

# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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William Schmitt

Members of the faculty, staff and transition team of Ancilla College, Donaldson, and Marian University, Indianapolis, attend a Mass at Ancilla Domini Chapel with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades June 30, the first day of the Ancilla's new identity as part of the university.

## Prayer and planning usher in bold transition for Ancilla

BY WILLIAM SCHMITT

Prayers celebrating the past and future of Catholic higher education in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend resonated in the Ancilla Domini Chapel June 30 as Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass on

a campus taking a new name — Ancilla College of Marian University.

Bishop Rhoades offered blessings for a major collaboration that bridges two religious orders as well as two dioceses. As of July 1, aligned missions will bring about long-term changes for the Indianapolis archdiocese-

based Marian University and, to the north, the Donaldson landmark known for 83 years as Ancilla Domini College.

"Ancilla College has always been a work in progress," Bishop Rhoades said, noting that its successful transitions prove "it's truly God's work." He credited the receptivity of the Poor

Handmaids of Jesus Christ, the order that embraced the school as a ministry "committed to serving students, especially those in need." He thanked Sister Michele Dvorak, PHJC, for her recent service as president of the college.

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# Totus Tuus teaches beauty of the faith to students in Auburn

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

**B**ishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated the solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul with members of the Totus Tuus ministry at Immaculate Conception Parish, Auburn, June 29. The Totus Tuus team has been moving from parish to parish this summer to share the joy and beauty of the faith with people in grades one through 12, and that week the team was being hosted by Immaculate Conception, St. Joseph Parish in Garrett and St. Michael Parish in Waterloo.

"I'm very happy to be here with you this morning to celebrate Mass," the bishop told students. "I hope you're having a good week with Totus Tuus, drawing closer to the Lord and enjoying this time together during the summer."

"I'm especially happy to be here today because this is a very important feast day for the Church throughout the world," he reminded the students. "Today we remember and we celebrate the princes of the Apostles, St. Peter and St. Paul. They were the pillars of the Church. And we remember how they loved Jesus so much that they suffered and died for Him as martyrs, which is why we wear red today — the color of blood."

During the homily, the bishop also explained the symbols on his vestments.

"This is a St. Peter and St. Paul vestment. Notice the key. The key is always a sign or symbol of St. Peter. Have you ever seen pictures of St. Peter in churches, a statue or a painting? He's always holding keys. Jesus said to him, as we heard in the Gospel, 'I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven.' Jesus made Simon the head of his Church. He changed his name to 'rock.' 'Peter' means 'rock.'"

He said there are several reasons why the sword on his vestment is a symbol of the martyr St. Paul.

"First of all, because St. Paul wrote that the word of God is like a two-edged sword. But another reason is that he was killed — he was martyred — by a sword."

He continued to tell the students about the first Christian martyrs. Among them was Jesus's close friend, the Apostle James.

"We heard in the Acts of the Apostles that Herod had James, the brother of John, killed by the sword," explained the bishop. "And then, he had Peter arrested and put in prison. He put a lot of guards there to make sure Peter wouldn't escape, and he put his hands in chains."

Bishop recounted to the students how, while St. Peter



Photos by Joshua Schipper

**Students participating in the Totus Tuus ministry at Immaculate Conception Parish, Auburn, celebrate Mass with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades June 29.**

awaited trial, he was rescued from prison by an angel.

Totus Tuus team member Morgan Schenkel says that the kids' enthusiasm in asking important faith-related questions had been the highlight of the week thus far.

"You can just see the hunger in their hearts to learn about Jesus. Usually, I'll leave like five minutes at the end of class for questions, and the questions this week have just been phenomenal."

Schenkel said that the first and second graders asked questions like "How do I become a saint?" and "How do I go to heaven? What is it like?"

"They really are thirsting for that knowledge of the Catholic faith."

Schenkel also said the students particularly enjoyed Totus Tuus Theatre, which involved the team members performing silly skits.

She said that if Totus Tuus Theatre is all that the kids remember about the week, maybe they will associate it with joy over learning their faith.

Totus Tuus team members undergo 10 days of training at Central Catholic High School in Bloomington, Illinois. They move to a different parish or group of parishes each week and are housed by a family from the parish.



**Totus Tuus team member Morgan Schenkel said students' questions about the Catholic faith were "phenomenal" during the evangelization team's week at Immaculate Conception, St. Joseph and St. Michael parishes.**

Schenkel encourages others who are discerning joining Totus Tuus as a missionary to allow themselves to "lean into the unknown, because every day during the mission there are a lot of unknowns, including your

daily schedule and what food you will have for dinner."

"Not knowing those things is that's good for you because it allows you to rely on God about where your life is going to go."



CNS photo/Peter Ringenberg, courtesy University of Notre Dame

**New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Religious Liberty, presents the keynote address June 28 during the Religious Liberty Summit at the University of Notre Dame Law School.**

## Dolan: Religious freedom is a human right and 'essential' to human dignity

SOUTH BEND (CNS) — The University of Notre Dame observed the conclusion of Religious Freedom Week in the U.S. with a Religious Liberty Summit June 28-29 that invited ecumenical leaders and scholars from around the nation to discuss the various challenges to religious liberty.

Religious Freedom Week is observed June 22 to June 29 each year. The annual observance, sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, always begins on the feast of two English martyrs who fought religious persecution, Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, and ends with the feast of two apostles martyred in Rome, Sts. Peter and Paul.

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee for Religious Liberty, set the tone for the Notre Dame conference in his keynote address, observing that religious freedom is a human right, "essential to the dignity of the human person and the flourishing of all that is noble in us."

He noted that defending religious freedom used to be "a nonconfrontational no-brainer," as American as "mom, apple pie, the flag and Knute Rockne." Now, he continued, defense of religious liberty has become "caricatured" as an "oppressive, partisan, unenlightened, right-wing crusade," even considered by some to be discrimination.

This false narrative must be corrected, Cardinal Dolan

stressed, and he proceeded to do so by discussing the concept of religious freedom enshrined in the founding documents of the United States. He made four major points in his keynote, titled "Correcting the Narrative."

First, he said that we advocate for religious freedom not primarily because we are believers, but because we are "Americans, patriots, rational human beings." Religious freedom is a fact of the American experiment that has been cherished and defended by people of all faiths.

Second, religious liberty is not a conservative issue, but historically considered part of a movement that is "progressive and reforming." Cardinal Dolan, who has a doctorate in American church history, observed that freedom of religion is "the first line of defense of/and protection of all human rights."

Further, religious liberty has been "the driving force of almost every enlightening, unshackling, noble cause in American history," he said, including movements such as abolition of slavery and the campaigns for voting rights and civil rights.

Third, "religious freedom is enshrined not to protect the government from religion, but religion from the government," Cardinal Dolan explained.

The various religious groups who first settled in this country did not want special treatment from the government, but rather just wanted to be left alone to

practice their faith, worship in their tradition and follow their consciences in the public square. Thus, freedom for religion became a keystone in the country's founding documents.

Fourth, throughout most of history, American culture welcomed religious voices in the public square, Cardinal Dolan said. Then the culture moved to neutrality before arriving at the present moment, in which believers face "downright antagonism," and the message that we must leave our conscience behind when we enter the public square.

Panelists of various faiths who spoke at the conference indicated no disagreements with Cardinal Dolan's assessment, and in fact stressed the necessity for all people of faith to work together to defend and promote religious liberty in this country and abroad.

In a panel on "Overcoming Polarization of Religious Liberty," Asma Uddin, a Muslim attorney and scholar, said that people of various faiths have to stop berating each other if believers are to move forward in obtaining and preserving religious freedom.

The author of "The Politics of Vulnerability: How to Heal Muslim-Christian Relations in a Post-Christian America," Uddin said that people will feel less threatened if they stop emphasizing

**RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, page 4**



### Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, July 11: 11 a.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Henry Church, Fort Wayne  
 Tuesday, July 13: 5 p.m. — Prayer Service for Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, Victory Noll, Huntington  
 Wednesday, July 14: 1:30 p.m. — Virtual Meeting of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Socially Responsible Investment Guidelines Group  
 Saturday, July 24: 10 a.m. — Mass and Picnic with Permanent Deacons and Families of Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw  
 Saturday, July 24: 5 p.m. — Mass, St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel, Fort Wayne

## Education of future priests braced by Pentecost Collection

BY JODI MARLIN

The Pentecost Collection takes place in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend every spring to fund the education of diocesan seminarians. This year's collection supported those future priests generously in their formation by contributing more than \$500,000 toward their undergraduate and graduate college and seminary studies.

The special collection was added to the diocesan calendar in 2011 by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. Each year, the funds of the Pentecost Collection are wholly applied to the cost of preparing for ministry dozens of young men who will serve parishes in the diocese as priests.

Pentecost is then "an appropriate feast for this collection, since the Holy Spirit is the source of all ministry, the Author and Giver of the spiritual and pastoral strength of those called to be priests. At ordination, our seminarians will be equipped by the Holy Spirit for the work of priestly ministry," Bishop Rhoades said in 2019.

"We need funds to support the seminary education of the young men of our diocese whom the Lord is calling to the priesthood. They are being educated and formed in the seminary to become like Christ the Good Shepherd in order to serve the Church, to serve you through the proclamation of the Word and the celebration of the Sacraments. By giving generously to the Pentecost collection, you are supporting these young men and their formation in the seminary, their preparation to receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at ordination.

"One of the ways the Holy Spirit works in the Church is by inspiring vocations to the priesthood," he added at the start of last year's collection. "I give thanks that the Holy Spirit is blessing us here in our diocese with a good number of priestly vocations. I am grateful to you

for your prayers for priestly vocations here in our diocese and throughout the world."

In a letter mailed directly to the faithful earlier this year, Vocations Office Director Father Andrew Budzinski noted that the cost to educate all the seminarians of the diocese is well over a million dollars a year. Last year's Pentecost Collection, which also totaled a little more than \$500,000, funded 1/3 of the cost seminarian costs for the 2020-21 school year, thereby allowing more Annual Bishop's Appeal money to instead enhance programs and other ministries of the diocese.

The number of seminarians preparing for a vocation has risen during the 11 years of the collection. In June, Bishop Rhoades ordained seven new priests for the diocese — the most since 1962 — and that number looks to be surpassed in 2023. These priests will "one day go out with joy and enthusiasm as priests to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus with the strength of His Spirit," the bishop noted.

The mailing of an update on the state of vocations directly to the homes of Catholics across the diocese may have given those who received it an opportunity to reflect and pray about their contribution, said Secretary for Stewardship and Development Jeff Boetticher, resulting in the increase.

On behalf of the bishop, Father Budzinski and the seminarians, Boetticher expressed appreciation to everyone who has contributed in a small or large way to the Pentecost Collection "especially in the last few years. We've had this significant rise in the number of seminarians, and this collection is the primary way to support their education," he said. "We're very appreciated and very blessed."

Anyone still wishing to contribute to this important collection can do so on the diocesan website, [diocesefwsb.org/diocesan-donations](http://diocesefwsb.org/diocesan-donations).

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## Kearns retires from diocesan finance council chair

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Jerome Kearns is a humble man, one who is pleased to have served the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for many years, but who gives greater credit to others. His life has been firmly anchored within the diocese; 13 of his years were spent as executive director of the OSV Institute, 30 on the Diocesan Finance Council, and prior to that he served on Annual Bishop's Appeal boards beginning nearly 50 years ago. Now he is allowing himself a reprieve from those years of hard work.

Kearns retired from his position at OSV this spring after more than a decade, though he admitted he has not been active in that capacity since 2018 when Jason Shanks became full-time president of the Institute. In his role as executive director, he was responsible for receiving grant applications from charitable organizations and following through on the awards process. He also resigned his position on the finance council because "I thought it was probably time to turn the chair over to somebody else."

A native of Fort Wayne, Kearns grew up at St. John the Baptist Parish and was educated in Catholic schools. He completed a finance degree program at the University of Notre Dame. His background in banking, along with his close connections to bishops of the diocese, made him an ideal candidate to chair one of the earliest bishop's appeals.

"Through that I got to know Bishop D'Arcy very well and we became very good friends," he said. "He asked if I would serve on the council. I thought it would maybe be one year or two, or one or two terms," he remarked, chuckling. That "brief" commitment turned into 30 years.

Over those years, many financial projects came to fruition. The Catholic Community



OSV Institute

**Banker Jerome Kearns has retired from 30 years of much-appreciated service on the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Finance Council.**

Foundation of Northeast Indiana was formed; over \$200 million went to building projects, including the new Saint Joseph High School; the diocese wide Legacy of Faith campaign raised 48.5 million; and the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center was purchased as headquarters for the diocesan curia. Additionally, diocesan investments increased 163 million during Kearns' tenure on the finance council.

Joe Ryan, chief financial officer for the diocese, said of Kearns, "I would say that Jerry fulfilled his canonical promise. He served the diocese with integrity and care, keeping in mind always its pastoral mission, nourishing the faith of all, preserving and deepening faith in Jesus Christ and caring for those in need."

Not only did Kearns aid the diocese but also other ministries within the diocese, including the finance committee for the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration and the board of trustees for Holy Cross College.

Even before his years of service began, Kearns has been steeped in diocesan life. He has had more than a passing association its bishops all the way back to Archbishop Noll, for whom he served Mass occasionally as an altar boy at St. John the Baptist. Future-bishop Father

Leo Pursley was pastor there at the time and a good friend of his parents, so he requested that Kearns serve when the bishop came for visits. Kearns has personally known every bishop and auxiliary bishop since the 1950s.

"They've all been great servants of the Lord, each and every one of them," he remarked. "They all had their own unique personalities and their own unique talents, and they all served the diocese in a faithful way."

Kearns said he was especially blessed to have Bishop D'Arcy preside over a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Mass for him and his wife, Judy. He has fond memories of Bishop D'Arcy, calling him a "remarkable man."

"Everybody who ever met Bishop D'Arcy felt as though they were the only person in the world to him, he had that kind of connection to people."

His work in the diocese, Kearns believes, brought him to a greater love of the Church.

"It has given me a greater appreciation of all that the Church does and of all the beautiful and very productive apostolates and organizations that serve the Church in so many different ways."

He applauds the work being done in the community by laypeople who minister to young people, reach out to the Hispanic community and serve the pro-life cause through organizations such as the Women's Care Center. "I had no idea all those different apostolates existed until I really got to work for OSV."

It is not in Kearns' nature, it seems, to take credit for himself for the good work being done by the diocese and individual ministries he has helped support through the OSV Institute. Rather, "The people at the parish level, I think, are the ones who really make the difference. ... Those who give themselves to the school and the parishes are the real heroes in the lay Catholic world."

### RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, from page 3

ing their differences and focus on their common status as human beings.

A panel on "International Threats to Religious Liberty" featured international speakers, including a representative of the Aid to the Church in Need, Marcela Szymanski. She reported that 62 countries present a danger to their citizens when it comes to religious liberty, even though most of those countries have signed the International Treaty on Human Rights.

A panel on "Religious Liberty and the Press" included representatives of the secular media and one Catholic spokesperson. Gretchen Crowe, editorial director

for Our Sunday Visitor periodicals, explained that the Catholic press seeks to form and inform its readers to advance the mission of the Church. That can include filling in gaps, correcting misinformation from the secular media and providing clarity on significant issues, she said.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, who is a member of the bishops' religious liberty committee, welcomed participants to the diocese and praised the Notre Dame Law School for establishing the Religious Liberty Initiative.

That initiative, begun by Dean G. Marcus Cole of the law school, will assemble international scholars to study the issue, train law students to defend religious

freedom by pursuing claims in the courts, and organize events like the June summit. Two future summits are planned for Rome in 2022 and Jerusalem in 2023.

Bishop Rhoades told the conference that not only was the initiative a great service to the Catholic Church and to all communities of faith, but also a service to our nation at a time when not just freedom to worship is threatened, but so too is the freedom to live out our faith and bear witness to its moral truths in social services, schools and other institutions that serve the common good.

"Religious freedom allows the Church and all religious communities to live out their faith in public and to serve the good of all," Bishop Rhoades said.

# Father Arroyo Acevedo departs for religious life in Puerto Rico

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

Since his youth, Father José Emmanuel Arroyo Acevedo has been seeking to follow the Lord in a unique way. Since 2019, he has served as the parochial vicar at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Goshen, helping bring the Gospel to families through sacramental ministry, personal outreach and social media evangelization. His journey now begins a new chapter, however, as he returns to his home of Puerto Rico to discern entering religious life as a Capuchin Franciscan.

It was in the grace-filled Jubilee Year of 2000, announced by St. Pope John Paul II, that Father Arroyo Acevedo first witnessed religious life in Puerto Rico and learned about the story of Franciscan priest Blessed Solanus Casey. Father Arroyo Acevedo shared, "my home parish of San Jose, in Luquillo, Puerto Rico had religious sisters working and serving there. Their joy and love for God and His people was beautiful and attractive." When Father Arroyo Acevedo was 17 years old, he met and discerned with the Capuchin Franciscans, the community which Blessed Father Casey belonged to during his life. Shortly after this, Father Arroyo Acevedo learned about the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in New York and was able to make a visit right after Father Benedict Groschel, one of the CFR founders, had been in a car accident. As a 19-year-old, Father Arroyo Acevedo was given permission to spend the year caring for Father Groschel and living at their retreat house. From this experience he has many fond memories and is very grateful for the countless hours spent with such a wise, holy and generous priest.

Following that year, Father Arroyo Acevedo returned to Puerto Rico to formally enter the Capuchins as a postulant. However, during this discernment experience and in realizing how deeply the time in New York deeply impacted his heart, he did not petition to enter the



Nate Proulx

**Father José Arroyo Acevedo is pictured during his ordination to the priesthood by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in 2019. Father Arroyo Acevedo has departed the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for home this summer to spend time in discernment with a Capuchin order of Franciscans.**

Capuchin novitiate, but instead made the decision to inquire about joining the CFRs. He was accepted by the Friars of the Renewal and spent five years in formation with them. During his temporary vows, however, he noticed an increasingly prevalent lack of peace and joy when he prayed about committing to them for life. Through discernment with superiors, he left the CFRs and was later approved to enter the Archdiocese of New York to continue as a seminarian, undertaking studies in philosophy and theology.

Yet, the pull to religious life never fully went away for Father Arroyo Acevedo. Before he was ordained to the diaconate for New York, he was given

permission to again explore a Franciscan vocation, which led him to Fort Wayne and the Franciscan Friars Minor. After receiving approval from Bishop



File photo

**Father Arroyo Acevedo was ordained a priest of the diocese following several periods of discernment with Franciscan orders.**

Kevin C. Rhoades to join, he entered as a postulant and was assigned to the friary in Huntington, the same religious house that Father Solanus Casey had lived in for 10 years. When the community experienced significant changes in leadership and direction, Father Arroyo Acevedo spoke with Bishop Rhoades about continuing to serve the diocese as a seminarian instead. Bishop Rhoades agreed, and even envisioned a potential pathway for Father Arroyo Acevedo to rejoin the friars after his priestly ordination. When the friars disbanded in 2020, Father Arroyo Acevedo continued to pray about fulfilling the persistent longing on his heart to follow the Lord, not only as a priest, but also in the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience.

Father Arroyo Acevedo

requested to return to religious life once more, seeking to embrace a year of service and discernment with the Capuchins in Puerto Rico. He has been given permission to return to his home diocese of Mayagüez, where he was baptized, bringing him closer to family and allowing him to serve a land in great need of more priests. He will remain incardinated in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend during his new Franciscan formation over the next five years and will at the end of that time have the decision to either return to ministry in Indiana or profess final vows as a Capuchin in Puerto Rico.

Speaking about his time in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Father Arroyo Acevedo shared "it has been an honor, a privilege, and a blessing to know and serve the people of St. John the Evangelist parish. I am very grateful to Bishop Rhoades, the diocese here, and to St. John's pastor, Father Royce Gregerson, who has provided the foundation for my priesthood and given me a deeper appreciation of the liturgy. I will continue to pray for those in Fort Wayne-South Bend and ask their prayers for me as well!"

For anyone who wishes to maintain correspondence with Father Arroyo Acevedo, he will have access to his TikTok, Facebook and YouTube accounts for the next year. Written letters can be mailed to: Padre José Emmanuel Arroyo Acevedo, Urb. Lomas de Luquillo EU-9 Calle E-14, Luquillo, Puerto Rico 00773.

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## Bishops support investigation of former U.S. residential schools

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- In response to a late June announcement, the United States will be conducting an investigation of former federally funded boarding schools to search for graves of Native American children, a spokesperson for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said June 28 the bishops will "look for ways to be of assistance. It is important to understand what might have occurred here in the United States," said the statement from Chieko Noguchi, who added the bishops will be "following closely" the investigation announced June 22 by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland. Haaland, who is a member of the Laguna Pueblo in New Mexico and is Catholic, announced this upcoming review, called the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, during her remarks at the virtual conference of the National Congress of American Indians. "I know that this process will be long and difficult. I know that this process will be painful. It won't undo the heartbreak and loss we feel. But only by acknowledging the past can we work toward a future that we're all proud to embrace," she said. Many of these government-funded schools were church-run boarding schools. The U.S. Interior Department's initiative was prompted by the recent discovery of 215 unmarked graves at the Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia. Just two days after the U.S. initiative was announced, 751 unmarked graves were discovered at a second site, a former Catholic residential school in Saskatchewan.

## More than 10 months after Beirut blast: 'We are bleeding, help is needed'

BEIRUT (CNS) -- Nearly a year after the blast at the Beirut port, the memory of that night is still so vivid. Lebanese Hospital Geitaoui, located about a half-mile from the site of the explosion, suffered extensive damage the night of Aug. 4. The disaster -- one of the biggest nonnuclear explosions in history -- destroyed large sections of the capital city, mostly in Christian areas. More than 200 people were killed, more than 6,000 injured and more than 300,000 displaced. Of the 350 injured people taken to Geitaoui, 15 could not be saved; some died before arriving at the hospital. "We felt the people's misery and their desperation," said Sister Hadia Abi Chebli, a member of the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family and one of the hospital directors-general. "That night, I cried like a child," recalled Dr. Pierre Yared, her co-director of the 260-bed hospital for the last 11

## Florida Catholics find comfort in rosary as search continues



CNS photo/Marco Bello, Reuters

People pray at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Surfside, Fla., June 30, as emergency crews continued the search and rescue operations for survivors of the collapsed Champlain Towers South condo building. Following the June 24 tragedy, Catholics around South Florida fled to a common refuge: the comforting presence of Mary. Several schools in the Miami archdiocese reacted by praying the rosary. As of July 1, at least 18 people were confirmed dead and authorities put the number of those still unaccounted for at 145.

years. "It was like an Armageddon scene from a movie," Yared told Catholic News Service. "We were in a catastrophic situation. No electricity."

## Father of Amazon.com founder gives gift of \$12 million to Catholic school

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Miguel Bezos, the immigrant father of Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos, has donated \$12 million to a Catholic school in Delaware that housed and educated him when he arrived as an unaccompanied minor from Cuba in the early 1960s. The senior Bezos attended Salesianum School in Wilmington, Delaware, after flee-

ing post-Revolution Cuba, along with over 14,000 other minors brought to the U.S. through Operation Pedro Pan, a program organized by the Catholic Church with the help of the U.S. government. Because Catholic social services agencies in Miami receiving the Cuban minors were overwhelmed, dioceses throughout the country began sending children to Catholic facilities and foster families throughout the country. Bezos ended up at a home for boys in Wilmington. Back then, Father James P. Byrne, of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, was put in charge of Casa de Sales, where Bezos was welcomed with other Cuban boys. "There was a priest in charge of us, and it was a tremendous experience for me. I'm sure you've heard sad stories about what terrible experiences some of the Peter Pan kids had,

but for us in Wilmington, we had each other, and we became very close," Bezos said in a 2016 interview posted on the website of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

## Oregon bill aimed at Catholic health care; Ohio protects conscience rights

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — A bill designed to slow the advance of Catholic health care in Oregon passed the state Legislature at the eleventh hour. The bill relating to health care providers, H.B. 2362, was approved 32-23 in the Oregon House June 25 and 16-12 in the Oregon Senate June 26, a day before the 2021 session

concluded. It requires approval from the state's Department of Consumer and Business Services or Oregon Health Authority before mergers, acquisitions, contracts or affiliations involving larger health care entities can be undertaken. Implicit but looming large was the aim of curbing Providence Health and Services, the largest health provider in Oregon. Because of Providence's Catholic mission, it does not do abortions. Supporters of legal abortion have objected more as Providence has expanded. The Oregon Catholic Conference opposed the bill, as did Providence and Oregon Right to Life. In other health care news, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine received strong praise from two national Catholic health care organizations for his actions to uphold conscience protection for health care workers and patients. On June 30, he signed into law major state budget legislation that included broad medical conscience protections.

## USCCB webpage answers questions about vote on Communion document

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- A page on the website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops answers a series of questions regarding the bishops' vote to approve drafting a document on the Eucharist during their spring general assembly June 16-18. Presented in a question-and-answer format, the page reviews four questions including why the document is being developed and whether the bishops voted to ban elected officials from receiving holy Communion. The webpage -- [www.usccb.org/meaning-eucharist-life-church](http://www.usccb.org/meaning-eucharist-life-church) -- is dated June 21, three days after the bishops announced the vote to allow the Committee on Doctrine to draft the document and present it for discussion when the bishops reconvene in person in November. The U.S. bishops approved advancing a plan to draft a document to examine the "meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the church" following a lengthy debate during their assembly, held virtually due to the pandemic. The action passed with 168 votes in favor and 55 votes against it. There were six abstentions. Chieko Noguchi, USCCB director of public affairs, told CNS in an email June 24 that the question-and-answer online document was developed by her office in collaboration with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, doctrine committee chairman, and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, chairman of the Committee on Communications. "We were hearing from people who seemed to misunderstand the vote, so it was created and then shared with all bishops with the approval of the conference president," Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, she wrote.

## Sisters of Providence celebrate jubilees

ST. MARY OF THE WOODS, Ind. — Nine Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods with ties to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are celebrating jubilees this year.

### 75-year jubilarians

Sister Adele Beacham was born in Toronto, Canada. Currently, she ministers in prayer at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Sister Adele, formerly Sister Joseph Therese, entered the congregation on July 22, 1946, from Holy Angels Parish in Dayton, Ohio. She professed perpetual vows on Jan. 23, 1954. During her time in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Sister Adele ministered as a teacher and principal at St. John the Baptist School in Fort Wayne from 1961-69 and as a pastoral associate at St. Martin de Porres Parish in Syracuse from 1982-87. She also ministered at other locations in Indiana and Illinois.



**SISTER ADELE BEACHAM**

Sister Joanne Cullins is a native of New Albany. Currently, she ministers in care in New Albany. Sister Joanne, formerly Sister Timothy, entered the congregation on Jan. 9, 1946, from Holy Trinity Parish in New Albany. She professed perpetual vows on Aug. 15, 1953. During her time in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Sister Joanne ministered as a teacher at St. John the Baptist School in Fort Wayne from 1957-61. She also ministered at other locations in Indiana as well as Illinois and Maryland.



**SISTER JOANNE CULLINS**

Sister Mary Mark Dede is a native of Terre Haute. Currently, she ministers as a volunteer at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Sister Mary Mark entered the congregation on Jan. 13, 1946, from St. Ann Parish in Terre Haute. She professed perpetual vows on Aug. 15, 1953. During her time in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Sister Mary Mark ministered as a teacher at Cathedral High School in Fort Wayne from 1952-53. She also ministered at other locations in Indiana as well as Massachusetts, Illinois, North Carolina, Maryland, California and Florida.



**SISTER MARY MARK DEDE**

Sister Lois Ann Stoiber is a native of Joliet, Illinois. Currently, she ministers in prayer at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Sister Lois

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Catholic Charities celebrates World Refugee Day



Provided by Bob Floyd

Nyein Chan, refugee resettlement director, welcomes visitors to a World Refugee Day celebration sponsored June 20 in Fort Wayne by Catholic Charities of Northeast Indiana. Participants received food, drink and garden plants that were provided by members of the community gardens at St. Henry Parish. The event was open to the public and COVID-19 vaccines were administered to those who desired.

Ann entered the congregation on Feb. 2, 1946, from St. Mary Carmelite Parish in Joliet. She professed perpetual vows on Aug. 15, 1953. During her time in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Sister Lois Ann ministered as a teacher at St. John the Baptist School in Fort Wayne from 1948-52, and at St. Jude School in Fort Wayne from 1953-58. She also ministered at other locations in Indiana as well as in Illinois.



**SISTER LOIS ANN STOIBER**

### 70-year jubilarians

Sister Kathleen Kelly is a native of Chicago. Currently, she ministers as a spiritual director and volunteer at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Sister Kathleen, formerly Sister Edward Marie, entered the con-



**SISTER KATHLEEN KELLY**

gregation on Feb. 2, 1951, from Resurrection Parish in Chicago. She professed perpetual vows on Aug. 15, 1958. During her time in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Sister Kathleen ministered as a teacher at St. John the Baptist School in Fort Wayne from 1955-57. She also ministered at other locations in Indiana as well as in California and Illinois.

Sister Lucille Lechner is a native of Jasper. Currently, she ministers as a volunteer and assistant to the administrator of Providence Hall at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Sister Lucille, formerly Sister Mary Louis, entered the congregation on Jan. 9, 1951, from St. Joseph Parish in Jasper. She professed perpetual vows on Aug. 15, 1957. During her time in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Sister Lucille ministered as a teacher at St. Patrick School in Fort Wayne from 1967-70. She also ministered at other locations in Indiana as well as in Illinois and Oklahoma.



**SISTER LUCILLE LECHNER**

Sister Marie Grace Molloy is a native of Indianapolis. Currently, she ministers in the Archives Department for the Sisters of Providence and serves as the coordinator for the St. John Academy Alumnae Association. Sister Marie Grace entered the congregation on Feb. 2, 1951, from St. Patrick Parish in Indianapolis. She professed perpetual vows on Aug. 15, 1958. During her time in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, she ministered as teacher and principal at Cathedral Grade School in Fort Wayne from 1964-67. Sister Marie Grace also ministered at other locations in Indiana as well as in Illinois.



**SISTER MARIE GRACE MOLLOY**

Sister Rosemary Rafter is a native of Bloomington, Illinois. Currently, she ministers as a volunteer at St. Thomas Hospice in Hinsdale, Ill.



**SISTER ROSEMARY RAFTER**

Sister Rosemary, formerly Sister Rose Clare, entered the congregation on Feb. 2, 1951, from St. Patrick Parish in Terre Haute. She professed perpetual vows on Aug. 15, 1958. During her time in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Sister Rosemary ministered as a teacher at St. Patrick School in Fort Wayne from 1953-57. She also ministered at other locations in Indiana as well as in Illinois and New Hampshire.

### 60-year jubilarian

Sister Betty Hopf is a native of Jasper. Currently, she ministers as a chaplain for the Hux Cancer Center in Terre Haute. Sister Betty, formerly Sister Barbara Francis, entered the congregation on Sept. 18, 1961, from Holy Family Parish in Jasper. She professed perpetual vows on May 24, 1970. During her time in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Sister Betty ministered as a teacher at St. John the Baptist School in Fort Wayne from 1967-71, in addition to ministering as a CPE Intern at Memorial Hospital in South Bend from 1985-86, and as a chaplain at St. Joseph Medical Center in South Bend from 1986-2001. Additionally, she ministered at other locations in Indiana.



**SISTER BETTY HOPF**

## Blessed Solanus Casey canoe pilgrimage

FORT WAYNE — Graduated eighth-grade through graduated 12th-grade students are invited to join other Catholic teens from around the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Youth Minister John Pratt and a few outdoorsy seminarians and priests on the second annual Blessed Solanus Casey Canoe Pilgrimage July 29.

The group will celebrate an 8 a.m. Mass at the St. Felix Catholic Center in Huntington, then be shuttled to a launch site upstream on the Salamonie River. After canoeing down the river, with lunch provided en route, everyone will end the pilgrimage at 2:30 p.m. at the St. Felix center.

Cost to participate is \$50. Scholarships are available. For more information or to register, visit <https://diocesefwsb.org/canoe-pilgrimage/>.

# Appointments and assignments: What do the titles mean?

BY JODI MARLIN

Except for, perhaps, those living out vocations in the Roman Catholic Church or who work in the administration of a diocese, ecclesial and parochial terminology can be confusing.

Ecclesial language is used with precision, including the various titles given to priests who serve in parishes or for the diocese. Often, the name given to a diocesan priest's assignment is really a job description, indicating the type of service he has been asked by the episcopal authority — the bishop — to perform at that parish or for the diocese.

Within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, some of the assignments Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has given to a member of the presbyterate — the priests of the diocese — include vicar general, episcopal vicar, pastor, parochial vicar and administrator. Each of these assignments have in common the mandate of Jesus to teach, sanctify and lead the people entrusted to their care. The goal of all pastoral ministry is the salvation of souls: All priests strive to carry out their ministry after the likeness of the great high priest, Jesus Christ.

## Vicar general

In accordance with Can. 475 §1-2, in each diocese the bishop must appoint a vicar general who is provided with the pow-

ers of the ordinary, the bishop, according to the norms of canon law. The vicar general assists the bishop in the governance of the whole diocese. As a rule, one vicar general is to be appointed unless the size of the diocese, the number of inhabitants or other exigent pastoral reason exists.

By virtue of office, the vicar general has the same executive power belonging to the diocesan bishop by law — namely, the power to place all administrative acts except those which the bishop has specifically reserved to himself, or which require a special mandate of the bishop by law. (Can. 479 §1)

The vicar general — always a priest — serves at the pleasure of the bishop who appointed him, so there's no set term, said vicar general Father Mark Gurtner. If the appointing bishop is transferred to another diocese or passes away, then the vicar general's duties cease as well.

"It's work that's necessary and is done in service of our diocese," said Father Gurtner. "That's the part, for me, that is fulfilling. I know I'm doing work that is very necessary for the diocese and very helpful for Bishop Rhoades, I hope."

## Vicar for clergy

As of July 1, Bishop Rhoades has appointed — for the first time in recent diocesan history — a vicar for clergy, Father Matthew Coonan. According to Can. 476, a diocesan bishop can appoint one or more episcopal vicars when the "correct gover-

nance of a diocese requires it."

Episcopal vicars manage a specific part of the diocese, a certain type of affairs in the diocese or are over the faithful of a specific rite or over certain groups of persons. Over their specific affair, rite or group, they possess the same ordinary power as a vicar general.

An episcopal vicar has the same power as a vicar general but only over the specific part of the territory, the type of affairs or the faithful of a specific rite or group for which he was appointed, and except those cases which the bishop has reserved to himself or to a vicar general or which require a special mandate of the bishop. Both the vicar general and an episcopal vicar must report to the diocesan bishop concerning the important affairs of the diocese.

## Pastor

As stated in Can. 519, the pastor of a parish assigned to him, exercises "the pastoral care of the community committed to him under the authority of the diocesan bishop in whose ministry of Christ he has been called to share, so that for that same community he carries out the functions of teaching, sanctifying, and governing, also with the cooperation of other presbyters or deacons and with the assistance of lay members of the Christian faithful, according to the norm of law."

To become a pastor validly, one must be in the sacred order of the presbyterate — that is to

say, a priest. (Can. 521 §1) A priest of the diocese in which the parish is located is usually assigned as pastor, or a priest of another diocese who is temporarily serving in the diocese in which the parish is located. With the consent of the superior of the order, a diocesan bishop can also entrust the pastorship of a parish to a religious priest.

## Parochial vicar

A parochial vicar is a priest who is assigned to assist a pastor in the pastoral ministry of the parish. Prior to 1983 and the promulgation of the most recent Code of Canon Law, this position was called the "associate pastor" or "assistant pastor," as both are priests in good standing who are given the responsibility to pastor a parish.

Canon law 545 says that "whenever it is necessary or opportune in order to carry out the pastoral care of a parish fittingly, one or more parochial vicars can be associated with the pastor. As co-workers with the pastor and sharers in his solicitude, they are to offer service in the pastoral ministry by common counsel and effort with the pastor and under his authority."

A parochial vicar can be assigned either to assist in exercising the entire pastoral ministry of the whole parish, a determined part of the parish, a certain group of the Christian faithful of the parish, or even to assist in fulfilling a specific ministry in different parishes that are engaged with each other in

that ministry.

The obligations and rights of a parochial vicar, besides being defined in canon law, diocesan statutes and the letter of the diocesan bishop to the parochial vicar, are more specifically determined in the mandate of the pastor.

Unless the letter of the diocesan bishop expressly provides otherwise, a parochial vicar, within the norms of canon law, substitutes for the pastor at pastoral functions when the pastor cannot be present.

## Administrator

When a parish is "vacant," meaning that the pastor has retired, been transferred to another assignment or is incapable of exercising his duties as a pastor, the bishop may choose to facilitate the appointment of a new pastor by first appointing a temporary parochial administrator. For example, an administrator may be appointed to assist at a parish at which the current pastor has a long-term illness or is facing a long-term recovery, at a parish to which the bishop's intended new appointment as pastor is delayed in being able to transfer to the parish, or in any number of situations in which immediately appointing a new pastor is not possible or desirable. In general, an administrator has the same duties and scope of authority as a pastor; however, these may be limited by the bishop.



Father Daniel Scheidt, in back, and Father Jay Horning celebrate with first communicants after a Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne. Father Scheidt is pastor of the parish; Father Horning is a parochial vicar, which is a priest assigned to assist in the pastoral duties of a parish under the authority of the pastor.

File photo



File photo

Father Henry Byekwaso, on the right of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, concelebrates Mass for the staff of St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in 2019.

## Longtime hospital chaplain stepping down

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

Years ago, Father Henry Byekwaso wanted to do some pastoral work nearby as he was preparing for his final exams in liturgical studies at the University of Notre Dame, so he approached the Dominican sister managing the pastoral care department at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center. “You’re a Godsend!” she replied, since the previous chaplain had recently resigned to move closer to his aging parents.

Father Byekwaso was happy to fill in, saying Mass and being on call for emergencies. He began in July. When the permanent position hadn’t been filled by November, he decided to give it a try for a year or two. That stretched into 32 years, through several administrations and the entire hospital moving from South Bend to a brand-new campus in Mishawaka.

He finally stepped down this year at the end of February and has taken the ensuing months to attend to his own medical needs and organize his life for its next chapter.

“Being a hospital chaplain has been a joy,” he said, “but this isn’t my ministry. I’m just continuing the healing ministry of Jesus Christ, who called me and empowers me to do it. I depend on Him to give me the ability to be present to people in these challenging moments.” He loves to pray with frightened people, giving them hope and support.

That ministry has meant so much to many patients and their families that they often ask Father Byekwaso to baptize their children or witness their marriages, although he is always careful to get permission from the pastor of the parish where

“Being a hospital chaplain has been a joy, but this isn’t my ministry. I’m just continuing the healing ministry of Jesus Christ, who called me and empowers me to do it.”

— Father Henry Byekwaso

the sacrament will be recorded.

True to his area of graduate study, Father Byekwaso said the highlight of every day is being able to say Mass in the hospital chapel. The Mass has drawn others besides hospital staff and patients’ families. Two Masses are offered every Sunday.



File photo

**After 32 years of ministering to patients and staff at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Mishawaka, Father Henry Byekwaso has returned to his native Uganda.**

On June 15 he returned to the Archdiocese of Kampala, Uganda, just in time to celebrate the 44th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. He is also reconnecting with his two brothers and so many nieces and nephews that he has lost track of the number.

“In Uganda,” he explained, “there is no retirement party. I expect to continue ministering as long as I can.” He hopes to be assigned to a parish where he can mentor some of the many younger men who have heard God’s call to the priesthood.

It was as a second-grade altar boy that Father Byekwaso first became interested in being a priest, so he has always had a soft spot for altar servers. Since there were as many as 20 acolytes at each Mass he served, there wasn’t much for each one to do but vest and line up then sit, observe the celebrant and learn the prayers. “I’d like to do what he’s doing,” he thought of the priest. With his parents’ encouragement, he entered seminary in seventh grade.

Before that time, his family grew all their own food and never went to a supermarket. He walked 2-1/2 miles each way to get to school.

Like many bright young seminarians, he was sent to The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., for his theology studies. Arriving at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York was a culture shock. He was especially surprised by the size and number of cars on the roads. He was ordained a deacon in the United States but returned to Kampala for his priestly ordination.

After only three months at a parish, the new priest was assigned to teach in a seminary. Teaching pastoral theology helped him realize he wanted

to learn more about liturgy. The University of Notre Dame had the best program, so after two more years as a parish priest, he enrolled and continued his studies.

Father Byekwaso has always had a heart for hospital ministry, especially after a motorcycle accident shattered his femur. Cut off by a trash truck that turned into their path, he and a priest companion thought they’d better say their goodbyes and give each other final blessings in the

ambulance. As he was drifting in and out of consciousness, he requested that a priest anoint him; The words of those prayers accompanied him to the operating room. The devout surgeon decided to do everything possible to restore his leg rather than amputating it; he knew the able-bodied young priest had many years of service ahead of him. Father Byekwaso wound up being in hospitals for nearly a year — much of it in traction.

After being on the receiving end of the hospital experience, he came to appreciate profoundly the importance of visitors. So even if he is assigned to a parish in Uganda, Father Byekwaso hopes to continue visiting the sick and home-bound, as well as encouraging younger men in their vocations.

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# Superstars of service — Yadira Gonzalez

BY TAMI DELUCENAY

California, Colorado, Mexico: Yadira Gonzalez lived in many places as a child because of her father's work. When Gonzalez was 8 years old, her father reached out to family members in South Bend. In South Bend, he found work and a place to bring his family to live.

"I was baptized in Los Angeles. However, I didn't receive the rest of my sacraments until I was 10. We were Catholic, but not very faithful until my parents were invited to a spirited prayer group at St. Casimir. This experience set them on fire for their faith. We felt 'bienvenidos a la parroquia de San Adalberto' or 'welcome at St. Adalbert Parish' and made this our parish home. I made my first holy Communion and was confirmed at St. Adalbert," shared Gonzalez.

Gonzalez attended St. Joseph high school. "It was a difficult time for me, and I wasn't very



Provided by Yadira Gonzalez

**Yadira Gonzalez, youth minister at St. Adalbert Parish in South Bend, in purple, is pictured with her group of teens and catechists following the students' confirmation in April. Gonzalez said that working for the Church felt like coming home, and something she "was meant to do."**

active in anything at school. It was important for me to be part of a youth program, but our leadership at the parish was inconsistent and not very strong at the time. Then our pastor,

who at the time was a seminarian, Father Ryan Pietrocarlo, called and asked me to serve on the youth leadership team my senior year. We started out small, but I think Father Ryan's perseverance, hope and leadership shined a light to our Latino youth. We finally had a flourishing youth group!"

With her love of science and also realizing the importance of continuing her Catholic education, Gonzalez received her undergraduate degree in molecular cellular biology from St. Mary's College in 2019. "I wanted to become a doctor and took a job as a phlebotomist at an area hospital after graduation. But I realized that working with patients and shadowing at clinics just wasn't for me."

After much prayer and discernment, Gonzalez received a call from Esther Terry, director of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, about an opening position at the

## Youth Ministry Leaders

St. John Paul II Center. "Looking back, I could see that God had been following me. I felt just like Dorothy Day when she said, 'God haunted me my entire life.' He was calling me to do something completely different. The work at the JPII center felt like I was coming home to what I was meant to do. The position was just one day a week, though, so I was praying that more hours would come available. Then I received a call once again, this

time from Father Ryan offering me a full-time job!"

Gonzalez is teaching religion at St. Adalbert school for children in pre-K through third grade and is the part-time youth minister for the high school youth.

"It has been a slow start for our youth program since the pandemic hit. We started something new this past year and combined our youth ministry with the confirmation prep group, hoping that we have a better retention for the young people to continue learning about their faith. We combine the teachings about the sacrament with helping them to know that Jesus talks with each of them personally. Then we tailor our prayer and talks to their unique life experiences."

The vibrant, charismatic prayer of the church as expressed through music and dancing holds a conversion moment for Gonzalez.

"I receive such joy when I sing, pray and dance the prayers of the Church. I really love the Spanish hymn "Jesus está vivo" ("Jesus is alive"). The kids love to sing it too. It is so important to impart this joy to our youth," Gonzalez said.

"God holds each of our youth in His tender, loving hands; and I know that it is my job to reflect that love to them so that they will understand how truly special they are," she concluded.



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# Eden Invitation and the holy work of accompaniment

BY MEGAN GETTINGER

“The Word became flesh to be our model of holiness.” This quote from the Catechism of the Catholic Church was the central theme of the Eden Invitation Fellow Travelers presentation given by Raquel Storey at St. Therese, Little Flower Church, South Bend, June 3.

Eden Invitation is a lay Catholic apostolate that seeks to walk alongside Catholic and Christian young adults who experience same-sex attraction or gender discordance and are striving to live lives of faithful discipleship in the context of the Church. This mission is meeting a deep need within the Church since individuals who identify as LGBT frequently leave the Church for relational reasons, rather than for disagreements over doctrine. Some of these relational reasons include not feeling safe, relational disconnect with leaders, incongruence between teaching and practice, and an unwillingness to dialogue.

Through the Fellow Travelers presentation and other resources, the team at Eden Invitation is inviting churches and individuals to enter into authentic relationships and dialogue with their LGBT brothers and sisters. Firmly rooted in the teaching of the Catholic faith, Eden Invitation is demonstrating that faithful Catholics do not have to choose between orthodoxy and authentically loving those members of the body of Christ who experience same-sex attraction and gender discordance.

Storey, who serves as mission engagement coordinator and is a member of the local Eden Invitation chapter, began by providing context for the Catholic Church's teaching on human sexuality. Storey then invited the audience to explore how



 eden invitation  
original personhood beyond the LGBT+ paradigm



To learn more  
contact the team  
via the form on the  
Eden Invitation  
website:  
[edeninvitation.com](http://edeninvitation.com).

Christ is “the master at the art of accompaniment” through Gospel accounts of His encounters with Zacchaeus and the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

“When people saw Jesus, they saw a man with an incredible capacity for relationship, for compassion,” she noted.

In keeping with the model of loving receptivity offered by in Christ, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states that those who experience same-sex attrac-



Provided by Megan Gettinger

**The central theme of the Eden Invitation Fellow Travelers presentation given by Raquel Storey at St. Therese, Little Flower Church, South Bend, June 3 was “The Word became flesh to be our model of holiness.” Eden Invitation is a Catholic apostolate that seeks to walk alongside Catholic and Christian young adults who experience same-sex attraction or gender discordance and are striving to live lives of faithful discipleship in the context of the Church.**

tion and gender discordance are to be “accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity.” Storey offered ways to dig deeper into these three responses through Eden Invitation’s Mission Movements: Receive the whole person, grow systems of mutual support and empower for creative discipleship.

The Church emphasizes that when a brother or sister shares their experience of same-sex attraction or gender discordance, the necessary compassionate response is to seek to respect and receive the whole person. Examples of how to honor and respect the sacredness of a person include practicing active listening, exhibiting positive non-verbal cues, allowing for pauses, asking questions, avoiding interruptions and staying focused on the topic at hand.

To show compassion, Christians should work on developing systems of mutual support and having the courage to suffer with those who suffer, she said.

Dr. Mark Yarhouse, a Christian psychologist with the Sexual and Gender Identity Institute at Wheaton College, used the phrase “your costly obedience is my costly obedience,” as a guiding principle for accompaniment. In order to build authentic communities, individuals must be willing to enter into the sacrifices of others that result from their obedience to God’s will for their lives. There is great personal sacrifice involved for those experiencing same-sex attraction or gender discordance who choose to live in line with Church teaching, he said. “We need to ask what cost our brothers and sisters are paying and

then ask, ‘What cost am I paying?’” said Storey. “Consider that the cost of obedience for someone experiencing same-sex attraction might be a house full of children and grandchildren, someone next to them in bed at night or rides to the doctor or the airport; for someone experiencing gender discordance, obedience might cost them acceptance from the secular trans community. And there is the daily costly ‘yes’ — of living into one’s biological sex instead of pursuing alternatives.”

LGBT individuals can find themselves overwhelmed by the process of vocational discernment. Others are called to be sensitive to the fact that this process can be even more daunting for young adults, as many of the traditional vocational options may not be possible for them.

“For lay singles, emphasis on traditional life paths leaves them feeling adrift. We need to keep this in mind when accompanying LGBT people. We need to start looking at singleness as a gift to the Church. It is a life situation to be embraced, not endured,” Storey emphasized.

Eden Invitation seeks to provide space where young adults can creatively live out their discipleship and lean into the “diversity and complementarity of vocations and states in life, of ministries, of charisms and responsibilities,” which characterize ecclesial communion, according to “Christifideles Laici,” an exhortation of St. Pope John Paul II on the vocation and mission of the laity.

Abby Kyle, director of evangelization at St. Therese Little Flower, expressed gratitude for the work Eden Invitation is doing in the Church and particularly for the way the Fellow Travelers presentation added to the parish’s Year of the Family initiative.

“All are created with the purpose of belonging. We want to help every member of our parish learn how to be a ‘fellow traveler.’ After all, we’re all fellow travelers on the road. There is no ‘us vs. them’ in God’s family. There is only ‘us,’” Kyle said.

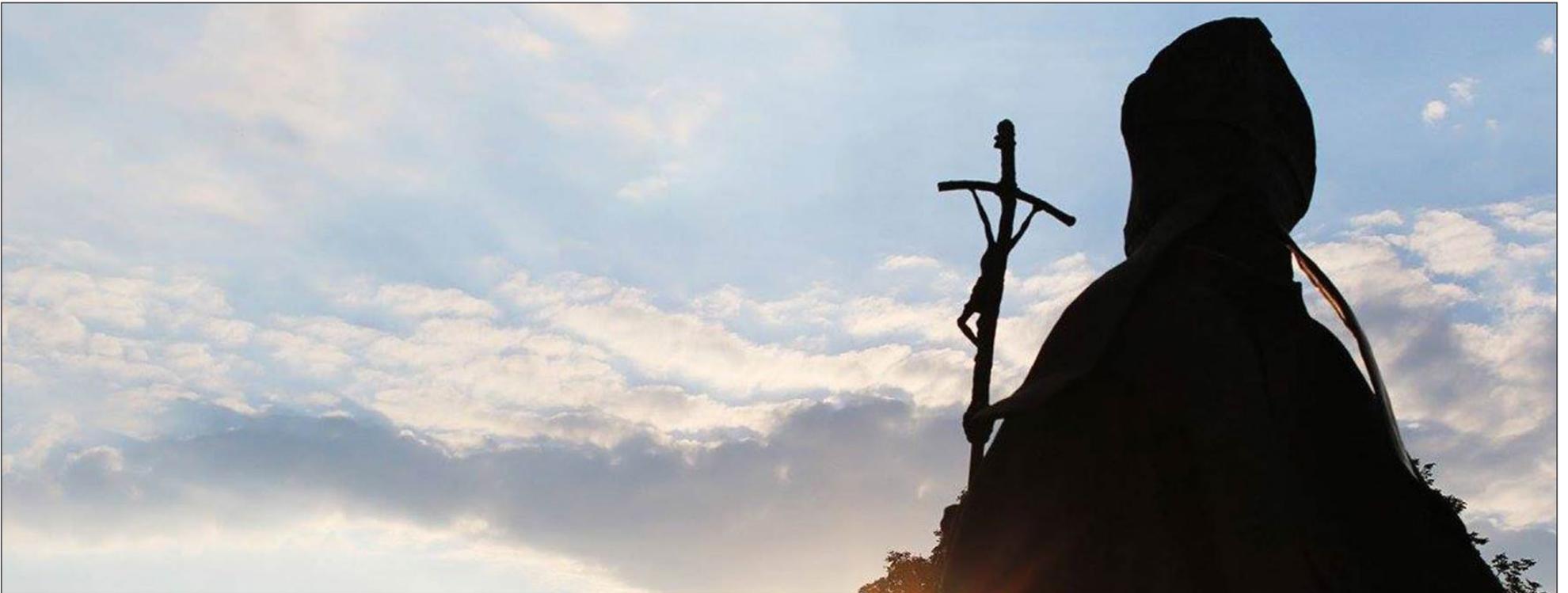
Eden Invitation offers a variety of gatherings for those experiencing same-sex attraction and gender discordance: initial one-on-one meetings with a member of the Eden Invitation team, book clubs, retreats, encounters and local accompaniment or “Hearth Groups,” one of which is local to South Bend. To learn more, contact the team via the form on the Eden Invitation website: [www.edeninvitation.com](http://www.edeninvitation.com).

Anyone seeking to grow in solidarity with their brothers and sisters experiencing same-sex attraction and gender discordance may also want to review the blog posts, videos and other resources offered by Eden Invitation on the site.



Join Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades for a father/son retreat to celebrate the Year of St. Joseph! The retreat is open to boys aged 13-17 and their father/male relative.

Learn more:  
[diocesefwsb.org/joseph-retreat](http://diocesefwsb.org/joseph-retreat)



File photo

## The office of the tribunal: work that ‘touches people’s soul’

BY JENNIFER BARTON

There is an office within the diocese that does not have an active mission of evangelization but has touched the lives of many people in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, even if only indirectly.

Father Jacob Runyon, judicial vicar, admitted that even practicing Catholics are often confused when he tells them he is in charge of the diocesan Marriage Tribunal, the office responsible for handling annulment cases.

The tribunal is necessarily layered in secrecy. “When people share their story with us, they’re sharing the most intimate details of their life, usually talking about a very traumatic — one of the worst — failures that they have experienced,” said Anne Therese Stephens, tribunal advocate. It can be a difficult and painful experience for those involved in a divorce to relive those moments, and she sees her work as a form of ministry. All the tribunal staff members have the utmost respect for those who come to them.



**FATHER JACOB RUNYON**

Father Runyon has headed the tribunal for the last three years. Prior to that, he served as a tribunal judge. He holds a licentiate in canon law from The Catholic

University of America, the only college in the U.S. that offers the program. Father Runyon supervises the tribunal staff and assigns cases to the three judges: Father Francis Chukwuma, Father Wimal Jayasuriya and himself.

“To clarify any misconceptions about the tribunal, I think the most important bit of information is that we’re like a court-



*“I think as an advocate, there is as form of just really being the face of Christ for people and just being able to love in the way that He loves. Because at the time that people encounter the Church, hopefully they encounter Christ.” — Anne Therese Stephens*

room,” he stated. Different than divorces, which are often focused on why the marriage ended, he said, “with annulments, we’re more like a fact-finding mission. What we’re trying to do is ascertain whether the marriage was valid from the beginning of the ceremony.”

Father Runyon explained that the Church understands that giving full consent to a marriage “requires certain levels of freedom, certain levels of discernment,” which may not have been present at the time the vows were spoken. “If those things are gravely lacking for some reason, then it means that the person wasn’t actually free enough to enter marriage in the first place.”

Around 80-100 cases are decided each year. More often than not, those decisions are affirmative, he reported, meaning that a true marriage never took place. The more cooperation there is between all the concerned parties, the stronger the case is and the quicker the process can move forward.

“When the case comes in, I have to evaluate it based on conscience: In my heart and in my mind, do I think there’s sufficient enough evidence to prove that the marriage wasn’t valid from the beginning?” he said.

For the judges, it is a priority to uphold the sacredness of marriage as Jesus Himself taught. But the petitioner’s parish priest can have a big impact in helping

to meet the spiritual needs of those wounded by failed marriages by being a “caring and compassionate presence.” Father

Runyon emphasized how critical it is for the couple’s priests to be involved in the entire process.

Advocates Stephens and Vicki Ferrier serve sort of as defense attorneys, acting on behalf of the petitioner. They are the sympathetic party, working with and on behalf of the petitioner in support of freeing them from a marriage that was flawed from the start.

Trained in canon law, Stephens describes her job as helping petitioners “marshal the evidence to be able to show the judge that there was a problem which existed from the beginning. ... So together, we work to present the strongest possible case to the judge.”

The “prosecuting attorney” would be the defender of the bond, whose job it is to defend the sacred bond of marriage and look for any inconsistencies in the evidence provided, though this position is filled from outside the diocese.

Ellen Becker and Isabella Durán-Price work as auditors — those who conduct interviews with the involved parties and witnesses to determine the facts of the case at the time the marriage took place. Auditors must remain neutral in their fact-gathering. Becker has been in her position for nearly 16 years and still remembers some cases she has seen through the years and hopes she has been able to help petitioners move forward with their lives.

Like Stephens, she feels the spiritual value of her work. “This touches people’s soul and their spiritual life, and that’s a whole



*“I love my job precisely because I am able to be that person whom they rely on to tell their story, with all its ups and downs, and I can be their shoulder to cry on if they need to. No matter what they did or still do, I always like to end our conversations in ‘I am hoping you know that Jesus loves you dearly and He suffers and rejoices with you.’” — Isabella Durán-Price*

other dimension than a divorce,” she said. Because divorce is hard on all involved, “I pray for the people I’m talking to. Witnesses as well.”

The gravity of their work is not lost on any of the staff members, who are sensitive to the impact their jobs have on the lives of those going through the process. “I feel that weight of these are real people’s lives, and I’m always empathetic when I read these people’s lives,” Father Runyon commented. In her duty as an auditor, Durán-Price says she is “able to listen and share a little bit of the pain that the parties are suffering.”

As painful as it can be for a petitioner to speak to a stranger about a broken marriage, it is also emotionally taxing for tribunal members. The anguish shared by petitioners sometimes plagues them, and they must balance their own mental health with the sorrowful stories they hear almost daily. “It’s difficult work,” Becker admitted. “When I first started, it was hard to listen to these people. I would take a lot home with me. I spent a lot of time crying, even in my office, because of the pain that these people have been through.”

Stephens compares the experience of being an advocate to a priest hearing confession in that she seldom remembers specific details about the person’s case, however.

The length of time the process can take is often the hardest aspect of the job, knowing that people’s lives are on hold while awaiting a decision. The goal of

the tribunal is to complete the process within a year, though unforeseen factors can sometimes cause delays.

Stephens indicated that these delays can be a blessing in disguise, even though they add to the burden of the petitioners. “The people for whom I’ve seen it work the best are those who have used this time to grow in their Catholic faith and grow in their prayer life, and to increase their trust in God.”

Overseeing the tribunal has added a certain level of awareness to Father Runyon’s priestly ministry, as he can advise couples going through marriage preparation about areas that they should address before saying “I do,” yet without revealing any details about specific cases. He has seen cases come through the tribunal in which he presided over the marriage, but he is not the assigned judge on those cases.

Helping bring people back into full communion with the Church is the most satisfying part of working in the tribunal, members of the staff said. It is not always a smooth or easy process due to the “messiness of the human situation,” as Father Runyon put it, but to see a person’s case brought to justice brings fulfillment.

Further information on the nature of annulments and answers to many of the questions petitioners have prior to beginning the process can be found on the tribunal page of the diocese website, [diocesefwsb.org/tribunal](http://diocesefwsb.org/tribunal).

# Business leaders unite in faith through Legatus

BY JENNIFER BARTON

In the sometimes-merciless business world, devout Catholic executives need a way to blend their business skills and their faith: That was the vision of Domino's Pizza magnate Tom Monaghan when he established Legatus 34 years ago as an alternative to secular organizations such as Young Presidents' Organization. Two chapters have been established within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in the last 10 years, and they continue to help business leaders and their spouses grow in their Catholic faith and carry that faith into the workplace.

On June 30, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades paid a visit to the joint meeting of the two chapters and celebrated Mass with them at St. Martin de Porres Church in Syracuse.

Rather than separating their faith from their business practices, Legatus allows company presidents, CEOs and business leaders who meet specific criteria to follow Christ more closely in all areas of their life through fellowship with like-minded Catholic businesspeople. Nate Wine, vice president of the Legatus Great Lakes Region, describes the organization's mission as to "study, live and spread the Catholic faith in our professional and personal lives."

Wine took up his position at the start of the year. He said that he has been "personally blessed by this role" and is "humbled to serve" an organization that bolsters his faith life.

Since its inception, Legatus has grown to over 100 chapters in the U.S. and Canada, with more slated to be chartered by the end of the year. Over 5,000 members have committed themselves to merging their Catholic faith with their business practices.

Unlike other leadership organizations, Legatus spouses can become members and are invited to take an active role in all aspects of the organization.

Both the Fort Wayne and South Bend-Elkhart chapters host monthly meetings that include praying the rosary, reconciliation opportunities and Mass before dinner, after which a Catholic speaker addresses the group. Speakers can be anyone from renown Catholics to local parish priests. Wine stated that the purpose of the talks is "to challenge and inspire" members of Legatus in their faith journey.

In addition to monthly meetings, Legatus offers small-group forums for both men and women to support each other and discuss their "personal and professional struggles," Wine said. Members are encouraged to participate in network groups within their professional specialties.

A three-day, nationwide Legatus summit will take place



Photos by Jennifer Barton

**Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades engages in a question-and-answer session at the yearly meeting of the Fort Wayne and South Bend/Elkhart chapters of Legatus June 30. Chad Wright, Fort Wayne chapter president, at left, moderates.**

this September in Scottsdale, Arizona, providing further opportunities for members to grow in their faith. Legatus also offers guided pilgrimages to religious sites such as the Camino de Santiago Compostela in Spain and the Holy Land.

Once a year, the Fort Wayne and South Bend chapters have a joint meeting, and this year Bishop Rhoades was welcomed as guest speaker. There was much merriment as members from both sides of the diocese shared fellowship at the social hour prior to the dinner.

In lieu of a prepared talk, group members had been asked to submit questions for a Q-and-A session with Bishop Rhoades. Some of the questions covered Church teaching on the sacredness of the Eucharist and issues of human sexuality, how to keep young people engaged in the Church and ways that members of Legatus can support the priests in their communities.

Bishop Rhoades advocated active participation in parish life, adding that priests and bishops do not often have backgrounds in economics and greatly benefit from the talents of those who do. He also expressed a positive outlook on the strong faith of many young people within the diocese.

Jay Mattern, South Bend, and Chad Wright, Fort Wayne, are serving their respective chapters in a one-year term as president for 2021. Though the pandemic discontinued meetings for a time and decreased the number of members, both chapters are going strong this year.

South Bend membership is at 20 couples with some "really good prospects" for new members, according to Mattern. The Fort Wayne chapter is up to 38 couples.



**Legatus members celebrate Mass with the bishop at St. Martin de Porres Church, Syracuse, prior to their annual meeting and dinner.**

"We're definitely looking for additional Legatus members; the Fort Wayne and South Bend chapters are all very, very strong and part of it is because we have a very strong leader in Bishop Rhoades," said Wright.

In his homily at Mass, Bishop Rhoades delved into one of his favorite topics: history, particularly the history of the early Church, as the day marked the memorial of the First Holy Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church. Speaking of these martyrs, he remarked, "What is amazing is that their martyrdom did not stop Christianity's spread. In fact, evidence shows that many Romans were inspired by the courage of these martyrs and converted to the Christian faith."

He elaborated on the day's reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans and the Gospel, where Jesus told the disciples

ment for us today to remain loyal to Jesus and His Church in the face of opposition. Our Lord did not conceal from the disciples that evil will lash out against them, nor did He promise them a life without suffering. Yet, He assured them, and He assures us, of the ultimate victory of His love. For the suffering Church on earth, persecution will give way to ultimate joy."

He concluded his homily with words that Legatus members could reflect on in their everyday lives, amid a culture that is frequently hostile to visible acts of Christianity.

"The martyrs now live in eternal joy and peace with the Lord. ... We need their prayers, that we may persevere in faith with fortitude and courage, trusting always that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

As an owner of a private business that employs 150 workers, Wright recognizes that he has "a pretty big pulpit" for spreading the Gospel and believes that organizations like Legatus are the impetus from which the Catholic revival will burst forth. At his workplace, he stated that "before meals, we pray. Before board meetings, we pray." He does not shy away from talking about his Catholic faith in the workplace and serves as a witness for Christ in that way.

Mattern, a parishioner at St. Jude, South Bend, owns two marketing firms. When he came into the Church in 2019, he was running a staffing business and fervently wanted to find an organization that would support his newfound faith. Legatus was a perfect fit. "I'm really happy I did because it's just fantastic," he commented.

During the meeting, Father Jim Fenstermaker transitioned into his new role as chaplain of the South Bend chapter. It was his first meeting, and he celebrated Mass with Bishop Rhoades. Father Daniel Scheidt serves as the Fort Wayne chapter's chaplain. At the end of the evening, the combined chapters presented Bishop Rhoades with a check for \$1,000 toward the charity of his choice.

that they would encounter persecutions and trials, but assured them that He would be with them and bring about the "ultimate victory of His love."

"The message for us today is clear. The words of Jesus and of St. Paul are a call to courage. They are words of encourage-



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# Pope out of bed, walking after surgery at Rome hospital

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The second morning after undergoing colon surgery, Pope Francis was continuing to recover well and, after a restful night, he had breakfast, read the newspapers and got out of bed to walk, the Vatican press office said July 6.

His post-operative recovery is proceeding normally, the press office said, and his "routine follow-up exams are good."

The day before the Vatican had explained that Pope Francis' surgery "for diverticular stenosis performed the evening of July 4 involved a left hemicolectomy and lasted about 3 hours."

The pope was expected to stay in the hospital for a week after the surgery, barring complications.

A left hemicolectomy is the removal of the descending part of the colon and can be recommended to treat diverticulitis, when bulging pouches in the lining of the intestine or colon become inflamed or infected.

The 84-year-old pope was admitted to Rome's Gemelli hospital in the early afternoon July 4 after leading the midday recitation of the Angelus with visitors gathered in St. Peter's Square.

As has been his custom, Pope

Francis already had suspended his weekly general audience and other meetings for the month of July, except for the Sunday recitation of the Angelus.

It is possible that Pope Francis' midday Angelus appointment July 11 could take place at the Gemelli hospital, as it did on several occasions when St. John Paul II was hospitalized there. The hospital maintains a suite of rooms for the popes' use when necessary.

Announcing Pope Francis' hospitalization in the mid-afternoon July 4, the Vatican press office had said he was to undergo "a scheduled surgical intervention for a symptomatic diverticular stenosis of the colon."

About seven hours later, after the surgery had been performed, the press office said, "The Holy Father reacted well to the surgery, which was conducted under general anesthesia."

Dr. Sergio Alfieri, a staff surgeon at the Gemelli who specializes in surgery of the digestive tract and colon, led the surgery, assisted by a team of surgeons.

Stenosis is a narrowing of a passage in the human body. The Vatican's description of the pope's condition indicated a partial blockage of the lower intestine. It provided no information about the cause or suspected



CNS photo/Guglielmo Mangiapane, Reuters

**An Italian police officer stands outside Gemelli hospital in Rome, where Pope Francis had a prescheduled colon surgery July 4.**

cause of the blockage nor of the symptoms the pope had been experiencing.

As soon as the Vatican announced the pope's hospitalization, get-well messages began being posted on social media.

Italian President Sergio Mattarella, who had just arrived

in France when the news broke, sent a telegram, his office said. The president said he and the Italian people were accompanying the pope with "affectionate thoughts" and wishes for a speedy recovery.

Pope Francis has been generally healthy since becoming

pope in March 2013 except for recurrent bouts of sciatica, which causes sharp pain that radiates along the path of the sciatic nerve, which branches from the lower back through the hips and down each leg. In late December and early January, he missed several events because the pain was so intense.

The pope also suffered from a pulmonary condition in 1957 at the age of 21 that required him to undergo surgery to remove the upper right lobe of one of his lungs.

In an interview for a book published early in March, the pope said that while his recovery was painful, it was "complete, and I never felt any limitation in my activities."

"As you have seen, for example, in the various trips I have made and that you have covered, I never had to restrict or cancel any of the scheduled activities. I never experienced fatigue or shortness of breath," he told Nelson Castro, a physician and Argentina journalist.

The pope also told Castro that when he was the provincial superior of the Jesuits in Argentina, an office he held from 1973 to 1979, he underwent emergency gallbladder surgery.

# Shrine welcomes items that belonged to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

BY MARY K. TILGHMAN

EMMITSBURG, Md. (CNS) — The faded black bonnet with its gently ruffled frill once framed the face of the nation's first American-born saint.

The black cap, a familiar sight in portraits of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, rested in a gray archival box back in Emmitsburg March 11 for the first time since 1822.

It is one of several rarely seen artifacts from Mother Seton's life now on display for all visitors to see at the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

The "Seton Family Treasures" exhibit officially opened July 1 at the shrine. The exhibit is part of a yearlong commemoration to mark the 200th anniversary of the death of America's first native-born saint. She died at age 46 Jan. 4, 1821.

The items — including St. Elizabeth Ann's rosary, her wedding brooch and her daughter's christening gown — arrived in early March, donated by the Sisters of Charity of New York to the Maryland shrine for their display and preservation.

"They're here to help us tell her story and make Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton more relatable," said Rob Judge, the shrine's executive director.

The items, mostly objects of daily life, will be used to talk

about her diverse life experiences, Judge said. She knew the joys and trials of family life, was faced with financial struggle, confronted death and found solace in the Catholic Church.

"She was fully human like all of us," Judge said in a March interview. "It gives people great hope and great faith."

"When visitors see these artifacts, they will be taken back in time, while being made mindful of their own experiences and struggles that often mirror those of America's saint," Judge said in a statement just prior to the exhibit's July 1 opening.

The exhibit debuted with a virtual tour of it led by historian Catherine O'Donnell, whose book "Elizabeth Seton America's Saint" is considered the definitive historical account of Mother Seton's life. A special morning Mass, "Pray for America with Mother Seton," will be said July 4 at the shrine's basilica in honor of the saint and the opening of the exhibit.

Among the donated artifacts are: — St. Elizabeth Ann's black cap, sent to New York in 1822, a year after Mother Seton's death, and conserved about six years ago, according to Mindy Gordon, archivist for the sisters in New York.

— The crucifix and black glass bead rosary which she used in prayer

— A delicate brooch in the shape of a bow with a chrysanthemum-like flower at its center, which she wore on her wedding day; her portable writing desk.

— Wedding miniatures of Elizabeth and William Seton; the tea chest belonging to St. Elizabeth Ann's father, Dr. Richard Bayley; and family photo albums.

— The Civil War-era commissioning certificate and epaulettes of her grandson, William Seton Jr.; and the christening dress St. Elizabeth Ann sewed for her daughter Catherine.

Only a few items were displayed March 11, after they arrived at the shrine. The christening dress needs special care to be shown due to its fragility, while other artifacts, including the wedding portraits and family photo albums, need further restoration before the exhibition, according to Scott Keefer, archivist for the Daughters of Charity.

"We're so very pleased that these artifacts have found not only a safe but a loving home," said Sister Donna Dodge, president of the Sisters of Charity of New York. She was joined by other members of the order's executive council via Zoom.

Several artifacts, including the tea chest and commissioning certificate, were donated to the sisters in New York upon the death of the saint's great-grandson and

last living descendant, Ferdinand Jevons, of New York.

The commissioning certificate recalls a moment of special significance to the sisters. Capt. William Seton III, the saint's grandson, was wounded at the Battle of Antietam 30 miles from Emmitsburg. Sisters of Charity nursed him back to health at St. Joseph's Military Hospital in New York. Only when he awoke did the sisters realize he was the grandson of their foundress.

"How powerful a moment that must have been," Judge said

Elizabeth Ann Bayley was born in New York City Aug. 28, 1774, to a prominent Episcopal family. In 1794, at age 19, Elizabeth married William Magee Seton, a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. William died of tuberculosis in 1803, leaving Elizabeth a young widow.

After discovering Catholicism in Italy, where her husband had died, Elizabeth returned to the United States and entered the Catholic Church in 1805 in New York.

To support her family, she started an academy for young ladies in New York but later relocated to Baltimore, where she established the first Catholic school. She was the founder of what would become the Catholic school system in the United States.

In 1809, she moved her school to nearby Emmitsburg, establishing it on land purchased by a donor. A year later she founded what became known as the Daughters of Charity. She died Jan. 4, 1821. She was canonized by St. Paul VI Sept. 14, 1975.

Preparing for the transfer of the saint's items from New York, Gordon discovered something she'd never seen before on the backs of 1794 wedding miniatures. "I had never touched them," she said.

She found a braid of Mother Seton's hair on the back of her miniature and a velvet cloth embroidered with her husband's initials on the back of his. One of the canisters inside the tea chest still contains tea, enough for a cup or two.

In March, before the artifacts were introduced, Father Ted Trinko blessed them. A priest of the Institute of the Incarnate Word, he is the shrine's chaplain.

"In many ways, these relics are going to bless us," he said.

In addition to items donated by the Sisters of Charity of New York, others were donated by the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati and the Daughters of Charity, each of whom trace their roots to Mother Seton. Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg also

**SHRINE, from page 14**

contributed to the exhibit, which joins an already extensive collection of Seton artifacts at the shrine's museum.

Despite the coronavirus pandemic, the national shrine has continued virtual programs and tours and is open for visitors with face masks and social distancing, said Tony DiIulio, programs director. Some 60,000 people visit the shrine every year, though numbers were down about 10% last year.

Commemorations also include a new film, "Seeker to Saint," as well as virtual and in-person exhibitions and tours.

Besides items donated by the Sisters of Charity of New York that are now on display, other pieces were donated by the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati and the Daughters of Charity, each of whom trace their roots to Mother Seton.

Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg also contributed to the exhibit, which joins an already extensive collection of Seton artifacts at the shrine's museum.

Editor's Note: For more details about the artifacts or to see the film, go to <https://seton200years.org>. The shrine also is releasing a series of four videos about different aspects of her life as "a wife, mother, friend, teacher, spiritual seeker and servant of the poor." The first two videos can be seen at <https://setonshrine.org/seeker-to-saint>.

*Tilghman writes for the Catholic Review, the news outlet of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.*

**PASTORAL ASSOCIATE**



**Queen of Peace Parish** in Mishawaka, Indiana has an opening for a Pastoral Associate. The Pastoral Associate oversees the religious education needs of children of the parish attending public schools (CCD), leads the RCIA and other adult faith enrichment programs, and coordinates the parish's youth group(s) activities. This person also administers the diocesan Safe Environment Program at the parish/school level as well as assists with routine administrative issues in the parish office. A degree in Theology is preferred. Please send applications and resumes to Business Manager, John Mosier, at [jmosier@queenofpeace.cc](mailto:jmosier@queenofpeace.cc) or apply online at [diocesefwsb.org/careers](http://diocesefwsb.org/careers).



**PRINCIPAL NEEDED**

St. John the Baptist Catholic School in New Haven is looking for a principal to begin work immediately. The school has an enrollment of 215 kindergarten – grade 8 students with an experienced and dedicated faculty of 17 plus additional school support staff. St. John the Baptist Catholic School has received an "A" grade from the Indiana Department of Education.

**Qualifications:**

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

Questions regarding this job opening should be directed to the Catholic Schools Office at 260-422-4611. Interested applicants should apply online at [diocesefwsb.org/careers](http://diocesefwsb.org/careers).

**St. Vincent de Paul Society Teen Service Week**



Provided by Lara Schrek

Several local teenagers volunteered to spend June 7-11 helping with community projects as part of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Fort Wayne's Teen Service Week. The teens helped local homeowners clean up their properties, make repairs, paint and more. Above, several participants wash down a driveway after one of the cleanup projects. Lara Schrek, executive director of the nonprofit organization, intends for the service week to become an annual event.



**St. John the Baptist Catholic Church**  
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**We are hiring!**

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

This is a full-time paid position with benefits. Candidates should be proficient at piano and singing. Ability to play the organ is a plus. Responsibilities include playing music at 3 weekend Masses, weddings, and funerals throughout the year; 2 weekday all-school Masses and weekly adult choir rehearsals August through May; plus additional liturgies such as Holy Week, Christmas, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, 8th grade graduation, etc., and serving on the parish Worship Team. Additional responsibilities might include forming a school children's choir and a hand bell choir.

**DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY**

This is a paid position. Previous experience in ministry is a plus. Duties would include hosting weekly gatherings of high school students at the parish most weeks (some of which would be catechetical in nature, some would involve partying like rock stars). Other duties include recruiting and forming a small army of volunteers who want to serve our teens, facilitating an annual weekend retreat for high school students, facilitating an annual Confirmation retreat for 8th graders, possibly forming small groups of teens with adult mentors, and humoring the middle-aged pastor who thinks he's really hip.

Interested applicants for both positions should email a resume or inquiries to [rroll@stjohnsfw.org](mailto:rroll@stjohnsfw.org). Visit us online at [SaintJohnFortWayne.com](http://SaintJohnFortWayne.com)

## Time for Roe to go

I'm looking at a helpless but calm-looking baby, 16 weeks old, resting with eyes closed and one hand next to his or her face. The baby is surrounded by a thin membrane and floating next to the umbilical cord providing oxygen and nourishment.

This photo's caption, comparing it to an image of a 12-week-old child, declares: "The body has filled out fantastically, quite recognizable now as a human baby."

The picture, taken by award-winning Swedish photographer Lennart Nilsson, was part of a 1965 Life magazine feature titled "Drama of Life Before Birth." That drama is reaching a new and critical stage.

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to decide whether the state of Mississippi is allowed — not required but allowed — to protect that 16-week-old baby from being killed. This case may set the stage for modification or reversal of the court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, which declared a constitutional "right" to abortion and overturned abortion laws in all 50 states.

In Roe, the court divided pregnancy into "trimesters" of about three months each. In the first trimester, states could do almost nothing to regulate abortion; in the second, they could only act to protect the health of the pregnant woman, not her child.

And in the final months, when the child may be "viable" — that is, able to survive outside the womb if born — abortion must be allowed if the practitioner says it serves the woman's "health," defined expansively by the court to include emotional

"well-being."

That decision gave our country one of the most extreme abortion policies in the world, sparking a decadeslong controversy and strong criticism on the court itself. Some criticism relates to the court's arbitrary "trimester" framework — partly because medical advances keep shifting the age when a child may survive outside the womb, from 28 weeks of gestational age down to 22 weeks now.

Nevertheless, the court reaffirmed Roe in Planned Parenthood v. Casey in 1992, declaring that states may not impose an "undue burden" on a woman's ability to obtain an abortion before viability.

This brings us to the Mississippi law, which forbids abortions beginning at 16 weeks — except in the case of a medical emergency for the mother, or a severe fetal abnormality incompatible with continued survival for the child.

Does it create an "undue burden" on women's ability to obtain an abortion in that state? Here are some facts to consider:

First, 96% of abortions in the U.S. are performed before the 16th week.

Second, Mississippi has only one abortion clinic now — and it only performs abortions up to the 16th week, presumably because at that time the procedure becomes more complicated and more dangerous for women. (The clinic's physicians commute there from other states, as no Mississippi doctor wants to work there.)

Third, in 2007 the Supreme Court already upheld a ban on



### A MORE HUMAN SOCIETY

RICHARD DOERFLINGER

a particular abortion procedure even before viability. That "partial-birth abortion" method kills the child when he or she is mostly outside the womb. The court observed that "a fetus is a living organism while within the womb, whether or not it is viable outside the womb," and said the ban expresses "respect for the dignity of human life."

Regardless, some warn that by upholding the Mississippi law, banning abortions that are now legal but not available, the court would usher in a Dark Age of disregard for women's freedom.

Weighed against this sweeping claim is that "quite recognizable" human baby, waiting to see if the rest of us are willing to set even modest limits to the taking of innocent human life.

Richard Doerflinger worked for 36 years in the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He writes from Washington state.

## House of grass and sky: an ode to the place that shapes us

Every house, in its own way, is a living thing. It changes as we change. It expands with joy and contracts under duress.

This strikes me as a Catholic concept. We embrace sacramental living and elevate each home as a "domestic church," the first place a soul is formed. But it's a human idea, really. It's something we sense, deep down, even if we can't articulate it or sound silly when we try.

We enter a home and breathe in its history. We know it is more than brick and stone, greater than the sum of its parts. Over time we come to believe the house is participating in our lives, tucking our memories within its walls, sighing with satisfaction, creaking with sorrow. We wonder, if we listen well enough, if we could hear its beating heart.

And eventually we dare to imagine that a house can love you back, offering beauty and security, light and darkness — and ultimately, helping you become who you were meant to be.

That's what happened to Mary Lyn Ray, 75, who became a writer when she moved into an old farmhouse in South Danbury, New Hampshire. It felt like the house in her favorite childhood book, Tasha Tudor's "Snow Before Christmas." Mary



### TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

Lyn was certain that somewhere, a house like the one in the book waited for her.

Decades passed, and Mary Lyn went about her business. One day, to celebrate her mother's birthday, she promised her family a picnic at "some wonderful surprise place" without having one in mind.

As Mary Lyn prepared their food, a friend of a friend visited and mentioned a pretty spot: a boarded up white farmhouse facing a mountain half a mile down a back road in South Danbury.

When Mary Lyn found it, there was a flash of recognition. "It looked just like the Tasha Tudor picture I had been carrying with me," she told me.

The house had been sitting empty for 40 years, ensnared in estate issues. So, Mary Lyn waited, just as the house had waited for her. In 1984, five years later, she finally bought it, working with her father to

CAPECCHI, page 17

## God has chosen us to share in His power and eternal life



### THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mark 6:7-13

The Book of Amos is the source of this weekend's first reading. Amos is one of the relatively few prophets of whom something is known. Many prophets give some details about themselves, but not many give more than a few details.

By contrast, it is known that Amos was from Tekoa, a small village about 10 miles south of Jerusalem in Judea. He herded sheep and tended fig trees. He obviously was intelligent, and he knew the traditions of his ancestors.

He wrote during the reign

of King Uzziah of Judah, or between the years 783 and 742 B.C. It was a time of prosperity and national security. Even so, as often has been the case in history, the poor still were in want. The gap between the rich and the less fortunate was evident.

Amos saw himself as an authentic prophet. The other prophets of his time, he thought, were hired by the king ultimately to strengthen the king's rule over the people. Under such arrangements, the other prophets could not be trusted to preach the undefiled word of God.

This weekend's reading reports a clash between Amos and a priest in the Jerusalem temple. Amos reasserts his role, insisting that he was called by God to be a prophet.

The Letter to the Ephesians provides the second reading. In the first century A.D. Ephesus was a major commercial center in the Roman Empire and an important port on the Mediterranean Sea, although shifts in the soil and collections of sediment have left the ruins of

Ephesus, in present-day Turkey, at a distance from the seashore.

Ephesus was a center for the vices and the fast business usually associated with such ports. In addition, it was one of the most popular religious shrines in the empire. Its great temple, dedicated to Diana, the goddess of the moon, was one of the marvels of the ancient world. Pilgrims came from everywhere in the empire to venerate the goddess.

Accommodating these pilgrims was itself a big business in Ephesus. The letter sought to reinforce the Christian commitment of the followers of Christ in the city. This reading serves this purpose by reminding the Christian Ephesians that Jesus died for them, and that in faith they are one with the Lord.

St. Mark's Gospel furnishes the last reading.

In this reading, Jesus summons the "Twelve," the Apostles whom the Lord called by name. Jesus sends them out into the highways and byways. He tells them not to burden themselves

with supplies or provisions. God will supply.

They obediently went out into the countryside, and they preached what Jesus had taught them. They possessed the Lord's power. They drove devils away. They anointed the sick, using that ancient gesture of healing and strengthening mentioned elsewhere in the Bible, and they cured the sick.

### Reflection

The reading from the Letter to the Ephesians is key to understanding this weekend's Liturgy of the Word. Originally it was written for a group of believers surrounded by paganism and by hostility.

The letter reassured them, and this weekend, through the readings, it reassures us. We have been redeemed. Our knowledge of Christ is neither accidental nor coincidental. God has chosen us. Christ is with us.

Still, we need nourishment and guidance as we continue to live on earth. God did not aban-

don the chosen people in ancient times. He sent prophets to them.

This divine concern endures. God sent messengers, in the person of the Twelve, and the messengers now are the bishops in the Church who bring us the words of the Gospels even now.

Through the Apostles, and their successors, God heals us, in Christ. Healed and renewed, we move forward to eternal life. We will not die.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Am 7:12-15 Ps 85:9-14

Eph 1:3-14 Mk 6:7-13

**Monday:** Ex 1:8-14, 22 Ps 124:1-8 Mt 10:34—11:1

**Tuesday:** Ex 2:1-15a Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34 Mt 11:20-24

**Wednesday:** Ex 3:1-6, 9-12 Ps 103:1b-4, 6-7 Mt 11:25-27

**Thursday:** Ex 3:13-20 Ps 105:1, 5, 8-9, 24-27 Mt 11:28-30

**Friday:** Ex 11:10—12:14 Ps 116:12-13, 15, 16bc, 17-18 Mt 12:1-8

**Saturday:** Ex 12:37-42 Ps 136:1, 23-24, 10-15 Mt 12:14-21

# Challenging the establishment on childhood gender transitions

A 23-year-old woman named Keira Bell recently brought a pivotal lawsuit against the National Health Services Gender Identity Development Clinic in London, better known as the Tavistock Clinic. Keira experienced significant personal harm from puberty blockers, testosterone and an operation to remove her breasts. She claims the medical staff at the clinic failed to challenge her seriously about her decision as a teenager to transition to a male. In a landmark ruling delivered in December 2020, a British court upheld her claim that she'd been rushed through gender reassignment without proper safeguards.

Bell represents the leading edge of a new class of young people struggling with gender dysphoria who, as they become adults, are starting to push back against various "gender affirmation" interventions perpetrated against them, even, in some cases, seeking legal recourse and financial redress. As these intrepid individuals challenge the status quo, they are becoming known as "trans-desisters" or "detransitioners."

When Bell was 16 and struggling with gender dysphoria, she was referred to the Tavistock Clinic and was almost immediately launched down the medical path. After three one-hour long visits to the medical facility, she was prescribed puberty blockers, powerful drugs that delay the development of signs of puberty. In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation, she stated that there hadn't been adequate investigation or therapy prior to that stage.

"I should have been challenged on the proposals or the claims that I was making for myself," she said. "I think that would have made a big difference."

Later she was prescribed the male hormone testosterone, to help her develop male features like a beard, moustache and a deep voice. A few years later she underwent a mastectomy.

"Initially I felt very relieved and happy about things, but I think as the years go on, you start to feel less and less enthu-

siastic or even happy about things."

"You can continue to dig yourself deeper into this hole or you can choose to come out of it and have the weight lifted off your shoulders."

She stopped taking the cross-sex hormones at age 22 and says she has come to accept being female now. She remains upset, however, about what had happened to her over the last decade.

"I was allowed to run with this idea that I had, almost like a fantasy, as a teenager.... and it has affected me in the long run as an adult."

Vulnerable young people, caught up in the pressure of the moment, have too easily been drawn into life-altering pathways involving medications and scalpels with their frequently irreversible effects. Puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and complex surgeries can all lead to permanent damage, even the destruction of a young person's reproductive organs and fertility.

Now in her early 20s, Bell soberly observes, "I'm very young. I've only just stepped into adulthood, and I have to deal with this kind of burden or radical difference."

Parents have a serious obligation to protect their children from the gender-reassignment industry, which profits handsomely from the lucrative, long term hormone prescriptions and the multiple complex surgeries. When parents give consent for cross-sex interventions on their children, they will often do so under pressure from clinicians and professional societies like the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Bell and other detransitioners insist that extended waiting periods, with appropriate questioning and challenging of young people, need to occur as part of a good psychotherapeutic response to claims of gender dysphoria. The AAP, meanwhile, strongly discourages such approaches, telling pediatric primary care providers, in an official statement, "to be a reliable source of validation, support, and reassurance," and exclusively to pursue



FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

"affirmation-based approaches" for children's mental health services, including pharmacological and surgical interventions.

As James Cantor, Director of the Toronto Sexuality Centre, noted in a critical review of the AAP statement, "Although almost all clinics and professional associations in the world use what's called the watchful waiting approach to helping gender-diverse children, the AAP statement instead rejected that consensus, endorsing gender affirmation as the only acceptable approach."

The available studies reveal, moreover, that the majority of pre-adolescent children who present as "trans" eventually revert to the identity that accords with their biological sex. Those studies indicate at least 67 percent of gender diverse children cease wanting to transition by puberty as long as "gender affirmation" approaches are not pursued or advocated.

Bell sums up her experience this way: "I look back with a lot of sadness. There was nothing wrong with my body. I was just lost and without proper support. Transition gave me the facility to hide from myself even more than before. It was a temporary fix."

These first-hand testimonies from brave and outspoken detransitioners like Bell should prompt us to listen closely to their stories and beware of "affirmation-based approaches" that often cloak the betrayal of our gender-confused youth.

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

"It gave me the space, and as I began to listen and look and be present, it taught me to see how story happens and where my story may wait."

What poured out, in the ensuing decades, was nearly 50 acclaimed children's books, including "Pumpkins," "Go to Sleep, Little Farm" and "Christmas Farm."

Her new release, "The House of Grass and Sky," tells the story of an old white farmhouse much like hers waiting for a family. The book is an homage to Mary Lyn's beloved home, enriched by E.B Goodale's watercolor collages. You can feel the grass.

When a new family finally buys "The House of Grass and Sky," they respect its history: "They listen to what it's listened to for many years. They take time to notice and to wonder."

It is a beautiful book for all ages, well timed for a wild housing market, as Americans pack up and return to their hometowns in droves, as parents reconsider what kind of childhood they want for their kids and empty houses rejoice.

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

### CAPECCHI, from page 16

make it livable while honoring what the builder had understood nearly a century and a half ago.

Never having married, Mary Lyn would live there alone. As she settled in, she found a drawer built into the wall. Underneath, written in pencil, were two initials: ML.

Her initials. "It gave me shivers," she said. "It seemed the house had known my name before I came. I felt as if maybe I had been expected."

Her education began. "The farm taught me how to be open to story," she said.

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for July 11, 2021

Amos 7:12-15/ Mark 6:7-13

Following is a word search based on the First Reading and Gospel for the 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B: Sent by God. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

AMOS	FLEE	JUDAH
EARN	YOUR BREAD	SYCAMORES
FLOCK	ISRAEL	TWELVE
SEND THEM	TWO BY TWO	UNCLEAN
NOTHING	JOURNEY	TUNIC
PETER	A HOUSE	STAY THERE
THE DUST	AGAINST	PREACHED

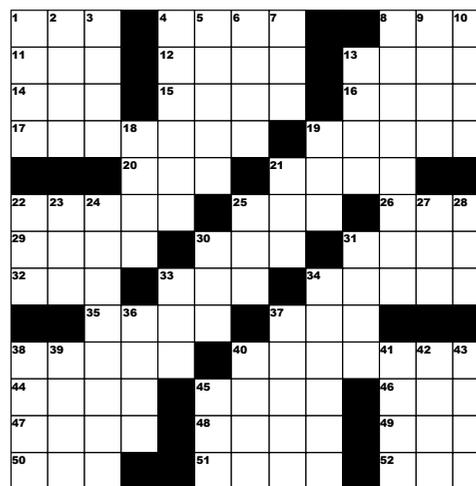
### SENT OUT

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

## The Cross Word

July 4 and 11 2021

- 48 Persia
- 49 Moving truck
- 50 TV nuisance
- 51 Group
- 52 Clock time



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Readings: Ez 2:2-5; 2Cor 12:7-10; Mk 6:1-6 and Amos 7:12-15; Eph 1:3-14; Mark 6:7-13

### ACROSS

- 1 Pressure to do
- 4 Stair
- 8 Hotel
- 11 \_\_\_ de Janeiro
- 12 Do with clothes
- 13 Pack
- 14 Flightless bird
- 15 Simple
- 16 European monetary unit
- 17 "Made \_\_\_ in weakness"
- 19 One who is rebellious
- 20 Ephesians (abbr.)
- 21 Branch
- 22 Domesticates

### DOWN

- 25 Tooth
- 26 Kimono sash
- 29 Dart
- 30 Twelve sent out \_\_\_ by \_\_\_
- 31 Small bird
- 32 Vapor
- 33 For
- 34 Altar cloth fabric
- 35 Pallid
- 37 Tree gum
- 38 Formed in a curve
- 40 Lined
- 44 Something's mass
- 45 Tubular pasta
- 46 \_\_\_ Lanka
- 47 Red root veggie

### DOWN

- 1 Secondary
- 2 Citrus fruit
- 3 "\_\_\_ Kingdom come"
- 4 Cleans the floor
- 5 Jesus did in synagogue
- 6 Magi came from
- 7 Be nosey
- 8 Obstinate of heart
- 9 Read attentively
- 10 Absent without leave
- 13 Appears to be
- 18 The Spirit set Ezekiel on his.
- 19 Cheat
- 21 Old-time card game
- 22 Thanks for Asking (abbr)
- 23 Name means "champion"
- 24 Mighty deeds
- 25 Cash with order (abbr.)
- 27 It produces Paschal Candle wax
- 28 No room here
- 30 Attempt
- 31 Clean off
- 33 Doctoral degree
- 34 "\_\_\_ his hands"
- 36 Sparkling German wine
- 37 "An angel of \_\_\_"
- 38 Syrian bishop
- 39 Regretted
- 40 Italian currency
- 41 Please respond
- 42 Epochs
- 43 To make a dent
- 45 Zag's partner

Answer key can be found on page 19

# FertilityCare practitioner training



Provided by Theresa Schortgen

The FertilityCare Practitioner Program of Northeast Indiana conducted its third education program May 1-8 at St. Felix Friary in Huntington. Faculty consisted of Anne Therese Stephens, Dr. Jill Stalling, Father Royce Gregerson and Theresa Schortgen. The FertilityCare practitioner interns were educated in the Creighton Model FertilityCare System, NaProTechnology and the Church's teaching on "Humanae Vitae" during the immersion course. From left are Rachelle Martin, Father Gregerson, Amanda De Jesus, Schortgen and Sarah Tippenhauer.

# Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ announce new provincial leadership



Provided by Barbara Allison

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ delegates elected a leadership team that will lead the American Province for the next four years. The order, located in Plymouth, elected from left, Sister Shirley Bell as provincial, Sister Deborah Davis as vicarress, Sister Nkechi Iwuoha as a provincial councilor and Sister Marybeth Martin as provincial councilor.

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**Theology on Tap Summer Series**

**FORT WAYNE** — A Catholic speaker series with the theme: "Making All Things New" will be Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the University of Saint Francis Cougar Den Student Center, 2701 Spring St. Young adults in their 20s and 30s, single and married, share in food, fellowship, and faith. July 6 – Renewal in Relationship with Deacon Mel Tardy; July 13 – Renewal of Vision with Molly Roman; July 20 – Renewal in Rest with Michael Handlin and Sister Ignatia, OSF; July 27 – Renewal of Heart with Father Tom Shoemaker; Aug. 3 – Mass and celebration. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Insurance. Visit [www.diocesefwsb.org/tot](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/tot).

Catholic speaker series with the theme: "The Mystical Body and The Sacraments" on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. outdoors at St. Therese, Little Flower Church, 54191 Ironwood Rd. Each night will include musical entertainment by local young adults, a food truck with \$1 tacos and an engaging talk followed by discussion. July 20 – One Body, Many Parts: When God Wrecks Your Romance with Amanda Vernon and Father Matt Fase, CSC; July 27 – This Is My Body: The Real Presence and Eucharistic Miracles with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades; Aug. 3 – The Whole Christ: Sinners, Saints, and Sacraments with Father Kevin Grove, CSC; Aug. 10 – In-Personness and The Sacraments with Timothy

O'Malley; Aug. 17 – Mass and Music Fest with Amanda Vernon. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Insurance. Visit [www.diocesefwsb.org/tot](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/tot).

## The CrossWord

July 4 and 11, 2021



**Christmas in July bazaar and rummage sale**

**BRISTOL** — St. Mary's Altar Rosary Society will have a bazaar and rummage sale July 9 and 10 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in St. Mary's Annunciation Hall, 411 W. Vistula. Contact Calla Patka at 574-848-4305.

**Theology on Tap Summer Series**

**SOUTH BEND** — Young adults in their 20s and 30s, single and married, share in food, fellowship, and faith are invited to a

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| <b>Decatur</b><br>Steven L. Arnold, 67, St. Mary of the Assumption | Eugene (Bob) Wagner, 82, St. Charles Borromeo              | MaryAnn Lipinski, 85, Holy Family                      |
| Marjorie P. Shell, 85, St. Mary of the Assumption                  | <b>Goshen</b><br>Nola Pyle, 65, St. John the Evangelist    | Rita Marnocha, 91, St. Jude                            |
| <b>Fort Wayne</b><br>Marian D. Ashman, 80, St. Vincent de Paul     | <b>Granger</b><br>George Lambert, 88, St. Pius X           | Ann Molenda, 84, Cathedral of Saint Matthew            |
| George Casiano, 75, St. Vincent de Paul                            | Joseph C. Miller, 78, St. Pius X                           | Dorothea Skwiercz, 99, Christ the King                 |
| Samuel Conte, 84, St. Joseph                                       | <b>New Haven</b><br>Teresa Walker, 81, St. Louis, Besancon | Joseph Skwiercz, Jr., 94, Christ the King              |
| Mary Ellen Adams, 95, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton                      | <b>South Bend</b><br>Walter L. Benninghoff, 91, St. Jude   | <b>Wabash</b><br>Delores Zehner, 89, St. Bernard       |
| Arlene M. Kinder, 88, St. Vincent de Paul                          | Richard Hauguel, 85, Holy Family                           | <b>Walkerton</b><br>Diana G. Glissman, 88, St. Patrick |
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**ANCILLA, from page 1**

During the Mass, he recalled the order's founder, St. Katharina Kasper, whose "trust in God's providence" reflected the Blessed Virgin Mary's yes to the call to be the mother of Jesus. Mary described herself as the "handmaid of the Lord," rendered in Latin as "ancilla domini."

The bishop also honored Marian University's founding order, the Sisters of Saint Francis of Oldenburg, Indiana, who have continued to sponsor that growing school in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. They established Marian in Oldenburg in 1936: It was later moved to Indianapolis.

This fall, as part of the university, Ancilla College will begin offering its first bachelor's degree, a B.S. in Nursing. Its other offerings are associate degrees in a range of fields, from veterinary nursing and agriculture to education, business and liberal arts.

Educational pathways through Marian will allow Ancilla students to prepare for careers in growing fields over two, four, or six years, said Joseph Heidt, who became chancellor of the college in February.

"Now, students can see their future from point A — the first day freshman year — all the way to a master's degree," he told Today's Catholic. The official July 1 launch of the partnership included an all-day meeting of

prayer and planning with both schools involved — "bringing the whole family together in pursuit of positive outcomes for the success of the students, because that's what we're truly here for."

The collaboration with Ancilla is Marian's first structural presence in the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese, according to university president Daniel J. Elsener. He noted that Ancilla brings some degree programs to the mix not currently offered by Marian.

Elsener told Today's Catholic the connection, approved last August by the respective boards of trustees and religious orders after long discussion, was largely driven by the good fit found between the Poor Handmaids' and Franciscan sisters' missions.

"Delivering high-quality Catholic education to more people, in more areas of the state and nation, is a strategic pillar of growth for Marian University," Elsener commented when the collaboration received approval.

Those gathered to represent both collaborator groups at Ancilla College of Marian University during the Mass June 30 reflected on several scriptural references, including Jeremiah 29: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to give you hope and a future;" And from the Gospel's Annunciation story in Luke 1: "Mary said ... "May it be done to me according to your word."

**Leaders see Church's higher edification for students**

Following Bishop Rhoades' celebration of Mass to bless the new collaboration bringing renewal to Ancilla College of Marian University, leaders from the two campuses commented in interviews about the broader context of Catholic higher education.

**Ancilla chancellor Joseph Heidt —**

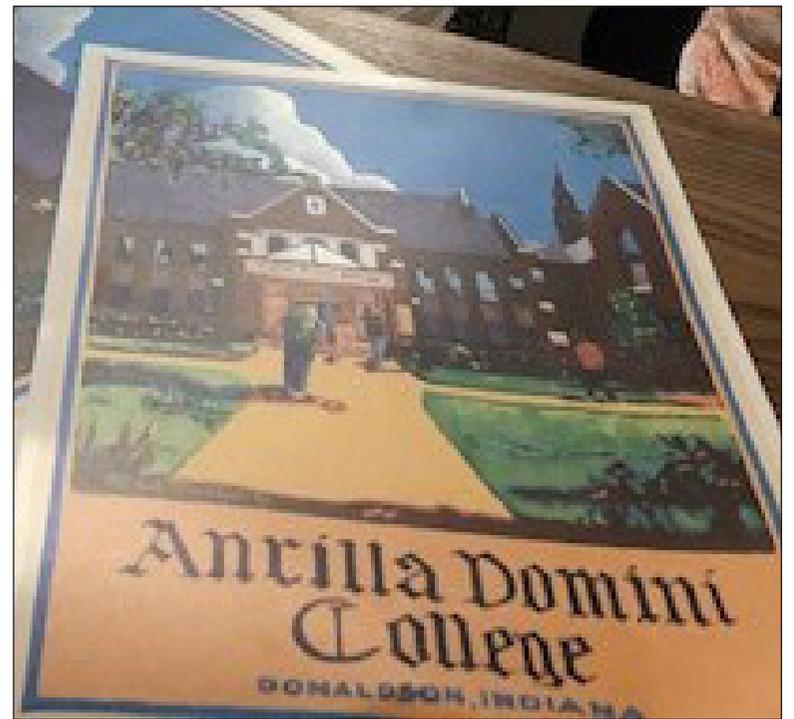
"When you look at education, there are different vantage points — the importance of skill development, knowledge development, and, equally important is formation of the individual. The development of leadership skills, the development of character and values, the opportunity to offer young adults the exploration of their own spiritual guidance and connectivity with God. And then to be able to pull all of those together in a holistic way that prepares them to be successful in their lives as parents, as colleagues, as leaders, as employers. It's an important component [in which] the Catholic universities do an incredible job. It's truly a holistic educational experience."

**JOSEPH HEIDT****Marian University president Daniel J. Elsener —**

"There's almost a realization like never before how the distinctiveness of Catholic education is that God is at the center and the larger purpose. So much of

**DANIEL J. ELSENER**

education talks about the practical concerns of getting a job, etc. — which is a top priority — but there's a larger concern about your soul, how you see the common good, the human person, your calling in life and how to fulfill it, integrating faith. To have [that concern] illumined by God's plan is a whole other level of richness that Catholic higher ed can offer."



William Schmitt

Posters show a historic image of Ancilla College in Donaldson. The college is now a campus of Marian University, representing a collaboration not only between the schools but also between two religious orders.

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