for the 53-year-old California mom of two. She tested out an early draft by reading it to her friend's classroom of 5-year-olds. They gobbled up the zany parts and inspired Kelly to "be weirder."

"I was leaving a lot on the table," she said. "It gave me permission to be more myself."

Kelly added to the alliteration with quirky new bits, like an old lady who reveals: "I dreamt I was playing the banjo on a balance beam made of bacon."

This revelation, and many others, spring forth because the protagonist makes like Greenie and asks questions.

"There's more to everyone than you think," Kelly writes. "So how will you know? You'll ask."



## TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

She provides conversation-starters: "What do you know? And how do you know it?" "What do you want? And why do you want it?"

It's a twist on "Oh, the Places You'll Go!," Dr. Seuss' perennial graduation gift. Greenie's version is "Oh, the People You'll Know!"

Those connections are what make life meaningful, Kelly said. It's an approach that is inherently Catholic, honoring the dignity and worth of each person, and is also urgently needed, enabling us to overcome the sharp societal divisions that mark our times.

"Greenie had a deep trust that the world was fundamentally a good place, and I think that trust was continually reinforced by going to daily Mass," Kelly said. "If you do something every day that's orienting you toward the greater good and toward humility, you can't help but feel a certain security in the world and a certain optimism."

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

### MCGRADY, from page 12

ed to those I love.

In fact, it reminded me that the love I am called to have for every single person is meant to be a generous love, a self-giving love, a love that responds and acts for their good.

It's a love that doesn't just ask, "What's the bare minimum required of me in this moment?" But instead, a love that pours out: to build up, aid and care for others.

We often limit the love we give. We are not abundantly generous. We barely give. We offer leftovers, scraps or what we

think we don't need. On more than one occasion, I've thought, "I couldn't possibly give this or that. ... I don't have enough of it myself."

And yet, Jesus tells us to give of our first fruits, not the mere leftovers. The widow, who offers her only two coins is more faithful — loves the Lord more — than the wealthy man who drops in his spare change.

Rose didn't want to give Sister Mary Hannah a piece of her cookies. She wanted to offer her an entire pack, all for herself. Sister Mary Hannah was worth that to her. A whole pack. And I was the one keeping her from

giving her that.

How often have I done that? How often have I held back, from pouring out and pouring into those in need, those with less than me, even those who perhaps just want a chance to be seen, heard and cared for by me?

As we celebrate the Easter season, perhaps we take intentional time to look for ways we can give, even if it means sneaking an extra pack of cookies out of the pantry.

Katie Prejean McGrady is an international Catholic speaker and author.

## ST. DOMITIAN OF MAASTRICHT

FEAST: MAY 7  
DIED: 560

French by birth, Domitian became the bishop of Maastricht, in the Netherlands, and had a prominent role at the synod of Orleans, France, which refuted heretical errors. He evangelized in the Meuse River area of Europe's Low Countries, converting people and founding churches and hospitals. He prophesied a plentiful harvest to spur almsgiving, and one legend has him slaying a dragon that had poisoned the water supply of Huy, Belgium. His relics are still venerated in a church there, and he is remembered in a procession to a local spring.



## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for May 2, 2021

I John 3:18-24/ John 15:1-8

Following is a word search based on the First Reading and Gospel for the Fifth Sunday of Easter, Cycle B, about Jesus' devoted love. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

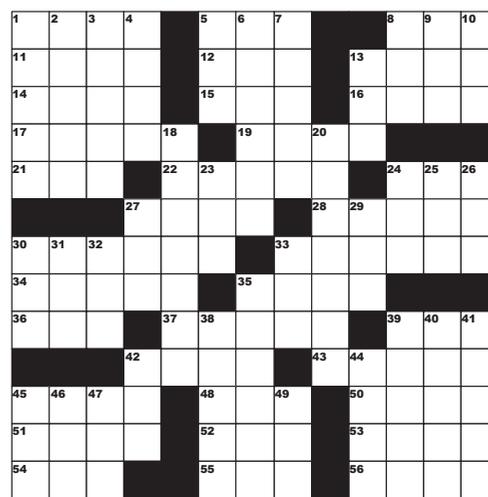
- |             |             |              |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| CHILDREN    | SPEECH      | IN DEED      |
| TRUTH       | REASSURE    | OUR HEARTS   |
| KNOWS       | PLEASES HIM | JESUS CHRIST |
| ONE ANOTHER | THE SPIRIT  | GIVEN        |
| TRUE VINE   | FATHER      | BRANCH       |
| FRUIT       | PRUNES      | UNLESS       |
| THROWN      | FIRE        | BECOME       |

### GROWING

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

## The Cross Word

May 2, 9 and 16, 2021



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Readings: Acts 9:26-31; 1Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8 and Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1Jn 4:7-10; Jn 15:9-17 and Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Mk 16:15-20

### ACROSS

- 1 Italian for "Pope"
- 5 And so forth
- 8 Down town
- 11 Persia
- 12 Thai
- 13 Type of stereo sound
- 14 "The \_\_\_ sheep"
- 15 "Blessed \_\_\_ thou"
- 16 "\_\_\_ this rock"
- 17 Host
- 19 Appointed disciples
- 21 Telegraphic signal
- 22 Hesitate
- 24 "\_\_\_ of Galilee"
- 27 Not that
- 28 Wrong
- 30 Dry out
- 33 Connects to the vine
- 34 Moves to music
- 35 Dirt
- 36 Took top prize
- 37 "The Jungle" author Sinclair
- 39 Make lace
- 42 Consumer
- 43 "\_\_\_ was given to each of you"
- 45 Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
- 48 Rescue

- 50 What children learn
- 51 Nasty
- 52 Central processing unit
- 53 Civil wrong
- 54 Wooden leg
- 55 Vane direction
- 56 Periods of time

### DOWN

- 1 Heaped
- 2 Incense's sweet \_\_\_
- 3 Greek for "Passover"
- 4 Stake
- 5 Estimated arrival time
- 6 Saul was from here
- 7 Uses as a reference
- 8 Leg joint
- 9 Flying saucer
- 10 Container
- 13 Hovel
- 18 Where Ephesians lived
- 20 Approaching
- 23 What we breath
- 24 Offense
- 25 Key on keyboard
- 26 \_\_\_ Wednesday
- 27 Scriptural "your"
- 29 Bad (prefix)
- 30 West southwest
- 31 The other half of Jima
- 32 Summer skin color
- 33 Ghost sound
- 35 Removes paint
- 38 "The bond of \_\_\_"
- 39 Ascension mountain
- 40 Capital of Ghana
- 41 Tries
- 42 Ashes pot
- 44 KPH
- 45 Sports official
- 46 Bishop's responsibility
- 47 Droop
- 49 Owed

Answer key can be found on page 15

# PRINCIPAL

## St. John the Evangelist Catholic School

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Application Deadline: May 15, 2021

**SAINTHOOD, from page 9**

as a parish priest in Kansas and as member of the Chaplain Corps. With the onset of the Korean conflict, Father Kapaun joined the 1st Cavalry Division on the field of battle.

On the evening of All Saints' Day, 1950, Father Kapaun and other members of his battalion were captured by Chinese troops. Even though he was a prisoner, Father Kapaun never stopped being a priest; his bravery and leadership provided great solace to his fellow prisoners.

Father Kapaun carried on for the next several months but shortly after Easter his health declined. He was malnourished and a blood infection put his life in peril. Dysentery further compounded his suffering, but still he ministered to his men. The Chinese took him away on May 21 and two days later he was dead. The body was dumped in a mass grave without ceremony.

Although gone, Father Kapaun was not forgotten among Korean War veterans and

they worked tirelessly to bring his heroism to public attention after the war. Their penultimate achievement came when the priest, who held the rank of captain, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor April 11, 2013.

Father Kapaun's legacy of compassion also led to another honor. For several years, Church officials in Wichita compiled documentation on Kapaun's life and sanctity. This effort led to Father Kapaun being declared a "servant of God" in 1993.

The balance of Drape's book traces the campaign to take the cause to the next stage and convince the pope to declare Father Kapaun to be "Venerable." This effort required additional research and the employment of a special canon lawyer to plead the cause. Drape traces this effort up to March 20, 2020, when Kapaun's documentation was to be presented formally to the Vatican.

*Walch is a historian of American Catholicism and the author of "Parish School."*



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

**Little Flower Holy Hour**

**FORT WAYNE** — Little Flower Holy Hour for Vocations will be Tuesday, May 4, from 7-8 p.m. at the St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel, 1102 S. Clinton St. The May holy hour will be led by Father Andrew Budzinski. Contact Christine Nix at 260-422-4611.

**Way of St. Joseph pilgrimage**

**MISHAWAKA** — Celebrate the Year of St. Joseph by participating in a family-friendly walking pilgrimage from St. Joseph Church, Mishawaka, to St. Joseph Church, South Bend, on Saturday, May 1, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. The Way of St. Joseph will begin at 9 a.m. at St. Joseph Church, Mishawaka, wind its way along the Riverwalk, and eventually end up at St. Joseph Church, South Bend. There will be three other on-ramps along the way. The event will end with a prayer service, food and fellowship in the fenced-in parking lot and playground at St. Joseph Parish. The event is free, but registration is strongly recommended. For more information and to register, visit [diocesefwsb.org/joseph-pilgrimage](http://diocesefwsb.org/joseph-pilgrimage).

**Springs of Hope: virtual Mother's Day retreat**

**FORT WAYNE** — This retreat is for all who long for motherhood. Whether you are experiencing primary or secondary infertility, miscarriage or loss, a diagnosis or unexplained and everything in between, this retreat is for you. Live and pre-recorded talks will explore "Belonging: To Christ in Marriage and in our communities." If you are carrying the cross of infertility, you are not alone. Free registration opened April 11. Visit [www.springsinthedesert.org](http://www.springsinthedesert.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.

**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](mailto:youthministry@queenofangelsfw.org). Visit [www.queenofangelsfw.org/youth-group](http://www.queenofangelsfw.org/youth-group). Contact Samantha Reitman at 260-704-4571 or [youthministry@queenofangelsfw.org](mailto:youthministry@queenofangelsfw.org).

**The CrossWord**  
May 2, 9 and 16, 2021

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

## REST IN PEACE

**Angola**

Roswitha M. Munger, 85, St. Anthony of Padua

**Fort Wayne**

Patricia Bader, 75, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Betty Boedeker, 91, St. Charles Borromeo

Betty Doyle, 91, St. Jude

Mary Gillig, 89, St. Jude

Larry Lee, 79, St. Charles Borromeo

Frances McCormick, 76, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Jovony Schrensky, 59, St. Vincent de Paul

Jeffrey Woods, 31, St. Charles Borromeo

**Huntington**  
Sister Millicent Peaslee, OLVN, 100, Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel

Nelson L. Yentes, 94, SS. Peter and Paul

**New Carlisle**  
John A. Miller, 85, St. Stanislaus Kostka

**South Bend**

Helen Diltz, 98, St. Matthew Cathedral

Brian Hipskind, 50, St. Matthew Cathedral

Ann Rospopo, 83, St. Casimir

**Walkerton**  
Phillip Braun, Sr., 77, St. Patrick

**Deaths elsewhere**  
Sister Mary Patricia Cummings, 96, Church of the Immaculate Conception

Sister Mary Patricia served at St. Jude School, Fort Wayne



The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception has an opening for parish secretary

Applicant should be a motivated and organized person who has a love for the Catholic Church. Responsibilities include answering doors, phones and emails, weekly publication of the parish bulletin, data entry, updating the website and other miscellaneous duties. Training provided and computer skills required. Part-time schedule is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday thru Thursday.

Interested applicant should submit resume online at [diocesefwsb.org/careers](http://diocesefwsb.org/careers) or send resume to Father Jake Runyon at [jrunyon@cathedralfw.org](mailto:jrunyon@cathedralfw.org).

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Submit your event at [www.TodaysCatholic.org/event](http://www.TodaysCatholic.org/event)

**FAMILY, from page 1**

zombies.

"Like everyone, we were unprepared for this long period of living together without leaving the house" except to go grocery shopping, she said. "We all had to have a lot of patience."

"But looking back, it really was a strong moment of learning for both of us as parents and for our children. We had to learn how to be generous, for example, in sharing computers" and everyday chores, which grew with everyone home for every meal — "all seven of us there for breakfast, lunch and dinner!"

The triplets became "exceptional cooks," she said. But as a mom, "at the beginning I had to learn to close my eyes" to the mess they created. "Now, instead, they have become very good, because I explained to them the greatest cooks leave the kitchen clean!"

The children understood the challenges of lockdown, she said, "but also the opportunity that it gave us to all be together and dialogue and play."

And, with two widowed grandparents living on their own, the children also stepped up to ease their loneliness, making sure they received a phone call from at least one grandchild every day.

In "Amoris Laetitia," Hillis said, Pope Francis wrote repeatedly about "manifesting generous love as parents and spouses, and this pandemic year has challenged me to live out this calling to generous love more than ever before — not always, or even often, successfully."

The pandemic period has been "a year characterized by disorder and anxiety, but it's also been a year when we've come together as a family and spent more time

together than ever before," he said. "That came with challenges, but it also came with tremendous grace."

Another lockdown discovery that Gambino and her husband are committed to continuing is "building community with other couples," something that began with friends on Zoom, not just as a "pastoral" exercise but as an opportunity to chat and to share.

"We discovered how vital it is to build a community with other families, especially when you are experiencing difficulties or going through a tough time," she said. "Talking with other families, sharing those challenges and ideas for dealing with them — it was a real breath of fresh air. This must continue through the parish."

Priests around the world showed concern for families by celebrating liturgies online, organizing Zoom meetings and sending family prayer suggestions to parishioners' homes, she said. But many of them also need to learn to welcome families as leaders in the outreach to other families — "to embrace 'family' as an ecclesial style" — with everyone pitching in, celebrating their different talents and caring for people in need.

"On this, there is still work to be done," Gambino said, because for so long, the priest was seen as the guide and he tried to "drag" everyone else along.

The "Amoris Laetitia" Family Year, she said, should help Catholics discover that the pope's document is about real families and has suggestions for how all Catholic families can be witnesses of the joy and beauty of marriage and family life — challenges and all.



CNS photo/courtesy of Gregory K. Hillis

**Gregory K. Hillis, a professor of theology at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky, takes a selfie with his wife, Kim, and their sons Isaac, Leo and Sam. Hillis spoke with Catholic News Service about the "Amoris Laetitia" Family Year, which opened March 19. The year is an opportunity for Catholics to read Pope Francis' 2016 document and discover its reflections on family life.**

**WAY OF ST. JOSEPH  
PILGRIMAGE**

**MISHAWAKA — SOUTH BEND**

**Saturday, May 1 at 9 a.m. Visit [diocesefwsb.org/joseph-pilgrimage](http://diocesefwsb.org/joseph-pilgrimage)**