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TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

National Shrine to host worldwide praying of the rosary

BY RICHARD SZCZEPANOWSKI

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception will host a recitation of the rosary on Monday, May 17, at noon (EDT) as part of Pope Francis' call for a worldwide marathon of rosaries for an end to the COVID-19 pandemic.

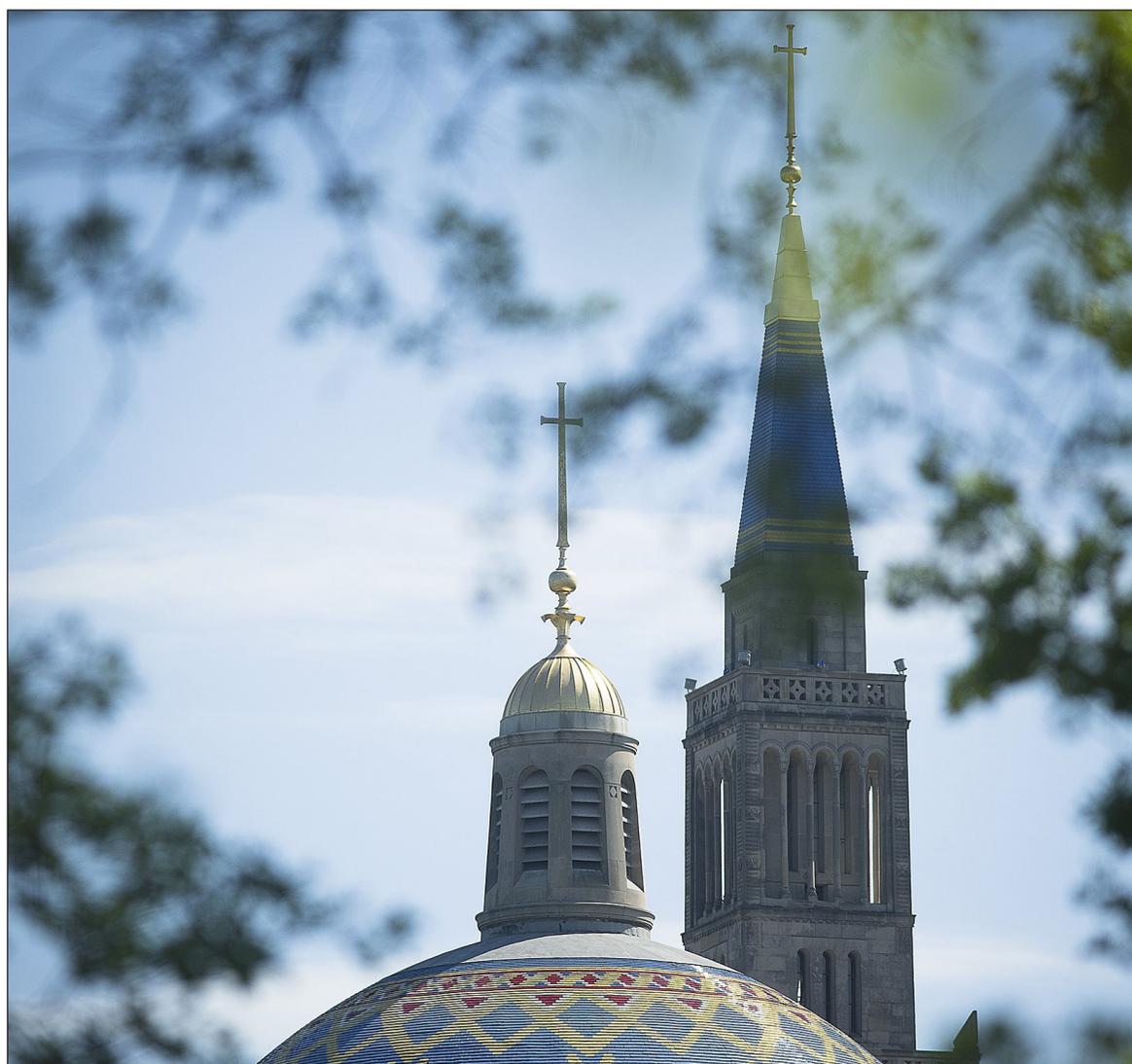
Each day during May at noon, the rosary will be prayed from a different Marian shrine around the world. Pope Francis began the rosary marathon May 1 at the Vatican and will conclude it there on May 31.

Washington Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory will lead the recitation of the rosary at the basilica May 17.

"It is an honor for us to participate in this important initiative of the Holy Father as he invites the world to offer this great Marian prayer asking God, through the intercession of Our Lady, to bring an end to the pandemic," said Msgr. Walter Rossi, the basilica's rector.

Last month, the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization announced the worldwide rosary marathon during May, which is traditionally devoted to Mary.

"Dating back to the Middle



CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington is seen May 2, 2020.

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Bishop appoints Father Matthew Coonan vicar for clergy

BY JODI MARLIN

Father Matthew Coonan has accepted an appointment by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades to be vicar for clergy, a position that has been added to the curia of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Father Coonan, who will remain pastor of St. Therese and St. Henry parishes in Fort Wayne, will assume the additional responsibility June 15.

"After a long period of consultation and reflection, Bishop Rhoades has decided to make these changes to the structure and personnel of the diocesan curia in order that the curia may better serve the needs of the par-



FATHER
MATTHEW
COONAN

ishes, the clergy and the ministries in which the diocese directly engages," said Father Mark Gurtner, vicar general of the diocese. As episcopal vicar for clergy, Father Coonan will assist Bishop Rhoades in supporting, strengthening and sanctifying the priests and deacons of the diocese, acting in service and governance regarding the ongoing formation of priests and deacons through presbyterate days, annual continuing formation days, retreat, days of

recollection and sabbaticals. He will work with vocations director Father Andrew Budzinski to oversee the Office of Vocations and together support, encourage and assist the formation and ministry of diocesan seminarians and priests.

Father Budzinski expressed anticipation for working with Father Coonan, a longtime friend, "true brother priest, and skilled collaborator."

Canon law provides for the appointment of episcopal vicars in specific parts of the diocese, over certain affairs or over the faithful of a specific rite. The actions of the vicar for clergy should be in conformity with the directives and intentions of the

bishop.

Father Coonan is a former assistant director of vocations, having fulfilled the role under former director of vocations Msgr. Bernard Galic. He will manage and lead the mentoring program of recently ordained priests, the Deacon Community Council and the program of formation of permanent deacons. As the episcopal vicar for clergy, he will serve on the bishop's cabinet and as a member of the Presbyteral Council, Diocesan Review Board, Priest Personnel Committee and the Priest Retirement Board.

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PUBLISHER: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Editorial Department

PUBLICATIONS MANAGER: Jodi Marlin
STAFF WRITER: Jennifer Barton
PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan
NEWS SPECIALIST: Mark Weber

Business Department

BUSINESS MANAGER: Jennifer Simerman
BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION: Geoff Frank
circulation@diocesefwsb.org
BUSINESS SALES MANAGER: Erika Barron
ebarron@diocesefwsb.org

Website: www.todayscatholic.org
260-456-2824

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editor@diocesefwsb.org

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COVID-19 takes toll on Indian Church leaders

BY ANTO AKKARA

THRISSUR, India (CNS) — Amid thousands dying daily of COVID-19, even in rural areas of India, the pandemic has taken a heavy toll on Church leaders.

Dozens of priests, scores of nuns and hundreds of laypeople have died during the second surge since mid-April.

Bishop Basil Bhuriya, 65, of Jhabua became the first serving bishop victim of COVID-19 when he died at St. Francis Hospital at Indore May 6. Retired Archbishop Antony Anandarayar of Pondicherry died of COVID-19 May 4.

"We lost a young bishop ordained only five years ago," Archbishop Leo Cornelius of Bhopal, who heads the Madhya Pradesh Council of Catholic Bishops, told Catholic News Service May 7 while returning from the funeral of the Bishop Bhuriya.

Though Bishop Bhuriya had been treated in different hospitals for more than three weeks and had tested negative for the virus, Archbishop Cornelius said, he had a problem with oxygen levels and died of a heart attack due to the impact of COVID-19.

"We could not take his body to Jhabua (100 miles away) and so, he was buried at the (Divine Word) cemetery near Indore," he added.

"I have lost one of my young priests, two nuns and over three dozen Catholics," Archbishop Cornelius said of the Bhopal archdiocese, which has more than 15,000 Catholics. "Most of them died (because of) failure to get hospital admission on time and erratic oxygen supply in the hospitals."

The first big headline with the deaths in the Church came April 17, when five Jesuits died in different parts of Gujarat state. This was followed by the death of 14 priests due to COVID-19 in different parts of India April 19-23, Matters India reported.

Among the dead were former vicar generals and provincial superiors of different congregations and nuns working in Catholic hospitals and other institutions.

On April 25, Msgr. Prasan Pradhan, vicar general of Bhubaneswar archdiocese, died of COVID-19.

The Archdiocese of Thrissur was stunned when half a dozen retired priests died of COVID-19 May 1-2 weekend. All of them were infected at the archdiocesan convalescent home, situated in the compound of archdiocesan medical college.

Redemptorist Father Mathew Abraham, director general of Catholic Health Association of India, told CNS, "Due to shortage of oxygen and ventilators, several of our hospitals are not able to treat COVID patients."

"Some doctors and nurses



CNS photo/Amit Dave, Reuters

People lower the body of a man who died of COVID-19 into a grave at a cemetery in Ahmedabad, India, May 3.

are not willing to work (in) the COVID ward. Hence sister-doctors and sister-nurses are working throughout the night and day," said the priest, who had been hospitalized and has recovered from COVID-19.

Several state high courts have criticized federal and state governments for failure to provide adequate oxygen supply for hospital patients.

The government death toll passed 3,920 May 6. Media reports say the government death toll is underreported because it excludes counts from cremation grounds.



A statue of Christ is pictured over the casket of a person who died after contracting COVID-19 before the burial at a graveyard in New Delhi April 29.

CNS photo/Adnan Abidi, Reuters



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Struggle, perseverance, formation mark 2nd graduating class since COVID

BY NICK HANKOFF

The pandemic and protocols that came with it brought about unexpected frustrations as well as unity and renewed faith for graduates of diocesan high schools and colleges, and the spring of 2021 saw the second graduating class since COVID-19 began upending the typical educational and catechetical experience for students as well as teachers and administrators.

Adilynn Girardot just wrapped her sophomore year at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne. Fortunately, in-person schooling was available the whole academic year. But she served on the school's student activities council, so event planning brought unique challenges and opportunities.

"COVID was hard," she told Today's Catholic. "I'm the most extroverted person you'll ever meet," so the temporary shutdowns and social distancing requirements were trying for her.

Campus events were also canceled — another downside. And the time and energy required to wipe down desks, cut class sizes or move classes into larger places all came at a cost.

Girardot relayed some of the internal struggles she and other students, including the 2020 and 2021 grads, shared. For Girardot, the strength of one's faith appeared to be the biggest factor in determining how a person adapted to the rules put in place.

Girardot reflected and prayed on Psalm 22, for she, too, had initially asked, "Why is God doing this? Why has He left us?"

She now has no doubt God is here, strengthening His children, even if they don't realize it in the moment. For instance, the

USF graduating Class of 2020 members didn't get to walk and receive their diplomas last year, but this year those grads joined in the 2021 ceremony. They were recognized and honored together during a baccalaureate Mass and commencement ceremony May 1, as was appropriate given both classes faced many similar challenges.

USF's head of campus ministry, Justin Aquila, summed up the year as "[striking] a balance that allowed students to engage

"I have been witness to amazing acts of sacrifice, as our students have made sacrifices for the good of others as they have given up proms, commencement ceremonies, socializing, etc.," he told Today's Catholic.

At nearby Saint Joseph High School in South Bend, assistant to the office of student life, Mary Kay Davidson, plainly said that COVID "just stretched us so thin that it is hard to keep our mission and end goals in mind when we're scrambling just to keep our community safe every day."

In Fort Wayne, Bishop Dwenger High School English teacher Stephanie Kromer similarly mentioned the "changing instructions and protocols" that kept people guessing what information was valid and what wasn't.

Dwenger's mission includes four pillars, including an active support for life, which suffered when the March for Life trip to Washington, D.C., was canceled, Kromer said.

"In addition, our school Masses have been completely different and less frequent, which I miss, especially since it provides an important spiritual connection that is a nice break from the classroom," she said.

"The pandemic's effect on education has been extremely profound, making it hard to put into words," Kromer added, noting more students suffering with anxiety and depression.

The diocese's Catholic educators expressed hope that the next school year will bring a more predictable structure and greater unity than even before the pandemic. Their hopes, they said, were grounded in trusting God's will, knowing that sudden changes can come at any time.

inside and outside the classroom in creative ways, while keeping faculty, staff and students as healthy as possible." He witnessed greater student engagement in activities, despite logistical limitations of capacity, as well as more students in need of pastoral care and counseling for heightened anxiety, depression, loneliness and other issues.

From Mishawaka, Marian High School principal Mark B. Kirzeder shared the "profound impact" of the pandemic on his students, staff and faculty; particularly how it "helped us to more fully achieve our mission as a school community," he said.

"I have been witness to amazing acts of sacrifice, as our students

have made sacrifices

for the good of others..."

MARK KIRZEDER
PRINCIPAL, MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, May 16: 2 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw
 Monday, May 17: 5 p.m. — Mass and Blessing for Graduates of Notre Dame Masters of Divinity Program, Christ the King Church, South Bend
 Tuesday, May 18: 3:30 p.m. — Meeting of Indiana Bishops, Catholic Center, Indianapolis
 Wednesday, May 19: 10 a.m. — Meeting of Indiana Catholic Conference, Catholic Center, Indianapolis
 Thursday, May 20: 12 p.m. — Virtual Meeting of Diocesan Finance Council
 Friday, May 21: 4:30 p.m. — Baccalaureate Mass for Holy Cross College, St. Joseph Chapel, Holy Cross College
 Saturday, May 22: 11 a.m. — Diaconate Ordination, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne



Priest assignments

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following assignments of priests, effective June 15, 2021:

Reverend Gregory Abuya, to Parochial Vicar, St. Jude Parish, South Bend, and Parochial Vicar, Sacred Heart Parish, Lakeville.

Reverend Daniel Chukwuleta, from Pastor, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Avilla, to Pastor, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Piercetown.

Reverend Francis Chukwuma, from Pastor, St. John Bosco Parish, Churubusco, and Pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish, Ege, to Administrator, Most Precious Blood Parish, Fort Wayne, while continuing as a judge in Diocesan Tribunal.

Reverend Stephen Colchin, from Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Huntington, to retirement.

Reverend Terrence Coonan, Jr., from Pastor, St. Therese, Little Flower Parish, South Bend, to Pastor, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne.

Reverend Andrew Curry, from Administrator, Most Precious Blood Parish, Fort Wayne, to Pastor, St. John Bosco Parish, Churubusco, and Pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish, Ege.

Reverend Fernando Jiménez, from Pastor, St. Dominic Parish, Bremen, to Pastor, St. Michael Parish, Plymouth.

Reverend Nathan Maskal, from Parochial Vicar, St. Pius X Parish, Granger, to Pastor, St. John the Baptist Parish, New Haven.

Reverend Daniel Niezer, from Parochial Vicar, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elkhart, to Pastor, St. Dominic Parish, Bremen, while continuing as part-time Chaplain at Marian High School, Mishawaka.

Reverend Julius Okojie, from Parochial Vicar, St. Jude Parish, South Bend, and Sacred Heart Parish, Lakeville, to Pastor, St. Therese, Little Flower Parish, South Bend.

Reverend William Sullivan, from Pastor, St. John the Baptist Parish, New Haven, to retirement.

Reverend David Voors, from Pastor, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, to Pastor, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Avilla.

Reverend Thomas Zehr, from Parochial Vicar, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne, to Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Huntington.

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has also made the following assignments:

Reverend Matthew Coonan, to Episcopal Vicar for Clergy, while continuing as Pastor, St. Therese and St. Henry Parishes, Fort Wayne, effective July 1, 2021.

Reverend Geoffrey Mooney, to part-time Chaplain at Saint Joseph High School, South Bend, while continuing as Parochial Vicar at Christ the King Parish, South Bend, effective July 1, 2021.

Reverend Zachary Rathke, C.S.C., to part-time Chaplain at Marian High School, Mishawaka, while continuing as Parochial Vicar at St. Adalbert and St. Casimir Parishes, South Bend, effective July 1, 2021.

Days of reflection, retreat helps students focus on faith

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

High school students in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend participate in annual retreats and days of reflection organized by their schools' pastoral ministry offices. During this school year, however, plans for retreats changed as COVID-19 social distancing protocols had to be implemented.

At Marian High School, Mishawaka, freshmen attend a retreat at the beginning of the school year.

"The theme of the retreat is friendship, and the talks and activities are focused on growing in their friendship with God, Mary, the saints and each other," said Marian pastoral minister Angie Higginbotham. "There are witness talks given by faculty, staff and upperclassmen who are Campus Ministry leaders — a group of students helps lead the retreats by running the activities, facilitating small-group discussions and assisting with behind-the-scenes activities like setting up for Mass."

After each talk, the first-year students have an opportunity for silent reflection and journaling before they participate in small-group discussion.

"For our sophomore retreats, we separate the students by gender," Higginbotham said. "Marian invites Hard as Nails to put on a boys and then a girls retreat. Hard as Nails is run by Justin Fatica and a group of young adult missionaries who are on fire in their faith and passionate about their relationship with Jesus. The retreats focus on encountering Jesus in the good times, but especially during hardships."

Junior retreats at the high school focus on being men and women of virtue and are also separated by gender. The senior retreat is about gratitude and



Photos by Joshua Schipper

A team of junior class students at Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, participates in a recreational activity outside during their retreat day in April.

reflecting on the students' time at Marian.

Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, has developed its retreat program over the past nine years.

"Initially, these 'days of reflection' were broken into four parts. We would have half of the ladies for a morning and then the other half for the afternoon and then repeat the following day for the guys," said pastoral minister Jason Garrett. "It has evolved into most recently hosting all the ladies in the morning and then all the guys in the afternoon. In all attempts throughout, we have always included Mass, adoration and



Chaplains Father Patrick Hake and Father Thomas Zehr celebrate Mass with the Bishop Luers junior class at the end of their day. The courtyard celebration allowed for COVID precautions to be implemented.

the opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation. At times, we have had outside speakers present, and other times we have presented ourselves — the chaplains and or me."

Each grade has a patron saint on whom the retreats center, as well as the sacraments associated with each.

"Freshmen themes and presentations center around faith — St. Simon Stock and the Brown Scapular," Garrett continued. "All freshmen are enrolled in the Brown Scapular." Sophomore themes and presentations center around devotion and focus on St. Catherine Laboure and the Miraculous Medal. Junior

themes and presentations center around conviction, holding up St. Dominic and the rosary, and senior themes and presentations center around service and focus on St. Juan Diego and the floral gift of roses or carnations in thanksgiving for gifts and guidance received throughout their high school years. All seniors then receive a yellow rose at graduation, and they present carnations to Mary while on retreat at St. Felix Catholic Center in Huntington.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the way the high schools planned this year's retreats. Marian, for example, implemented social distancing measures to pre-

vent the spread of the coronavirus.

"The safety of our students is our first priority, and we made sure that social distancing was maintained during the retreat. We separated our freshman retreat by gender so we could sit the students 6 feet apart in our main retreat space, which was in our practice gym," said Higginbotham. "All of our retreats were also at Marian this year instead of going to Sacred Heart Parish Center at Notre Dame, in order to avoid having students sit closely together on the buses."

Higginbotham implemented a virtual retreat as well so students could complete their reflection online.

"We livestreamed the witness talks and Mass, and then they had their own online small group over Google Meet led by a teacher," she said. "Our sophomore retreat also had to be rescheduled from October to March because we went into the hybrid model of learning."

Although Marian had to adjust its retreat program due to the pandemic, Higginbotham still views the school year's retreats positively.

"Even though we needed to make some adjustments, the students were able to encounter God through prayer and the sacraments and grow as a class."

Saint Joseph High School, South Bend, opted to forgo retreats and days of reflection this year due to the challenges of the pandemic and havoc it wreaked on in-person learning and school schedules.

Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, was successful in implementing an outdoor courtyard Mass among the events for a school day of reflection. Pastoral minister Nicole Rudolph had postponed the event to the spring, however, when favorable weather would allow students to participate safely outside.

"We had the students stay in small-group pods of three to six to limit and track exposure," Rudolph said, "and we would divide the larger group up and rotate for some of the elements of the retreat for social distancing needs, such as in adoration. We also scheduled it during our last virtual Friday, which gave us more room and freedom to have the retreat on campus."

Maria Solis, a junior who attended the Bishop Luers retreat, said in mid-April that she learned if a person interacts more with God, they will find peace in their life. Solis also mentioned that the day of reflection prepared her for life's chaos by reminding her of "our little bit of silence" that can be found by contemplating the Eucharist.

Although the pandemic forced high schools in the diocese to reevaluate the details, through preparation by dedicated pastoral ministers, students still encountered Christ on these days set aside to focus on Him.

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Indiana court dismisses ex-Catholic high school teacher's lawsuit

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — An Indiana trial court May 7 dismissed the lawsuit of a former Catholic high school teacher in Indianapolis who said he was fired in 2019 because of his same-sex marriage.

Joshua Payne-Elliott, who had been a world language and social studies teacher at Cathedral High School, claimed the Indianapolis archdiocese illegally interfered with his job.

A trial court had initially ruled that the lawsuit could move forward, but the Indiana Supreme Court sent the case back down and authorized the trial court to reconsider.

Luke Goodrich, vice president and senior counsel at Becket, the religious liberty law firm representing the archdiocese, said after the trial court's dismissal that "the government can't punish the Catholic Church for asking Catholic educators to support Catholic teaching."

"This has always been a very simple case," he added, "because the Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed the freedom of religious schools to choose teachers who support their religious faith."

School officials announced in 2019 that it had rescinded the teacher's contract based on the contract's morality clause but according to the lawsuit, when the school renewed Payne-Elliott's annual teaching contract, it did not include the morality clause that a same-sex marriage would violate.

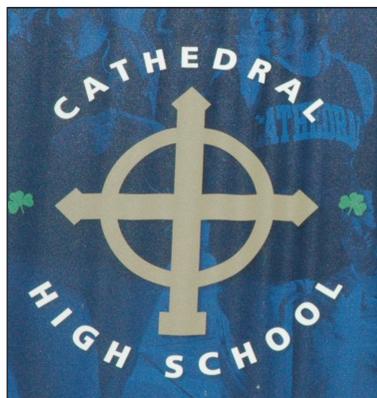
The Indianapolis Star daily newspaper said Lance Hamner, a new trial court judge assigned to the court case, dismissed it, citing two trial court rules but without any other explanation.

"The decision itself offers no reason, no rationale, no basis. We have no way to know how the judge got to the decision," Kathleen DeLaney, the attorney representing Payne-Elliott, told the newspaper. She also said the teacher is considering appealing the decision.

In 2019, the U.S. Department of Justice filed a "statement of interest" in the lawsuit brought against the Archdiocese of Indianapolis by Payne-Elliott. It urged the Indiana court to stay out "of deciding what it means to be Catholic."

"The First Amendment demands that this lawsuit be dismissed," it added.

Two years ago, officials at Cathedral High School, which is affiliated with but not sponsored by the Holy Cross Brothers, explained in a letter to the school community that they had made the "agonizing decision" to follow the direct guidance they had been given by Indianapolis Archbishop Charles C. Thompson and "separate from the teacher" after 22



CNS photo/John Shaughnessy, The Criterion
A banner for Cathedral High School in Indianapolis is seen in this 2018 file photo.

months of "earnest discussion and extensive dialogue with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis about Cathedral's continued Catholic identity."

School officials said they made this decision "in order to remain a Catholic Holy Cross School."

The letter, signed by the high school's president and chairman of the board of directors, said if they had not made this decision, Archbishop Thompson had "made it clear that Cathedral's continued employment of a teacher in a public, same-sex marriage would result in our forfeiting our Catholic identity due to our employment of an individual living in contradiction to Catholic teaching on marriage."

Days before Cathedral High

School fired Payne-Elliott, Archbishop Thompson took away the Catholic status of Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis when the school refused to dismiss a gay employee in a same-sex marriage, Layton Payne-Elliott, the spouse of Joshua Payne-Elliott.

In a news conference after the two decisions were announced, Archbishop Thompson said the issue involving the two schools came down to the Catholic Church's teaching on marriage.

While stressing that "one's (sexual) orientation is not a sin," the archbishop said the issue involving the two schools "is about public witness of Church teaching on the dignity of marriage as (between) one man and one woman. That is our Church teaching."

"In this particular case we're dealing with, those are ministers in our Church. Teachers, guidance counselors, other leaders, leaders of the schools and other leaders in the archdiocese are bound to live out these principles," he said.

In 2019, the Midwest province of the Society of Jesus, which administers Brebeuf, appealed the decree taking away the school's Catholic status to the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education. In late September of that year, the congregation announced it was temporarily lifting the decree until it makes a final decision. A final decision has not yet been announced.



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Biden raises refugee cap but with caveat

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Joe Biden announced May 3 he was raising the historically low refugee cap of 15,000 left by the Trump administration, but he also warned that his administration may not be able to meet the new number of refugees it is seeking to resettle in what remains of the fiscal year: 62,500. In a statement, the president said that while the previous cap set by Trump did not reflect the country's values "as a nation that welcomes and supports refugees," it may be difficult for his administration to meet the new goal. "The sad truth is that we will not achieve 62,500 admissions this year. ... It will take some time, but that work is already underway," he said in the statement. "We have reopened the program to new refugees. And by changing the regional allocations last month, we have already increased the number of refugees ready for departure to the United States." The announcement was aimed at sending a signal, he said, "to remove any lingering doubt in the minds of refugees around the world who have suffered so much, and who are anxiously waiting for their new lives to begin." In November, Biden said during a virtual Jesuit Refugee Service event that he would be heading in a dramatically different direction than the previous administration on refugee admissions and said he would raise the ceiling when he took office to 125,000.

Quintuplets' parents rely on Catholic faith in daily challenges

LANHAM, Md. (CNS) — When Patricia Eze jokes, "I have a full house," she is not talking about a poker hand. On June 25, 2020, she delivered quintuplets at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, Maryland. Those five babies — Chimdi Louisa, Chimezie Lauren, Chinanu Lisa, Sopulu Basil (the only boy) and Chisom Leslie — are believed to be the first set of quintuplets born in the hospital's 58-year history, according to Holy Cross Health. Patricia and her husband Basil Eze, both originally from Nigeria, are also the parents of a 5-year-old daughter, Chinna. Their family marked a special milestone April 25 when the quintuplets were baptized at St. Matthias the Apostle Catholic Church in Lanham, exactly 10 months from the day they were born. Father Canice Enyiaka, also from Nigeria, baptized the babies as they were held by five godmothers, most of whom wore headdresses and colorful traditional African dresses. "Today it is my pleasure to present to you the newest members of this Catholic community, the quintuplets," said the priest, who repeated their names, as the congregation clapped and cheered.

Mass for Asian and Pacific Island Catholics highlights unity of faith



CNS photo/Andrew Biraj, Catholic Standard

Msgr. Eddie Tolentino gives Communion at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Silver Spring, Md., during the Asian and Pacific Island Catholics Marian Pilgrimage May 1. Participating in their 18th annual Marian pilgrimage in the Washington, D.C., area, Asian and Pacific Island Catholics were encouraged to be a "family of families" united in their faith, and to make devotion to Mary and love for Christ central to their homes and an impetus to build a new and better world. The Asian and Pacific Catholic Network organized the pilgrimage and Mass in collaboration with the Asian and Pacific Island Affairs Subcommittee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church and the support of the Archdiocese of Washington's Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach and the Office of Multicultural Ministries in the Diocese of Arlington.

Knights' young adult council leader brings new perspective

SAN DIEGO (CNS) — At 29, Mick Hammock is the young face of San Diego's oldest Knights of Columbus council. Hammock, who serves as grand knight of Council 1349, has brought the passion and perspective of a young adult to his leadership role. His proud association with the Knights of Columbus and its values serves as a convincing rebuttal to anyone who might be tempted to write off the Catholic fraternal organization as some sort of old-timers' club. The num-

ber of younger men who have joined the council over the past year at his invitation testifies to the fact that they too see a place for themselves in the organization. "I know for a fact it's helped strengthen my faith," Hammock said of his involvement with the Knights, and he has found it "unbelievably rewarding" to help fellow Knights deepen their own faith. Council 1349, which was established in 1908 as the first in the region, represents six central San Diego parishes. Tom Davis, president of the San Diego diocese chapter of the Knights of Columbus and a two-time past grand knight of the council, recognized Hammock's potential and asked him last year to con-

sider becoming the next grand knight. "I liked how Mick wears his Catholicism on his sleeve, how he's a leader in our faith first," said Davis, 53, who has been a Knight for 27 years.

Pope thanks health care workers, urges equal access to care for all

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis expressed his gratitude for all those who are committed to caring for the sick and supporting those in great need. "All of us are grateful in these days to those working tirelessly to combat the pandemic, which

continues to claim many lives, yet at the same time has represented a challenge to our sense of solidarity and authentic fraternity," he said in a video message to an online conference on health care May 8. "For this reason, concern for the centrality of the human person also demands reflection on models of health care that are accessible to all the sick, without disparity," he said. The pope's message in Italian helped close a three-day virtual conference featuring more than 100 speakers presenting the latest advancements in medicine and innovative ways to deliver health care as well as discussing their theological, ethical and cultural impacts. Titled, "Exploring the Mind, Body and Soul — Unite to Prevent and Unite to Cure," it was the fifth health care conference organized jointly by the Pontifical Council for Culture, its Science and Faith Foundation and the New York-based Cura Foundation and Stem for Life Foundation, which seeks to promote stem-cell therapy and research.

Catholic actors Mark Wahlberg, Mel Gibson begin film on priest's life

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Filming has begun on "Stu," which tells the story of a Father Stuart Long, a onetime boxer who became a priest and died in 2014. Catholic actors Mark Wahlberg and Mel Gibson star in the project, Wahlberg as the priest and Gibson as his father. Variety, a show business magazine, reported Wahlberg has added a lot of weight to play the role. Gibson's girlfriend Rosalind Ross, with whom he has a 4-year-old son, wrote the script — she's written two other films in the past decade — and is directing her first feature film. Wahlberg is listed as one of the producers of the movie, which has no release date set. "Stu" also features Mexican actress Teresa Ruiz, best known for her work as Isabella in "Narcos: Mexico," and veteran Australian actress Jacki Weaver, known for her role as Bradley Cooper's mother and Robert De Niro's wife in the 2012 film "Silver Linings Playbook." It's not the first time Wahlberg and Gibson have appeared together on screen. In the 2017 comedy "Daddy's Home 2," Wahlberg reprised his role as Dusty from the original, and Gibson played his father — the same relationship to be depicted in "Stu."

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Bishop, cardinal celebrate Mass for confirmation



Provided by Lois Widner

Lauren Davis proclaims the readings as eighth grade students at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish and school, Fort Wayne, celebrate the sacrament of confirmation Saturday, May 1, with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, far right, conferring the sacrament. Cardinal Peter Turkson, from the Vatican, was present for the Mass: Also presiding at the Mass, as well as at a similar April 26 confirmation Mass with Bishop Rhoades, were Father David Voors, left, and Father Stephen Felicichia, center right.

Secular Franciscan permanent professions



Provided by Patti Webster

Andrea Martin, left, and Patti Webster made their permanent professions in the Secular Franciscan Order during the 10 a.m. Mass April 18 at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Angola. Father Robert Showers, OFM Conv., was the celebrant and the ecclesial witness. Katie Herendeen, OFS, minister of the St. Charles Fraternity based in Fort Wayne, received their professions. The Secular Franciscan Order was founded by St. Francis in the early 13th century. The name of the order was changed to the Third Order Secular of St. Francis later in the same century and then by the Holy See to the Secular Franciscan Order in 1978.

Leach honored with American Heritage Girls award

FORT WAYNE — In April, St. Vincent de Paul American Heritage Girls Troop IN3712 presented Magdalene Leach, 18, of Fort Wayne, with the highest recognition available to its girl members: the Stars & Stripes Award. She is the 37th young lady given the honor in Indiana and the second in her local troop. She is the 675th recipient nationally in AHG's 25-year history.



MAGDALENE LEACH

For her project, she chose to work with a wedding and event ministry in Huntertown, From This Day Forward, with which she had volunteered for nearly two years. She saw firsthand the need to renovate the current boutique. FTDF assists brides with selecting the dress of their dreams at significantly reduced cost. They provide event decorations and planning services for the budget-minded and have a garden to hold events. For her project, Leach designed a floor plan, solicited material donations, organized volunteers and installed five dressing rooms and racks for wedding dresses.

She led the volunteers for five days, during which they completed all portions with over 205 service hours tracked.

Leach is a founding member of AHG IN3712 and has served as flag ceremony coordinator and junior troop shepherd. During her time as junior troop shepherd, she collaborated with girls in the troop to write a quarantine prayer and a girl unit prayer.

As a student at Carroll High School, Leach has been active in the Writers Club and Raktivist. She participates in the Ventures Crew and National Youth Leadership Training with Boy Scouts of America. She has been the recipient of the Presidential Service Award for seven years. As a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Leach serves as an Edge Core Member.

After graduation, Leach plans on studying psychology and theology. Her love for Christ will be further nurtured at Saint Mary's of Notre Dame. She is the daughter of Matthew and Pamela Leach.

Superstars of service — Kelly Coyle

BY TAMI DELUCENAY

The oldest of four, Kelly Coyle grew up on the southwest side of Fort Wayne. She was baptized in the chapel at the University of Dayton, where her father was attending law school; the family moved to Fort Wayne and called St. Elizabeth Ann Seton their parish home.

"I received my first holy Communion at St. Elizabeth and prepared for my confirmation there. However, 2000 was a jubilee year so I was confirmed at the Coliseum with hundreds of other young people," shared Coyle.

"Our parents, Tom and Barb Niezer, gave my siblings and me a strong Catholic foundation, which made me just love our church. They told each of us that we had to choose one way to serve the Church other than just attending Mass each week: I played flute in the band at Bishop Dwenger High School, so I chose to play my flute at the 5 p.m. Sunday Mass each week. I loved the music, and it was like a celebration every time I played."

Coyle attended DePauw University in Greencastle and

Youth Ministry Leaders

received her undergraduate degree in education and history.

"I heard of a volunteer program called Operation Teach and applied after graduation. I was sent to Baltimore, Maryland, to teach at an all-girls Catholic school for students in grades 6-12. I taught history, and at the same time received my master's in education."

There were only three male teachers at the school. Coyle shared the homeroom teaching position with one of them, now her husband, Zac. He tells everyone: "One day Kelly just walked right into my life and I said, 'Thank you God.'"

They came back to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton to get married in 2012, then continued to teach in Baltimore a few more

years.

"When we returned, I began teaching religion and loved it. I also had the opportunity to lead local and international service trips. I developed a passion for working with teens and sharing my faith with them, which led me to pursue a new job as a full-time youth minister in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. I worked with two parishes as their coordinator of youth ministry and had two wonderful mentors: The pastor and the director of religious education taught me the joy of parish ministry and inspired me in my service to families and teens," shared Kelly.

The young couple's family began to grow, and the Coyles returned to the Fort Wayne area. Kelly wanted to continue working with teens, so she took a part-time position as youth minister at St. John the Baptist Parish in New Haven. It was a perfect fit for her family's busy life: The Coyle's now have four children: Samuel, 6; Molly, 4; James, 3; and Peter, 4 months.

"One of the discussion questions I like to ask the teens is, 'How is the Holy Spirit working in your life?' Looking back on

Faithful foundation leads to 37-year ministry

BY JEANNIE EWING

Father Stephen Colchin believes that the longer a priest serves at a parish, the more he is able to deepen his relationship with his parishioners and their families and truly accompany them through the ups and downs.

Father Colchin was born and raised in Decatur and went through 12 years of Catholic school before attending college and enlisting in the United States Air Force. After that, he completed courses to become a civil engineer.

While working with the Army Corps of Engineers in Louisville for 4-1/2 years, he passed by St. Meinrad in southern Indiana. "I decided maybe I should attend there," he said. "After a year, I realized I was called to the priesthood."

During his first year studying theology Father Colchin was unaffiliated, which meant he

was not representing a religious order or diocese. He paid his own way.

"My dream was to move back to Adams County, where I was born and raised, and become the county engineer or surveyor," he explained. "As I considered that dream, I also learned that if I continued in my studies, I could join any diocese I wanted to in the United States." He settled on the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, because he felt he could be more effective by "speaking the language" of this region.

Father Colchin was ordained June 9, 1984, by Bishop William E. McManus and assigned to assist then-Father Hession at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne.

"St. Charles was an excellent parish for my first assignment," Father Colchin recalled. "Father Hession instructed me very well. Father Suelzer was also a great influence and was very open in answering my questions." From there he was transferred to St.



FATHER STEPHEN COLCHIN

Thomas the Apostle Parish in Elkhart, where Father Derek Snead introduced him to what would become his most faithful companion as a priest – dogs.

He acquired his first dog, Zach, while he was assigned

his first pastoral position at St. Joseph Parish in Bluffton. Zach accompanied Father Colchin for 11 years while he served the people in Bluffton and at St. Louis, Besancon Parish, New Haven.

"I enjoyed my time in these rural parishes," he reflected, "because I could take long walks with my dog and think things through. The friendly faces and slower pace were refreshing to me." During the challenges of his priesthood, Father Colchin added that his pets have helped him survive loneliness and provided a sense of companionship.

Something that touched Father Colchin during his 37 years as a diocesan priest was when the parish council at St. Louis, Besancon wrote letters to every parishioner, inviting them to donate toward the purchase of a bell that would ring the Angelus three times a day. It made a great impact on him because he had served there for 11 years. "Because I was there so long, the kids who graduated from that parish I had also baptized as infants."

"Every parish has been very welcoming to me," he said. "The rural areas are more neighborly – they want to walk with you, get to know you on a personal level. Both Besancon and St. Rose of Lima Parish in Monroeville had schools. They competed all the time, so there was tension for me, as pastor of both places."

Father Colchin will retire from St. Mary Parish in Huntington.

"Every parish has been so welcoming to me," he said. "The people at St. Mary's have been gracious and kind. I learned that, wherever the Lord sends you, you use your past experience to serve." Because of his civil engineering background, Father Colchin has been able to facilitate the repairs and renovations of some of the parishes and schools where he has been assigned, including St. Mary.

He reflected that every parish offers some challenges, but many more blessings.

"I always take the attitude that if you can leave the place better than how you found it, you've accomplished a lot. At the parish level, you can truly make a difference in people's lives."

Father Colchin is looking forward to retiring from active ministry with a mixture of nostalgia and hope. About 23 years ago, he built a house for his mom to reside in. "The intention was for me to move in with her once I retired," he shared. "I will be able to help her and be close to the parish where I was raised. I know I can help out there when needed."

He believes the most important thing as a priest to remember is this: "Wherever you go there are good people, in every parish. If you express a need, they will typically walk with you and help you through it."

He shared that the gift of loving parents who cared for him and his siblings has been the greatest blessing of his life. He said he feels that what people learn in their families of origin during their formative years is powerful and important.

"When I look back, I realize what an impact and influence my parents have been on my life and priesthood," he recalled. The formation of faith within the family unit and the Christ-like example demonstrated by parents will help Catholic children of future generations discern religious vocations and continue to bring Jesus to those in most need.

Congratulations
on your retirement
Father Bill Sullivan

Thank you for your years of service here at
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. Your impact remains, and you will
always be in our hearts and prayers.

*From the parishioners and staff of
St. Thomas the Apostle
Church and School*



Congratulations
on your retirement

Father Stephen Colchin

*Thank you for all you have done over the years for all of us here and for those
in the community. You will remain in our hearts and prayers always!*



From the parishioners, volunteers and staff of
Huntington Catholic School

Retirement is next step in grace-filled vocation

BY JENNIFER BARTON

One year shy of 50 years in the priesthood, Father William Sullivan will bid farewell to the active ministry. That's not to say that he wasn't honored when the parish council at St. John the Baptist in New Haven, his final priestly assignment, asked him to return next year for his 50th anniversary.

Ordained in 1972, Father Sullivan admitted he was the last remaining member of his graduating class at Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West in Cincinnati, Ohio, the others having passed on or left the priesthood. Looking back on nearly 50 years brings to mind the happy memories of the parishioners he has served, most notably "the joy of being with people on their spiritual walk ... to have been with them from birth to death."

After being ordained by Bishop Leo A. Pursley, Father Sullivan was assigned to St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne. He then taught at Bishop Dwenger High School for four years, additionally acting as chaplain. He went on to serve at St. Joseph Parish, Fort Wayne, then St. Monica Parish, Mishawaka, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Elkhart, and finally St. John the Baptist Parish, New Haven.

He joked that because he is a graduate of Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne, his family disowned him during his four years at crosstown rival Bishop Dwenger. He also joked that he was known as the gym-building priest within the diocese for a time, having supervised the building of the gymnasiums at St. Joseph and St. Monica. Fortunately, St. Thomas had just completed their gym when he arrived, breaking the trend.

Born in Massachusetts and raised in Maine, Father Sullivan has a healthy dose of the Irish

on both sides of his family. His father chose to move to the Midwest to give his five children, of which Father Sullivan was the oldest, a proper Catholic education.

Father Sullivan remembered the dedicated faith life in his household during his formative years. "My dad went to church almost every morning, and I can still see my mom sitting in her chair saying her rosary."

He began his Catholic education at St. John the Baptist in Fort Wayne and became part of the third graduating class of Bishop Luers. He was inspired by the deep spiritual life of the Franciscan priests who taught there at that time.

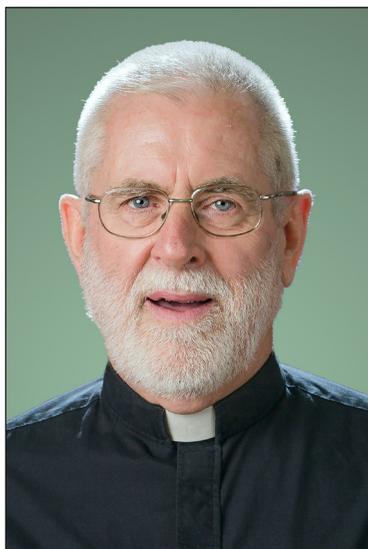
"I told my mother one day — I think I was a junior — 'I'm thinking of becoming a religious brother.'" Her response was, "Why be half a priest?"

Though he had considered joining the Franciscan order, he was accepted by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend instead. On the day of his ordination, he remembers receiving a phone call from a man wanting to speak with "Deacon Sullivan." It was one of his classmates who was ordained earlier that day in Florida, calling to jab at him that he had been ordained a priest first.

The Franciscans might have lost him to the diocese, but one of his former teachers at Bishop Luers, Father Florentine, gave the homily at Father Sullivan's first Mass.

He considers himself blessed to have worked with and been mentored by Father (later Monsignor) Edward Hession and Msgr. William Lester.

"People would call them probably two of the giants of the diocese, and I was fortunate enough to be there with them. You go to their funerals and the places are packed, so you know they made an impact."



FATHER WILLIAM SULLIVAN

He hopes his own contributions have left an impression on the people to whom he has ministered. "I still hear from some people in the parishes. I think as the years go on, those kind of slow down a bit," he admitted, though he recently received a

card from a former parishioner, thanking him for the impact he had made on their family. "That gives you a little zip."

Another joy has been the young seminarians and priests who have been assigned to his parish through the years. "I hope they learned something; I learned a lot from them, too."

For the first 15 years of his priesthood Father Sullivan was also the Catholic Youth Organization moderator and handed out trophies in every sport in 15 years. "That was a joy," he said.

Hospital ministry was paramount in his vocation. When his mother was hospitalized with an injury and her parish priest only visited her once, he vowed to make care of the sick a priority.

While at St. Jude, he ministered at Parkview Hospital across the street. He is planning to resume visits to homebound parishioners again soon.

Of his priestly life, he shared, "I've been with people from

womb to tomb and hopefully been a source of strength for some of them. You know you've made some people happy; you've clashed with a few people. I honestly think I've been trying to do my best, so that's kind of where I am right now."

Father Sullivan's retirement plans include travel and simply being available to those who might need his aid in little ways, along with attending diocesan functions such as ordinations and meetings. When Deacon Michael Ammer, a son of St. John the Baptist Parish, asked Father Sullivan to vest him at ordination, "I was very moved by that. I said I'd be honored."

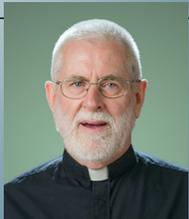
Forty-nine years is a long time to learn, too, and Father Sullivan shared some the advice he has acquired over the years with the young men stepping up to fill his shoes. "Be a man of prayer. ... If you don't have that source, you're empty. There has to be that connection."

Father Bill Sullivan

You have:

- Brought us Christ in the Eucharist.
- Stood in persona Christi to forgive our sins.
- Baptized our children.
- Witnessed our wedding covenants.
- Comforted our loved ones in their last days.
- Laughed with us.
- Cried with us.
- And been the face of Christ to us.

We at St. John the Baptist, New Haven, are forever grateful for your service to our parish community. We know wherever God calls you as you enter into retirement, you will have Him by your side, doing His will.

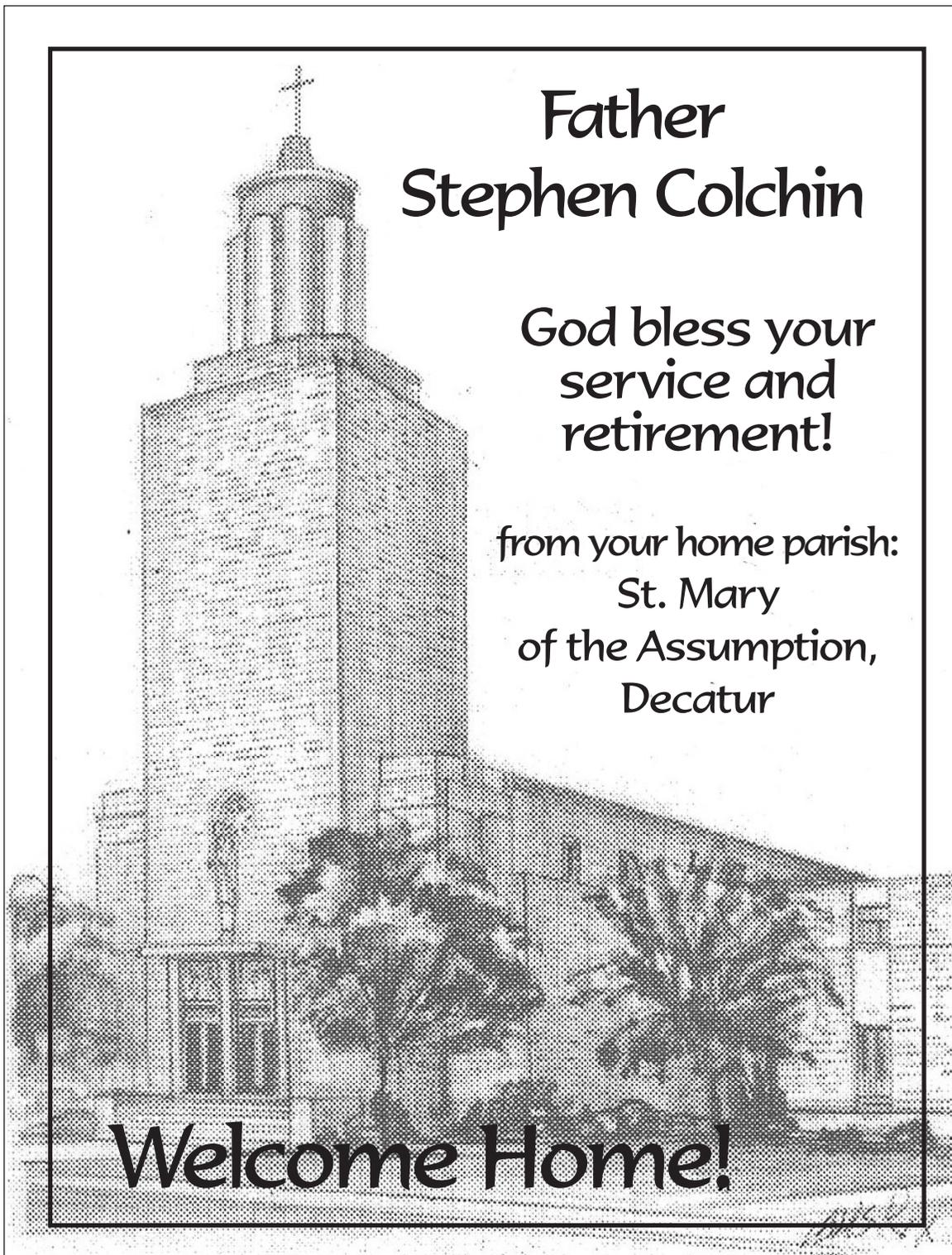


Father Stephen Colchin

God bless your service and retirement!

from your home parish:
St. Mary of the Assumption, Decatur

Welcome Home!



First Communion recipient overcomes obstacle, gives hope to others

BY JANET JONES

COLUMBUS, Texas (CNS) — Carson Crosby, a student at St. Anthony Catholic School in Columbus who received his first Communion this spring, faced a unique challenge.

Carson has a genetic mitochondrial disease that prevents him from consuming food and drink orally. Since his infancy, he has been receiving nutrition through a feeding tube, but the Catholic Church does not allow the Eucharist to be given in this manner.

On April 24, he received the sacrament for the first time with the rest of his class. A fraction of the host was dissolved in a small amount of distilled water, which he was able to tolerate.

"I always knew that this was going to be a topic," his mother,

Jenna Crosby, said.

The family's conversations led to theological discussions that have worked to deepen their faith and Carson's desire to receive the Eucharist.

"He really asks some tough questions about faith," Jenna told *The Catholic Lighthouse*, newspaper of the Diocese of Victoria.

The family discussed the issue with leaders of the Victoria diocese including Bishop Brendan J. Cahill and they also spoke with Charleen Katra, executive director of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability before coming up with the solution of the dissolved host.

Father Augustine Asante, pastor of St. Anthony's, prepared the host for Carson ahead of time and the practice will continue whenever he attends Mass

at the parish.

"God will use him to touch other people's hearts," Katra said. "He's exactly the way God intended him to be, and we have to make sure his faith journey is as joyful as yours or mine."

The National Catholic Partnership on Disability is dedicated to, among other things, training Catholic communities to help people with disabilities have meaningful participation in the Mass and the sacraments.

Katra said people with different needs are often under-represented in the pews and her office is working to change that. The group does assessments and presentations in English and Spanish across the country to help parishes to be more inclusive not only for those with physical limitations but people with autism and mental illness as well.

Christella Alvarez, from the Office of Catechetical Ministry in the Victoria diocese, said the "Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities" says that Catholics who require nourishment through feeding tubes are encouraged to receive holy Communion, as are all the Catholic faithful.

It says that the "norm of receiving through the mouth remains the same for those who otherwise use a feeding tube for sustenance and holy Communion is not to be administered through a feeding tube."

Alvarez said that was the critical point in trying to find a solution for Carson, and Katra, through her experience with another diocese, suggested the dissolved host.

Jenna said as they prepared for first Communion, Carson became less anxious and happy that he was able to receive the Eucharist in a different way. But, she said, he is very empathetic and "in tune with things," so there were also plenty of moments of apprehension for Carson and his family.

She said Alvarez worked with her on trying to figure out what the protocols were, which "nobody really knew," she added.

After the first Communion Mass, Carson said it was easy for him to consume the Eucharist as it was given to him. His prayer before bed that night, Jenna said, was: "I am thankful to Jesus that I was able to receive my first Communion and change the way people like me can do Communion."

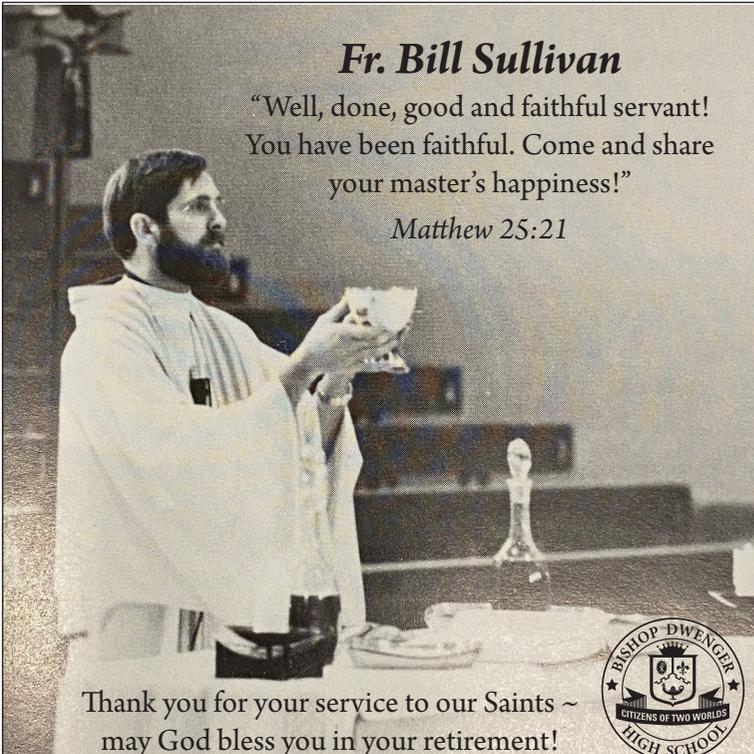
Jenna said she knows Carson is a special blessing and his story will bless others.

"His life has just been very different and is very different," she said, describing him as



St. Peter and Paul Parish
wishes
Father Steve Colchin
blessings upon his retirement.

Thank you
for your leadership
and dedication to the
Catholic community in Huntington!



Fr. Bill Sullivan
"Well, done, good and faithful servant!
You have been faithful. Come and share
your master's happiness!"
Matthew 25:21

Thank you for your service to our Saints ~
may God bless you in your retirement!




Father Stephen Colchin

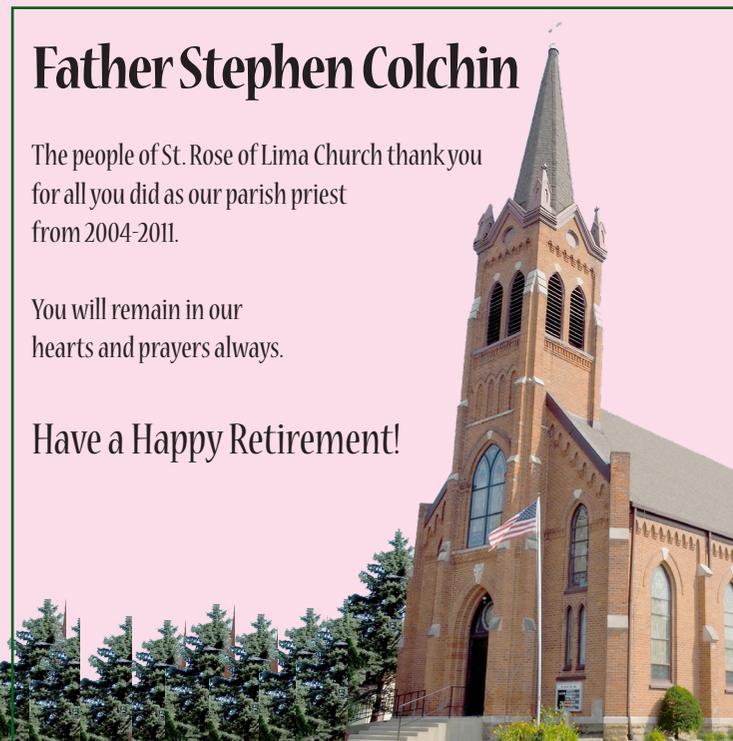
Thank you for your
many years of
service
to our parish!

Congratulations
on your
retirement!

St. Louis Besancon Parish



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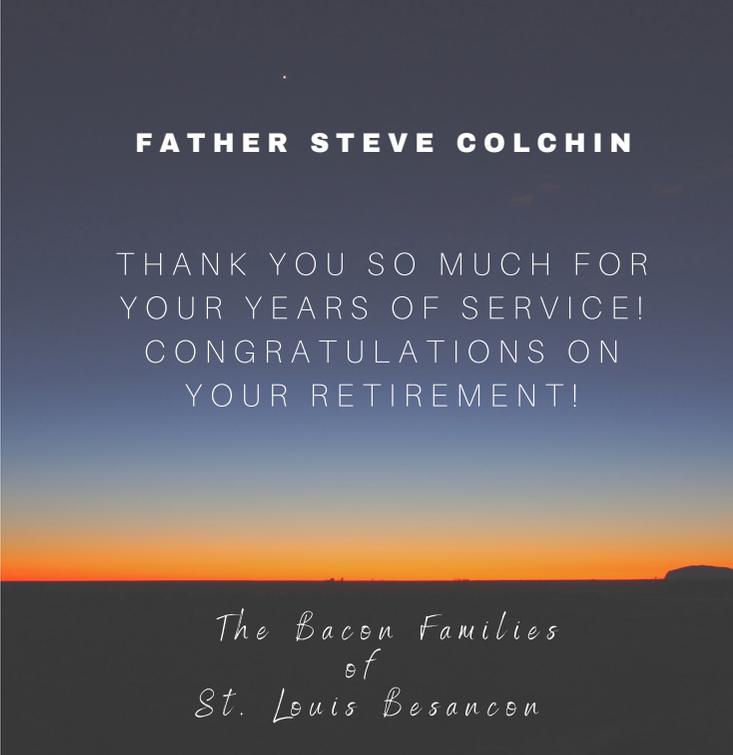


Father Stephen Colchin

The people of St. Rose of Lima Church thank you
for all you did as our parish priest
from 2004-2011.

You will remain in our
hearts and prayers always.

Have a Happy Retirement!



FATHER STEVE COLCHIN

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR
YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE!
CONGRATULATIONS ON
YOUR RETIREMENT!

*The Bacon Families
of
St. Louis Besancon*

LEADERS, from page 7

my own faith journey, I see how the small graces of the Holy Spirit have deepened my faith and filled me with the desire to serve the Church. One of the best things my parents did for me was to encourage me to get involved in the Church: It allowed me to take ownership of my faith and made me feel at home. It taught me that our faith is fun and showed me in a real way the joy that Christ talks about having when we follow Him."

She wants the youth of today to know that getting involved in parish life is one of the best things they can do to strengthen their faith journey. Whether it's through attending their youth group activities, service projects, music or helping with Mass, by staying close to the Church the Holy Spirit will continue to strengthen their faith, she said.

The past year has not allowed Kelly to have as many activities as normal with the teens at St. John the Baptist. However, a few years ago diocesan Director

of Youth Ministry John Pratt heard about Kelly's experience in Baltimore and reached out to her to help develop a Diocesan Youth Leadership team.

DYL is in its second year. Youths from across the diocese are nominated by their parish priest or youth leader to serve, and junior and senior high students are selected by the committee.

"I love seeing the excitement of these young people, who are on fire for their faith," said Kelly. "We help them develop their leadership skills so they can serve their parishes better, connect them to our larger diocesan Church, and give them the opportunity to advocate for young people

and share their stories with others of how God has been present in their lives," she explained.

The youth are responsible for the planning and implementation of several diocesan events, including this year's virtual confirmation retreat and the Diocesan World Youth Day retreat.

"It's so exciting to have representatives from all four diocesan high schools, home-

school youth and youth from our Hispanic parishes. The youth are so important to our Church and their gifts are needed in our parish communities. It is a privilege to work with and for them, to give them a voice at the diocesan level, to help them discover their gifts and to walk with them as they grow in love of the Lord," Kelly shared. "I encourage all teens to be 'the Now of God,' as Pope Francis says, and bring the unique energy and joy that comes from their relationship with Christ forth to their communities."

"I love seeing the excitement of these young people, who are on fire for their faith."

KELLY COYLE

The Coyle family of Fort Wayne is pictured following the baptism of youngest son Peter. Mom Kelly Coyle is the youth minister at St. John the Baptist Parish in New Haven and helped developed the Diocesan Youth Leadership Team; Dad Zachary Coyle has served for several years as principal of St. John the Baptist School.

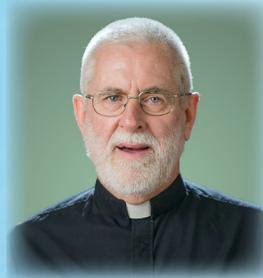


Provided by Kelly Coyle



Father Bill Sullivan

Thank you!



for helping the people of St. Monica Parish find solid footing and impacting their lives

from a loving parish where your priesthood built up the kingdom

Caring for Mom as Mom cared for me

There is a particularly unexpected twist in the saga of many families when the child suddenly starts acting the parent and the parent resembles the child.

It is not a welcome transition, reversing roles and inverting relationships. Sometimes it takes years to really accept it. Before that acceptance comes, there is frustration and anger and nostalgia and sorrow. The hope is that something gentle and generous is what follows.

I went home last month to visit my mom. For most of her life, she has been a mother. She had eight children in 14 years, one of whom died at age 2. She was a wife for 43 years, but her husband, my father, died 26 years ago.

My mom and my dad were great role models for marriage and for adulthood, and we kids kind of idealized them for many years. Of course, as our life experiences grew, we saw more clearly the strains and the sacrifices, the stresses and the resilience that we didn't notice when we were younger.

My mom was unbowed by my dad's death, even working weekly on a computer in a Catholic Charities office until she was 92.

But time took its toll. Some incidents suggested disorientation and forgetfulness. Slowly, over the years, the woman who always knew how to put on a feast lost interest in cooking. She learned to mask her memory lapses until she couldn't anymore.

She needed her kids to go with her to medical appointments so that vital instructions

were not forgotten. She began to need in-home care, even with a son and a daughter-in-law living with her.

And slowly the roles reversed. While I live far away from my childhood home, I have wonderful siblings who dote on her and care for her. They help her get dressed and go to the potty. They make sure she is fed and engage her in games.

She can't go to Mass anymore but watches on TV. One blessing of this time of life is that she doesn't remember the bad events like losing her driver's license, even if that means she doesn't remember the good events either.

It takes a long while to learn how to calm the anxious moments and how to respond to the repetitious questions about where her purse is or where we are going. During that long while is where the pain is. Why doesn't she remember? Why can't she keep it straight? Why isn't she acting like my mom anymore, is what we are really asking.

I was sitting across from my mom during my recent visit, and she was doing a word jumble. She found a word that was upside down and at an angle. The truth is, she found it quicker than I did. And I praised her.

"That was great, Mom. Wow, that was fast!" She smiled, and I felt a sudden pang of sadness that this smart, insightful, loving woman was doing word jumbles and I was praising her as I would my own children when they were little.

But this is where the gentleness and the generosity come in. Now is the phase when the child loves the parent with the



AMID THE FRAY

GREG ERLANDSON

selflessness with which he was loved. God has given me an opportunity to just love her without expecting anything more than her smiling back at me and saying, "I love you madly."

I'm not sure she remembers my name, but she knows this man across the table holding her hand loves her. My only gift I can give is the gift she gave me: The gift of knowing she is loved. Loved madly.

Greg Erlandson, director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service, can be reached at gerlandson@catholicnews.com.

This is what it means to receive the Eucharist

Dear first communicants, Congratulations! What a special time this is. It is the moment you receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. What a blessing, and what a gift.

Receiving your first holy Communion is a big deal. You are probably excited, nervous and joyful, all at once. You've been waiting and watching grown-ups receive Communion for so long, wondering what the host would taste like and wondering what it would feel like to be able to have Jesus so close to you. Now you know. Remember that feeling of anticipation and joy always — maybe even ask Mom or Dad to help you write down what it was like.

The date of your first holy Communion is one you'll want to remember always, too, so be sure to circle it on the calendar. Maybe you were given a special rosary, missal, cross or scapular as a gift that you can keep in your room or wear as a memento of the happy day. Maybe a picture of the day can go somewhere in your home. All of these can help you remember how important the sacrament is.

But why is it important? The Church calls the Eucharist the "source and summit" of the Christian life, which means that everything about our life is meant to revolve around it. This is because the Eucharist, as you have learned so well, is Jesus Christ Himself. When we receive Jesus in holy Communion, it might taste like bread and wine, but it's really and truly Our Lord

GUEST COMMENTARY

OSV EDITORIAL BOARD

himself. What a miracle!

You probably remember this from your sacrament preparation classes, but the Eucharist renews, strengthens and intensifies our bond with Jesus Christ. This bond that begins at our baptism — another good day to know and remember — is one that we have to work at every day in order for us to be who we were created by God to be — that is, to become saints who live with Jesus forever in heaven.

Every time we receive the Eucharist, we repeat that desire with our "Amen," which means "Yes! I believe." We are saying we believe in Jesus Christ and that He is truly present in front of us. We are saying we believe in the Catholic Church, which we know is Jesus' body. We are saying we believe everything that Christ has taught us.

Really believing these things means that we will live in a special way. If we believe in Jesus and want to be like Jesus, we know we should act as He did and as He taught us. We need to be kind and generous, loving and forgiving. We need to tell the truth. We need to be obedient to

OSV, page 13

Jesus remains with us through the Apostles and the Church



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Feast of the Ascension of the Lord Mark 16:15-20

The Acts of the Apostles supplies the first reading for this important feast day in the Church, the celebration of the Lord's wondrous ascension into heaven.

This reading begins as if it were a letter. It is addressed to Theophilus, as was the Gospel of Luke itself. Who was Theophilus? Was he a person with this as his name? Was he a devout Christian? Someone curious about Jesus? Possibly, he was devoutly Christian, because Theophilus may have been a title. In Greek, it means "friend

of God."

Regardless, both Acts and Luke were sent, as it were, to this person, arguing for a common authorship of these two revealed works of the Christian Scriptures.

In this reading, Acts states that it continues the story of salvation in Jesus begun in the Gospel of Luke. It describes the ascension of the Lord into heaven, an event occurring after Jesus had risen from the dead and had been among the Apostles and others faithful to God.

As the moment of the ascension approached, the Apostles still were confused. This confusion simply reveals that they were human. Their ability to grasp the things of God, and the mind of God, was limited, to say the least.

Jesus eases their confusion. He affirms that they are limited, but Jesus also affirms that all is in God's plan. The Apostles have been commissioned. To enable them to fulfill their commissions, Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will be with them. The Spirit will guide them to

proclaim the Gospel even "to the ends of the earth."

The Letter to the Ephesians provides the next reading. The reading is a prayer. It begs the blessings and guidance of God upon the faithful Christians of Ephesus. They need God, as all humans need God. God's strength will be mighty. After all, divine strength raised Jesus from the dead. It is a power over everyone and everything.

St. Mark's Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is the very last section of Mark. As such, it is the first Gospel's conclusion. It is a Resurrection narrative.

The Lord, having risen on Easter, appears to the Eleven, the surviving Apostles reduced by one in number because of the suicide of the despondent, traitorous Judas.

In a final commission, Jesus sends the Eleven into the world, far and wide. They are to proclaim the Gospel to all creation. He has prepared them, instructed them, guided them. Anyone who accepts this proclamation will be saved. Anyone who believes in the Gospel will be capable of

marvelous deeds. The Lord will protect them. No true believer will ever die an eternal death.

Then, the story says that Jesus ascended into heaven. Faithful to the Lord, the Apostles went forward and proclaimed the Gospel as they had been commissioned, to the "ends of the earth."

Reflection

Celebrating the Ascension of the Lord in the form of a special liturgical feast day is very revered and old in the Church.

Once, in early Christianity, seemingly, it was celebrated together with Pentecost. For 17 centuries, however, it has been a feast of its own.

Such is proper. The Ascension revealed much. Many lessons come from this feast. It again reveals Jesus, divine and human, crucified but risen. It reveals that we are not alone. Christ did not leave us. He lives with us, and teaches us still, through the Apostles, and through the structures and sacraments of the Church that they formed in the

Lord's name and at the Lord's command.

This feast, however, is more than a commemoration of a day 20 centuries ago. It calls us modern disciples to live for Jesus, and to love all others as Jesus loved. Then, we too shall ascend, finally, to heavenly glory.

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 1:1-11 Ps 47:2-3, 6-9 Eph 1:17-23 Mk 16:15-20

Monday: Acts 19:1-8 Ps 68:2-5d, 6-7b Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27 Ps 68:10-11, 20-21 Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38 Ps 68:29-30, 33-36b Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11 Jn 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21 Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20b Jn 21:15-19

Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31 Ps 114:4-5, 7 Jn 21:20-25

Is love the cause of hatred? The answer may surprise you

There is an old saying that the opposite of love is not hate; it is indifference. Indeed, it's pretty hard to hate or even to have a strong aversion to something or someone we don't really care about. But when we do love, we care. And the stronger our love, the more intense our concern, anger or even hatred for what is wrong.

But does this mean that love is the cause of hatred? Our instinct is to recoil and say, "Of course not!"

As usual, St. Thomas provides help in sorting out some of the details and making proper distinctions. He takes up the question in the Prima Secundae (question 29 and Article 2): "Is Love the Cause of Hatred?"

"Love ... precedes hatred; and nothing is hated, except through being contrary to a suitable thing which is loved. And hence it is that every hatred is caused by love." (Summa Theologica, I IIae 29.2, respondeo)

In other words, St. Thomas is saying that we would not hate that which is wrong, deformed, unjust or dissonant unless we first loved what it was supposed to be. And thus, love precedes hatred. It causes hatred by first instilling the love for what is right and then engendering a detestation of what is wrong.

An important distinction – If the word "hate" is tripping you up, understand that "hate" as used here is not referring to a vengeful wrath that seeks to destroy others. That sort of hate is, of course, forbidden; it flows not from wanting the good, true and beautiful for others, but from a desire to destroy them. This is diabolical hatred: a hatred that hates, not the sin, but the sinner.

The hate referenced here is more akin to grief, or to the sorrow and anger we feel when someone or something is not as it should be. It is grief and a passion to set things right. This is the sort of hatred that love causes.

St. Thomas adds in his reply to objection 2:

"Love and hatred are contrar-

ies ... [and so] it amounts to the same that one love a certain thing, or that one hate its contrary. Thus love of one thing is the cause of one's hating its contrary." (I IIae 29.2, ad 2)

If we don't love, we don't care. But when we love, we care, and we experience indignation when what we care about is deformed, cast aside or contrary to what it should be. And in this way loves causes hatred.

Love wills the good of the other, for his or her own sake. Love does not will the good of the other in order to win an argument or to be proved right. It wills the good simply for the sake of the other. St. Thomas says that love hates what is contrary to what is suitable and proper. But since no person, human or angelic, is in himself contrary to what is proper, we do not hate the person but rather what is deformed or contrary to what it should be. Therefore, a human (or angelic) person can never be the object of our hatred, per se.

One might object that correlation is not causation, and that is true, but in this case the hatred would not exist at all were the thing not first loved in its ideal form. It is this love of the ideal that causes the hatred of what is deformed. Thus, love is the cause of the hatred, not merely correlated to it.

Why is this important for us to grasp? There are many reasons, but of special importance is understanding it in relation to one another.

In modern times, we have tended to reduce love to kindness, warm feelings, affirmation and approval. But this is a drastic reduction of love. Kindness is an aspect of love, but so is rebuke. Approval and affirmation have their place, but so do forbiddance and insistence on what is right. Love can produce warm feelings, but it can also bring about the deepest indignation.

When we love others, we want for them what is good, true, just, proper and beautiful — not what is deformed. And given the fact that we live in a fallen world,



COMMUNITY IN MISSION

MSGR. CHARLES POPE

governed by a fallen angel, and are ourselves fallen and prone to sin, true love for others will have tensions. But tension is not always bad. No tension, no change. And change is going to be necessary for us to reach the perfection to which we are called.

So true love, properly understood, is capable of great indignation — yes, even of hatred. We ought to hate anything that is deformed or that is less than that to which we are called. Scripture says that if we love the world (a lesser thing) then we are enemies of God — yes, even adulterers! For God is our true love; anything less than loving God above all else is to be hated. Jesus gets even more personal when He says, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters — yes, even his own life — such a person cannot be my disciple." (Lk 14:26) Jesus is insisting on the same truth: that He is to be loved above all. Any lesser love that takes His place is a hateful and harmful thing.

Such strong language! And we in these dainty times wince at it. But vigorous love causes a hatred of deformity and a jealousy for the fullness of what love should be. Much of our problem today is that we do not hate our sins or those of others nearly enough. From this perspective, our modern notion of kind, tolerant "love" is really slothful, weak love that seeks what makes everyone feel good rather than what is best. Feeling good becomes more important than doing good or being good. The ancient motto "esse quam videri," "to be rather than to seem (to be)" is reversed and it becomes more important to seem

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for May 16, 2021

Mark 16:15-20

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the feast of the Ascension of the Lord, Cycle B. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

GO INTO	PROCLAIM	BELIEVES
BAPTIZED	SAVED	DOES NOT
CONDEMNED	SIGNS	ACCOMPANY
MY NAME	DEMONS	HANDS
DRINK	DEADLY	THNG
WILL LAY	RECOVER	HEAVEN
RIGHT	HAND	WORKED

RIGHT HAND

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

to be than it is to actually be.

Thus, our modern notion of love is weak at best and a lie at worst. St. Thomas' teaching that love is the cause of hatred indicates that our lack of hate for sin and other deformities of what is good, true and beautiful is caused by a lack of love. It is not a display of open-mindedness or tolerance; it is a lack of love.

True love admits of jealousy, indignation and hatred for what is deformed, deficient, untrue, or obtuse. True love is fiery; it has a passion to set things right and to insist on what is truly good rather than what is merely adequate.

How deep is your love? Is it

capable of being the cause of hatred? It ought to be (if properly understood). "Militiae species amor est": "Love is a kind of war."

Does this sort of talk unnerve you? Let me finish by simply quoting St. Thomas:

"Love ... precedes hatred; and nothing is hated, except through being contrary to a suitable thing which is loved. And hence it is that every hatred is caused by love."

Msgr. Charles Pope is the pastor of Holy Comforter - St. Cyprian Catholic Church, Washington, D.C.

OSV, from page 12

God and to our parents. We need to avoid hurting other people with our words or our actions.

We also need to understand what is so special about going to Mass. Going to Mass is not the same thing as attending a basketball game or a music concert. We are not meant to go in, watch and leave again. Instead, we are totally involved in the celebration. As Christ's body, we give ourselves to Him. In return, we receive the great gift of the Eucharist to be strengthened for our mission, which is to tell the world about Jesus! The Eucharist has been called the "beating heart" of the

Church. How cool is that?

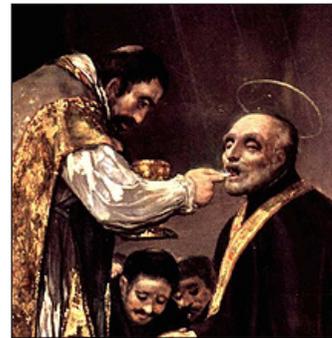
As you grow up, you might hear different things about the Eucharist. You might hear some people say that it's not really Jesus or that it's just a symbol of Jesus. You might hear some people say that anyone has the right to receive the Eucharist at any time, even if their soul isn't in a state of grace. Maybe you will see people who don't genuflect in front of the tabernacle or who disrespect the Eucharist in other ways. These words and actions are lies that the devil wants you to believe. Don't believe them.

Instead, trust in Jesus. Read the Bible with your family. Read the stories of the saints. See the

difference that God has made in the lives of others. Like these holy people, get to know Jesus, love Him and follow Him.

Finally, a good way that we can work at being better friends with Jesus is by talking to Jesus' mother, Mary. She was the very first believer in Jesus, and she loves to help people get to know her Son. Let's ask for her help so that we can love Jesus better and become the saints He calls us to be. Amen!

The Our Sunday Visitor Editorial Board is comprised of Gretchen R. Crowe, Scott P. Richert, Scott Warden and York Young.



ST. JOSEPH CALASANZ

1556-1648

FEAST: AUGUST 25

This Spaniard studied law at the University of Lerida and was ordained a priest in 1583, despite his father's hope that he would be a soldier. He became vicar general of a Spanish diocese, but in 1592 left for Rome, where he joined the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine and worked with neglected children. In 1597 he established the first free school in Rome with three other priests. This work led him to found the Clerks Regular of the Religious (or Pious) Schools, known as Piarists. He overcame internal and external opposition and served as superior general of the order. He was canonized in 1767, and in 1948 Pope Pius XII named him the patron saint of Christian schools. He is also a patron of students.

FIRST COMMUNION, from page 10

someone who teaches others to appreciate what they have.

"My child has completely changed the trajectory of our lives. I am so much stronger in my faith," she said. She also credits St. Anthony School for opening their arms to Carson. His disease means that he has to have an attendant with him at school to provide nutrition.

"It just really affects everything from head to toe," Jenna said, explaining that the mitochondria are the "power house" of human cells and Carson's work at 10-30% capacity. "Every time he is sick, he could end up in the hospital because he has a weak immune system."

Jenna attended St. Anthony as a child and she and her husband, Justin, recently moved back to the area just in time for Carson to start school there.

"I just knew St. Anthony's was the place that he would need to be," she said. "St. Anthony's has been super accepting of him. Carson has just

thrived there."

She said he also has great doctors at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. "You look at him and you don't think that there's anything wrong with him. That's all thanks to his feeding tube."

Jones is editor of The Catholic Lighthouse, newspaper of the Diocese of Victoria.

Carson Crosby receives first Communion from Father Augustine Asante at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Columbus, Texas, April 24. Crosby has a mitochondrial disease that prevents him from consuming food orally so a fraction of the host was dissolved in a small amount of distilled water.



CNS photo/Janet Jones, The Catholic Lighthouse

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Knights host breakfast at Queen of Angels Parish

FORT WAYNE — St. Gaspar del Bufalo Council No. 11043 will be serving breakfast on Sunday, May 23, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the activities center at Queen of Angels, 1500 W. State Blvd. Carryout packs will be available. Freewill offerings will be accepted. Proceeds this month will help support parish schools. Contact Mike Fiedeldej at 260-255-6553 or gk@kofc11043.org.

St. Louis, Besancon spring rummage sale

NEW HAVEN — The St. Louis, Besancon Rosary Sodality is hosting its annual spring rummage sale on June 4 and 5 at St. Louis, Besancon Parish hall, 15535 Lincoln Highway East. Friday hours will be from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. with fill-a-bag for \$5 from 4-7 p.m. Saturday hours will be from 9 a.m. until noon with fill-a-bag for \$3 all day. There will be something for everyone.

Beauty Will Save the World theology camp

FORT WAYNE — A weeklong theology camp at the University of Saint Francis gives high school students the opportunity to encounter God through beau-

ty. Students will spend the week not just learning about beauty, but creating it. As a participant, you will spend a restful week on campus painting an icon of Christ with a trained iconographer. Time will also be spent learning about how God calls each person to an individual vocation and experiencing the richness of the Catholic Church's liturgical prayer. In addition, you will interact with USF professors and explore readings on the theology of beauty; attend workshops that explore Lectio Divina, the Jesus Prayer, Sacred Meditation and Discernment; experience living in a college dorm; as well as recreational events that include sports, hiking, campfires and an evening of live music, refreshments and entertainment in the Student Center. Visit www.summertheologyinstitute.com or contact Timothy Trout at ttrout@sf.edu.

America Needs Fatima rosary

AUBURN — America Needs Fatima will pray a 15-decade rosary on the north side of the Auburn Courthouse, 100 Main St., on Saturday, May 15. Additional dates will be June 12, July 10, Aug. 14, Sept. 11 and

Oct. 9. Rosary starts at noon — rain or shine. Masks and social distancing required. Contact Alice Post at 260-925-9252.

Memorial Day drive-thru breakfast

ANGOLA — The St. Anthony of Padua Knights of Columbus will have a drive-thru breakfast Sunday, May 30, at the church, 700 W. Maumee St., from 8 a.m. to noon. On the menu are scrambled eggs, sausage links, apple-sauce, french toast with syrup and orange juice for \$8. Visit www.stanthonyangola.com for details or contact Patti Webster at 260-665-2259.

Elkhart Knights of Columbus fish fry

ELKHART — The Elkhart Knights of Columbus Council No. 1043 will host a fish fry on Friday, May 21, from 5-7 p.m. at Knights of Columbus Hall, 112 E Lexington. All-you-can-eat fish, scalloped potatoes, coleslaw and bread for a cost of \$10 adults, \$5 kids 5-12, and those under 5 free. Carry-out and dine-in are both available. Contact Tom Sibal at 574-520-9711.

REST IN PEACE

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Rosemary Reiter, 87, St. Anthony de Padua

Huntington

Michael D. Wintrode, 65, SS. Peter and Paul

Mary Kay McLaughlin, 97, St. Matthew Cathedral

Mishawaka

Joan K. Calvin, 68, St. Monica

Paul Orban, 73, St. Matthew Cathedral

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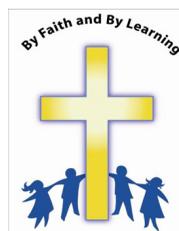
Director of High School Youth Ministry
St. Vincent de Paul Parish - Fort Wayne

St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne is looking for a person with fire for Christ in the fullness of the Catholic faith and the passion and organizational skills to lead a vibrant program for high schoolers. The ideal candidate will hold a bachelor's degree or higher preferably in theology or a related field and have a minimum of 3 years of experience in high school youth ministry. Preferred candidates will be able to commit to the position for at least five years. Interested parties should review job description, complete job application and upload resume/cover letter at diocesefwsb.org/careers.

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A parish school of St. Bernard and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is seeking a dynamic individual who will have a focus on increasing enrollment. The parish is searching for a practicing Catholic educator with high moral character and integrity, who will be able to focus on the following areas:

- Increasing Enrollment
- Communicating with all stakeholders: faculty, staff, students, parents, Pastor, school board, parish and the community
- Exhibiting leadership and management of the school
- Exhibiting knowledge of elementary curriculum
- Exhibiting knowledge of budgeting and budget creation
- Exhibiting knowledge of technology
- Exhibiting knowledge of diocesan and Indiana state accountability testing: requirements and policies
- Exhibiting knowledge of facility management
- Exhibiting collaboration abilities with all stakeholders
- Willingness to complete all duties as requested by the Pastor and the Superintendent of Schools or his designee.

Qualifications: The candidate shall hold (or be working toward) an Indiana Elementary Supervision and Administration License

For more information, contact:

Stephanie Howe, Personnel Assistant, Catholic Schools Office
260-422-4611 X-3335 or showe@diocesefwsb.org
Go to <https://theapplicantmanager.com/jobs?pos=DF425> to apply.
Application Deadline: May 16, 2021

CURIA, from page 1

He will also work with Assistant to the Bishop for Pastoral Concerns Mary Glowaski to assist and support priests as they confront the increasingly complicated and challenging pastoral needs in parishes, and he will work to ensure the welfare of priests who are sick or who have retired.

"I'm excited about the changes Bishop is making to foster collaboration in the diocesan offices. This includes the important decision to appoint a vicar of clergy in a stable office in the diocese," Father Coonan said in an email, responding to the news of his appointment. "Many of our priests have mentioned their excitement that this position is beginning. I am humbled that Bishop has appointed me to begin service in this capacity."

"I recognize that I have much to learn," he continued. "Since previously many of the duties were fulfilled by either the vicar general or the bishop himself, I know that much of my support and guidance will come from Bishop Rhoades and Father Gurtner. I will also depend on some of our other well-experienced diocesan personnel. I am joyful that this office is beginning for our diocese, humbled that I will serve in this capacity and confident that God will provide me His grace as I learn this new service."

In order to be physically present to the bishop and to Father Gurtner, Father Coonan will occupy an office at the chancery, the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in downtown Fort Wayne. The location of some offices within the Archbishop Noll center is currently being reconfigured to facilitate communication between members of the curia.

Effective July 1 and in addition to the new vicar for clergy, the following changes will be made to the structure of diocesan secretariats and offices.

The Secretariat for Evangelization will be renamed the Secretariat for Pastoral Ministries and Catechesis, with Carl Loesch, current head of the Secretariat for Education, as head of the new secretariat. It will be reorganized to oversee the Office of Catechesis and Disabilities, Office of Marriage and Family Ministry, Office of Hispanic Ministry, Young Adult and Campus Ministry, Youth Ministry and Catholic Social Doctrine and Human Development.

The Catholic Schools Office will be headed by the superintendent and report to the vicar general. The superintendent, Dr. Joseph Brettnacher, will serve as a member of the bishop's cabinet.

SHRINE, from page 1

Ages, the month of May has been dedicated to Our Lady ... in each of (her) apparitions, Our Lady called for the rosary to be prayed for conversation of hearts and as an instrument for world peace. Now we offer this prayer in hope that with vaccines being administered, our world will return to a form of normalcy," Msgr. Rossi said.

In addition to the Washington basilica, other Marian Shrines that have or will participate in the monthlong global rosary are those located in Ireland, Belgium, Algeria, Portugal, India, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Australia, France, Turkey, Cuba, Japan, Canada, Malta, Mexico, Ukraine, Germany, Lebanon and Italy.

Each of the participating Marian shrines around the world will pray the rosary for a specific prayer intention. The May 17 rosary at the basilica will be prayed for "all world leaders and for all heads of international organizations."

Other intentions during the month include for an end to the pandemic, for all of humanity, for all who have died, for the sick, for expectant mothers, for pharmacists and other health care workers, for peace, for nurses and doctors and for essential workers.

The overall theme for the worldwide event is: "From the entire Church an unceasing

prayer rises to God," which and comes a passage in the Acts of the Apostles that describes how all members of the Church prayed for St. Peter's miraculous escape from prison.

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, said in a letter to Cardinal Gregory that this year the month of May is "dedicated in a special way to prayer for an end to the coronavirus pandemic," and asked the cardinal to "promote the initiative and to encourage the participation of the faithful in it."

This will be the third time that the basilica has joined an international effort in praying for the intercession of Mary during the coronavirus pandemic.

On May 1, 2020, at the basilica, then-Archbishop Gregory joined with bishops throughout the United States and Canada in rededicating the two countries to Our Lady.

And on May 30 last year, while the basilica was closed to the public as part of the effort to halt the spread of COVID-19, Msgr. Rossi and the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate prayed the rosary in the Great Upper Church at the same time

the pope led the rosary from inside the Vatican Gardens in Rome. That livestream was broadcast around the world along with the prayers from the other Marian shrines.

The May 17 recitation of the rosary will be livestreamed from the basilica's website www.nationalshrine.org/mass and on various Vatican social media platforms. EWTN will also broadcast the prayer.

"With the world living for more than a year in pandemic mode, I trust that everyone would agree that we need some 'rearranging'," Msgr. Rossi told the Catholic

Standard, archdiocesan newspaper of Washington. "And so, my hope is that through this monthlong worldwide praying of the rosary, Our Lady will look favorably upon our pleas and present our great need before her Son."

The rosary recitation is open to the public. The basilica can host up to 1,000 people while maintaining social distancing guidelines and other safety protocols.

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

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