Children’s rosary brings faithful to Jesus through Mary

Let the children lead ...
May the gifts of the Holy Spirit, wondrously poured out on the Apostles, fill your hearts anew on Pentecost Sunday!
Let the children lead

BY JENNIFER SIMERMAN

“Todays Catholic” is the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

“I have the great joy and blessing of bringing young children to adoration frequently. Every time I see them before Jesus in the Eucharist, I am struck by the sweet and pure way that they give their love to Him. I look at their faces and I am moved to tears every time” she continued. Mary’s message to children to “Pray your rosary every day to obtain peace for the world” inspired Williams to reach out to the staff of the diocese — the Catholic Schools Office and the Secretariat for Communications — to help organize the rosary event, which was titled “Let the Children Lead.” It included filming a children’s rosary and the creation of a website that provided the reflections, materials to teach children about the miracle of Fatima and resources for families as they continue to pray together.

Ten students from Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, whose school patron saint is Mary, Queen of All Saints, started the filmed rosary and led each of the decades with reflections from Sister M. Lissetta Gettner, OSF, of the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Mishawaka. Fifty students from Queen of Angels School, Fort Wayne recited the Hail Marys. The pre-recorded rosary was recited at Queen of Angels Church, Fort Wayne and every school in the diocese was encouraged to watch, listen and pray along at 10 a.m. on the feast day.

“I felt that the students were so reverent, and it was so beautiful to participate in praying the rosary with them,” Dennis Wiegmann, principal of Queen of Angels School, noted. After each of the five luminous mystery reflections, the students prayed the following: The baptism in the Jordan: “O Mary, help me to receive God’s love and peace deep into my heart. Help me to always remember that I am a child of God. I want to share God’s love and peace with everyone I meet.”

The wedding feast at Cana: “O Mary, my Mother, pray for my family and for all families. May our homes be places of safety, love, and peace. Mother of Gentle Heart, Help us to entrust ourselves to you.”

The proclamation of the kingdom and the call to conversion: “O Mary, I pray for my principal, teachers, and classmates. Help us to share peace with one another, to respect each other through kind words and actions. Give me the courage to say I’m sorry when I’ve done something wrong or hurt someone else.”

The Transfiguration: “O Mary, you knew about the glory of your Son and you experienced his peaceful presence daily. Our country needs the peace of Jesus. Pray for our president, Mr. Joseph Biden, all politicians, all who work in the government, all who serve our country, and all people striving for life, liberty, and happiness.”

The institution of the Holy Eucharist: “O Mary, dear Lady of Fatima, you came with the message of peace for the entire world. I pray for an end to war, terrorism, and hate. You asked Jacinta, Francisco, and Lucia to pray the rosary daily for peace. We unite our prayers with you and all of heaven. May peace dwell in the hearts of every man, woman, and child in the entire world.”

“The rosary was a beautiful way to honor and celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Fatima with the voices of our children singing and praying. We could feel the presence of Jacinta, Lucia, and Francisco smiling upon our hearts and our homes. We invite young people to join us in praying the rosary every day for 15 minutes and invited Jesus into our homes.”

Williams said, “I’ve come to think of it in this way: Each mystery is an opportunity for us to learn about stories of the life of Jesus. Doing this over and over deepens our relationship with Him. We do this in our families, we invite Jesus into our hearts and homes. We invite peace into our homes because you can’t think about Jesus without feeling peace.”

“How does looking at our children praying the rosary keep us going?”

“We still are so moved to tears every time, and we have the great joy and blessing of bringing young children to adoration frequently. Every time I see them before Jesus in the Eucharist, I am struck by the sweet and pure way that they give their love to Him. I look at their faces and I am moved to tears every time)” she continued.

At Sacred Heart School, Warsaw, students began the rosary with a crowning of Mary.

More photos are available at www.todayscatholic.org

Special Edition • Not Currently Subscribed? Visit TodaysCatholic.org • $20 Annual Print Subscription • FREE Digital Subscription

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

Sunday, May 23: 11 a.m. — Commencement Ceremony, University of Notre Dame
Sunday, May 23: 5 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Adalbert Church, South Bend
Monday, May 24: 10 a.m. — Meeting of the Bishop’s Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
Tuesday, May 25: 1:30 p.m. — Virtual Meeting of Board of Directors of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary
Tuesday, May 25: 7 p.m. — Baccalaureate Mass for Saint Joseph High School, St. Pius X Church, Granger
Wednesday, May 26: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Queen of Peace Church, Mishawaka
Thursday, May 27: 7 p.m. — Baccalaureate Mass for Marian High School, St. Pius X Church, Granger
Friday, May 28: 10 a.m. — Baccalaureate Mass for Bishop Luers High School, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Fort Wayne
Friday, May 28: 4 p.m. — Baccalaureate Mass for Bishop Dwenger High School, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne

Students from Bishop Dwenger High School and Queen of Angels School in Fort Wayne lead a livestreamed diocesan rosary May 13, the 104th anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady of Fatima.
Totus Tuus: Summer catechetical program expands in diocese

By Jennifer Barton

In only its third year within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Totus Tuus, a weeklong summer catechetical program, is spreading from one parish in the Fort Wayne area to five other locations throughout the diocese, bringing fun and faith to children in 11 parishes.

Bearing the name of St. John Paul II’s personal motto for consecration to the Mary, Totus Tuus strives to instill holiness in the lives of children from elementary through high school.

The program is based out of Wichita, Kansas, and first spread to the diocese of Peoria, Illinois, which provided the original team of missionaries to St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne in 2018. Beginning this year, a four-person team – two men and two women – were recruited from within the diocese to expand the program locally.

The director of religious education at St. Jude, Julie Schleitwiler, learned about the program while living in the Joliet diocese and working for the Diocese of Rockford, both of which hosted it. “When I was in the Rockford diocese, I’d heard kids who’d gone to the program talking about how wonderful it was,” she said. Over 30 dioceses now have Totus Tuus programs, and the number continues to grow.

With the support of Msgr. Robert Schulte, she helped bring the program to St. Jude. Last year, not only had St. Jude planned to host it again but the parish had already recruited three college-aged missionaries who were ready to train in Peoria before taking the program to other parishes in the diocese. Because those plans had to be canceled, Schleitwiler worked with the diocesan Youth Ministry office and the Office of Catechesis to make it happen this summer instead.

The team will begin weeklong rounds on June 12 and will continue their missionary work until the end of July, hitting six different communities across the diocese: Fort Wayne, Kendallville/Albion, Auburn, Bluffton, Notre Dame and Mishawaka. Most of the locations consist of a combination of two or more parishes that latched onto the opportunity to host the four-person team in their area.

Totus Tuus is not a modified vacation Bible school. It was distinctively created for Catholic parishes, teaching the mysteries of the rosary and intentionally including elements such as adoration, daily Mass and confession time. Children are divided...
Riding the green wave: Momentum for Laudato Si’ gears up

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When the special Laudato Si’ Anniversary Year closes May 24, it will celebrate progress made over the past five years, and it will launch a new wave of initiatives for the next decade in an ongoing response to Pope Francis’ call for the care of creation.

“For we know that things can change” is the theme of hope for the Church’s worldwide celebration May 16-25 of Laudato Si’ Week — the “crowning event of an anniversary year that began during a global pandemic. Even though we certainly understood that we had one common home before COVID,” seeing a crisis in health and hygiene in China cause lockdowns in Europe and job losses in Africa revealed even more clearly how interconnected the world really is,” said Tebaldo Vinciguerra, the official leading the “ecology and creation” desk at the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

The message of Pope Francis’ encyclical, “Laudato Si’, on Care for Our Common Home,” continues to be prophetic for a pandemic-hit and post-pandemic world, the dicastery said.

The dicastery will unveil a “road map” of action for the next decade, according to Vinciguerra, as the document provides a “moral and spiritual compass” for a “new way of living together, bonded together in love, compassion and solidarity” and in a more “harmonious relationship with the natural world, our common home.”

Under the large green canopy of a 100-year-old London plane-tree in a small city square near his Vatican office, Vinciguerra told Catholic News Service May 12, it is important the Church “leads by example.”

The key to Laudato Si’ is seeing, living and working in ways that piece life’s many facets together and that create bridges to bring diverse people together toward a common goal, he said.

“It’s not just ‘I have a solar panel,’ full stop, ” he said. Some of the best things to emerge from people acting on the encyclical, he said, are their responses to a call for dialogue among experts in diverse fields, creating new and needed combinations and partnerships, such as: an architect sitting down with a theologian; a bishop choosing impact investing for his diocese; and a Caritas branch choosing impact investing for its website, as the document continues to be prophetic for a pandemic-hit and post-pandemic world, the Vatican office responsible for environmental concerns.

Politics and governance, therefore, require “healthy institutions,” free from corruption and open to “meaningful participation” from everyone, including the poorest, he said.

When it comes to political representatives, a consistent and integral understanding of the human being is important, he said. For example, there may be representatives who support initiatives that protect workers or the environment, but fail to protect the unborn, and vice versa, leaders who are pro-life, but oppose environmental protections.

Vinciguerra said the Church’s aim is “to teach what a healthy anthroplogy is and its implications” in terms of human dignity and individual responsibility, he said.

The tricky part is not only what kind of planet we will leave to our children,” he said, “it is also what kind of children we leave for the planet, what kind of education,” access to justice, culture and media and how they understand relationships and living together.

The parable of the good Samaritan offers a lesson here in the crucial importance of people living in solidarity, reciprocity, trust and hope, he said.

The Samaritan showed compassion by helping and caring for a wounded stranger; he involved and trusted an innkeeper to help, who in turn trusted the Samaritan to make good on his promise to return, Vinciguerra said. “Together we can create something, together — you and me — we can create trust that benefits everyone, the wounded man; let us have hope for trust.”
Pope appeals for peace in Holy Land, says death of children ‘unacceptable’

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Diocesan Respect Life coordinators and the Pro-Life Leadership of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops are encouraging Catholics to speak out against the repeal of the Hyde Amendment, legislation which bans federal Medicaid funding of abortions. “It is so important for people in our parishes to learn about the Hyde Amendment and the life-saving, conscience-protecting impact it has had for the past 45 years. Without this protection, our federal tax dollars will contribute to millions more abortions around our nation and beyond,” said Rachel Hendricks, diocesan Respect Life coordinator for the Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey. The petition can be signed at www.nottaxpayerabortion.com.

The Hyde Amendment, which first became law in 1976, prohibits the use of federal Medicaid dollars for abortion except in cases of rape, incest or when the life of the woman would be endangered. Named for former Representative Henry Hyde, Illinois Republican, the amendment is renewed every year as part of the appropriations bill for what is now the Department of Health and Human Services. It was excluded, however, in the $1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act that was signed into law March 11 by President Joe Biden.

U.S. climate envoy meets pope, speaks at Vatican conference

WASHINGTON (CNS) — John Kerry, U.S. President Joe Biden’s special envoy for climate, met privately with Pope Francis May 15, the day after giving a keynote address at a closed-door meeting of the Pontifical Academy for Sciences and the Pontifical Academy for Social Sciences. Because Kerry is not a head of state, the Vatican issued no statement about the meeting, although Vatican Media released photos and a video clip of the encounter in the papal library. The video shows Kerry giving Pope Francis his autobiography, “Every Day Is Extra,” and the Pulitzer-winning environmental novel “The Overstory” by Richard Powers. Pope Francis gave Kerry a signed copy of his encyclical, “Laudato Si’,” and a copy of his message for World Peace Day, a collection of his encyclicals, including “Laudato Si’” on ecology, and a sculpture of a tree, as an interaction with Vatican News. Kerry said he believed Pope Francis intends to participate in the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, commonly referred to as COP16, in Glasgow, Scotland, in November.

Cardinal Dolan at rosary tells India’s COVID-19 victims they’re not ‘alone’

STONY POINT, N.Y. (CNS) — New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, joined by priests and lay faithful, prayed the rosary’s sorrowful mysteries May 8 for the people of India now suffering as COVID-19 ravages their country. About 200 Catholics, including many natives of India, joined the cardinal in prayer at Mary Help of Christians Chapel at the Marian Shrine in Stony Point. Before praying the five sorrowful mysteries, Cardinal Dolan reminded those gathered in the chapel that he also came to pray at the Salesian-run shrine March 20, 2020, as the coronavirus crisis was first unfolding in New York. “I came here to pray to Jesus through Mary, Our Lady Help of Christians, as we were getting the terrible coronavirus pandemic,” Cardinal Dolan said. “And now that we hear such desperate news from beautiful India … I thought, ‘She came through for us, and we can’t forget the great people of India. We are blessed with so many people in our Catholic family who come from India,’ the cardinal said. ‘We can’t forget them. They are not alone.’ Also present was Msgr. Peter I. Vaccari, president of the Manhattan-based Catholic Near East Welfare Association, who told the cardinal and the congregation that he had been in touch with CNEWA associates in India in recent days.

‘A long line’ of holy catechists have served the Church, pope notes

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Throughout history and across the globe, lay catechists have been revered as saints, and many were martyred for their refusal to renounce their faith and their vocation to teach the Christian faith to others. Formally instituting “the ministry of catechist” with a document published May 11, Pope Francis praised “the countless lay men and women who directly took part in the spread of the Gospel through catechetical instruction. Men and women of deep faith, authentic witnesses of holiness,” he said, some of those catechists founded churches and “eventually died as martyrs. The long line of blessed, saints and martyrs who were catechists has significantly advanced the Church’s mission and deserves to be recognized, for it represents a rich resource not only for catechesis but also for the entire history of Christian spirituality,” Pope Francis wrote in the document, “Antiquum Ministerium” (Ancient Ministry). The brief document did not mention any of the beatified or canonized lay catechists by name, but many of the Catholic communities they served continue to honor them and keep their memories alive. He brief document did not mention any of the beatified or canonized lay catechists by name, but many of the Catholic communities they served continue to honor them and keep their memories alive. A catechist from the United States may soon be added to their ranks. The U.S. bishops in November gave their formal support to the Church’s mission and deserves to be recognized, for it represents a rich resource not only for catechesis but also for the entire history of Christian spirituality.” Pope Francis wrote in the document, “Antiquum Ministerium” (Ancient Ministry). The brief document did not mention any of the beatified or canonized lay catechists by name, but many of the Catholic communities they served continue to honor them and keep their memories alive. A catechist from the United States may soon be added to their ranks.

Rescuers pull Suzy Eshkuntana, 6, from the rubble of a building at the site of Israeli airstikes in Gaza City May 16. The injury and death of so many innocent people, especially children, caused by escalating violence between Israel and the Gaza Strip is “terrible and unacceptable,” putting the area at risk of sinking into “a spiral of death and destruction,” Pope Francis said. He launched an appeal for calm May 16 and asked leaders of both sides “to put a stop to the roar of weapons and to follow the paths of peace, even with the help of the international community.” He also asked for a cease-fire and constant prayers so that “Israelis and Palestinians may find the path of dialogue and forgiveness, to be patient and not give in to despair.” Pope Francis said.

Advisst: S. Carolina approval of firing squad, electric chair ‘chilling’

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The passage of a bill by South Carolina lawmakers in early May to restart executions after 10 years and to add death by firing squad or electric chair as options if lethal injection drugs are not available is a “setback for South Carolina” and “stands in stark contrast to powerful efforts elsewhere to abolish the death penalty,” said a Catholic death penalty opponent. “The decade without executions in South Carolina should be seen as a mark of progress toward a culture of life, not a reason to backslide into immoral and gruesome means of killing,” said Kristianne Vaillancourt Murphy, executive director of Catholic Mobilizing Network. She also said the electric chair and firing squad “should have no place on the state’s list of means to address harm or bring about so-called justice. In fact, there is no reason why the state should be executing people at all,” she told Catholic News Service in a May 10 email. The measure is likely to be approved soon by the state’s governor. Lawmakers said the shortage of drugs needed to carry out lethal injections is the main reason why the state has not had any executions in 10 years. Those who favored adding other means of execution also stressed that this would be more humane since lethal injections have sometimes botched executions if an inmate’s death became prolonged. “It is chilling to think that offering a person the choice between electric and firing squad is somehow humane,” Vaillancourt Murphy said.

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

May 23, 2021

NEWS BRIEFS

hundreds of Lakota people to the Catholic faith.

Bishops urge Catholics to sign petition against Hyde Amendment’s repeal

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (CNS) — South Carolinians must resist such steps “because life is sacred,” said Bishop Kevin M. Rhoades, bishop of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee on Foster Care, Adoption and Child Welfare.

The bishops hope the proposal will not move forward and are calling on Catholic voters to oppose the bill. Bishop Rhoades said the bishops believe it is “clear” that the measure “could lead to the death of children.”

The bill’s sponsor, state Rep. William Keyser French, a Republican, said he believes the bill will not result in the death of children. The state Senate has also been considering a bill that would allow for the death of children in the foster care system.

The bishops said they will continue to work with other faith leaders to promote the best interests of children and families in the foster care system.

Special Edition · Not Currently Subscribed? Visit TodaysCatholic.org · $20 Annual Print Subscription · FREE Digital Subscription
HUNTINGTON — OSV Institute for Catholic Innovation announces the next phase of this year’s OSV Challenge, a multi-round entrepreneurial competition designed to incubate unique project ideas from Catholics whose faith has motivated them to make a difference. A record-breaking influx of nearly 600 applications were received between Feb. 1 and April 2 from innovators eager to compete for one of three prizes valued at $100,000 each to advance their missions. A total of 182 applicants were selected to move forward to Round Two of the competition.

“The OSV Challenge was created because we believe the world is desperate for innovative co-creation with our Creator,” asserted Jason Shanks, president of the OSV Institute for Catholic Innovation. “We are set on finding great ideas by finding people striving for greatness. Our mission is to discover and raise up Catholic innovators so that, through them and their initiatives, the Church can flourish, and the world can encounter Christ’s love.”

The OSV Challenge process serves the Church by continuing to reveal needs and trends based on the applications received. The top three self-identified categories from applicants included management, fine arts and Catholic education.

New themes also emerged from this year’s applicants. “We had proposals for innovation in seminary education, mental health services, investment groups for Catholics and a vast range of other interesting topics,” said Matt Smith, director of strategic initiatives at OSV Institute for Catholic Innovation. “While we asked applicants to self-identify tracks in the application, we cast the innovation net wide, and we are glad we did. These ‘new themes’ reflect emerging needs for optimal impact on the Church and the world.”

Students at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, Fort Wayne, enjoyed special physical education lessons the week of May 3. The school is on a mission to teach kindergartners how to ride a bicycle in order to get them to be more active, increase balance and boost their confidence. The program included 24 balance bikes, helmets, additional pedal kits, a teacher bike, training curriculum and certification and was funded by a generous donor.

Dylan Maugel named Holy Cross College valedictorian

NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross College announced in May that Dylan Maugel is the 2021 Holy Cross College valedictorian. The Wakarusa native is double majoring in communication, a choir member, and he does many other small jobs that range from helping run Spes retreats to serving as a mentor for the summer Saints and Scholars program.

“My involvement with campus ministry stems from my desire to be formed in both the heart and the mind and to challenge myself to grow in living out my faith. I am also a part of the University of Notre Dame’s Knights of Columbus Council, their liturgical choir and their Catechet Academy. My involvement in the tri-campus area has helped me create connections with a diverse population of students and to find ways in which I can demonstrate my talents of singing and catechizing.”

He would like to become either a director of stewardship, a director of new evangelization and discipleship, or a service-learning coordinator/instructor for a diocese, parish or Catholic school.

“As of this spring, diocesan seminarians Nicholas Monin, left, and Andrew Barnes are graduates of Simon Bruté College Seminary at Marian University in Indianapolis. The men will continue their formation in the fall.
“He (Father Muhlenkamp) and I became close, just talking about the priesthood and things and his just being kind of a joyful witness of someone who had just been ordained and was loving his life.”

— Mark Hellinger

Mark Hellinger and Brian Isenbarger, the two Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend seminarians being ordained May 22 to the diaconate, may have taken different paths toward their goal of serving the Church through the holy priesthood. Nevertheless, they share many commonalities of the journey.

Both were educated entirely through Catholic schools and, notably, both were influenced by priestly examples both outside of and within their families. Several of the diocesan men currently going undergoing formation in the seminary have expressed that the witness of strong, faithful priests helped foster their vocation.

Hellinger remembered his father, Bob, taking care of his great-uncle when his uncle’s health began to fail. He stated, “He had a love for Father Don; he took care of Father Don when (Father Don) was older and failing in health, so one of the early influences was just seeing him.”

The care his father showed to his uncle spoke volumes to the younger man. To him, the example was “a moment of fatherly love taking care of fatherly love. That was really beautiful.”

Though he was been assigned to parishes in South Bend for many of Hellinger’s formative years, Father Delaney’s vocation has been a witness for his first cousin once removed. “He’s kind of always been around in my family,” Hellinger remarked.

Other diocesan priests also have served as role models for the men; the priests at the parishes to which they were assigned, certainly, although others stand out in their minds too. Both Hellinger and Isenbarger recall, for example, how the positive example presented to them by Father Benjamin Muhlenkamp roused their inclination toward the priesthood.

Hellinger shared that when Father Muhlenkamp became a chaplain at Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne, “he and I became close. Just talking about the priesthood and things and his just being kind of a joyful witness of someone who had just been ordained and was loving his life.”

Father Muhlenkamp blessed Isenbarger’s engagement, and later went on to write his entrance letter for the seminary. Beginning their studies at seminary brought them into contact with a larger circle of inspirers.

“Your horizon of influences moved exponentially increases,” Hellinger explained. “It’s been a great blessing to get to know a lot of the priests and just be encouraged by being slowly brought into that really close fraternity of priests serving our diocese, but also priests and seminarians from other dioceses.”

Having a brotherhood of priests who can support and assist each other emotionally, spiritually and practically is critical for them to be able to fulfill the role God has given them, the two seminarians said. Even though they have been studying half a world away from each other, Hellinger and Isenbarger maintain one such close friendship.

“Having a brotherhood of priests who can support and assist each other emotionally, spiritually and practically is critical for them to be able to fulfill the role God has given them,” Hellinger commented. “Without the fraternity at seminary, it’d be a pretty tough road to go.”

Because of his previous work with youth groups, Isenbarger understands how critical it is for priests to serve as role models for potential priestly candidates. “That was very big for me also vocationally, seeing the priest at retreats and youth group stuff. Just being there and being present was big.”

Even though they have been studying half a world away from each other, Hellinger and Isenbarger maintain one such close friendship.

Isenbarger says that Hellinger, “is one of my best friends.” They take part in a fraternal group together and remain in close contact through phone calls and texts.

Hellinger stressed the need for the fraternal bonds that are created in seminary. “During the summers, people might be shocked to find out exactly how much we hang out. I think that sometimes we seminarians, some priests and also laypeople can picture priests as the “ubermensch”; totally independent. My seminary experience has been one of recognizing exactly how human priests are and how much of a benefit that friendship is.”

“That’s one of the things we really want to try to continue into priesthood is building a culture of priestly fraternity,” Isenbarger commented. “Without the fraternity at seminary, it’d be a pretty tough road to go.”

Family, spiritual connections encouraged priests
Hellinger eager to ‘live out the vocation’  

By Jennifer Barton

I t was early in life that Mark Hellinger, who will be ordained to the diaconate May 22, first felt the call to the priest¬hood. Probably too early to guarantee a future in Roman collars.

“When I was really young, I think maybe three or four, I started thinking: ‘I want to be a priest.’ He recalled. Preschoolers are infamous for changing their minds, but Hellinger also asked to rec¬tify for the Church when he was in the second grade. He began acting out the Mass in his house.

Through his years of schooling at St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School in Fort Wayne — which later separated into St. Joseph School and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School — intellectual pursuits dangled other career options before him, includ¬ing joining the priesthood.

But the pull toward the priesthood returned when he was a student at Bishop Luers High School.

“In my junior year, some things started coming back up. I’m grateful for the theologi¬cal department I had at Luers. The teachers helped me to intellectually fall in love with the Church,” he said.

There were a couple of events that Hellinger recognized as defining moments in his discernment process.

That same year, he attended the events of the National March for Life and felt a stir¬ring in his heart watching the seminar¬ists, priests and bishops process into the Mass for Life. After that, he began having monthly conversations about his poten¬tial vocation with the pastor of his home parish of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, who at the time was Father Jim Schafer. Father Schafer had a positive impact on his dis¬cernment process.

“Father Jim was actually my child¬hood image of priest, along with Father Timothy Wozzek, who was pastor at St. Joseph,” Hellinger said. During his last two years of high school, Father Benjamin Muhlkenkamp was assigned to be a chap¬lain at Bishop Luers and became another example of priestly virtue: a joyful witness of someone who had just been ordained and was loving his life.

Hellinger went from high school to the seminary, spending two years each at the Pontifical College Josephinum and Bishop Simon Brute College Seminary before being asked by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades if he would like to study at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. Studying in Rome has been a great blessing, Hellinger said. During his time there he has been able to view the final resting places of saints such as St. Philip Neri, and study in Italian. It is challenging at times, he said, but the intellectual life has always been a great draw.

“I love the intellectual patrim¬nary of the Church and so I like investing in that heavily. I love talking with people, explaining things or dealing with questions or problems; it’s something that gives me a lot of life.” In fact, one of the things he looks forward to as a priest is having those deep conversations with his parishioners and being able to exalt full¬ly the truths of the faith in a way that they can understand and relate to.

Normally, priestly candidates who are studying in Rome are ordained to the diaconate in the fall. But last July Hellinger’s father, Mark, passed away. That, combined with pandemic travel restrictions, prompted Bishop Rhoades to allow him the option of being ordained at home. This way, his mother, Karen, and his three older sisters could attend.

“Even though his father will not be physically present on the day of his ordina¬tion to the diaconate, “He’ll be there in my prayers. I’m very aware of the ways in which he kind of formed me as a man, for good and for bad, as any parents do. So, I think that his presence is still known to me in the way that I am, the way that I see things, the way that I kind of ground my identity as a man: as a son of him, and also the Father.”

Hellinger has been guided in his discernment by his confirmation saint, Thomas More, whose views on individual holiness struck a chord. “We don’t pur¬sue priesthood or pursue religious life or pursue marriage because we think it will make us holy; we pursue it because God is asking us to do it. He’s calling us there, and that’s what the opportunity for hol¬ness struck a chord. “We don’t pursue priesthood or pursue religious life or pursue marriage because we think it will make us holy; we pursue it because God is asking us to do it. He’s calling us there, and that’s what the opportunity for hol¬ness is,” he said.

Hellinger eagerly awaits the oppor¬tunity to serve the people of God as a priest, though with a full understanding of the difficul¬ties a priest faces in the modern world.

“It gives me a lot of joy to spend time with people, to find out about them, listen to their stories and their experiences, but also to offer them the concrete grace of the sacraments. To be able to do that full¬time — living out the vocation — I look forward to that.”

Baseball and marriage seemed to lie in Brian Isenbarger’s future, until several years ago God tapped him on the shoulder and sent him in a differ¬ent direction.

Isenbarger attended St. John the Baptist School and then Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne. As a col¬lege student playing baseball for the University of Saint Francis, he began to hear the stirrings of a calling to the priest¬hood on a trip to Florida.

I “always wanted to be playing baseball down in college, and I had this moment of thinking: ‘something is missing,’” the future deacon stated.

He is now a candidate for ordina¬tion to the diaconate.

But it wasn’t an immediate step from that moment to the seminary, however. Returning to Fort Wayne, he became more involved in campus ministry at USF and with the youth group at Our Lady of Good Hope Parish. He even switched his degree from health and physical education to theology. “I realized I needed to give my life a little more to the Lord.”

He became so involved in his faith, including attending daily Mass on campus, that others began to ask if he was going to become a priest, which he ada¬mantly denied. He confessed that he was running from God’s call.

“I was putting my foot down, but I look back and remember that even when I was in eighth grade, my classmates would call me ‘Father;’ they could see it in me.” At the time, he still saw himself getting married and teaching or working in ministry. In fact, while in adoration one day, he remembers asking God why he couldn’t date both of the female USF students who were also present in the chapel and seated in the front row.

“His response in the depths of my heart was, ‘Well, Brian, you can love them both as a Father.’ It was just — jar¬ring.”

Still, he soon found himself in a seri¬ous relationship with one of them. The couple was six months away from their wedding when the call to priesthood came back, stronger than ever.

“It wouldn’t go away, so we eventually called off the wedding. I told her I think God wants me to be a priest. To her credit, she said, ‘Brian, if God wants you to be a priest, you need to go be a priest.’”

Isenbarger had no idea how to go about becoming a priest. After finishing USF in Italy, he joined his third year of college, he considered join¬ing a Franciscan order, though he eventually decided against it. After working in youth ministry at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Carmel and earning his master’s degree online through St. Joseph’s College of Maine, he returned to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and spent a year as a substitute teacher in the Catholic schools. In 2016, he began his seminary studies at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emminsville, Maryland.

Ironically, coming into the seminary is the only time he was a bit more than some of his peers put him in the position of having known several of the other seminarians when they were youths, having mentored them as a col¬league in youth ministry.

His Church. “It’s going to be one of if not the happy¬est day of our life.”

Obviously it hasn’t been a perfect history, but it has been a place of peace as far as knowing where I’m supposed to be.”

As a future priest, he looks to say Mass programs after ordination, since he has already spent so much time working with young people and benefitted from similar programs himself.

What he loves most about the Catholic Church is that it professes the truth of Jesus Christ.

We have 2,000-plus years of history. Obviously we have lost a lot of our Church by any stretch of the imagination, but that the Church is still here and that it is still Christ’s body working in the world... Christ is still alive, and He’s working in His Church.”

And fellow seminarian Mark Hellinger eagerly look forward to their ordination day. Isenbarger stated, “It’s what we’ve been working toward, so we want to do it. It’s going to be one of if not the happi¬est day of our life.”
Rely on the **Knights of Columbus** to help protect your family’s future.

*A name you know.  
A company you trust.  
An organization you can believe in.*

**Paul Baker, FICF**  
**Field Agent**  
260-385-8102  
paul.baker@kofc.org

**Anthony Moore, FICF**  
**Field Agent**  
260-403-6514  
anthony.moore@kofc.org

---

**SHARE YOUR STORY**

**HELP US CELEBRATE OUR 100™ ANNIVERSARY.**

As Catholic Charities approaches our 100th anniversary in 2022, we are collecting stories from past and present individuals, couples and families we have served to help us celebrate this big milestone. We want to hear how Catholic Charities has made an impact on YOU! If you are a past employee, board member or volunteer, or have you received services from any of our past or current programs, please share your story with us at [www.ccfwsb.org/share-your-story](http://www.ccfwsb.org/share-your-story).

---

**PAST PROGRAMS**

- Birthing the Vision
- Children’s Cottage
- Circle of Mercy Day Care Center
- Foster Parent Training Program (1997)
- Faith Based Initiative Program
- Home Visitor Program
- Project Rachel
- Saint Anne’s Home (1967-2015)
- Summer Enrichment Program
- The Rainbows Program
- Ten-O-Four Home
- Villa of the Woods in Fort Wayne
- Vincent House in Elkhart

---

**CURRENT PROGRAMS**

- Adoption
- Assistance with rent, food or utilities
- Backpack program
- Christmas program
- Counseling
- Coats program
- Disaster Relief
- ECHO (Education Creates Hope and Opportunity)
- Food Pantry
- Hispanic Health Advocate
- Immigration Services
- Pregnancy Counseling
- Refugee Services
- RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program)
- Services to Survivors of Human Trafficking
- SCSEP (Senior Community Services Employment Program)
- VITA Tax
- Youth Mentoring

---

**LOOKING BACK…**

- Open Associated Catholic Charities, which is formed by Bishop Herman Alerding
- Open an office in South Bend to better meet the needs of the West Region
- Establish the Retired Senior Volunteer Program
- Launch the Hope to Healing Initiative to bring professional mental health counseling to the diocese
- Begin adoption counseling for moms
- Admit the first resident to the St. Anne Retirement Community
- Launch Education Creates Hope and Opportunity (ECHO) to assist pregnant teen moms
- Open an outpatient addiction treatment program in South Bend
TOTUS TUUS, from page 4

into three age groups for elementary students: first and second grade, third and fourth, and fifth and sixth. Middle and high school students attend evening sessions.

The middle and high school students delve deeper into apologetics and even have an opportunity to ask the missionaries anonymous questions on the last evening. Schleitwiler said this helps students relate to the faith because, “They’re asking people who aren’t that much older than they are, especially the high school kids.”

“The neat thing about it is it’s a six-year rotating curriculum, so the theory behind that is if you started the day program in first grade, you would hear the entire curriculum in the day program,” she further explained. “And when you get to the evening program, from 7-12 grade, you’ll hear the whole curriculum again. So that way, you’ll hear it twice.”

Skits and humor are tools the missionaries use to reach younger generations. The children get to participate in fun outdoor activities, including a water fight at the end of the week. Schleitwiler said learning about Totus Tuus from their fellow seminarians, particularly those from the Diocese of Peoria. Schleitwiler explained that seminarians in that dio- cese are required to complete a summer assignment with Totus Tuus, and they tell their classmates at the seminary about it. It has been met with enthusiasm by those in formation from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

“They aren’t the only ones enthusiastic about it. Teen volunteers always seem to crop up when Schleitwiler asks for help. She shared how once they begin volunteering to help makes a tremen- dous difference to the children going through it. Melissa Smith, parishioner at St. Jude and mother of four, three of whom have participated in years prior, is looking forward to another year of Totus Tuus. She is especially grateful for the college students who give of themselves to teach the young participants. I think the kids really liked it more because I think the closer age, instead of adults teaching things they are just learning at that point. These kids, these teenagers that do this, have been trained to do this. And so, it makes it a definite step above a regular vacation Bible school.”

Her oldest will be in sixth grade this year, and Smith stated that Totus Tuus helps her daughter to engage with the Catholic faith.

“I think it goes back to the skits: they always have some kind of lesson or purpose, something that pertains to our Catholic faith. A lot of times it’s hard to get kids that age excited about it, because there’s so much they don’t understand.”

But when the missionaries are young enough to relate well to the students and make learn-
Bishop Luers High School —

Valedictorian
Samuel Hall

Samuel Hall, valedictorian of this year’s graduating class at Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, tried to immerse himself in academic and extracurricular activities as much as possible during his time in high school. Hall played soccer for four years and was a captain his senior year; basketball for two years, “despite being the smallest in the grade”; he swam for two years and played baseball for one year, golf his senior year. He was involved as a senator in student government for two years, National Honor Society for three years, a student ambassador for four years, Academic Super Bowl for three years and went to state for the interdisciplinary team.

He was a leader his senior year of Sodalitas, the school’s community-building program. Outside of school, Hall played travel soccer, earned his Eagle Scout badge and worked at his father’s restaurant.

St. John the Baptist was Hall’s grade school. Now, after graduating from high school with a 4.86 GPA, he will head to Purdue University to study mechanical engineering.

“His faith has contributed to the faith that he has now and the faith that he will continue to grow in,” his math teacher, Lola Quigley, said. “The thing that I admire the most about him is his determination. He worked hard to achieve his goals, and he’s just a great person.”

Hall will remember most about high school the friendships he has made, he said. “I can’t imagine what it is going to be like having these people around me every day.”

Outside of school, Hall played soccer for four years, going to get food, just having fun inside and out of school are the times I won’t forget. And thinking back to four years ago, I didn’t know most of them. So, my most treasured memories of high school are the relationships I’ve made, and the good times I’ve had with all of them.

Attending a Catholic high school provides different opportunities to express one’s faith than are present in a public high school, Hall reflected. Monthly Mass, confession and adoration and religion class were the obvious ones, and not things to be taken for granted.

“Experiencing your faith in school, especially with your peers is a powerful concept too. However, the faith lived throughout the classroom setting is what most influenced me. Catholic values are shared among many students and teachers, making everyone a friend and someone who is open to talk with. This idea of a ‘community’ and ‘family’ environment is created by a shared Catholic faith.

“My faith has contributed to and grown from my High School experience, and I wouldn’t have designed it any other way,” he shared.

Hall’s hobbies and interests are concentrated in the area of music: piano and guitar, mainly. He also loves playing soccer with his siblings. He enjoys building things, a hobby he said was “foreshadowed by my obsession with Legos as a kid, leading me into a career where I can build more stuff — engineering.”

Salutatorian
Lillian Holzinger

Growing up at SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Huntington, Lillian Holzinger learned that her academic education and her faith went hand in hand. She attended Huntington Catholic School before moving on to Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne four years ago, and at both schools grew in wisdom and in the Spirit.

Holzinger is this year’s school salutatorian, having achieved a 4.652 GPA. She plans to major in biochemistry at Villanova University in the fall.

“At Bishop Luers Catholic school, I feel as though I have been able to grow closer to God through my education, which is something I could not have experienced anywhere else,” she said. “I can freely talk about my faith with other people at school and have meaningful connections with them through God. I believe my high school experience has allowed me to grow in my faith through my service to others and has enabled me to grow as a person in general. My faith has been influenced by my high school experience and my high school experience has also been influenced by my faith: I have always strived to take God’s path for me throughout my school years.”

She enjoys music, especially singing and playing the piano. Participating in a variety of different choirs has always been important to her. Holzinger has been involved in the choir and served as a cantor at SS. Peter and Paul for the past six years, and she participated in the Community Choirs of Huntington County for 10 years.

At Bishop Luers she joined the cross-country team her sophomore year and was a member of the track team her junior and senior years. She became a member of the National Honor Society her junior year and was elected to serve as the secretary as a senior. She joined Knight Stars, the show choir girls’ group, her sophomore and junior years, and joined a mixed group, the Minstrels, her senior year. She participated in Academic Super Bowl for three years and was a member of the Math Team in 10th and 11th grade, the English Team in 11th and 12th grade and the Science Team in 12th grade.

“I love to explore my artistic side and create drawings, paintings, and other art projects in my free time,” she shared. “I enjoy running as well and hope to be able to continue running recreationally in college.”

She has created many memories throughout high school that she will carry with her forever, she said.

“Over the years, my teammates and choirmates have become some of my closest friends,” she said. “I will always remember the experience of going to semi-state as a cross-country team, and how much fun we had running together.”

Wygant FLORAL
Mary Green
Owner

574.232.3354
800.994.2687
www.wygants.com

Fresh Cut Flowers | Custom Silk Arrangements | Plants | Gourmet Fruit Baskets | Balloons & more!
The Class of 2021

Saint Joseph High School —

Valedictorian
Jonathan Liu

Jonathan Liu has earned recognition as the 2021 valedictorian at Saint Joseph High School, South Bend. Liu achieved a 4.514 GPA and plans to attend Columbia University in the fall to study physics.

Liu worships at St. Matthew Cathedral Parish. During his Catholic high school career, he said the Church’s teaching that there is concrete truth and meaning in the world changed the way he saw and interacted with the world around him.

“I entered school activities, my spiritual life and the classroom with the faith that God intended for me to be there, and that there was something special to be gained each day,” Liu shared. The belief that there are forces greater than what I could understand inspired me to improve my understanding of reality each day, and I’ve learned to see so much more through the lens of my Catholic faith.

“My faith has also taught me to believe that difficulties are a necessary part of God’s greater design, and that the reason for them will be revealed in time,” he said. “This attitude of patience and trust has helped me tremendously in handling the confusing events of the past year and inspired me to search for God’s providence in every event.”

As a young student, Liu was home-schooled. Once he entered high school, he appreciated that Saint Joseph’s focus on service offered opportunities to put his faith into practice and help the most vulnerable in society.

“Volunteering at the Catholic Charities food pantry allowed me to serve the poor and less fortunate,” he offered as an example. He has volunteered with the organization for four years.

Liu is a four-year member of Right to Life Michiana and has attended the National March for Life for three years. “It was truly special to be able to actively promote the sanctity and dignity of every human life,” he said.

He is an altar server at St. Matthew and been involved in Boy Scouts, recently earning the rank of Eagle Scout. His Eagle Scout service project was to help build shelves to store donations for Hannah’s House, a local maternity home.

Playing doubles in tennis occupied some of Liu’s free time during the four years of high school. He also sprinted for the school’s track and field team this year and served as captain of the Quiz Bowl team. He has conducted physics and chemistry research with professors at the University of Notre Dame.

Outside of school, he watched and played sports. He is an avid Notre Dame football fan.

He enjoys the outdoors and loves spending time with friends and family on camping and beach trips.

Some of Liu’s favorite high school memories are of his tennis team’s tug of war competitions and senior night, he said. “I also cherish my trips on the March for Life, and especially remember the bus rides, tours of D.C., and enormous crowds marching for the pro-life cause.”

He added that he also enjoyed the school’s pep rallies, as well as cheering in the student sections for Saint Joseph’s basketball and football teams.

Salutatorian
Joseph Maffetone

The faith instilled in Maffetone while he was growing up as a member of St. Pius X Parish in Granger and attending the parish school has been a significant part of his high school career, he said — especially as he has become a part of the community at Saint Joseph.

“I’ve been inspired by all the people I’ve met both at school and throughout our local community who have taken their faith and truly lived by it through service, he said. I’ve truly enjoyed all the opportunities I’ve had to serve through my school in our various community service projects. I know that my high school experience has been crucial in shaping my desire to use my career as an engineer first and foremost to help others.”

At Saint Joseph, Maffetone earned a 4.477 GPA. He was a member of the Quiz Bowl and Mathletes teams as well as part of National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. Outside of school, he is involved with a community-based FIRST robotics team (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) as both a subteam leader in several areas as well as through volunteering as a part of the center. He also served as vice president of the FIRST Indiana student board of directors.

During the summer, he had the opportunity to intern at Brookhaven National Laboratory’s High School Research Program as well as the University of Notre Dame’s Quarknet program. “I really enjoyed the experience and interest I was able to gain in research from these experiences,” he said.

“I’m very interested in programming and electronics and have enjoyed working on personal projects in my free time. I also really enjoy music and hope to pick up playing an instrument again in college.”

His favorite high school memory is probably winning the state championship with his robotics team, he said, and then traveling with them to the world championship in 2019. “I also really value the all-day programming/math competitions I’ve attended with close friends from school and the memories made during them, as well as dances over the years.”

Saint Joseph High School —

Saint Joseph High School salutatorian Joseph Maffetone, of Edwardsburg, Michigan, plans to head to the University of Michigan this fall to study computer engineering — a subject he has prepared well for during the last four years. He intends to use what he learns in the field of study to be of service to his fellow man.

Congratuations
Saint Joseph High School
Class of 2021

We can’t wait to see what you do next!

Follow us on
Valedictorian

Grayson Gabet

Faith is an integral focus of education at Bishop Dwenger High School, said 2021 valedictorian Grayson Gabet. Helping others in this capacity was a positive push for him to leave his comfort zone.

“I was able to see what we learn Sunday at Mass and in every theology class: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Mk 12:31)

In addition to theology classes, Bishop Dwenger students are required to do service work in the community as a part of their grade. Gabet volunteered at the Franciscan Center Family Thrift store in Fort Wayne for two months in 2018 and two months in 2019, cleaning and organizing the storefront, sorting donated items and helping elsewhere when needed.

A member of St. Jude Parish, he became involved with the St. Jude Youth Ministry Mission Trip in 2017, 2018 and 2019, also lending a hand at various organizations, small parishes and charities in the Fort Wayne and South Bend areas.

“My experiences of helping others allowed me to put my faith and my Catholic education into action. These opportunities that I had showed me that I would like to carry my Catholic identity into my next level of education and into my career as well,” he said, looking back.

“Helping others has a wonderful, two-sided benefit that is often overlooked,” he explained. “We give our help to others, but in turn, we are able to help ourselves by remaining humble and keeping Jesus’ words close at heart as we help all of our neighbors. I’m seeking a higher education at the University of Notre Dame to further my Catholic education and to nurture a Christian worldview that I can take to my future jobs, remembering to do good in the world and actually live the teachings that we hear.”

Benjamin Hoffman, salutatorian of this year’s senior class at Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, has worked hard during high school to prepare for a higher education path in finance. He will study at Villanova University this fall.

A St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School graduate, Hoffman said that after attending Bishop Dwenger — and especially through the theology classes he took every semester — that knowledge of the Catholic faith and beliefs has grown tremendously.

“At Bishop Dwenger, we are collectively known as Citizens of Two Worlds, acting both as students in modern society as well as children of God. My faith has allowed me to grow and acknowledge that my education will benefit others outside of myself; this will hopefully be seen through my future endeavors.

He said he feels he has been blessed with the opportunity to pray before each and every class, take in the sacrament of reconciliation regularly and grow in faith with his peers. “Without the Catholic identity that permeates throughout this building, I am not sure where I would be as a person, much less as a scholar.

As a way of living out his faith, Hoffman volunteered at the Ave Maria Shelter for all four years of high school. “I have always been involved in this organization, at least since elementary school, enjoying the relationships I developed as well as the experience of making and serving food and being the Easter Bunny, among other activities,” he said.

After school, Hoffman was involved in several clubs and sports. During a year with Future Business Leaders of America, he became the No. 2 Kripsy Kreme doughnut seller and placed in several competitions at the State Leadership Conference in Indianapolis. In Apologetics Club, he attended a weekly discussion where he learned more about the defenses of the Catholic faith. Being invited to join National Honor Society, in which he participated for two years and served as treasurer for one, was “a tremendous honor.”

Hoffman played basketball at Bishop Dwenger for two years on the freshman and junior varsity teams. He played varsity tennis for one year, becoming sectional champion. He was Academic All-State Host at Casa Ristoranti during his junior and senior years as well. And while he spent a good amount of time studying outside of school, he said he still enjoys spending time with his family, playing sports, dabbling in sports memorabilia and binge-watching TV shows.

He will take away from high school memories of his experience playing basketball his freshman and sophomore years, as well as his senior tennis experience.

“The chicken wraps offered every day in the cafeteria definitely will also always permeate throughout my recollection of high school,” he added. He said he will also remember “the tremendous academic experience, along with the marvelous teachers that I was so blessed to have all four years.”
Kathleen Hicks has earned the honor of being the Marian High School valedictorian, placing first in her class with a GPA of 4.680. She will attend the University of Notre Dame this fall; and although currently undecided about a specific career, she intends to major in finance and accounting.

Before coming to the Mishawaka school, Hicks attended St. Joseph Grade School in South Bend. She believes the main reason she is where she is today is due to her elevated faith life, especially during high school.

“I have learned that with the many uncertainties of life, trusting in God relieves the stress. I am very unsure about what my future will be like, especially with majors or career choices, but trusting in a plan that is greater than myself gives my life to be much more stress-free,” she said.

“At Marian, I’ve been able to see how my faith life has gone from just another thing to work on to a priority. I am nowhere near a perfect living example of a faith-filled life, but each day I am trying to improve my relationship with God and the faith-filled friends I do have in my life through Marian.

Before the pandemic, Hicks volunteered at the St. Mary’s Convent in South Bend with the retired sisters. She is a member of National Honor Society and served as the group’s secretary her senior year. She was also the student government secretary for two years and recently a class vice president. She has also been involved with the Marian High School Spanish Club, serving as the co-president and secretary as an upperclassman.

Kathleen Hicks

Regan Burns

Attending Marian High School in Mishawaka, following an elementary and middle school education at St. Thomas the Apostle School in Elkhart and St. Pius X School in Granger, was the fulfillment of a deep dedication to the Catholic faith for co-salutatorian Regan Burns.

“Although I went to Catholic school before Marian, I had never been fully immersed in my faith,” she said. “I have learned so much about what it means to be Catholic.”

Burns has decided to major in biology and preprofessional health studies at Clemson University in the fall.

Since she plays soccer pretty much year-round, her after-school life changed from season to season while she was at Marian – but always involved doing homework. In the fall, Burns immediately headed across the street to the school soccer fields, where she would spend around two hours practicing before going home to start on her homework. On game days she would get home around 9 or 10 p.m., making starting that homework difficult.

In the spring, she played club soccer after school. “I usually went home right after school and spend an hour or two working on my homework before I went to club soccer practice during the winter between the spring and fall season, I got to go home, finish my homework, and have the rest of the day to entertain my hobbies.”

Those hobbies included reading, watching TV shows with her dad, playing video games and studying foreign languages.

“My favorite memories are when I spent around two hours practicing during the fall season, I got to go home, finish my homework, and have the rest of the day to entertain my hobbies.”

KATHLEEN HICKS

REGAN BURNS

Marian High School —

Valedictorian

Kathleen Hicks

Co-salutatorian

Regan Burns

Co-salutatorian

Alyssa Webb

Marian High School co-salutatorian Alyssa Webb hopes to make health care more accessible to the Latino community by breaking the language barrier that inhibits many Spanish-speaking individuals from understanding their medical care.

South Bend has a large Latino population that is underserved in their medical care, she said, and Marian’s emphasis on community outreach to the city impacted her decision to study biochemistry and Spanish at the University of Notre Dame.

A parishioner of St. Joseph in South Bend, Webb’s faith taught her the necessity of service to others.

“My faith spurs me to take action and help others in my immediate community,” she said. “God’s love demands to be shared, and I hope to spread it through my healing service.”

Outside of school, Webb spent most of her time in a pre-professional self-defense training program at Southold Dance Theater. At St. Joseph she is a children’s liturgy assistant, where she helps to teach young kids the word of God “in a way that they can understand.” Additionally, she tutored underclassmen as a part of National Honor Society and was dance captain for Marian’s Spirit Night in 2020 and 2021.

Among her favorite memories of high school was a fun time that also involved her primary extracurricular activity: “During a research class, the two teachers left the classroom, leaving us to have a dance battle and jump rope with a chain of paper clips.”

Webb is an avid reader with a preference for fantasy, and she crochets stuffed animals to give to friends. She loves to bake and cook and is constantly finding new ways to keep active. “I love to self-defense training dances and I am constantly learning new styles.”

Alyssa Webb

Special Edition • Not Currently Subscribed? Visit TodaysCatholic.org • $20 Annual Print Subscription • FREE Digital Subscription
A new monthly magazine kids will love!

Have you heard of OSV Kids? It’s a new monthly magazine designed to bring the domestic Church to life!

These days it often seems like the only way for families to come together is around a screen. And right now, it is no small task for parents to make the Faith tangible to their kids and engage their imaginations. Families need a simple way to come together, unplug, and celebrate their Catholic identity.

Enter OSV Kids magazine! Every issue contains fun, faith-filled games, activities, stories, and more.

It’s an entertaining and simple way for kids (ages 2-6) to learn about their faith and live out the liturgical year at home!

It’s not often that kids get their own mail—in the digital age, we forget that it’s an exciting occasion!

Picture that precious moment of a four-year-old running to the mailbox to open his new issue and tear out the newest collectible saint card for his collection. Or a little girl on Dad’s lap coloring in Our Lady of Guadalupe and chatting about Juan Diego’s tilma.

A subscription to OSV Kids magazine is a perfect gift for any young kid in your life. For your grandkids, it makes for fun memories to share every month. For your godchildren, it can help you fulfill your role as a nurturer of faith. It’s a screenless way to connect, laugh, play, and share in the love of Jesus Christ. All for just $2 a month.

OSVKids.com
Bulk subscriptions also available!
Happy Retirement

Jr. Steve Colchin
from your parish family
at St. Joseph, Bluffton

Congratulations, Class of 2021!
Spread your wings with the competence to see and courage to act.

“I came to Holy Cross College because its small class sizes would allow me to collaborate with professors more frequently. Also, the smaller population of students provided me with a plethora of ways to be involved as a leader in student life and build intentional and faith-filled relationships with other students.”

Dylan Mangel, valedictorian
Wakarusa, Indiana

Search @diocesefwol on Facebook or YouTube

Master, Pantry, Kids Rooms, Craft Rooms, Garage Systems ... the possibilities are endless!

Catholic Family Owned since 1988 • Jon & Shelley Ross – St. Joseph Roanoke Parishioners

www.closetconceptsinc.com
NOW SERVING THE FORT WAYNE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Over **800 Catholic entities**
located in **26 dioceses**
served last year.

More than **$225,000**
donated to parishes and
schools in the Diocese of
Fort Wayne and South Bend.

**Thom Obergfell**
*Fort Wayne Market President*
Cell 260-715-1747
TObergfell@NotreDameFCU.com
“One of the most pleasing aspects of our new relationship is that I truly feel that Notre Dame FCU is our partner. I have never thought we were being sold any particular product or line of thinking. Instead, we are continually asked what the credit union can do to help our school more effectively achieve our mission.

I wish we had more partners that prioritized collaboration in the same way that Notre Dame FCU does. What a blessing it has been to our school community to work with them.”

Elevate is a **good stewardship** program that allows individuals who utilize Notre Dame FCU as their financial institution to **direct funds to the charitable organization of their choice**.
Believers charged with bringing the Lord’s divine mercy to others

The following is the text of Bishop Robert Barron’s commencement address given at the University of St. Thomas in Houston on May 8.

I have the very happy responsibility today of congratulating the University of St. Thomas class of 2021! And also, to express my pride in becoming today a member of your class. I’m delighted to be in your company. I would also, of course, like to thank and congratulate your parents, your siblings, your friends, and your professors, who have done so much to bring you to this day and who feel a very justifiable pride in your accomplishments.

My fellow graduates, I would like to reflect with you, very briefly, on the meaning of the formation in the Catholic intellectual tradition that you have received here at UST. A standard view today, on display in practically every nook and cranny of our cultural life, is that the individual person has the prerogative of creating his or her own values. Freedom, especially the freedom of self-determination, is practically unassailable. Frankly, I cannot think of anything more boring.

If we define our own values, our own truth, our own purpose, we effectively lock ourselves into the tiny space of what we can imagine or control. When we follow these prompts of our culture today, we become cramped souls, what the medieval philosophers called “pulsilae amnesiae,” or “great souls.” A great soul doesn’t invent her own values; rather, she intuits the marvelous intellectual, moral, and aesthetic values that are found in the objectivity of the world and to which she responds with her whole heart. She thereby expands in a manner commensurate with the good that has captivated her.

The basic purpose of the initiation rituals found among primal peoples around the world was to convince a young person that his life is not about him. Typically, he would be wrested away from his comfortable domestic environment, put in some instructive role of his tribe, and then, equipped with only a few provisions, cast out into the wilderness and told to make it on his own. This was not arbitrary cruelty; it was an invitation to move out of his own space and to discover the objectivity of the world’s history, in nature, and finally in the spiritual order.

Your time here at the University of St. Thomas has been a kind of ritual of initiation. The point of these last four years has been to break you out of your own paradigms and to invite you to an adventurous exploration of new worlds of thought and experience. I am concerned that “safe” and “safety” have at the very center of our attention a man nailed to a cross is concerned primarily with safety. According to the cliché, ships are safe in harbors, but ships are not meant for harbors; rather, they are meant for the open sea. In a similar way, you are not within the confines of your own desires and expectations, but you are not meant to live in that small world, but rather in the infinitely wider and more fascinating world of objective value.

Your generation, I would submit, is expected to bring the realm of value in regard to two areas: the natural sciences and social justice. In the course of my evangelical work, I find that there is, among many young people, a great reverence for the sciences and the technology that they have produced. Even as they demonstrate a certain impatience with other disciplines, they tend to accept physics, chemistry, medicine, and engineering as authoritative. In doing so, they are acknowledging an extraordinarily significant realm of value, a realm of objective intelligibility. No scientist, physician, chemist, astronomer, psychologist, etc. — could get her work off the ground unless he believed that intellectual truth he investigated was marked by form, pattern, understandability. The responsible researcher is not inventing intelligibility; he’s finding it, following it, rejoicing in it.

And you and your peers are passively take your values for granted. A great soul doesn’t invent her own values; rather, she is to produce “magnae animae,” the kind of soul that you and I have tried so hard to bring into the world among the intelligent young people who have done so much to bring the Lord’s divine mercy to others.

Freedom, especially the freedom of self-determination, is practically unassailable. Frankly, I cannot think of anything more boring.

When the Church became the Church, a community created by God to bring divine mercy to weary and wandering humans.

The Church is a community, a community created by God to bring divine mercy to weary and wandering humans.

For weeks, the Church has been a kind of ritual of initiation. The risen Lord appears before the Apostles, commissioning them to forgive sins. The reading is profoundly relevant for Catholics.

As God, possessing the Holy Spirit, Jesus gave the Apostles the power to forgive sins. This power awaits the repentant today. It lives in, and through, the Church.

Reflection

For weeks, the Church has rejoiced in the Resurrection, excitedly proclaiming that Jesus is not away. He lives! Throughout the Easter season, the Church, in the readings at Mass, has called us to realize what effect the Resurrection had upon humanity. It has been a wonderfully good effect.

Future generations, including our own, share in this effect. How? Christ lives again, and encounters us, in and through the Church.

While true compassion requires a completely free and uncompromised individual decision, Christians, once committed to Christ, are bound together in the Church because they share their identity with Christ, a bond with Christ, and a life in Christ.

Faith is a gift and a challenge. Christians bear together the mission to bring God’s mercy and wisdom to the world. Christians, however zealous, cannot be ships passing each silently in the night.

Rather, as Acts reveals, they are part of the community still gathered around the Apostles, under the leadership of Peter, still looking to the Apostles for guidance and direction.

Nothing is more Catholic, more Christian, than the recent popes’ call for evangelization by Catholics in all walks of life. Nor is anything more Catholic, more Christian, than Pope Francis’s concern for the desperate and outcast. He stands now in a great line of caring and of acting.

On this feast, the Church teaches a very contemporary lesson. In 2021, as 20 centuries ago, we are to remember the Church, a Catholic Church, a community created by God to bring divine mercy to weary and wandering humans.

The Church is the Church because they share their identity with Christ, a bond with Christ, and a life in Christ.

The responsible researcher is not inventing intelligibility; he’s finding it, following it, rejoicing in it.

And you and your peers are passively take your values for granted. A great soul doesn’t invent her own values; rather, she is to produce “magnae animae,” the kind of soul that you and I have tried so hard to bring into the world among the intelligent young people who have done so much to bring the Lord’s divine mercy to others.
COMMENTARY

Parenting a whole different ballgame

The highlight of my Little League career was a two-hitter I threw against the Knights of Columbus, the class of our league in Sharon, Pennsylvania. My team was sponsored by the International Union of Electrical Workers, IUE AFL-CIO Local 617.

I was a pitcher and sometime right fielder, but the coach tended to bench me when I wasn’t pitching because I was an indifferent hitter and a little afraid of balls. I wasn’t throwing. I tried out for the league at ages 9 and 10 and was cut twice. I can still remember being the last person let go at age 10, from the Knights of Columbus, as it happened. The coach took me into the outfield and encouraged me to try again next year. My parents never came to games. There were too many of us—eight children—to allow that kind of attention, and they figured that extracurricular stuff like that was our lookout anyway.

Mind you, I did not feel slighted. I don’t think they were neglectful. Parenting back then was a different ballgame. People have since developed greater expectations—they had done so even before so-called “helicopter parenting” became a national phenomenon.

For the time they lived in, my parents kept a pretty close eye on what we were doing. And although they were fairly strict by today’s standards, what surprised me as I look back is how much they intentionally let slide—including some forms of misbehavior.

I think they knew that if they made an issue of everything, they would have been punishing us constantly. They didn’t want to be coming down on us all the time. They disciplined us often enough that we knew what the rules were, but then left us some of our own space.

Of course, Mother and Dad might just have decided that it wasn’t worth going to our games because we weren’t very good. That was true enough in my case, but I think they might have shortchanged themselves.

My wife and I found that it was fun to play with our kids and watch them acting in their own affairs. I coached one daughter’s basketball team for a couple of years. I learned some useful things about her and a lot about her friends—not a bad thing for a parent.

The main point, after all, is to teach children to act independently—to show them in a controlled environment how to make their own decisions. But playing an active part in their childhood is also the happiest thing a parent will ever do.

There is a wide middle ground between smothering children for the sake of safety and leaving them to fend for themselves. I think my parents avoided the extremes himself or their own time and found a place somewhere within that broad territory; I think my wife and I did too. I hope more of today’s parents can avoid going too far in the ideal of micro-managing their children’s lives.

BARRON, from page 20

of the Book of Deuteronomy and reiterated centuries later by Jesus himself gives expression to this conviction: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your mind, and all your strength.” We can now see the point of a Catholic doctrine: the virtue of magnanimity — the quality of having a great soul — as a means to beguile you with the objective values — epistemic, aesthetic, and moral — that exist in the world and that direct you finally to the divine source of those values. Once you understand this, you’re ready for spiritual adventure; you’re ready to move the ship out of the safe harbor; you’re ready to become a great soul.

How can I address this assembly and not refer to your patron, St. Thomas Aquinas? In the second part of his magnificent summary of Christian doctrine, the Summa Theologicae, Thomas discusses the virtue of “magnanimitas” — “magnanimity” — the quality of having a great soul. He writes, “Magnanimity by its very name denotes the stretching forth of the soul to great things.” That is the definition I am trying to say in this context. What are these “great things” that Thomas references but the objective values that he calls magnanimity? That is what I am trying to say in this context.

There is a story told of Thomas Aquinas that I particularly savor. Toward the end of his life, Thomas was laboring over the section of the Summa Theologicae dealing with the Eucharist. Though it is commonly taken now for a masterpiece, Thomas himself was dissatisfied with his treatise, convinced that it did not do justice to the mystery he was attempting to describe. And so, he placed the text at the foot of the crucifix and asked for God’s help. According to the legend, a voice came from the figure of the crucified Christ: “Thomas, you have written well of me. What would you have as a reward?” The great man could have asked for anything — for fame, for wealth, for a powerful office. But instead, he said, “Non nisi te, Domine” (“Nothing except you, Lord”). The pattern of this university spent his life discerning and seeking objective values, and he knew that all of those goods find their source in the supreme value of God. His soul stretched out to great things and finally to the Creator of those great things.

The purpose of this university is to make you like Thomas Aquinas. So put the ship out to the perils and possibilities of the open sea. Be great souls!

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

May 23, 2021

SCRUPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for May 23, 2021
John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Feast of Pentecost, Cycle B: Jesus promises an advocate. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

The Guide


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

The Crossword

ACROSS
1 Not on
4 “Keep yourself ___”
12 Unconsciousness
14 Battle
15 Divorce
16 Prayer ending
18 Some saw risen
20 Boredom
23 Technical
26 Pounds per sq. inch
27 Luau dish
30 Running water energy
34 Still
35 Timid
36 Spirit
37 Santa helper
38 Thai
40 ___ Dei
43 “The Spirit itself bears ___.”
53 Stove top emissions

DOWN
1 Herr’s
2 England
3 Extension (abbr.)
4 ___ Model (about storms)
7 Dwell
8 Cold
9 Middle East country
10 List of meals
11 Opposed
12 ___ “Model” about atoms
13 ___ the Red
14 Compass point
15 “___ will be done”
16 Symbol for God the Father
17 Central Daylight Time
18 Wooden sheet
21 Not amateur
22 Used to anoint kings
23 ___ Moses came up from
24 Stuck
25 Central Daylight Time
26 Wooden sheet
27 Not amateur
28 Used to anoint kings
29 Slippers
30 ___ Idol
31 Extremely high frequency (abbr.)
32 ___ Moses came up from
33 ___ Moses came up from
34 Greek animal
35 ___ Moses came up from
36 ___ Moses came up from
37 ___ Moses came up from
38 ___ Moses came up from
39 ___ Moses came up from
40 ___ Moses came up from
41 ___ Moses came up from
42 ___ Moses came up from
43 ___ Moses came up from
44 ___ Moses came up from
45 ___ Moses came up from
46 ___ Moses came up from
47 ___ Moses came up from
48 ___ Moses came up from
49 ___ Moses came up from
50 ___ Moses came up from
51 ___ Moses came up from
52 ___ Moses came up from
53 ___ Moses came up from

Readings: Acts 2:1-11; Gal 5:16-25; Jn 20:19-23 and Dt 4:32-34, 36-46; Rm 8:14-17; Mt 28:16-20

Answer key can be found on page 23

Special Edition • Not Currently Subscribed? Visit TodaysCatholic.org • 520 Annual Print Subscription • FREE Digital Subscription
St. John the Baptist Catholic School in New Haven is looking for a principal to begin work on July 1, 2021. The school has an enrollment of 215 kindergarten – grade 8 students with an experienced and dedicated faculty of 17 plus additional school support staff. St. John the Baptist Catholic School has received an “A” grade from the Indiana Department of Education.

Qualifications:

A practicing Catholic in full communion with the Church and active in their current home parish within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend with belief in the Catholic Church and her teachings and doctrines. Minimum of five years teaching experience – previous administrative experience helpful. The candidate will possess or be eligible for an Indiana Elementary Administrative License. Evidence of strong leadership, communication, and organizational skills needed to form and guide teachers and staff in the Church’s mission and academic excellence.

Questions regarding this job opening should be directed to the Catholic Schools Office at 260-422-4611. Interested applicants should apply online at diocesefwsb.org/careers. Application deadline is June 1, 2021.

**ST. MARY OF THE ANNUNCIATION CHURCH**

**BRISTOL**

**Music Director Wanted**

St. Mary of the Annunciation Church in Bristol is looking for a full-time or part-time Music Director.

Applicant must be available to provide music for three Masses each weekend, as well as funerals, weddings, holidays and Holy Days. Applicant must be able to sing, cantor and play the piano and organ and must also possess the skills necessary to develop and work with adult and young adult choirs and cantors. Familiarity with Microsoft Word and Publisher is required, as well as knowledge working with music writing software for the creation of Worship Aids. Salary negotiable.

Interested person should send a resume to Father Bob Van Kempen at annunciationchurch-bristol@hotmail.com or St. Mary of the Annunciation P.O. Box 245, Bristol, IN 46507

**MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST**

The Office of Vocations of the Congregation of Holy Cross (United States Province) seeks a Marketing Communications Specialist. The position designs and produces electronic and print media, as well as promotional items and materials, highlighting the formation programs and vocations office programming of the Congregation of Holy Cross. Qualified applicants will be practicing Catholics and must possess a bachelor’s degree from a four-year college or university. High organizational skills required. For a complete position description, or to apply, submit your resume and cover letter to Father John DeRiso, CSC, Director, Office of Vocations, via email at jderiso@nd.edu.
**What’s Happening?**

**St. Stanislaus Kostka Altar and Rosary**

Support parish schools.

Freewill offerings will be accepted.
Proceeds from this month will help support parish schools.

**New Carlisle**

A carry-out chicken dinner will be Sunday, June 13, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, 55756 Tulip Rd. The meal includes Polish style chicken, mashed potatoes/gravy, noodles, sweet/sour cabbage, green beans and dessert. Advance sale only. Tickets are adult $14, children (5-12) $5. For tickets call 574-684-3781 or email dianeststan@embarqmail.com.

**St. Louis, Besancon spring rummage sale**

NEW HAVEN — The St. Louis, Besancon Rosary Sodality’s rummage sale is June 4 and 5 at the parish hall, 15535 Lincoln Hwy. E. Friday hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon with fill-a-bag for $3.

---

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

---

**St. Bernard Catholic School**

Wabash, IN 46992

Grades K-6  Starting: July 1, 2021

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 shove@diocesefwsb.org
Go to https://theapplicantmanager.com/jobs?pos=DF425 to apply.
Application Deadline: May 16, 2021

---

**South Bend**

John Botson, 60, St. Adalbert

John Cheeseman, 70, St. Anthony

Gerald Makowski, 82, Cathedral of Saint Matthew

Nancy Siewert, 90, St. Anthony

William Waymouth, 69, St. Adalbert

---

**Figures**

- 10 $298,257
- 9 $273,060
- 8 $247,863
- 7 $222,666
- 6 $197,469
- 5 $172,277
- 4 $147,075
- 3 $121,878
- 2 $96,681
- 1 $71,484

**Learn more:**

diocesefwsb.org/schools

---

**Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry**

With the support of a part-time assistant, directs parish-based youth and young adult ministries, providing opportunities for those in middle school through young adult age (those in their 30s) to encounter Jesus Christ through prayer, Sacraments, catechesis, community, service, and engagement in the life of the parish.

Requires a bachelor’s degree in theology, pastoral ministry or closely related field, with 1-3 years previous experience that includes catechesis and program development and implementation, or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience. Must be a practicing Catholic in good standing and an active steward of the parish with a thorough understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Competitive salary and benefits offered.

Visit: StPius.net/Employment for full details. To apply, submit letter of interest and current resume to kmauch@stpius.net.
“Today’s Catholic serves the Church’s mission of evangelization and catechesis. I appreciate the opportunity it provides for me as bishop to communicate and exercise my responsibility to teach the Catholic faith.

I encourage all faithful to be informed by reading Today’s Catholic. In the end, I hope it helps them to grow in their faith and commitment to the Church.”

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend