Interview: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on eucharistic consistency and the forthcoming bishops’ statement

BY GRETCHEN R. CROWE

In the months leading up to the U.S. bishops’ spring general assembly June 16-18, headlines in both secular and Catholic media focused primarily on one issue: the potential of a document on eucharistic consistency and what that would mean in the political sphere. Since the bishops’ vote to move forward with the statement, media attention has become even more acute — and confusing. In an interview with Our Sunday Visitor, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who chairs the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ doctrine committee (and who is also chairman of the OSV board of directors), explained why the bishops voted to write a teaching document on the mystery of the Eucharist and what it means for all U.S. Catholics.

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Eucharist as well as the long absences from regular Mass attendance, which may have led to people placing less signifi-
cance on the Eucharist in their lives.

The Communion document also was a key point of discus-
sion in the news conferences June 16 and 17. Bishop Rhoades
June 17 stressed that creat-
ing national norms was never
the intent behind a proposal to
write a new statement on the
Eucharist. He said it would be
aimed at providing guidance for
bishops.

“We have taught in years past
that the Eucharist is central to
spiritual life, the importance of adher-
ence to Church teaching in the
document on worthiness to receive
Communion was something that
back in 2006,” Bishop Rhoades said.

“But with this new strategic plan
that’s going to be focused on the
Eucharist, this three-year plan,
we have to teach this again, on
different levels.”

The bishop was referring to a
multiyear National Eucharistic
Revival initiative that is part of the
U. S. Conference of Catholic
Bishops’ 2021-24 strategic plan.

The revival has been in the plan
for about a year.

This revival is meant to place
emphasis on the Eucharist at
all levels of the Church in the
United States beginning next
summer and culminating in a
large-scale national event in
2024.

The initiative aims to “renew
the Church by enkindling a
living relationship with the
Lord Jesus Christ in the holy
Eucharist,” said Auxiliary,Bish-

op’s virtual spring assembly, Archbishop Christophe Pierre,
papal nuncio, and Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez.
The USCCB president, gave addresses stressing the need for unity as
the Church emerges from the pandemic year.

Some of Archbishop Pierre’s
remarks June 16 seemed to
decry the difficulty the bish-
ops faced in debating and
acquiring approval of the drafting of
the Communion document.

“At the heart of dialogue is
the communication of one’s own
personal life to others,” he said,
adding the goal of such dialogue
“should be unity and not merely
doctrinal and juridical unity.”

The Gomez said the events of
the past year will likely
shape the vision of the Church
“for years to come.” That’s why
unity is important, he added.

He also noted that unity doesn’t
mean bishops will never dis-
agree, because the apologetic
disappeared, “but never about the
truth of the Gospel.”

In a June 16 report, Scott
Voyich, chairman of the
National Advisory Council, said
the group of lay, clergy and reli-
gious members were particularly
in favor of the bishops’ National
Eucharistic Revival initiative.

He said the council was con-
cerned about a lack of clarity on
the Eucharist among Catholics
and felt the bishops should
explain this better, but its mem-
bers also were concerned the
plan could be seen as a burden,
not an inspiration, for priests.

In a report to the bishops
June 17, Suzanne Healy, chair-
woman of the National Review
Board, noted that although
major steps have been taken
to help achieve healing and
reconciliation with survivors of
clergy sexual abuse, much
work remained, particularly in
written back for the U.S. Catholic
Church.

She said transparency
remains a key concern of the
review board and thanked
bishops and eparchs who have
released lists of clergy with
substantiated abuse allega-
tions including those who are
deceased and removed from
ministry.

The bishops also gave their
good news June 17 to two di-
cesses to continue their efforts to
make their case for a priest and
a brother to be considered for
sainthood.

The men are Father Joseph
Verbis LaFleur of the Diocese
of Lafayette, Louisiana, an
Army chaplain who died sav-
ing others in World War II, and
Benedictine Brother Marinus of
St. Paul’s Abbey in Newton, N.J.,
who before he joined religious
life, was Capt. Leonard LaRue,
known for his heroism while
serving in the Merchant Marine
during the Korean War.

Contributing to this report
were Rhina Guidos, Mark
Pattison, Dennis Sadowski,
Carol Zimmermann and Maria
Wiering.
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Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades: As the bishops discussed at our meeting, there is a great need for a eucharistic revival in the Church, a deeper understanding of the eucharistic mystery and its centrality in our life. The doctrine committee has been entrusted with the task of preparing this document. The outline we presented to the body of bishops uses the outline followed by Pope Benedict XVI in his apostolic exhortation “Sacramentum Carolitatis” (“The Sacrament of Charity”): the Eucharist as a mystery to be believed, a mystery to be celebrated, and a mystery to be lived. Within the section on the Eucharist as a mystery to be lived, the topic of eucharistic consistency arises. We are called to live what we receive, to live in a way that is consistent with the self-giving love of Jesus that is made present in the eucharistic sacrifice. This is related to our call to be missionary disciples. In our current time and culture, there is a temptation to privatize our faith or to separate our celebration and reception of Holy Communion from our responsibility to live in communion with the Church and to live lives that are consistent with the deep meaning of the Eucharist, the sacrament of charity.

Our Sunday Visitor: Now that the drafting of the document has been approved, what will the process be as it moves forward?

Bishop Rhoades: The doctrine committee will soon be getting to work writing a draft of the document. As was recommended by several of my brother bishops, we will be receiving input from regional meetings of bishops throughout the country. I am looking forward to their ideas and contributions. We will then share the eventual draft with several other committees of the USCCB to receive their suggestions and observations. We will also send the draft document to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, as we always do in preparing doctrinal statements. I think this wide consultation will be very helpful. Most importantly, throughout this process, I am especially praying to the Holy Spirit for an outpouring of His gifts of wisdom and counsel as we prepare the text. I have also asked many of the faithful to pray for us in these coming months.

Our Sunday Visitor: Some media outlets have reported that, with the vote to proceed with the drafting of the document, the bishops have defied the Vatican. Is that what happened?

Bishop Rhoades: No. I am disappointed in that erroneous interpretation. As bishops, we are committed to teaching in communion with the pope. As I mentioned, we will be in consultation with the Vatican Committee for the Doctrine of the Faith during this process since this will be a teaching document on the Eucharist. I am grateful for the full teaching on the Eucharist without including the section on the Eucharist as a mystery to be lived, and, within that section, the call to eucharistic consistency. This is related to the Church’s discipline which goes back to the New Testament. St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians: “Whoever eats the bread and drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord. A person who eats and drinks without discerning the body and drinks judgment on himself” (1 Cor 11:27-29). The Church’s tradition throughout the ages has included discipline about reception of holy Communion. That discipline is expressed today in Canons 915 and 916 of the Code of Canon Law and Canons 711 and 712 of the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches. In our document, we hope to present a clear understanding of why the Church has these laws, explaining the profound teaching that is the basis for these canons. Canon 915 regards those who are not to be admitted to holy Communion. Canon 916 regards the necessity of being in a state of grace to receive holy Communion. The Church’s laws are ordered to the salvation of souls. And these disciplinary laws have a medicinal, rather than punitive, purpose.

Our Sunday Visitor: Many bishops said within the context of the meeting that a pastoral problem has emerged from the fact that the United States now has a Catholic president who is pushing a strong pro-abortion agenda, as well as advocating for many other social issues that are contrary to the Church’s social doctrine — all while still receiving holy Communion. Is it fair to say that this document is a necessary pastoral tool in response to this reality?

Bishop Rhoades: This document will be addressed to all Catholics. All of us are called to continual conversion and to eucharistic consistency. We are all called to go forth from Mass to glorify the Lord by our lives, to bear witness to Christ in our words and actions. We are called to bear witness to the Gospel of life and to respect and defend the life and dignity of every human person, including the child in the womb. The Catechism teaches that the Eucharist educates us in love and commits us to the poor. Pope St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have all written beautifully about the social implications of the Eucharist. I hope that our document will highlight this. It is important to understand that, as Pope Benedict wrote, “Worship pleasing to God can never be a purely private matter, without consequences for our relationship with others: it demands a public witness to our faith.”

Our Sunday Visitor: It has become a popular argument in recent months that a document that includes teaching on eucharistic consistency may “weaponize the Eucharist.” How would you respond to that?

Bishop Rhoades: I believe that the Church’s teaching on eucharistic consistency honors the Lord’s presence in the Blessed Sacrament and helps us to understand that the Eucharist is a mystery to be lived. The Eucharist is an amazing gift from the Lord that we are called to receive humbly and gratefully and that the Lord has given to us as nourishment for our souls. The notion of eucharistic consistency reminds us that we must be properly disposed to receive the Eucharist. This includes ecclesial communion and assent to the deposit of faith contained in Scripture and Tradition, which the apostles entrusted to the Church. Eucharistic consistency involves our communion with the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church, which the eucharistic Body of Christ builds.

Our Sunday Visitor: What else would you like to add that might help bring clarity to the proceedings?

Bishop Rhoades: We are striving to write a document that will contribute to a real eucharistic revival in the Church in our nation by highlighting the truth about the amazing gift of the Eucharist and the discipline which has been called to continually receive the Eucharist. This serves the Church and The Oakwood Resort, Syracuse.

Jennifer Barton

Bishop Rhoades raises the Eucharist during a eucharistic liturgy May 22 at which two new deacons were ordained for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

“I am especially praying to the Holy Spirit for an outpouring of His gifts of wisdom and counsel as we prepare the text. I have also asked many of the faithful to pray for us in these coming months.”

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHoades

Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, June 27: 12:30 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Patrick Church, Fort Wayne

Monday, June 28: 9 a.m. — Religious Liberty Conference, University of Notre Dame

Tuesday, June 29: 11:15 a.m. — Mass for Totus Tuus participants, Immaculate Conception Church, Auburn

Tuesday, June 29: 3 p.m. — Meeting of Seminarian Admission Committee, Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, Fort Wayne

Wednesday, June 30: 11 a.m. — Mass and Blessing, Ancilla College of Marian University, Donaldson

Wednesday, June 30: 6 p.m. — Mass and Dinner with Legatus Chapters of Fort Wayne and South Bend, St. Martin de Porres Church and The Oakwood Resort, Syracuse.
Secretariat for Communications receives CMA awards

BY JODI MARLIN

T he Secretariat for Communications of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is the recipient of four prestigious awards for creative efforts realized in 2020. The awards were bestowed at the end of the 2021 Catholic Media Conference, which took place June 8-10.

Of 12 submissions in 10 categories, the secretariat received recognition in the areas of fundraising appeal production, videography and graphics. The sponsoring organization for the Catholic Media Conference is the Catholic Media Association, an international membership organization of Catholic publishers, publications and freelance writers and photographers. “To say that I am proud of our communications team is an understatement,” said Secretary for Communications Jennifer Simerman. “With only eight on staff, our small department has accomplished some big things this past year.”

First place went to the secretariat in the categories of Best Website and Best Diocesan Fundraising Appeal – Produced by a Communications Department Staff. Judging of the Best Website category focused on overall quality of site content and graphics, as well as effectiveness in meeting site objectives. Simerman, graphics specialist and website coordinator Francie Hogan and brand manager Molly Gettinger designed and created a new diocesan website that went live in October. The site, diocesefw.org, engages with well-executed videography and photos that highlight the fruits of the Holy Spirit as they are lived and experienced within the northern and northeast Indiana region. It has also been reimagined as a one-stop location for general information about parishes, diocesan ministries, vocations, Catholic schools, victim assistance, marriage annulments and more, with drill-down information and forms relating to each area.

The first-place award for Best Diocesan Fundraising Appeal celebrates the concept and execution of the 2020 Annual Bishop’s Appeal. Proulx conceptualized, filmed and edited the ABA video, which was shown in parishes in September and is viewable on the diocesan website, with the support and assistance of Simerman and in conjunction with the Secretariat for Stewardship and Development, led by Secretary Jeffrey Boetticher.

The theme of the appeal was “Spreading the Light of God’s Love.” Imagery from the video included lit lanterns being taken by parishioners out into a dark city after Mass, signifying how all are sent forth to spread the light of God’s love. The same imagery was used in the development of ABA brochures and other print materials, and Gettinger created a page on the diocesan website using the video and other imagery. Judges’ comments noted the strong production value of the materials, which created a memorable thread through messaging, was expressed visually and included “a robust portfolio of content.”

A second-place award went to Hogan in the category of Best Use of Graphics – Best Original Illustration, for an image of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades that appeared on the cover of the Jan. 12 issue of Today’s Catholic. Hogan was aiming to illustrate the bishop and the excitement that comes when seeing him process down the aisle at Mass when she created the image, she said, by digitally manipulating a photo of the bishop and enhancing it with complimentary colors and design. The photo illustration was created in Adobe Photoshop. Judges for the competition felt that the result was “bold and eye-catching, drawing the reader in through its sense of motion.”

Nate Proulx, media specialist and director of 7th Floor Productions for the diocese, received a third-place award in the category of Videographer/Video Producer. The works submitted for consideration included that the judges acknowledged was an “extremely powerful and high-quality bilingual video that tells the story of a turbulent but important year, and the spirituality at the center of our lives.”

The category recognizes an individual for exemplary service and is judged on demonstrated talent, creativity, thoroughness and effectiveness. Proulx’s honor was based on works envisioned and completed by him, in conjunction with Simerman and Gettinger: the ABA video, a video for the 2020 Christ the Teacher awards banquet in January, and one produced in both English and Spanish for the Secretariat for Evangelization and Discipleship on the role and function of godparents. The Christ the Teacher and godparents videos can be viewed on the diocesan website and YouTube channels.

“The four awards we received represent all different facets of our work as a communications team — promotion, web design, videography, print media and graphic design,” said Simerman. “I am grateful that the exemplary work and dedication of our team was given such high recognition.”
Adults complete initiation into Catholic Church

BY JENNIFER BARTON

More than 50 adults were fully received into the Catholic Church May 30 and June 12 as Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades confirmed them in Fort Wayne and South Bend, completing their sacraments of initiation. Masses of confirmation of adults are celebrated every year in the diocese, for Catholics who have not previously received the sacrament.

The Masses took place at St. Peter Church, with 24 adults receiving the sacrament; the number was higher at St. Patrick Church, South Bend, with 34 candidates in attendance.

The Mass on the Fort Wayne side took place on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity and Bishop Rhoades focused his homily on the mystery of the Trinity.

“Though we cannot fully understand the mystery of the Trinity, it is a mystery we believe because it was revealed to us by Jesus, Jesus, the eternal Son, revealed to us the Father and the Holy Spirit,” he emphasized.

“Though as I mentioned, the mystery of the Trinity infinitely transcends us, it is also the reality closest to us, because God is the very source of our being, and we received a share in His divine nature when we were baptized. The Holy Trinity made His dwelling within us.”

He explained that prior to confirmation, the baptized adults would renew their baptismal promises and then “will be drawn more deeply into God’s life and love, into the life and love of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

“Love is the first of the fruits of the Holy Spirit,” he said. “My brothers and sisters about to be confirmed, I pray that you will always live by the Spirit you receive today in confirmation, that you will open your hearts each day to the graces of your baptism and confirmation. When you do so, you will help to build up the Body of Christ, His Kingdom, in the world.”

In South Bend, the Sunday readings compared the Kingdom of God to the growth of a tree or large plant. The Gospel told of Jesus using the parable of the mustard seed, about which Bishop Rhoades spoke. “God can use small things to do great works. Jesus used this parable to teach us about the Kingdom of God.”

“When we think about the beginning of God’s Kingdom on earth, the beginning of the Church, we realize it was very small and humble,” he said. “It began with Jesus and a small band of followers. It has grown into an immense tree with people of every race, nation, and language all over the world. This growth took place due to God’s hidden power, like, the hidden power in a seed. That power is the Holy Spirit.”

He went on to explain how Jesus sent the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to strengthen the disciples to go out and spread the Gospel throughout the world. Then he told the candidates for confirmation that they were about to receive the same Spirit and the same calling and charged them not to fear living out their faith in their daily lives.

“When we live by the Spirit, we will see the fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In the second reading today, St. Paul lists nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. When these fruits are growing in our lives, we know we are walking according to the Spirit and growing in holiness. We are also helping to spread God’s Kingdom on earth. The readings for both Masses were proclaimed alternately between English and Spanish, Father Patrick Hake, pastor of St. Peter, consecrated on the Fort Wayne side. In South Bend, Father Zachary Rathike, CSC, parochial vicar at St. Adalbert and St. Casimir, concelebrated, with Deacon José Ruvalcaba proclaiming the gospel.

In Fort Wayne, three sisters, parishioners at St. Mary, Mother of God Parish, were confirmed together: Kenady, Cayley and Caris Hall. Their grandparents, Michael and Georgia Floyd, served as sponsors.

Caris spoke for the trio when she stated that they were “very excited to be confirmed together.” The three are very close, according to their grandmother, and do everything together, including forming a band they call Angel Project.

After receiving the sacrament, Jaqueline Cerna stated that she chose to be confirmed because “I wanted to renew my relationship to God.”

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church located at 319 E Diamond St. in Kendallville seeks a part-time parish secretary. This position requires 15 hours per week scheduled over 2-3 days. Duties include answering phones, clerical support, and ability to perform general bookkeeping functions.

Apply at diocesefwsb.org/careers.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades confirms Kenady Hall at St. Peter Church in Fort Wayne May 30. Her grandfather and sponsor, Michael Floyd, stands behind her.

Over 30 adults were confirmed at St. Patrick Church in South Bend June 12 by Bishop Rhoades at the adult confirmation Mass. This takes place every year for those baptized members of the Church who have not received their confirmation.

NOW HIRING

DIOCESAN COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

The Director of Secretariat for Communications manages diocesan communications, both printed and digital, in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, including the management of public information, media relations, diocesan publications, and the weekly Diocesan Today’s Catholic Newspaper. This management serves the Diocese as a tool for the Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend to communicate and to evangelize in Northeast Indiana.

Qualifications for interested candidates include the following:

- Must have knowledge of, understanding, and commitment to the teachings of the Catholic Church, and be able to articulate these teachings
- Possess strong organizational and project management skills
- Must be a confident presenter and speaker
- Must have experience developing and implementing communications strategies
- Sincere commitment to work collaboratively and respectfully with all diocesan Secretariats, Parishes, and all other diocesan organizations
- Possess strong writing, editing, proofreading, layout and design, professional printing/publishing skills are essential, including ability to present concepts verbally
- Experience in financial management and exhibit strong leadership ability
- Proficiency in MS Office

Submit application materials including cover letter and resume online diocesefwsb.org/careers. For more information, contact Laurie Haverty, Director of Human Resources, 260-969-9154 or via email lhaverty@diocesefwsb.org.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS is June 30, 2021

DIOCESE OF

FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

June 27, 2021
Crisis in Mozambique Leads Catholics There to Establish Outreaches to Help Orphans

The Association Cross Mozambique (ACM), a ministry to orphans and founded by Doroteia Balane and a group of other dedicated Catholic women, has become a lifeline to boys and girls victimized by poverty and the blight of the African AIDS crisis. (See story opposite page.) From the time ACM first began ministering to the thousands of orphans and vulnerable children who live in the Maputo and Namaacha areas, its goal has always been ambitious. Rather than simply ensuring those boys and girls survive day by day, the Catholic ministry has worked to ensure each child is treated with unconditional compassion and is given the opportunity to reach his or her full potential.

“What ACM does is incredible. They have become a lifeline to orphans and vulnerable children age 6 to 17 — kids who are at an extremely vulnerable point in their lives — and they have given those children a real chance at a better future,” explained James Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, a major international Catholic ministry helping ACM with its programs. “When our ministry decided to make helping Africa’s AIDS orphans a priority, we sought out programs like this one and have been doing everything we can to support them. That is the best way to address the AIDS orphan crisis in Mozambique — by empowering the local leaders already doing great things in the country.”

Doroteia, the founder of ACM, certainly lives up to Cavnar’s positive impression of her. She has made incredible sacrifices to help the orphans in Mozambique and continues to look for new ways to reach those children in greatest need.

“I am so happy because I am doing a job I like, looking after people who are suffering and helping the children who need a mother,” she said. “Always I am asking for God to give me a long life in order to use me to help people in need.”

To lift up destitute children and restore their hope, Doroteia and ACM take a holistic approach. Not only do they meet each child’s physical needs by supplying food, educational opportunities and preventive health care, but they also bless them spiritually through Bible study and prayer.

ACM starts its process by identifying those orphans and vulnerable children with the greatest needs. It then determines what services will best help each of them to prosper and grow. Once these boys and girls are enrolled in the program, a volunteer also makes weekly home visits to ensure the material and spiritual requirements of the children are being met.

In situations where the orphaned child is living with an overwhelmed extended family member or a sick parent, Doroteia and her team provide assistance and spiritual support to the entire family. By strengthening these families, Doroteia believes she can best fulfill the calling God has given her: to love others with the same compassion Christ has shown her.

“In addition to mobilizing Catholics in America to help Doroteia serve orphans, Cross Catholic Outreach wants to assist ACM with a special program it has developed to educate girls — a particularly vulnerable group in the country,” Cavnar said.

That particular project provides special boarding homes for at-risk girls who are struggling with a wide range of life issues.

“Sadly, Mozambique’s orphan problem is complicated by gender inequity. When these children are taken in by extended family members, the boys are frequently sent to school, while girls are left to do domestic work at home. As a result, more than half of Mozambique’s young girls can’t read or write,” he explained.

The Association Cross Mozambique solves this problem by providing at-risk girls in Maputo — the most populous city in Mozambique — with a quality Catholic education. These girls are given the opportunity to attend St. Joseph Institute, a Catholic boarding school run by the Franciscan Hospitalier Sisters in Inhambane on Mozambique’s southern coast.

“While living at the institute’s boarding facilities, the girls can learn and mature in a safe environment. And in addition to receiving a quality education, they are also blessed with nutritious meals, practical job skill training, mentoring from the sisters and spiritual formation,” Cavnar explained.

“As the girls grow up and eventually move out on their own, they will be equipped to get good jobs and raise families who love and serve the Lord.”

Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach food programs and other outreaches to the poor can contribute through the ministry brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01719, PO Box 97168, Washington DC 20090-7168. The ministry has a special need for partners willing to make gifts on a monthly basis. Use the inserted brochure to become a Mission Partner or write Monthly Mission Partner on mailed checks to be contacted about setting up those arrangements.

Cross Catholic Outreach Endorsed by More Than 100 Bishops, Archbishops

Cross Catholic Outreach’s range of relief work to help the poor overseas continues to be recognized by a growing number of Catholic leaders in the U.S. and abroad.

“We’ve received more than 100 endorsements from bishops and archbishops,” explained James Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. “They’re moved by the fact that we’ve launched outreaches in almost 40 countries and have undertaken a variety of projects — everything from feeding the hungry and housing the homeless to supplying safe water and supporting educational opportunities for the poorest of the poor. The bishops have also been impressed by Cross Catholic Outreach’s direct and meaningful responses to emergency situations, most recently by providing food, medicines and other resources to partners in Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala impacted by natural disasters.”

Bishop Ronald W. Gainer of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, supports this mission. He writes, “What a joy it is to be part of the Lord’s redemptive work and to manifest his mercy on earth by caring for our neighbors in need.”

In addition to praising CCO’s accomplishments, many of the bishops and archbishops are encouraged that pontifical canonical status was conferred on the charity in September 2015, granting it approval as an official Catholic organization. This allows CCO to participate in the mission of the Church and to give a concrete witness to Gospel charity, in collaboration with the Holy Father.

“Your work with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development is a strong endorsement of your partnership with the work of the Universal Church,” Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco said. “By providing hope to the faithful overseas by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, delivering medical relief to the sick and shelter to the homeless, and through self-help projects, you are embodying the papal encyclical Deus Caritas Est.”
Don’t be surprised if Doroteia Balane is remembered as a mother to hundreds of children, or that the many boys and girls she has nurtured through the years eventually become important leaders in the country she calls home. That is because Doroteia has dedicated her life to serving as a caregiver of orphans. The kids she has helped — no longer a lost generation with little hope of survival — are now children of promise, finally able to achieve their God-given potential.

To appreciate just how significant Doroteia’s sacrifices and mission are, you first need to understand why Mozambique is a country of orphans. With that knowledge, it is possible to see how a Catholic woman like her has come to play such a critical role in addressing one of the world’s greatest tragedies.

Since its independence from Portugal in 1975, Mozambique has been battered by civil war and famine, but its greatest challenge came when the HIV/AIDS pandemic of the 1980s began to devastate the country’s adult population, producing a tragic increase in orphans and street children that persists to this day. Were you to visit Mozambique in the past 10 to 15 years, you would have noticed a dramatic sign of this blight — a gap between the elderly and children; the absence of a significant adult population.

“I hadn’t been aware of how extreme the problem was until I visited the country myself. What I saw there were children left to survive on their own. I found a young girl of 11 or 12 taking shelter in a patchwork shack, trying to play the role of mother to her younger siblings. It was heartbreaking,” said James Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, a respected Catholic ministry working to help orphaned children in Africa. “I was shocked by what I saw, and when I returned from that trip to Mozambique, I decided that caring for orphaned and vulnerable children would be a priority for Cross Catholic Outreach.”

Traditionally, orphans in Mozambique and other African countries are taken in by neighbors or extended family members — typically grandmothers or aunts — and that approach has worked for many children from past generations. In modern times, however, the sheer number of lives lost to AIDS has stretched those caregivers beyond their limit. There are now too many orphans and too few caregivers to properly address the country’s needs.

To address this problem, Doroteia founded a Catholic mission called Association Cross Mozambique and she now has a full staff dedicated to serving children in need. Her mission also distributes food and has developed a special program to educate young girls who are often given fewer opportunities than boys. As someone who has grown up in Mozambique and worked among orphans for years, she is extremely effective in her mission and has already helped transform hundreds of lives.

“That is why local Church missions run by Catholic women like Doroteia are so important in Mozambique right now — and why we should be doing everything we can to support them,” Cavnar said. “They know these communities intimately and have developed wise plans to help. All they lack are resources. That is what limits the scope of their work. When we come alongside them, empowering them and supporting them financially, we can increase their impact in the community and make a huge difference in hundreds of children’s lives.”

Right now, supplying food to Doroteia’s programs and supporting her efforts with young orphaned girls (see story on opposite page) are two of Cross Catholic Outreach’s priorities, and they are encouraging American Catholics to help them fund these important initiatives.

“When Doroteia Balane saw an extreme need in Mozambique, she didn’t turn away from it, expecting someone else to address the problem. She stepped into the challenge and found solutions, sacrificing her own time and resources to help these children,” Cavnar said. “Now it is our turn to step forward and get involved, and we can do that by empowering her with the funding and resources she needs for her mission.”

How to Help

To fund Cross Catholic Outreach’s effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01719, PO Box 97168, Washington DC 20090-7168. The brochure also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.

If you identify an aid project, 100% of the donation will be restricted to be used for that specific project. However, if more is raised for the project than needed, funds will be redirected to other urgent needs in the ministry.
Nuncio points to dialogue as a step toward unity after pandemic

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The papal nuncio to the United States told the U.S. bishops that dialogue is a key step on the path to unity as the country emerges from the coronavirus pandemic.

“That is important for us during this ‘Amoris Laetitia’ Year of the Family — to encounter families and open broken ones, and to accompany them on their journey through thoughtful dialogue,” Archbishop Christophe Pierre said in his address to the bishops on the first day of their June 16-18 virtual spring meeting. “We know that families are hurting — economically, emotionally, and spiritually. We also know how many members of the flock struggle to live the faith. We wish they would understand the faith perfectly and act in accordance with right reason and consistently make good choices, but we are not a church of the perfect but a pilgrim church in need of the mercy offered generously by Christ,” he said. Some of Archbishop Pierre’s remarks seemed to presage the difficulty the bishops would face when it came time to vote June 17 to approve the drafting of a formal statement on the meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the Catholic Church. Before his address, a motion to approve the meeting’s agenda, usually a formality, prompted a lengthy debate over an additional motion, which eventually failed, to add time to the next day’s debate so as many bishops’ voices could be heard over the “action item” on the drafting of a Communion document by the doctrine committee.

Pope welcomes prisoners to Vatican

OTTAWA, Ontario (CNS) — A delegation of Indigenous people from Canada will meet with Pope Francis during the brief meeting before they set off — with the prison director, a few guards and two judges who oversee special release permits — to visit the Vatican Museums.

Pope Francis leads a meeting with inmates and staff from the Rebibbia prison in Rome at his residence at the Vatican June 21. The pope met with around 22 inmates and staff of the prison. The inmates brought a basket of breads they had baked before the sun came up: They gave the basket to Pope Francis during the brief meeting before they set off — with the prison director, a few guards and two judges who oversee special release permits — to visit the Vatican Museums.

Pope renews call for peace in Myanmar

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis said the liturgical role of deacons is important because it illustrates that “to love is to serve.”

In his Angelus appointment to call on everyone to “open our hearts to refugees,” Pope Francis said the liturgical role of deacons is important because it illustrates that “to love is to serve.”

Catholic dads take a closer look at St. Joseph as ‘pillar of the family’

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — Joe Herman, a longtime member of St. Peter’s Square, the pope expressed his support for an appeal by Myanmar’s bishops “calling the entire world’s attention to the heart-rending experience of thousands of people in that country who are displaced and have been dying of hunger. We plead with all to kindly allow humanitarian corridors and that churches, pagodas, monasteries, mosques, temples, as well as schools and hospitals be respected as neutral places of refuge,” he said. “May the heart of Christ touch the hearts of everyone, bring peace to the whole Myanmar. The Southeast Asian country has been rocked by violence since Feb. 1 after the military seized power and overthrew the elected civilian government. Myanmar had been ruled by the military for more than 50 years before Aung San Suu Kyi’s elected government took office in April 2016. Commemorating the World Day of Refugees, Pope Francis also used his Angelus appointment to call on everyone to “open our hearts to refugees.”

Bilingual Mass to mark feast of St. Joseph

OTTAWA, Ontario (CNS) — A delegation of Indigenous people from Canada will meet with Pope Francis at the Vatican before the end of the year, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops said. The delegation will include representatives of First Nations, Métis and Inuit national organizations, the bishops said in a statement released June 10. The statement follows the May 30 announcement by the Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation of the discovery of 215 bodies buried on the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in Kamloops, British Columbia.

“The delegation to the Holy See represents an important step on the journey of reconciliation and shared healing for Indigenous Peoples and the Church in Canada,” the bishops said. “With the strong encouragement of Pope Francis, the Bishops of Canada have pledged true and deep commitment to renewing and strengthening relationships with Indigenous Peoples across the land,” the statement said, citing regional and diocesan-wide listening circles that have been established in recent years. Planning for such a meeting had been underway for more than two years in an effort to “foster meaningful encounters of dialogue and healing,” the statement said, but was stalled by the global COVID-19 pandemic, the statement explained.

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Permanent deacons are reminder of the power of service, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A permanent deacon whose ministry is focused on service to the poor and hurting is an antidote to clericalism within the Church because it illustrates that “to love is to serve” and to serve is to minister,” Pope Francis said. Meeting most of the Diocese of Rome’s 137 permanent deacons, their wives, children and grandchildren June 19, the pope said the liturgical role of deacons is important, but works of charity and outreach are at the heart of their identity. Describing the purpose of diaconal ordination as “a ministry of service,” the Second Vatican Council restored the identity of deacons, precisely because they are a reminder that in the ecclesial body no one can elevate himself above others,” the pope said.

COVID-19 pandemic, the state healing,” the statement said, “With the strong encouragement of Pope Francis, the Bishops of Canada have pledged true and deep commitment to renewing and strengthening relationships with Indigenous Peoples across the land,” the statement said, citing regional and diocesan-wide listening circles that have been established in recent years. Planning for such a meeting had been underway for more than two years in an effort to “foster meaningful encounters of dialogue and healing,” the statement said, but was stalled by the global COVID-19 pandemic, the statement explained.

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FORT WAYNE — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has awarded 35 grants totaling $172,700 from the St. Mary’s Heritage Fund to parishes, schools and agencies across the diocese.

The $3 million endowed fund was established in 1997 by St. Mary, Mother of God Parish to help provide financial assistance to the poor and needy throughout the diocese. It was created through the collaboration and planning of the late St. Mary pastor Father Tom O’Connor and St. Mary, Mother of God parishioners, using money received from fire insurance on the historic downtown Fort Wayne church. The church burned in 1995 and a new church was erected on the same site.

Upon the approval of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, the following entities were awarded grants for 2021.

### Agencies

**Fort Wayne**
- St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County — $15,000 for mortgage assistance program

**South Bend**
- Miss Virginia’s Food Pantry — $5,000 for balanced and nutritional food program
- St. Joseph Missions, Inc. — $2,500 for personal needs
- St. Vincent de Paul Society of Fort Wayne — $5,000 for financial aid for at-risk populations in Allen County
- The Rose Home, Inc. — $5,000 for resident assistance fund

**Area**
- St. Martin’s Health Care Center, Garrett — $7,000 for health care for uninsured and underinsured residents of DeKalb and Noble counties

**Fort Wayne**
- A Mother’s Hope — $7,000 for a program for pregnant, homeless women
- Catholic Charities — $2,000 for city phone identification cards for the homeless
- Christ Child Society — $2,000 for Koats for Kids program
- Clínica Madre de Dios — $5,000 for free medical care program
- Matthew 25, Inc. — $7,500 for medications program

**Area**
- St. Martin’s Health Care Center, Garrett — $7,000 for health care assistance

**Parishes**
- Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Parish — $5,000 for tuition subsidy for Burmese Catholic students
- St. Joseph — Hessen Cassel Parish — $5,000 to purchase food for the parish food pantry
- St. Mary, Mother of God Parish — $3,000 for St. Maria House bus vouchers and $8,000 for Ave Maria House security

**South Bend**
- St. Monica Parish, Mishawaka — $5,000 for Saint and Squires Daycare assistance

**Schools**
- Bishop Luers High School — $2,500 for tuition assistance for low-income students
- Bishop Luers High School — $2,000 for tuition assistance for Hispanic students
- Bishop Luers High School — $5,000 for transportation for sustained enrollment

**Area**
- Holy Cross School — $2,000 for tuition assistance
- Holy Family School — $2,000 for tuition assistance
- Holy Family School — no tuition for students who do not qualify for full or partial other assistance
- St. Adalbert — $10,500 for school safety fence and beautification project
- St. Anthony de Padua School — $2,000 for tuition assistance
- St. John the Baptist School — $11,500 for before/after summer-school program

### Author wants Blessed Solanus Casey personal stories

FORT WAYNE — Richard G. Beemer is compiling and editing a book on Blessed Solanus Casey, OFM Cap., who lived at St. Felix Friary in Huntington from 1946 to 1956. He is in search of personal encounters, memories, reflections and especially favors attributed to his intercession during his 10 years at St. Felix.

The author requests that contributors send in a high-resolution photo of the item they could provide, in writing, their phone number, email address, and permission to edit and publish their stories and photos. Mail to Father Solanus Casey, P.O. Box 701, Huntington, IN 46750, or email them to richardbeemer@gmail.com.

Profits from the book will be donated to The Open Door, a 23-year-old nonprofit organization sponsored by St. Mary and SS. Peter and Paul parishes in Huntington, whose volunteers cook and deliver homemade soup, side dish and a dessert to more than 250 people in Huntington County.

Beemer, an editor and writer at Our Sunday Visitor Publishing for 31 years, now works from his home as the remote online managing editor of Angelus magazine, the official publication for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, overseeing its online presence as well as that of Huntington and a parishioner at SS. Peter and Paul. He is also a book proofreader for the Catholic book publisher Catholic Answers and is on the board of the Huntington County Historical Society.

### Around the Diocese

**Frankfort, Ill.** — Three Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, whose motherhouse is in Frankfort, Sister Genevieve Raupp, OFS, is celebrating her 50th year as a religious. She was born in Lake Zurich, Illinois, and professed her first vows in 1974 as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart, whose motherhouse is in Frankfort. Sister Genevieve had a long career as a teacher and principal.

In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend she ministered as a teacher at St. Charles Borromeo School in Fort Wayne from 1975-82 and as an assistant principal from 1990 to the present. She also ministered as a teacher at St. Michael School in Schererville from 2006 to 2008. In addition to ministering as an educator, she was a member of the congregation’s Leadership Team from 2014-19. Sister Kathleen Anne Coppel, OFS, has also been a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart for 50 years. She was born in Ferndale, Michigan, and professed her first vows in 1974. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne South Bend she ministered as a teacher at St. Charles Borromeo School from 1980-85 and as assistant principal from 1985-87. From 1987-90 she taught at Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne, following which she engaged in retreat ministry at the Portuculina Center for Prayer in Franklin from 1990-2000. Sister Kathleen then ministered in Brazil from 2006-08. Through the years she also served in various roles as a formation minister in the congregation.

Sister Elaine Teders, OFS, observes her 60th jubilee in 2021. Originally from Garrett, she professed her first vows in 1964 as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart. Sister Elaine has had a long career as a teacher and principal. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, she served as principal at St. Joseph School in Garrett from 1982-85 and as principal at St. Charles Borromeo School from 1985-89. In addition to ministering as an educator, she was a member of the congregation’s Leadership Team from 2014-19.

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### Agencies, parishes, schools awarded St. Mary’s Heritage Fund grants

- **Fort Wayne** — Bishop Luers High School — $2,500 for tuition assistance for low-income students
- **Fort Wayne** — Bishop Luers High School — $2,000 for tuition assistance for Hispanic students
- **Fort Wayne** — Bishop Luers High School — $5,000 for transportation for sustained enrollment
- **Fort Wayne** — Bishop Luers High School — $3,000 to purchase a security fence and beautify the school property

- **Area** — Holy Cross School — $2,000 for tuition assistance
- **Area** — Holy Family School — $2,000 for tuition assistance
- **Area** — Holy Family School — $5,000 for transportation for sustained enrollment

- **South Bend** — Holy Cross School — $2,000 for tuition assistance
- **South Bend** — Holy Family School — $2,000 for tuition assistance
- **South Bend** — Holy Family School — $5,000 for transportation for sustained enrollment
- **South Bend** — Holy Family School — $3,000 for transportation for sustained enrollment

- **Area** — Marian High School, Mishawaka — $2,500 for financial assistance for minority students
- **Area** — Mishawaka Catholic School — $12,000 toward a mental health counselor
- **Area** — Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish — $5,000 for assistance for grades kindergarten through fourth
- **Area** — St. Aloysius School, Yoder — $2,000 to supply the St. Aloysius SGO fund
- **Area** — St. John the Baptist School, New Haven — $6,000 for school counselor for the 2021-22 school year
- **Area** — St. Michael School, Plymouth — $2,000 for tuition assistance
- **Area** — St. Michael School, Plymouth — $5,000 to purchase 20 Chromebooks for first grade students
- **Area** — St. Vincent de Paul School, Elkhart — $2,000 for financial aid for families in need
Father Lawrence Tetteh, CSSp, observes 50 years of vocation

BY VINCE LABARBERA

Father Lawrence Tetteh, CSSp, will observe his 50th jubilee anniversary as a priest Aug. 22. Born on Sept. 13, 1944, in Nnarambia Ahiara in Ahiara Mbaise, Imo State, in the south-east region of Nigeria, he is the fifth of 11 children, six boys and five girls. He comes from a Catholic family where a nightly rosary was a family tradition and Sunday Mass never was missed. His father was a schoolteacher and station catechist, while his mother served as a housewife and homemaker.

His desire to go to the minor seminary was inflamed after the rerection of the Holy Ghost Fathers’ junior seminary preached about vocations to the missionary priesthood in the Holy Ghost Congregation. Young Lawrence spent the next 13 years in the junior and senior seminary formation programs, which included secondary school, novitiate, philosophy and theology studies. He was ordained as a missionary priest in the Congregation of the Holy Spirit and is known as a Spiritan priest.

“My first two years as a priest were spent solely in pastoral ministry in three different parishes, all in the then Enugu diocese,” Father Tetteh related. “From 1975 until I came to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend 28 years later, I was in and out of educational institutions either as rector, vice principal, graduate student, lecturer and chaplain.” He holds academic degrees, including a doctorate, in philosophy, theology and education earned in Nigeria, Belgium and the United States.

Father Tetteh came to Our Lady of Hungary Parish, South Bend, in 2001, initially as an associate pastor and then as administrator following the death of Father Ted Kwak in January 2004. He was appointed pastor in July of that same year by Bishop John M. D’Arcy. On June 21, 2011, Father Tetteh was named pastor of St. Therese Parish, Fort Wayne, by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. The installation Mass was followed by a reception also recognizing Father Tetteh on the 40th jubilee anniversary of his priesthood.

While serving in the diocese for the past 20 years on a sabbatical leave from his home diocese, Father Tetteh was allowed to return annually to visit his family in Nigeria. However, he said it was always challenging to adjust to the vastly different climates, going from the 80- to 90-degree temperatures of Nigeria to the chilling climate of northern Indiana. He often wears his trusty, fur-lined cap whenever the thermometer reads 40 degrees or below.

Having reached the age of 75, Father Tetteh intended to retire in June 2020 and return to Nigeria to perhaps serve in an advisory role within his religious community. Due to the pandemic, however, he has not been able to travel home. Since December, he has been serving as priest in residence at St. Francis Xavier Parish, Pierceton, following the death of former St. Francis Xavier pastor Father Charles Herman Dec. 11. Father Tetteh anticipates being able to return to Nigeria sometime in June.

The good-natured priest enjoys reading, games, listening to classical music, soccer and tennis. A couple of years ago while serving as pastor at St. Therese, he witnessed and reportedly enjoyed his first baseball match when he watched a TinCaps game at Parkview Field in downtown Fort Wayne.

In the fall of 2019, Father Tetteh escorted a group of St. Therese parishioners on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. He said he enjoyed celebrating daily Mass and teaching about each site they visited.

Father Tetteh said, “The priesthood is something that has brought me to different cultures and countries, and groups of people. The parishes I have served in the local diocese had their own challenges,” he continued, “but I am proud to have been able to manage each faith community, two of which have elementary schools attached to the parish.”

Whether in the school classroom or a pastoral setting, his joy, he said, is the recognition of being used by God and the Church to further the Good News of Jesus Christ. His motto always has been and remains: “I know that my Redeemer liveth.”

“By nature and nurture, hailing from a family of mostly teachers, I have been a professional teacher most of my life,” Father Tetteh concluded. He finds the priesthood humbling, challenging and yet a joyful profession as evidenced by his ever-present smile.

His last Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church, Pierceton, is June 15 and includes a reception to celebrate his 50th jubilee. Effective that same day, Father Daniel Chukuwuleta assumes the duties of pastor of the parish.

Renovator priest looks back on 40 years

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Over the span of 40 years, a person can gain a reputation for much good. In Father John Delaney’s case, his reputation is well-earned. He has become known as the priest who restored the parishes where he served as a pastor, having directed the renovations of several parishes through the years.

Father Delaney grew up as an only child in Fort Wayne, graduating from Sacred Heart grade school and Bishop Luers High School. Ordained in 1981 by Bishop William McManus, Father Delaney said that his vocation had originally been ignited by the religious sisters who taught at Sacred Heart.

“As you would expect, the sisters, who had a vocation themselves, were always encouraging vocations to either the priesthood or religious life. From little on up, that’s all you heard,” he said. “Or they would recommend that you become a doctor or a nurse, a policeman — it was always a vocation that served people.”

Sister Dorothy, the school principal, had a particularly strong influence on him. She ensured he was able to attend Masses that were said for his mother, who passed away when he was 7. “She became kind of an example of what religious life and what a person who gives themselves to that will do, the kind of good person they are,” he said. Here, the seeds were planted that would finally take root when he was 25 years old and entering St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in southern Indiana.

After working in the public sector for a few years, Father Delaney said he “felt like I wanted to do something more with my life,” he stated. “Always, in the back of my mind, was the whole idea of the priesthood or religious life. ... I just felt like that’s where I wanted to put my life.”

After ordination, Father Delaney spent his early years as associate pastor in various parishes, including St. John the Baptist in Fort Wayne, St. Anthony de Padua in South Bend and St. Vincent de Paul in Fort Wayne.

It was when he was assigned to pastor St. Peter Parish in Fort Wayne that Father Delaney’s reputation as a gifted renovator began to take flight. In a complicated turn of events, he briefly found himself running three parishes. The now-demolished St. Paul was added to his pastoral charge, and when that parish was shifted to another priest, St. Andrew and St. Hyacinth were placed in his care, though the latter was soon closed and merged with St. Andrew until it also closed.

Now styling itself as “the splendor of the south side,” the Gothic-style St. Peter Church required significant updates when Father Delaney arrived at...
Father Voors celebrates four decades as a priest

BY DEB WAGNER

A

s Father David Voors reflects on his four decades of ministry, a handful of passions have developed, he said. Some of the passions have grown into traditions that are implemented in each of the parishes where he has served.

One tradition has been to place a flagpole at every parish to which he was assigned. Growing up, Father Voors was “in charge” of the home flagpole, which led him to want to have a flagpole erected to display the American flag.

Another tradition is his desire to always stay close to the Blessed Virgin Mary. In each parish, he has decorated a Mary’s Tree, which is a tree with blue Christmas lights, to burn 24 hours a day, asking the Blessed Virgin Mary to watch over the parish.

Perhaps that dedication to the Blessed Virgin Mary was cultivated by his parents, beginning when he was very young. Father Voors is the middle child of seven children. They were a close family who enjoyed laughter, he recalled. He also remembered his parents encouraging all their children to “Listen and say, ‘Yes,’ to God’s calling, whether it be to the priesthood, consecrated life or marriage. His uncle, Msgr. William Voors, was also a beloved priest of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and a good example and influence in his nephew’s call. He would often stop over to see his brother’s family.

It was in his seventh grade year that Father Voors first heard a calling to the priestly vocation. He attended Divine Heart Seminary, Donaldson, for his freshman year in high school, but after a year discerned that the Missionary Order of Sacred Heart Fathers was not the fulfillment of the calling. After high school, he worked at Lincoln Life in Schererville, Indiana, for two years but continued to hear a call from God. Father John Pfister, vocation director for the diocese at the time, continued to encourage him to explore the possibility that he was being called to the priesthood.

Father Voors entered St. Pius X Seminary college in Erlanger, Kentucky. It was a four-year college built to hold 94 students, but “there were at least 120 students there with me. It was a great four years,” he recalled.

For graduate school in theology, the late Bishop William McManus allowed Father Voors to “pick whatever seminary I would like.” He visited St. Meinrad in southern Indiana; the Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio; St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania; Dunwoody Seminary in New York; and finally Mount St. Mary’s in Emmitsburg, Maryland. It was there that God let Father Voors know with a great peace, “This is the place.” In 1981, he was ordained to the priesthood.

Father Voors has served in six parishes in the 40 years since his ordination. His first six years were as an associate pastor at St. Matthew Cathedral Parish in South Bend, and then he was pastor of St. Michael Parish in Plymouth for a decade. He then served as pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne, for eight years, followed by a dozen years at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Decatur. He recently received his latest assignment, again to a St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, but this time in Avilla, after spending the last five years as pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne.

Father David Voors will celebrate his 40th year as a priest June 29. When asked to reflect on his ministry, he stressed the importance of people and how blessed he has been with “thankful friendships, based in our Lord, that have lasted many, many years.”

As a young man and through most of his priesthood, the charismatic prayer group and devotions have always been important to him. In addition to staying close to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Father Voors said he loves to be able to offer the sacrament of confession and the holy Mass. During this Jubilee year, he remains thankful for the example of his parents, brothers and sisters and in-laws, friendships of his peers, and the great example of the late Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Crowley at his first assignment. He fondly remembers jogging around the neighborhood of St. Matthew Cathedral and running in the Blueberry Stomp as a young priest and pastor in Plymouth. He jokingly noted, “My years of enjoying pizza has slowed this down a lot.”

He has built a firm structure of faith, based on placing God first in his life, “trying to develop that relationship with all three persons of the Trinity at different times and in different ways, turning to how God has made Himself known to us, which is Father, Son and Spirit. There are different times when you want to be praying to one or the other, turning to them, asking for the guidance They can give.”

By DEB WAGNER
Twenty-five-year vocation began in illness

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Most priests look back on their ordination day with great joy and fondness, but Father Mark Gurtner recalled that he was so ill that “ordination and even my first Mass was a blur,” he said.

The illness that continued through the next seven months did not portend anything detrimental to his priestly vocation, however, as evidenced by his 25 fruitful years in the priesthood so far.

In his position as vicar general, Father Gurtner is well-known throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. In his younger years, though, the priesthood was far from his mind. Born in Auburn as the oldest of four children, Father Gurtner was “very active in the parish” of Immaculate Conception as a young man, playing guitar and singing for various parish ministries. “When people see a young man very active like that, they say, ‘Oh, you’re going to be a priest.’ And I really did not want to entertain that thought at all. I had no desire.”

Instead, he wanted to attend the University of Notre Dame and practice civil law. But as a senior in high school, he attended midnight Mass on Christmas Eve; while watching the priest at the altar, “I had this really clear thought in mind that that’s something I might want to do, to be a priest.” He recognizes that moment as “the seed that God was planting” and the beginning of his openness to the calling.

After attending two years of college, one at St. Joseph’s College in Rensselaer and one at Indiana University, where he became involved in parish life, he was finally ready for the seminary. Bishop John M. D’Arcy accepted his application for the priesthood and sent him to St. John’s Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts.

His early hopes for law school came true in a unique way when Bishop D’Arcy chose him to study canon law. He remarked that “I find canon law to be way more interesting than civil law would have been. Civil law is important ... but canon law is dealing with the stuff of eternity in the Church. I love canon law.”

Father Gurtner has already had a distinguished ministry. He began studying canon law while at his first assignment as associate pastor, St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne and chaplain/teacher at Bishop Dwenger High School. He remained at both for nine years before moving to Our Lady of Good Hope in Fort Wayne as pastor for four years and beginning work in the Marriage Tribunal. He was then appointed pastor at St. Anthony de Padua in South Bend and adjudicating judicial vicar in the South Bend tribunal.

When Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades came to the diocese, he relocated Father Gurtner to Fort Wayne, to his former parish of Our Lady of Good Hope, and appointed him judicial vicar over the entire diocese. For a period of about five years, he taught a class on canon law at the University of Notre Dame. In 2017, he was appointed vicar general of the diocese.

Some of the things that he has been able to accomplish in 25 years of his vocation include renovations and some new construction at Our Lady of Good Hope. Under his leadership, a new rectory was built in 2006; upon his return to the parish, extensive church renovations were undertaken, transforming it into a bright, artful and inviting sanctuary. At the same time, new parish offices were built, and the old offices were renovated into classrooms to create a new school — a project spearheaded by parents in the parish.

Throughout his priesthood, Father Gurtner stated that his greatest joy has been “forming people in the parish. I really like to preach, so Sunday Mass preaching is very fulfilling because you really have the opportunity to help people in their Christian duty.”

Judging marriage cases in the tribunal comes in a close second. Reading about people’s journeys and helping them move forward by applying Church law to their situation brought great fulfillment to him. Priests’ lives, Father Gurtner admitted, are very full “in the sense of almost everything we do are huge moments: burying people, marrying people, being at somebody’s bedside when they’re dying. There are just so many of those kinds of things in 25 years that it’s just a life that’s so full.”

He recalled being called to the bedside of a parishioner’s mother who was not Catholic and the “profound” experience of being able to baptize, confirm and administer the Eucharist to her prior to her passing. “For us priests, that’s almost a daily occurrence kind of thing. Even with all his duties, he still finds time in the practice of a well-balanced life to golf and to read. He also has been able to visit many religious sites throughout the world, including numerous locations in Italy, Fatima and Lourdes: Lourdes is one of his favorite sites. A World War II buff, he was honored to say Mass at a cemetery chapel in Normandy for all the soldiers who died to liberate Europe from Nazi Germany.

While he did not become a traditional lawyer as he had intended, Father Gurtner has found joy abundant in the priestly ministry and canon law studies to which he has been called. “That’s how God works: He fulfills our desires, in a way that’s best — His way.”

Congratulations FATHER DAVID VOORS

With hearts of gratitude, we praise God for your many years of service in our diocese and especially at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. We wish you a very joyful Jubilee!

Your St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish family

Congratulations on your 25th Jubilee!

Father Jonathan Agbedo

from the faith family of St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne
Jubilarian Father Chukwuma moves ‘at God’s direction’

BY KEVIN KILBANE

F
ather Francis Chukwuma didn’t have a vision or encounter with God that called him to the priesthood. He has just been open to where God directs him in life.

Father Chukwuma, who this year celebrates 25 years as a priest, said God’s direction has taken him from his hometown in Nigeria to the seminary and ordination, to studies in Nigeria and Rome to become a canon lawyer, and to the United States and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, where he has served since 2008.

“I feel very, very grateful to God for revealing a little bit of Himself to me,” Father Chukwuma, 52, said. “God has given me this opportunity because He loves me.”

His second-oldest son among his siblings still practice the Catholic church next door to the St. Joseph Parish in Bluffton.

Born in the town of Ichida in Anambra state in eastern Nigeria, Father Chukwuma literally grew up next door to the Catholic church his family attended. Even if he hadn’t gone to church, he said, he still would have heard the pastor celebrating Mass, the readings and the singing.

He credits his family with playing a major role in his faith journey.

“My parents would go to morning Mass every day before they would go to work, so it was sort of like we all had to go,” he recalled. Father Chukwuma is the second-oldest son among his parents’ seven children. All of his siblings still practice the Catholic faith, he noted.

He was also influenced by an uncle who was a priest.

The uncle, who since has died, visited often and was fun to be around, Father Chukwuma said. He respected his uncle and thought the priesthood seemed like a good life.

He applied to seminary, however, because two of his good friends planned to go, he said. The friends ended up not going, but he decided to see what seminary was like. He was ordained Aug. 7, 1996, in St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Ph stadium of Awka in the Diocese of Awka.

“When the bishop ordained me, that was when I knew God was calling me,” Father Chukwuma said.

Looking back now, he said he can see that, if God calls you to the priest he go to the Diocesan and calls you back if you start to get off-track.

He also believes the Holy Spirit touched the life of only one person, that is one of God’s people, he said.

“I am willing to be that instrument He uses to touch His people, to help them know Him better,” he added.

After his ordination, Father Chukwuma said his bishop asked him to attend a university to study to become a canon lawyer, an expert in Catholic Church law. In three years, he earned three master’s degrees — in religion, philosophy and canon law. He then served as pastor of a parish in Nigeria for five years.

Father Chukwuma eventually would send outside of Nigeria to earn his doctorate in canon law. He thought he would go to Europe. Instead, his bishop requested he go to the diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

After arriving in Fort Wayne, Father Chukwuma lived at Cathedral of Immaculate Conception Parish and worked at the diocese’s Marriage Tribunal. From 2009-13, he continued at the tribunal and served as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Bluffton.

In 2013, he began three years of study in Rome to earn his doctorate in canon law. Afterward, he resumed work at the Marriage Tribunal in Fort Wayne and was assigned as pastor of St. John Bosco in Curubusco and Immaculate Conception in Ege.

Father Chukwuma brought “a lot of much-needed energy” to Immaculate Conception Parish, and it seems his passion with the parish isn’t completed yet, said Judy Egolf, a parish council member and the parish director of religious education.

“Father Francis has always encouraged me, as well as others from Immaculate Conception, to have faith in ourselves and to try new things to be more involved with our Church,” Egolf said. “His excitement for the love of God and serving others has always been a wonderful example to me as how to live my Christian life. I always leave Mass moved in my faith and stronger as a person after his sermons.”

Father Chukwuma’s positive outlook and way of home engage people, said Ceil Parker, president of St. John Bosco’s parish council. He relates well to young people and drew some of them back to the parish along with attracting a few young families.

He also asked parishioners to get involved in various ministries, including some people who hadn’t been active previously, and they did great work, Parker said.

“He is very knowledgeable about Scripture and can bring it into today’s world,” she noted. “During COVID, he was right on top of everything,” she added. “He contacted me and said, ‘We need to reach out to parishioners’.”

For Father Chukwuma, the joys of priesthood include being able to pray and meeting people who are at different stages in life and in their journeys of faith. Those experiences also help him grow as a person and in his relationship with God, he said.

“It helps me see the magnitude of God, His kindness, His mercy, His love for everyone,” he explained.

Through his ministry, he hopes people feel God’s presence again in their lives, gain hope and feel they can do better.

Looking to the future, Father Chukwuma has considered organizing his thoughts on faith into a book. People then could pull ideas from the book to enhance their faith lives, he said.

As with everything else, though, he will submit it to God to see if it is His will mission.

“I move at God’s direction,” he said.

Priesthood has been a life of love and self-giving

BY KEVIN KILBANE

A
s a boy, Father Jonathan C. Agbedo knew he wanted to be a priest. He didn’t think he would get to pursue that dream, however, until a path opened in an unexpected place — the military.

On July 20, Father Agbedo will mark 25 years as a priest. Most of his service has been in his homeland of Nigeria or in Africa, but he has spent the past year in his first civilian parish assignment, parochial vicar at St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne.

“I enjoy the love of the pastor and the staff here,” he said of St. Jude. “We all work like a family.”

Father Agbedo, who will turn age 58 on June 28, is filling in at St. Jude for Father Robert D’Souza, who went home for a visit in India before the coronavirus pandemic began and hasn’t been able to return.

Along with normal parish pastoral responsibilities, Father Agbedo celebrates Mass at nursing homes, brings communion to homebound parishioners and anoints the sick and dying at hospitals.

Father Jonathan has been a faithful and helpful priest this past year at St. Jude,” said Msgr. Robert Schulte, the pastor. “Many have benefited from his stories of Nigeria and the Catholic Church in that part of our world.”

Msgr. Schulte added, “His friendly demeanor or has been a welcoming presence.”

Born in Edo State in southern Nigeria, Father Agbedo grew up in a Catholic family. He felt called to the priesthood while in grade school.

“When the bishop ordained me, he said of being a priest. ‘He directs me to these places,’” he said.

Even if he touches the life of only one person, that is one of God’s people, he said.

“I am willing to be that instrument He uses to touch His people, to help them know Him better,” he added.

After his ordination, Father Agbedo said his bishop asked him to attend a university to study to become a canon lawyer, an expert in Catholic Church law. In three years, he earned three master’s degrees — in religion, philosophy and canon law. He then served as pastor of a parish in Nigeria for five years.

Father Agbedo served for three years and then received an eight-year scholarship for seminary education while still being paid as an soldier. He was ordained July 20, 1996, at a military base in Lagos, Nigeria, becoming the second soldier in the Nigerian armed forces to become a Catholic priest.

The military flew his family, his home bishop from the Diocese of Nsukka and others in to attend the ceremony.

“The day of my ordination, he was the happiest person,” he said of his father.

Father Agbedo served as a military chaplain, ministering to the needs of soldiers and their families. That included celebrating Mass, administering the Sacraments, visiting soldiers in the hospital, counseling them and presiding at funeral Masses.

He often prayed with and for soldiers before they deployed to a crisis area or while they served there, he recalled. His ministry, sometimes took him into those crisis areas, such as in Sierra Leone, Liberia and areas of Nigeria.

“It was a very busy time in the military,” he said. “You had to be on your feet.”

He also had to complete all of the physical and other training expected of regular soldiers. In addition, he served from 2015-19 as commandant of the Nigerian Army’s training school for Roman Catholic chaplains.

Father Agbedo also found time during his military service to earn a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Life in Nigeria, a master’s degree in clinical pastoral counseling and spiritual care from Fordham University in New York.

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Deacon Everett pursuing call to mission work

BY DENISE FEDOROW

Deacon Frederick Everett will end 35 years of diocesan employment June 30 to pursue a calling for missionary work. He will continue his diocesan service at St. Matthew Cathedral Parish, South Bend. Deacon Everett was appointed Secretary of the Secretariat of Evangelization and Discipleship in December 2017. For 29 years prior to that he was co-director, along with his wife, Lisa, of the Office of Family Life. Lisa also works in the secretariat and will continue that work in the Secretariat for Pastoral Ministries and Catechesis.

His decision to leave diocesan employment was two-fold, Deacon Everett said, and the merger of the Secretariat of Catholic Education and the Secretariat of Evangelization and Discipleship into one new Secretariat of Evangelization and Discipleship created a timing-is-right moment. He plans to pursue missionary work in Cuba to which he first felt called about several years ago.

Family ties

Deacon Everett said that nine years ago he traveled with his mother, cousin and aunt to Cuba. His mom and aunt were raised there but left to come to the United States in 1961. They hadn’t been back since. Eventually they became U.S. citizens.

Pope Benedict traveled to Cuba in 2012 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the patroness of Cuba — Our Lady of Charity. For Deacon Everett, the trip showed him the great need of the Church in Cuba. It faced serious difficulties and had few resources, including priests and ministers.

The following year he went on retreat to the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky. During the retreat, he felt the Lord calling him to do mission work and to pursue greater poverty and detachment to things. He thought it could be something he could pursue when all seven of their kids were grown.

“I was excited to tell Lisa, and she was game,” he said.

Deacon Everett, who at the time was not ordained, shared that the following month his daughter told him, “You’d be a good deacon.” When a priest friend told him the same thing a month later, he prayed about it. He thought that being a deacon might lend itself to missionary work.

He spoke to the Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades about it and knew there was a deacon class starting, but said he told the bishop, “If I do this, I think the Lord is calling me to mission work.”

“The bishop was gung-ho about it, saying we need more missionaries.”

But when the bishop asked him to take over the Secretariat of Evangelization and Discipleship three and a half years ago, he thought, “Maybe I’m being called to do mission work in our country.”

Deacon Everett said that as time went on, the bishop started looking at restructuring the secretariat and their youngest daughter entered college, he felt one door was closing and the other to Cuba was opening.

The couple is starting a 501(c)3 organization, and Deacon Everett will travel back and forth to Cuba. He plans to be back in South Bend and at St. Matthew Cathedral Parish at least one weekend a month to preach. He pointed out he may be able to do things via Zoom as well, for the parish or diocese.

Memories and insights

Among the things Deacon Everett said he enjoys most during his service to diocese are one-on-one counseling, pastoral counseling and spiritual direction — “and the writing,” he said. He and Lisa co-wrote a column for about four years. He said it was a growth process as at first: They approached it with different styles and points of view but then picked up on each other’s styles.

“We found our combined product was superior to what either of us could’ve done individually — it was a neat discipline.”

Looking back, he said three things stand out to him. The first is all the couples they helped with marriage preparation. “We prepared thousands of couples over the years.”

He noted that they also produced a videotape series that hundreds of couples viewed in the homes of host families. He was thankful for the opportunity to “present the depth and vision the Church has for marriage and family life and be able to do so in a most positive, persuasive and nonjudgmental way.”

Another is pro-life ministry. When he started with the diocese, Deacon Everett, who trained as an attorney, said the Supreme Court came close to overturning Roe v. Wade. He also remembered that once someone asked him about the March for Life, voicing the question, “Why are we still doing this? It’s a done deal.”

Deacon Everett’s response was, “Maybe it is, but as long as we’re here, telling the truth and doing it lovingly, we don’t know what it means to not have that.”

Lastly, he said when he entered marriage and family ministry he was 25, and thought to himself, “all you need is a better argument.” Today the catechesis is better, he said, but the issues are ever graver. There is also confusion among a generation of young people over gender ideology, and it affects faith in the Church.

“I see this as a moment of testing in the Church, with issues more serious than when I started 33 years ago.”

“Over the years I’ve learned a good argument and teaching, as beautiful as both may be, only go so far. In the end, the only thing that will save us as a nation is a personal encounter with Jesus and living out our lives as sons and daughters of God. We do that through faith in Jesus and baptism,” he said. “Only if people are renewed in heart and spirit will they want to embrace the Church’s teaching.”

“I see those as the Lord’s agenda.”

Deacon Everett pursues a calling to mission work, while Lisa will continue working in the new Secretariat for Pastoral Ministries and Catechesis.

Let’s get together and talk. What’s important to you is important to us!

When you have some time, stop by or simply give us a call. We’ll be here, and we would love to help you.
Mission trip a pilgrimage of discovery

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Why would a group of teens give up a week of their summer vacation to do service work in the heat, miles from home, for a cause from which they will never benefit?

Apparently for enjoyment, as members of the youth group from St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne discovered.

“I don’t know what one thing it is, but the mission trip is always the most fun week of the year,” Jon Schroeder remarked. A recent graduate of Bishop Dwenger High School, this year he was his fifth and last trip with the youth group.

The parish’s yearly mission trips are more than a week of fun with friends; they are a journey of discovery. Each year, Vickie Lortie, youth minister, arranges for the group to either remain in Fort Wayne or spend a week in South Bend serving the needs of local charitable organizations. This year, Father Robert Garrow at St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish, New Carlisle, offered the parish’s facilities as a headquarters for the youth group.

Lortie and Father Garrow had previously worked together when he was assigned to St. Jude in the early days of his priesthood, and again when she brought her team to his former parish of St. Anthony de Padua in South Bend to paint some classrooms in the school. He knew the teens were hard workers and had hearts for service, and since his parish had space for them to sleep and work for them to do, the situation was perfect.

Father Garrow has come to love the service aspect and working with the teens, he said. He believes that Lortie has a special talent for challenging the youths to help each other and to grow in their faith through service.

Lortie emphasized that the yearly event is not simply a mission trip, but rather a pilgrimage. The theme this year was St. Joseph the Worker, and the walls of the facilities at St. Stanislaus were plastered with his titles and quotes as reminders of his holiness and virtue.

Each person who took part in the mission trip, including chaperones, were given a prayer partner for the week, and the Litany of St. Joseph was given a place of prominence. The group prayed it together daily.

Inspired by the Way of St. Joseph walking pilgrimage that took place on May 1, the group had planned to walk the same path as the pilgrimage — from St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka, to St. Joseph Parish, South Bend — but inclement weather prevented that. Instead, they “church-hopped” in the area, visiting three parishes: St. Joseph and St. Monica in Mishawaka and St. Pius X in Granger. Two of the pastors, Father Christopher Lapp and Msgr. William Schoeller, took time to speak to the youths during their visits.

Several of the students later commented on the beauty of the churches they had discovered in the area, including St. Adalbert, South Bend, where some of them had helped lay rubber mulch on the school’s playground.

While at St. Adalbert, one of the groups learned how the historic church was built by the hands of Polish immigrants who came home from a full day of work only to spend time constructing their neighborhood church. Hearing this history compelled them to consider how they spend their own spare time and where their priorities lay. They also got to see a vocation of a different sort, as the parish’s new maintenance director, Gregory DeLee, shared his love of the Gothic church and his steadfast dedication to its preservation.

Participants experienced the unique character of several parishes in one week. Father Garrow was especially pleased by the response from St. Stanislaus, citing the “amazing hospitality” received from parishioners. Donations of food came in from many within the parish community.

Not only has learning about other parishes impacted the teens, but they have left their mark on the places and the people that they served.

“Our parish needs to see this — they need to see the students’ life and vitality,” Father Garrow said. “The impact of the kids for our parish is going to be really beneficial.” He remarked that the teens are “on fire,” and hopes that their example inspires others to do the same.

The adult chaperones declared how impressed they were by the teens’ dedication as they labored for hours in oppressive heat or performed what could be considered monotonous tasks for much of the day. Just as some of the youths had never attended a mission trip, while others had gone multiple times, the adult volunteers ran the same gamut. Even a 77-year-old St. Jude parishioner took part for the first time.

As a seasoned veteran of mission trips, Schroeder compared the spiritual aspects of them to retreats.

“Retreats are a lot more between you and God. With mission trips, it’s a lot more community; you’re just really getting close to the community around you. You’re all here to help each other out,” he reflected.

First-time participant Jake Patrick was initially less than thrilled when his parents signed him up for the mission trip, he said. “I was not too excited to leave my house for a week and do work. But on Monday, my opinion completely changed. It doesn’t feel like we’re doing work. We’re helping others and it feels great.” He and another newcomer said that they would likely volunteer again next year.

Abby House joined the trip for the second year in a row, for similar reasons. “My friend was doing it, and I really liked the feeling last year of just helping out the community. It was really fulfilling.”

She appreciated the balance of faith and service.

“We go to Mass in the mornings and that’s a really nice start to the day, and we’re doing some novenas to St. Joseph, which is really cool because it’s the Year of St. Joseph.”

Seminarian Patrick Ernst joined the group for part of their experience and shared his vocation story during a lunch break from clearing leaves on the grounds of St. John the Baptist Parish, South Bend, one of the locations suggested by Father Garrow.

After the isolation of the past year, Lortie knew that the youths needed person-to-person interactions with fellow students and members of the community, which proved to be revitalizing. Following service projects they performed at the Share Foundation, a 185-acre Catholic residential community for “other-abled” adults in LaPorte, the group spent an evening having dinner, games and a bonfire with the residents. Evenings also included praise and worship with priests like Father Sunday Akwu, who represented his Nigerian culture in song.

In total, Lottie reported that 33 St. Jude youth group members participated in the week of service, serving about 13 different agencies in the South Bend area during the five days.
The stories we tell, the lessons we learn

When I have reunions with my brothers and sisters, at some point we start telling stories about growing up. Inevitably, we will remember events, good and bad, from different perspectives. We each tell the same story slightly differently. In the retelling, we sometimes get a fuller picture of what happened. Or we realize that as children, we didn’t fully understand the time when what was taking place.

We also invariably come to realize from our adult perspective what our parents were dealing with. In a house full of kids and pets and a mother-in-law, they were human beings meeting big challenges in a condition that we all in adulthood can relate to now. The humanity, the courage and, yes, occasionally, the flaws of our parents become more distinct in the stories we remember.

Our family history grows more complex with the retellings, the different perspectives pull at the different experiences. Our appreciation and love for each other grows as well.

This month, I’ve been thinking about history and the stories we tell ourselves, the narratives we recite. For this June we as a nation are marking two events I know nothing about growing up.

The first is Juneteenth, the African American celebration of June 19, 1865, when the nation’s emancipation was achieved. History is full of wrongs overcome and success achieved. History is of light and shadow. As a family, we couldn’t see the people we partially knew. Only when we hear the experiences of the whole family.

Recently, our nation has been recovering from some of these stories. We are hearing other narratives. We are seeing the flaws of our forebears as well as their accomplishments.

There is some pain here. Hearing the memories of the survivors of the Tulsa massacre, it is impossible not to be appalled by the grievous wrong that was done and the manifest hatred it revealed.

The freeing of the last slaves, itself a celebration to mark, reminds us of a most shameful part of our history. Yet it cannot be avoided, since we live still with its consequences today.

Some people say history is boring, but I think it is boring when it becomes disconnected from our lives, our lives in our family story. In studying it in all its complexity, we learn about ourselves. We learn about each other.

Two recent movies of the Black experience were “Harriet” and “Hidden Figures.” They are retold historical narratives adding depth to our memories. “Harriet” tells the story of Harriet Tubman, a woman ferociously unbowed by slavery. “Hidden Figures” tells the story of three black women, including the remarkable Katherine Johnson, who played critical roles in the early U.S. space program.

As a family, we are both richer and wiser for the stories we are learning, the stories we are sharing today.

Going places and doing things again as lockdown ends

We were running food to a friend who just had her fifth baby — I’d made an extra pan of enchiladas the night before — and popped it off with a gift, a cute plaid outfit, when Rose (almost 4) piped up from the back seat: “Let’s go somewhere and do something.”

“Let’s go somewhere and do something.”

I love going places and doing things together.

It’s amazing that something as simple as going to a restaurant with your family is something we’re remarkably grateful for now, considering how a year ago those places were closed and we couldn’t see the people we loved.

If the past year and a half has taught me anything, it’s to not take those little things for granted.

Whether it’s the chance to bring a meal to a friend, drop my daughter off at a school, attend noon Mass or run to get a quick bite on a Wednesday — all the “normal” things we once did without thinking, that we stopped doing to stay safe — we are slowly them doing again.

But we’re doing those “normal” things differently. We are pondering the joy of something as mundane as eating out. We are rejoicing in the chance to worship with others, returning to Mass with the same excitement we had as 7-year-olds when we received the Eucharist for the first time. We’re planning summer vacations and visits with family, thrilled by the opportunity to make new memories in places once very familiar.

Far too many have been the think pieces on “what the pandemic taught us,” but there’s something to this reality. A year and a half in isolation has forced us to stock up on what matters and what doesn’t.

Worshipping in person with my parish community, sitting in the pews surrounded by people who smile at my kids, give hugs in the parking lot and raise their voices in prayer is essential.

Running the roads, working

The divine power of healing rests in Jesus

It is not surprising, therefore, that the obviously devout author of Wisdom wanted to insist that “God does not make death.” God does not design the hardships and terrors that come upon people. The evil wills of people bring these misfortunes upon others.

Nevertheless, God’s justice and goodness will prevail. It may mean that time is required for the ship of human life to right itself when struck by the strong waves of evil, but the ship will right itself because God’s justice ultimately will prevail.

St. Paul’s Second Letter to the Corinthians supplies the second reading. This reading states a fact that humans, even committed Christians, are inclined to forget. The fact is that the greatest treasure is not stored in vaults, but rather it is the knowledge of God and the insights for living that this knowledge produces. The Apostle continues to say that if anyone has a surplus in the things of this earth, then this surplus should be put at the disposal of those in need.

For its last reading, the Church this weekend offers us a passage from the Gospel of Mark. It is a collection of two miracle stories.

In the first story, a synagogue official, Jairus, comes to Jesus, saying that that his daughter is critically ill. Jairus was certainly desperate. He feared that his daughter might die. As a synagogue official, he most likely was a religious man.

Always in the Scripture, religious devotion added a person, faith illuminated the mind. Faith eased the way for wisdom. So, in his personal goodness and in his religious devotion, Jairus was able to recognize the divine power within Jesus. Jesus of course goes to the girl’s bedside, holds her hand. She rises and walks around. Everyone saw her recovery. It was not imaginary.

In the second story, a woman with a chronic hemorrhage approaches Jesus. Discreetly, the Gospel does not precisely describe the hemorrhage. But if it was gynecological in nature, as likely it was, she was by this fact ritually unclean. This factor set her apart, dis- tended, outside the community.

Under the same rules, anyone whom she touched also was unclean. However, she touched the garment of Jesus. He allowed it. No earthly circumstance could render the Lord unclean. He was the blameless Son of God. Jesus realizes her faith. He tells her that faith has cured her. The hemorrhage stops.

Reflection

These three readings remind us that human reasoning can be flawed. In the first reading, attention obliquely is drawn to the fact that some willingly hurt others, on a modest scale or on a great scale. The minds of oppressors are distorted, and oppressors often continue to work their evil.

The readings also remind us of faith. Faith is the golden thread connecting the people of old who remained loyal to God, the saints of Paul’s time, Jairus and the woman whom Jesus healed.

Left to ourselves, our priorities easily can be confused. St. Mark’s Gospel tells us that at times we may be helpless in the face of circumstances, but God does not desert us.

We are never doomed, if we chose not to be doomed, if we hold onto the Lord. He heals us of fear and despair. He gives us peace.

READINGS

Monday: Gn 18:16-33 Ps 103:1b-4, 8-11 Mt 8:18-22
Wednesday: Gn 21,5-8,20a Ps 34:7,8,10-13 Mt 8:26-34
Thursday: Gn 22:19-19 Ps 115:1-6, 8:9 Mt 9:1-8
Saturday: Eph 21:9-22 Ps 117:1b-2 Jn 20:24-29

June 27, 2021

GREGERLANDSON

catholicnews.com
‘Holy God, We Praise Thy Name’

My attachment isn’t just about aesthetics, though. I recall first hearing the hymn when I was a boy of about 7. In those days, the Holy Name Society at St. Joseph’s, my family church, adopted it as a kind of anthem. We would sing it on the feast of the holy name and on Sundays when the society sponsored father-son Communion breakfasts.

That was a simpler time, when most Catholics attended church and parochial school and devotional practices were common and public. The Holy Name Society practiced a form of corporate male piety.

My father was not much of a joiner. I think he felt uncomfortable with the enthusiasm of fraternal organizations. But he believed wholeheartedly in the ideals for which the Church and its sodalities stood. He took me to Communion breakfasts not because he relished the company of society members, but because he hoped it would prompt me to make a habit of frequent Communion.

So early on I developed a sentimental attachment to the hymn. And something of my father’s ambition for his children carried over from that early introduction. I see it in the picture I sometimes form of those funeral rites, where I will be the center of attention.

I don’t envision anything very elaborate. They will have to offer free beer if they want to fill the church. But I hope that our children and grandchildren will come, the boys wearing ties. In raising our family, my wife and I had a few rigid rules. We gave way on hair and clothes, even tattoos and piercings. But everyone went to church, no excuses, no exceptions.

That was because the first step on the ladder to heaven is awe at the majesty of God. It is the recognition that His vast domain is infinite. His reign is everlasting; that all creatures on earth claim His scepter; all in heaven above adore Him. Nothing else we do compares in significance to this.

That’s what is so sweet about my dream — that our children might see me off singing “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name.” If that really happens, it will mean we have succeeded in teaching them the most important lesson in life. They will have kept the faith.

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

Katie Projan-McGrady is an international Catholic speaker and author.

**SCRIPTURE SEARCH**

**Gospel for June 27, 2021**

Mark 5: 21-43

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: a crisis of life and death. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

**POINT OF DEATH**

**ACROSS**

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<th>2. DAUGHTER TROUBLE</th>
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**ACROSS DGH MG**

**BLESSED FRANZ JAGGERSTATTER**

1907-1943 FEAST AUGUST 9

This Austrian farmer and parish sexton had done his basic training in Hitler’s army in 1940-41, but refused to serve active duty in 1943. A military court in Berlin sentenced him to death as “an enemy of the state,” and he was beheaded Aug. 9, 1943. In prison awaiting his fate, he wrote about a dream he’d had in 1936. In it, many people were boarding a new train, but he heard the announcer say, “This train is bound for Hell.” For him, the train symbolized the evils of Nazism, and he had become a conscientious objector. His wife and three daughters were still living when he was beatified in Austria in 2007.
Saint Anne Communities was awarded a grant from The James Foundation, Inc., to fund the purchase of a wheel chair washer. Kendra Klink visited the Randallia location of Saint Anne Communities to present the check to the COO, Elaine Wilson and Maria Tippmann-Nancarrow, Fund Development and Marketing Specialist. A wheel chair washer will not only help with sanitation measures but also eliminate hours from the staff workload that can now be converted to one-on-one care for the residents. From left to right are Maria Tippmann-Nancarrow, Kendra Klink and Elaine Wilson.
Fourth of July drive through breakfast
ANGOLA — The St. Anthony of Padua Knights of Columbus will have a drive-thru breakfast Sunday, July 4, from 6 a.m. to noon at the church. 700 W Maumee St. Breakfast meal will be served for $8. Visit www.stanthonyangola.com.

First Saturday devotions
ROME CITY — First Saturday devotions will be Saturday, July 3, beginning at 11 a.m. with Mass and devotions in the Mother of Mercy Chapel. Visit www.patronessofamerica.org 2750 E. Northport Rd.

America Needs Fatima rosary
AUBURN — America Needs Fatima will pray a 15-decade rosary at noon on the north side of the Auburn Courthouse, 100 Main St., on Saturday, July 10.

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.
Make a legacy gift to the
Saint Mother Theodore Guerin
"FOUNDATION"

You make an irrevocable gift of $10,000 or more.

You receive payments for life based on your age, a portion of those payments are even tax free.

You receive a charitable deduction; you are building the future of the sisters through a gift to the Sisters of Providence.

ONE LIFE

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Rate subject to change based on the ACCGA.

In exchange for a gift of cash or appreciated stock, you will receive immediate tax savings and a guaranteed, partially tax-free income stream for life. Best of all, while you’re doing something good for yourself, you’ll be doing something wonderful for our sisters.

Your gift today will have an impact on the Sisters of Providence for years to come! Please call us for two-life or deferred gift annuity rates.

To request a free proposal, contact Connie Gualano, manager of planned giving, at 812-535-2811
PlannedGiving.SistersofProvidence.org

David Maugel appointed associate superintendent of Catholic schools

FORT WAYNE — Superintendent Dr. Joseph Brettnacher announced June 7 the hiring of David Maugel as a second associate superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Jeffrey Kieffer also serves as associate superintendent.

Maugel will begin his duties July 14.

Maugel served as principal of NorthWood High School in Nappanee from August 2006 until this year. His previous administrative experience also includes serving as principal for Central Noble Community Schools, where he was additionally head track coach, assistant basketball coach and defensive coordinator for football.

He then served as the assistant principal for Churubusco High School in the Smith-Green Community Schools system, where he was promoted to principal.

He was honored with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching in 2002 and the Indiana Association of School Professionals District 2 Principal of the Year Award in 2010, 2013 and 2016.

Maugel was named the Indiana High School Principal of the Year in 2016. He has served on the Indiana State School Music Association, the Indiana Association of School Principals and as a mentor for the Indiana Principal Leadership Institute.

Maugel has provided teacher development through Professional Learning Community Philosophies. Additionally, Maugel is experienced in strategic planning.

This July he will attend a national conference at the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education at St. Thomas University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

After graduating from Edgerton High School in Ohio, Maugel attended Goshen College and Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. His degrees include a B.A. in math education and a M.S. in education. He also graduated in April 2006 from the Indiana Principal’s Leadership Academy. In 2011 and was selected to serve the National Science Foundation by reviewing candidates for Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching. Maugel was selected as an expert evaluator to serve the United States Department of Education in 2012, reviewing TIF 4 grants.

Maugel’s responsibilities at the diocese will consist of fostering Catholic community and culture; utilizing the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools; assist with and oversee various programs; train administrators; assist with developing goals and implementing plans; develop, plan, implement and oversee the Diocesan Strategic Plan, diocesan curriculum, school strategic planning, school improvement, minor and conduct standardized assessments; assist schools with the development of yearly budgets, state reporting; and more.

He will sit on various committees and special project boards, including the annual All-Schools Mass, Diocesan School Board, Council of Teachers, Principals’ Executive Committee, Indiana Catholic Schools Consortium, Curriculum Committee, Technology Committee, Indiana Non-Public School Association and the Scholarship Grant Committee.

“We are blessed to have Mr. Maugel as an associate superintendent,” said Superintendent of Catholic Schools Dr. Joseph Brettnacher. “David is a devout Catholic and active member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Goshen. His faith and experience in secondary education will serve the diocese well.”

Maugel is married to his wife, Dawn, who is a nurse. The couple have three sons: Devyn, 24, Dylan, 22, and Dawson, 20.

Discover the Catholic Difference

Rely on the Knights of Columbus to help protect your family’s future.

Today’s Spotlight: Tony Moore

Tony joined the Knights of Columbus to engage in the spiritual battle on the “front lines” in 2016. He was called to serve as a Field Agent to serve Catholic families by helping them protect, grow, and give their treasures in a moral, ethical and truly Catholic way.

• Combat Veteran of the United States Marine Corps infantry.
• Cum Laude graduate of the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne business school.
• Member of Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) - the premiere association of financial professionals in the world.
• Is a member of the National Association of Fraternal Insurance Counselors (NAFIC).
• Is a finance committee member for A Mother’s Hope in Fort Wayne.

Tony resides in Fort Wayne, Indiana with his wife Kala of eight years, and their 4 children: Harper, Haley, Alexander, and Guinevere.

Connect with Tony and engage in a complimentary financial analysis and ensure you are on the path to financial freedom.