Recognizing God’s providence
Former Pedro Pan teens give thanks for extraction from Cuba
Page 14

Taxpayer-funded abortion
Pro-life appropriations bill riders fail in House
Page 3

Papal trip
Pope heads to Hungary, Slovakia in September
Page 5

School choice
Expansion puts Catholic education within reach
Page 12

Summer schedule
Digital email Aug. 15; next print issue Aug. 22

Eucharist document should unite, not divide, the Church, panelists advise

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, in the middle of drafting a teaching document on the Eucharist, received words of advice from a panel convened July 28 to discuss the challenges facing the American Church as it emerges from the coronavirus pandemic and seeks to overcome divisions that threaten Church unity.

They heard about the importance of bishops being pastors rather than “chaplains to factions,” the need to communicate Church teaching clearly and without fear, and hearing from as many voices as possible in the weeks remaining before they consider the document during their fall general assembly in November.

The 75-minute discussion left Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, with ideas to share with the document’s drafters working to strengthen the foundation of the Eucharist being the source and summit of Catholic life.

Bishop Rhoades is chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Doctrine, which is charged with drafting the document.

He acknowledged the path ahead poses challenges, but it is one the doctrine committee is prepared to address.

“The goal of the document is to contribute to the eucharistic revival,” he said, recapitulating the USCCB strategic plan for 2021-24 that is focused on the Eucharist being the foundation of Christian life.

“We’re striving to write a document that will contribute to a real eucharistic revival in the Church in our nation by highlighting the truth about the amazing gift that Jesus gave on the night before He died, the importance of beauty and reverence in our celebration of this great mystery, and the wonderful graces that we receive in the Eucharist to grow in our Christian lives,” he explained.

While the document will...
Widows profess lives of prayer for priests

By Jennifer Barton

In biblical times, a widow occupied an undesirable place in society. God had commanded that they were to be treated with respect and cared for, but they were not considered productive members of the community.

Not so, the Widows of Prayer. Their stature may not be that of giants, but their prayerful contribution to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is mighty — especially in the eyes of the priests who benefit from those prayers.

“It’s wonderful to have a dedicated group of ladies to pray especially for us as priests,” said Father Tony Steinacker, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul in Huntington. He calls the ladies “prayer warriors” and praises their dedication to the life God called them to.

The Widows of Prayer are not religious sisters, but sisters in Christ who have committed themselves to a devout prayer life and have made personal promises to live lives of simplicity, chastity and obedience.

The process to become a Widow of Prayer involves three years of discernment; three promises made to the apostolate after her first, second and final year.

Of course, to become a member, one must first be a widow, so many of the members are older women who can dedicate themselves to a sacred prayer life. They also promise never to remarry, believing their vocation to now be spiritual rather than an earthly one.

On Wednesday, July 28, a handful of members made their promises to the Widows of Prayer at St. Mary, Mother of God Parish in Fort Wayne. One was a new member, from the South Bend area, who made her final promise.

Mass was concelebrated by Father Glenn Kohrman, chaplain of the Huntington chapter of Widows of Prayer, and Father John Heying of South Bend.

Kohrman attends the Mass to support the widows to the apostolate. “I like my prayer life. I think about my prayer life. I think about my dedication to the life I’m doing what the Lord wants me to do in the present time of my life. I like being with all the ladies; they’re all wonderful, wonderful women,” said Mary Lou Sohn, servant leader of the Fort Wayne chapter and a professed Widow for around 15 years. She was introduced to the apostolate through a friend in Huntington and helped start the chapter in Fort Wayne. While she is a member of St. Jude, she speculated that nearly every parish in the city is represented by at least one member of the Widows of Prayer.

According to Peeters there are seven communities of Widows of Prayer, mostly in the Midwest, and 56 insignia-wearing members. She would love to see increased growth, knowing the power of prayer.

At one time there were 120 members, but many have passed on and were remembered in prayer after the Mass on Wednesday.

Peeters gets to witness the joy of new members making their pledges and has deep admiration for the members, describing them as “beautiful women, being able to make promises, coming from devastation sometimes because of all the downfall when you lose a spouse, but getting up and going on from that.”

Today, these strong women contribute to the Catholic Church by lifting up priests, seminarians, bishops and Church leaders in prayer each day. The diocese has seen an increase in vocations in recent years, attributed in part to the intercession of the women who seek to emulate the holy widows of the Bible, particularly the Blessed Mother.

To learn more or become a Widow of Prayer visit widowsofprayer.org, which lists the contact information for local
House’s refusal to include Hyde in spending bills is called an ‘injustice’

BY JULIE ASHER

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The refusal by the U.S. House to include the Hyde Amendment and other pro-life riders in appropriations bills before lawmakers passed the measures is an “injustice” that overshadows the provisions that help “vulnerable people,” said the chairmen of two U.S. bishops’ committees.

Late July 29, the House voted 219 to 208 in favor of H.R. 4502, a package of appropriations bills that currently exclude the Hyde, Weldon and Helms amendments and other longstanding, bipartisan-supported pro-life language.

Eliminating these provisions would force taxpayers to pay for elective abortions taxpayers would have the effect of forcing health care providers and professionals “to perform and refer for abortion against their deeply-held beliefs, as well as forcing employers and insurers to cover and pay for abortion,” said the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in a news release issued after the vote.

The release included a joint statement on the House actions by Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee for Religious Liberty, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

“The House has voted in a way that is completely out of step with the will of the American people who overwhelmingly oppose taxpayer-funded abortion,” the prelates said.

“The Hyde Amendment has saved at least 2.4 million lives since its enactment. Without it, millions of poor women in desperate circumstances will make the irrevocable decision to take the government up on its offer to end the life of their child,” they said.

The now-approved package of spending bills “includes provisions that help vulnerable people, including pregnant moms,” they acknowledged, but “as we have said before, being ‘right’ in such matters can never excuse a wrong choice regarding direct attacks on innocent human life.”

“This failure to provide adequate protection and conscience protections and exemptions for health care providers who believe abortion is wrong, or whose faith drives them to serve and heal lives, instead of taking them,” Cardinal Dolan and Archbishop Naumann said, referring to the Weldon Amendment, first passed in 2005.

“Funding the destruction of innocent unborn human lives, and forcing people to kill in violation of their consciences, are grave abuses of human rights,” they said.

“The cardinal and archbishop called on the Senate “to readdress this evil in H.R. 4502, and for Congress to ultimately pass appropriations bills that fully support and protect human dignity, and the most vulnerable among us.”

On July 28, the House voted 217-212 to remove the provisions for the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development, H.R. 4375, without the Helms Amendment. Called “the Hyde Amendment for the rest of the world,” it has prohibited using U.S. taxpayer funds to directly pay for abortions in other countries since 1975.


“(This) could force recipient countries that have strong legal and cultural opposition to abortion to embrace it in order to receive desperately-needed help for their people,” they said.

“Pope Francis has referred to this type of situation as ideological colonization,” they added, calling on the Senate “to stand against the coercive pro-abortion policies of H.R. 4375.”

“For while this legislation contains many positive provisions that provide assistance to the poor and vulnerable worldwide, including protection of refugees, increases to humanitarian assistance, and protection of the environment, nothing can justly subside the taking of innocent human life,” the prelates said.


“Since a total of 14 pro-life amendments were ruled out of order by the Democratic majority,” Smith said in July 27 remarks on the House floor. “All is not lost, however. I remain hopeful — confident — that the Senate will reinstate all current pro-life protections, like the Hyde Amendment.”

Before the full House took up the spending bills for fiscal year 2022, the House Appropriations Committee had spent the previous weeks marking up the bills on largely party-line votes to advance them to the House floor. In marking them up, committee
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Joining us September 2021!

HYDE, from page 3

tee members left out the Hyde. Weldon and Helms amendments. Their actions after President Joe Biden released his proposed budget May 28 without the Hyde Amendment, a move decried by the U.S. Catholic bishops, the Catholic Health Association, several national pro-life organizations, and Smith and many other pro-life House members.

Other pro-life reaction to the House’s July 25 vote included a statement from Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life, who criticized “pro-abortion Democrats” for seeking provisions that “protect the American public from funding or providing abortions against their will.” “Consistent polling shows that a majority of Americans want these protections” she said in a July 29 statement. “It is time codify these popular and common-sense riders into law by passing the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortions Act. No one should be forced to compromise their values, but especially not on this life-or-death issue.”

Hrbacek is a photographer/reporter at The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Illinois Catholic starts ‘52 Masses’ tour of 50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico

By Dave Hrbacek


He came all the way from Tinley Park, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, on a journey that began two days earlier, winding through Wichita, Kansas, and heading north through Iowa to the Twin Cities — all because of a phone conversation with the parish business administrator at St. Michael, Dave Fereny.

Five years ago, Markham decided he wanted to attend Mass in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. After several years of waiting, dreaming and planning, he got going the weekend of June 5 and 6 when he visited two states on the East Coast, Connecticut and New Hampshire.

After coming back to his home in Tinley Park, he went to Wichita for a Mass June 12 and hopped in his car the next morning to drive to St. Michael. The day after that Mass, he went even farther north to visit Extreme Faith Camp near Pine River, about two hours north of the Twin Cities. The summer-camp ministry was founded 20 years ago by John O’Sullivan, youth director at St. Michael.

Markham’s taste of Minnesota will be highlighted in a book he plans to write after finishing all 52 visits, with the last one taking place in July 2022. The book will be called “52 Masses,” and will recount his visits not just to parishes but to ministries and organizations that intrigue him.

In an interview with The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, he said he hopes to finish the book, which will be published by Peregrino Press in Green Bay, Wisconsin, by the end of 2022.

In the case of St. Michael, Markham said he was lucky by the parish’s vibrant youth ministry, both O’Sullivan’s regular outreach plus the camps that take place every summer. Recently, Extreme Faith Camp announced it was joining with Damascus Catholic Mission Campus in Ohio to become Catholic Youth Summer Camp.

St. Michael was one of several dozen parishes in Minnesota to respond to queries Markham sent in 2018 and 2019, and by May of the beginning of the project, he looked up websites and contact information for parishes in each state, then sent emails asking for more information. A parish staff member at St. Michael read the email and directed him to Ferry, who talked about youth ministry at St. Michael.

“I actually got a lot of really nice responses from Minnesota,” said Markham, who belongs to St. Gerald Parish in Oak Lawn, Illinois, with his wife, Kem. “One of the strongest responses of any state was from here. It was really neat.”

Currently, he has nearly half of his visits planned. He will finalize the rest between now and Labor Day. His job as an editor of a trade magazine in the steel industry allows enough flexibility to accommodate his ambitious travel itinerary. In some cases, business and Mass trips coincide.

In addition to watching and documenting the ministry in action, which is based in Knoxville, Tennessee, and called St. Mary’s Legacy Clinic, Markham hopes to roll up his sleeves and help. He considers that an important part of the project, too.

“When I go there, I want to volunteer and help them, not just observe,” he said. “Wherever possible, I want to actually participate as much as I can.”

Most of the time, Markham will drive to his destination — in his wife’s 2014 Subaru — but will take the plane when necessary. In one instance, he not only will fly to the state, but keep on flying while there. That is causing more than a little apprehension.

“I’m going to Alaska and I’m going to fly with a priest who’s a pilot, to serve the communities you can’t reach by vehicle,” he said. “I’m absolutely terrified of the idea of flying around in a little plane with the priest who’s a pilot. But, when he invited me, I knew I couldn’t say no.”

One of the last trips will be to the Blackfoot Reservation in Montana, where he will attend a powwow that closes with a Mass. He will attend another outdoor Mass at Yellowstone National Park, which features regular Masses on weekends. These events are part of the diversity in the U.S. Catholic Church that he wants to feature in his book.

“There are so many wonderful things that take place on a daily basis in our Church,” he said. “That’s what I want to get across (in the book). That’s ultimately why I’m doing it.”

On the personal side, he added, “I want to come home a better Catholic in every way possible.”
Vatican publishes schedule for papal trip to Hungary, Slovakia

**BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis’ September trip to Hungary and Slovakia features a jam-packed schedule that shows he has no intention of slowing down despite his recent recovery from colon surgery.

The Vatican July 21 released the pope’s schedule for the trip Sept. 12-15, including the closing Mass of the International Eucharistic Congress in Budapest.

The pope announced the trip July 4 to pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square for his Sunday Angelus address.

“From the bottom of my heart, I thank those who are preparing this journey, and I am praying for them,” he said. “Let us all pray for this journey and for the people who are working to organize it.”

Arriving in Hungary Sept. 12, the pope will meet with Hungarian President János Áder and Prime Minister Viktor Orbán before meeting with the country’s bishops and representatives of the Ecumenical Council of Churches and several Jewish communities.

After celebrating the closing Mass of the International Eucharistic Congress, the pope will immediately depart for Bratislava, Slovakia, where he will participate at an ecumenical congress before meeting privately with the president of the parliament.

On his final day, July 15, Pope Francis will pray and celebrate Mass with the country’s bishops at the Basilica of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows in Šaštin before returning to Rome.

Here is the detailed schedule released by the Vatican July 21. Times listed are local, with international airport.

**Sunday, Sept. 12 (Rome, Budapest, Bratislava)**

- 5 a.m. (1 a.m.) Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows in Šaštin.
- 11 a.m. (5 a.m.) Closing Mass of the International Eucharistic Congress at Heroes’ Square in Bratislava. Homily by pope.
- 3:30 p.m. (9:30 a.m.) Arrival in Budapest international airport.
- 5:30 p.m. (11:30 a.m.) Farewell ceremony at Budapest international airport.

**Monday, Sept. 13 (Bratislava)**

- 4 p.m. (10 a.m.) Meeting with President János Áder and Prime Minister Viktor Orbán at the Museum of Fine Arts in Budapest.
- 5:15 p.m. (11:15 a.m.) Meeting with Hungarian bishops at the Museum of Fine Arts in Budapest. Speech by pope.
- 8:15 a.m. (2:15 a.m.) Meeting with representatives of the Ecumenical Council of Churches and several Jewish communities of Hungary at the Museum of Fine Arts in Budapest. Speech by pope.
- 10 a.m. (4 a.m.) Meeting with the Jewish community in the Golden Hall of the presidential palace.
- 11 a.m. (5 a.m.) Closing Mass of the International Eucharistic Congress at Heroes’ Square in Bratislava. Homily by pope.
- 1:30 p.m. (7:30 a.m.) Farewell ceremony at Bratislava international airport.
- 1:45 p.m. (7:45 a.m.) Departure by plane for Rome.

**Tuesday, Sept. 14 (Bratislava, Košice, Prešov, Košice, Bratislava)**

- 8:10 a.m. (2:10 a.m.) Departure by plane for Košice.
- 9 a.m. (3 a.m.) Arrival at Košice airport.
- 10:30 a.m. (4:30 a.m.) Byzantine Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom at Mestská športová hala Square in Prešov. Homily by pope.
- 4 p.m. (10 a.m.) Meeting with young people at Lokomotiva Stadium in Košice. Speech by pope.
- 5 p.m. (11 a.m.) Meeting with Roma community in the Luník IX neighborhood in Košice. Greeting by pope.
- 6:30 p.m. (12:30 p.m.) Departure by plane for Bratislava.
- 7:30 p.m. (1:30 p.m.) Arrival at Bratislava international airport.

**Wednesday, Sept. 15 (Bratislava, Šaštin, Bratislava, Rome)**

- 9:10 a.m. (3:10 a.m.) Moment of prayer with bishops at the Basilica of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows in Šaštin.
- 10 a.m. (4 a.m.) Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows in Šaštin. Homily by pope.
- 1:30 p.m. (7:30 a.m.) Farewell ceremony at Bratislava international airport.
- 1:45 p.m. (7:45 a.m.) Departure by plane for Rome.
- 5:30 p.m. (9:30 a.m.) Arrival at Rome’s Ciampino airport.
German bishop: Floods’ damage to souls might be worse than property issues

Trier, Germany (CNS) — Dealing with the aftermath of the recent floods in parts of Germany will be a long-haul effort for people, said Bishop Stephan Ackermann of Trier, whose diocese was one of the worst-hit regions. The German Catholic news agency KNA reported that in a July 30 letter to Christians in the diocese, Bishop Ackermann said it would take a long time to clear up the damage and rebuild the local infrastructure. But patience will be needed “perhaps even more for the internal injuries and wounds which the disaster inflicted on souls and which perhaps are not yet externally visible,” he added.

Ledecky gives shout out to her grandparents after winning Olympic gold

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. swimmer Katie Ledecky won the Olympic gold medal July 28 for the women’s 1,500-meter freestyle, a new event, on the heels of coming in fifth place in the 200-meter freestyle. The 24-year-old swimmer, who went to a Catholic elementary school and high school in Maryland, told reporters at the Tokyo Olympics after her comeback that the most pressure she feels is the pressure she puts on herself. “People may feel bad for me not winning anything, but I want people to be more concerned about other things going on in the world,” she said. The win — completed in 15 minutes and 37 seconds — was Ledecky’s sixth Olympic gold. Erica Sullivan of the U.S. won silver and Sarah Kohler of Germany won the bronze. In the hour between the two races when she swam in the warm-down pool, she said she focused on her grandparents. This emphasis coincidentally was just days after the Catholic Church celebrated its first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. In his homily for the July 25 celebration, Pope Francis said grandparents are “a precious source of nourishment.”

Fifth Chinese bishop ordained with both government, papal approval

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When Father Anthony Li Hui was ordained a bishop July 28 in the cathedral of the Diocese of Pingliang, China, he became the fifth Chinese bishop appointed under the terms of a Vatican-China agreement signed in 2018 and renewed in 2020, the Vatican press office said. Bishop Li was appointed coadjutor bishop of Pingliang by Pope Francis Jan. 11, 2021, said Matteo Bruni, director of the Vatican press office. He eventually will succeed Bishop Nicholas Han Jide, who is 81 years old and has led the diocese since 1999. Bishop Han was one of the cocelebrants of Bishop Li’s ordination, and his studies at the diocesan seminary and the Elderly. In his homily for the July 25 celebration, Pope Francis wrote that grandparents are “a precious source of nourishment.”
Christ Child Society Clothing Center open for school year

MISHAWAKA — The Christ Child Society Clothing Center, 2366 Miracle Lane, Mishawaka, in the Town and Country Shopping Center, is open and ready to prepare children to go back to school. Clothing is available for children from birth to 12 years of age, including new winter coats, gloves and hats, new jeans, leggings or joggers, shirts, uniform pants and shirts, underwear, socks and new athletic shoes. Infants receive a tote bag full of clothing, blankets, a hand knit sweater set and baby supplies.

Families at or below 130% of the poverty level are eligible for clothing. A referral form can be obtained from one of over 30 agencies, including Goodwill, St. Vincent de Paul Society and Women’s Care Center as well as South Bend, Mishawaka, Penn-Harris Madison and Catholic schools in St. Joseph County. A complete list of referral agencies can be found on the CCS website, www.christchildsb.org.

The clothing center is open every Wednesday until mid-December, as well as five Sunday afternoons and eight Thursday evenings.

CCS is the only organization in the area that provides a complete set of all new winter clothing to under-resourced children. Normal store procedures have been altered to ensure the health of both clients and volunteers. Clients will continue to obtain a referral from one of over 30 local agencies or their child’s school, but although there is a spacious client waiting area at the clothing center location, small groups of clients will be brought in at a time and others asked to wait in their cars until called. All clients will be asked to wear a mask in light of the increasing Delta variant threat.

The South Bend Theology on Tap will be held on September 1, 2021, at Howard Park Event Center from 3:30-4:30 p.m. with music, games and refreshments, the afternoon will be an opportunity for students, teachers and area seniors to reacquaint themselves with the school. The event is $10 per person and is open to the public. Registration for classes is available online beginning Aug. 16. Students may view all course offerings at www.foreverlearninginstitute.org. Forever Learning will print and distribute course guides each semester available at Forever Learning, 54191 Ironwood Road, South Bend. Courses are offered at over 30 locations throughout Michiana.

Antoinette Volk

Sister Antoinette Volk, Joan Fisher and Kathryn Haas all celebrate jubilees with the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ this year.

Sister Antoinette celebrates her 75th jubilee. She professed her first vows in 1946. She was born in Wendelin, Illinois, and served in the ministry of hospitality services, hospitality management, senior care and community service. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Sister Antoinette ministered at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne and at Convent Ancilla Domini in Donaldson.

Reflecting on her 70th jubilee in 2016, Sister Antoinette said, “When we take a moment to reflect upon time, we are certainly astounded to see how quickly the years have given us.” Sister Antoinette is retired at the Catherine Kasper Home in Donaldson and ministers in community service and prayer.

Sister Joan commemorates 70 years as a Poor Handmaid. Born in Chicago in 1950, she professed her first vows in 1951. She began her ministry in teaching and later became an advocate for the poor and underserved, ministering in Cairo, Illinois, and as one of the founding Sisters of Sojourner Truth House in Gary. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Sister Joan served at St. Joseph School in Mishawaka, St. Mary Parish in Fort Wayne and Convent Ancilla Domini.

Sister Joan noted at her 60th jubilee in 2011, “I wouldn’t change any of it for a moment. Now at this time of my life I am grateful for all those opportunities and wish I could have done more, but that is in the Lord’s hands.” She is retired to Catherine’s Cottage in Donaldson and ministers in community service and prayer.

Of her upcoming milestone, Sister Kathryn reflected on her family and church community’s influence on her path to becoming a Poor Handmaid.

“Many varied and treasured memories easily come to mind and heart as I think back on my life as a Poor Handmaid,” she said. “My family and growing up in a rural community and parish have been foundational steps in my journey as a woman, as a Christian, as a Poor Handmaid Sister and as a part of the larger communities of life. “My relationship with God was nurtured by my family and a close-
Father Solanus Casey feast day festival draws faithful to his former residence at friary

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The July 30 feast day of Blessed Solanus Casey is celebrated annually at the St. Felix Catholic Center monastery in Huntington where the simplex Capuchin priest lived for several years. This year, the prayers, celebration and fellowship lasted all day long. At upper left, Father Daniel Whelan blesses those present; at upper right, Steve Rennels leads a “patriotic rosary”; at right, Jan Scher, a member of the Father Solanus Guild Huntington Extension, shares stories about the priest.

Knights of Columbus International Soccer Challenge

Ryan Grill of District 11, Indiana State Council of the Knights of Columbus, presents the International Champion Trophy of the 2020-21 International Soccer Challenge, 13-year-old Girls Division, to Anna Walczak July 12. Walczak competed in the local council, district, regional and state levels of competition in the fall of 2020 and her precision penalty shooting placed her at the top of almost 8,000 participants. The award was presented to Walczak at the Knights of Columbus Council 5521 on Ironwood Road, South Bend.
Father Osman Ramos, pastor of St. Gaspar del Bufalo Parish in Rome City and St. Joseph Parish in LaGrange, speaks about the importance of prayer and talking to God like a friend during a retreat for Spanish-speaking fathers and sons July 30 in South Bend.

The virtues of St. Joseph were elaborated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the afternoon retreat, which took place at St. Patrick’s County Park.

The fathers and sons build crucifixes together in a woodworking activity in honor of St. Joseph. The afternoon retreat was organized by the diocesan Marriage and Family Ministry.

Father Ramos leads a reflection on the importance of building a friendship with God through prayer.
Superstars of service — Deacon Mel and Annie Tardy

BY TAMI DELUCAENAY

O

ne might assume that the musical background of someone growing up in New Orleans would be of the jazz genre, however, Deacon Mel Tardy grew up with a different sound in his household.

“My mother is an opera singer, and so my two siblings and I have a love of all kinds of music, especially opera, jazz and Dixieland,” said Deacon Tardy.

He was also a middle child, the “peacemaker,” he laughed.

“Our family moved to Wisconsin, and I attended Brown Deer High School. I attended the University of Notre Dame and earned my MBA. I met my wife Annie on the way to a conference in Indianapolis. We were married on the third Sunday of each month: The youth do the readings, sing in the choir and help at the altar.

Since I was now going to be on the altar, I would no longer be able to serve as choir director, and I do miss being able to pick up teens and bring them to Mass. But we hold a youth Mass on the first Sunday of each month: The youth do the readings, sing in the choir and help at the altar.

What I have learned in youth ministry that there are no bad circumstances,” Deacon Tardy said. “Through youth ministry, the Catholic Church can serve as a safe zone, a fun place where equity, justice and peace can flourish. If we show them the gift of diversity — the universal Church — they will recognize the Body of Christ even when his body in some locations appears a little different than what they are used to. If we affirm for youth that they belong, no matter what they are used to. If we affirm for youth that they belong, no matter what they are used to. If we affirm for youth that they belong, no matter what they are used to. If we affirm for youth that they belong, no matter what they are used to. If we affirm for youth that they belong, no matter what they are used to.
Reuniting college students with Christ

BY KATIE MURRAY

Entering college can be an exciting and scary time. It’s a whole new world of possibilities and temptations, trials and tribulations. It’s easy to stray from the path of faith because of all the hustle and bustle of campus life, but having a friend by one’s side can make the stumbling fewer. That’s what the missionaries from the Fellowship of Catholic University Students do: They bring students closer to God.

FOCUS is a campus ministry group made up of over 700 missionaries placed in 200 campuses across the world. There are six assigned campuses in the state of Indiana. The missionaries’ focus is to share the joy of the Gospel with college students, which they do by establishing friendships, leading Bible groups and mission trips, and sharing the Catholic faith on campus.

Brittany Scher of Huntington, in front, finds fulfillment in sharing the joy of the Gospel with college students as a missionary on several college campuses in the U.S. and this fall will begin a new role with the organization.

Her 2016 degree is in tourism, conventions and event management, which she channeled into serving God as the director of finance and special events at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis before being called to apply for FOCUS.

Scher met some missionaries on the IUPUI campus her freshman year and has been involved ever since. She joined a Bible study and participated in a mission trip to Haiti. Later, she started to lead her own Bible study on campus, which further sealed her calling to be a FOCUS missionary.

“After college, I maintained friendships with a lot of the missionaries I had met over the years and that led to me wanting to apply to be a missionary myself,” she said.

Scher’s faith has gotten her through hardships throughout her life. A turning point for her was going through a broken engagement.

“During that time, I knew I had a choice to make. I could either let this circumstance define me or I could fall back on the faith that I had grown so much in during college. The words ‘Talitha Koum,’ ‘Little girl, get up,’” from Mark 5:41, echoed in everything I did. Through the stories of the saints and Jesus Himself, I learned how to suffer with joy. I learned that my suffering could bring me closer to Him, if I would let it,” said Scher.

Scher has walked with other young women seeking Christ in her discipleship program. She teaches them how to lead a Bible study of their own and go out and build up disciples.

When asked how mission trips impact students, she said, “When you get a student on a mission trip and away from all the typical distractions and noises on a college campus, I have watched lives being transformed. They radically meet Jesus in the poor communities that we are serving. Mission trips have made a huge impact on my life and on the lives of so many of the students that I have gotten to walk with, so I am very excited to see what the Lord has in store for me in my new role.”

There are times where some students say no to participating in FOCUS activities, but Scher makes it a point to never stop trying to build those friendships.

“Joy is contagious and especially joy that comes from a relationship with Jesus. If we just go out and be Jesus to those we meet, we cannot go wrong,” she added.

There is one story that resonates with her the most since being a part of FOCUS. It’s about one of her students from the University of Toledo in Ohio.

“This student attended one of FOCUS’s national conferences called SEEK, in which she was ‘transformed’, said Scher.

“Seeing students establish themselves in their faith is a moment of pure joy. ‘Every small victory is a huge win in my heart’ she said.

In order to be a FOCUS missionary full-time, go on mission trips and continually build the organization, missionaries must fundraise for their expenses, including their own salaries.

“The money that I raise goes to paying my salary, helping students attend SEEK and mission trips, and more. All to give them an opportunity to encounter the Lord more deeply and learn how to be His disciples in this world,” said Scher.

As she continues to move forward in her journey in Denver, Colorado, she hopes to continue investing in students and fellow missionaries across the world.

Scher will be working on logistics and planning teams for mission trips.

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Anyone interested in learning more about FOCUS can visit focus.org.
School choice expansion is game changer for families wanting a Catholic education

BY JOHN SHAUGHNESSY

John Elcesser considers the recent expansion of Indiana's school choice program as a game changer — dramatically increasing the number of Hoosier families who will become eligible for vouchers that will help them choose where their children attend school.

Regarding families who view a Catholic school as the best option for their children, Elcesser said the expansion of the program will help parents who believe they can't afford Catholic education for their children, and it will also benefit parents who struggle and sacrifice to provide a Catholic education for their children.

"We believe there are probably quite a few families that may have wanted or even dreamed of getting a Catholic school education, but just probably didn’t think it was affordable. Now it probably is," said Elcesser, the executive director of the Indiana Non-Public Education Association, which represents the state's more than 400 nonpublic schools, including Indiana’s 175 Catholic schools.

"There are also families who are continuing to struggle to make that tuition payment, working multiple jobs. And this is going to help them as well." As an example, Elcesser noted that under the new state guidelines, "a family of four can make up to $147,075 and still be eligible" for a voucher. As of July 1, all eligible students will receive a 90% voucher, which represents 90% of the state's tuition support for a child if they attended a local public school.

Elcesser has shared these insights during informational sessions he has conducted throughout the state this summer, including sessions in all five Catholic dioceses in Indiana.

"We need to get the word out about the changes in the program," he told a group of pastors and Catholic school principals during one of the sessions. Many schools throughout the Archdiocese of Indianapolis have begun to share the information with their families, as has the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and its schools.

While Elcesser focused on the impact on Catholic schools during his presentations to pastors and Catholic school principals, his overall message focused on the importance of families getting to choose where they want their child to be educated.

"The State of Indiana believes our organization believes, and our schools believe that every family — no matter where their ZIP code is or their financial circumstance — should be able to send their children to the school that’s the right fit for them," Elcesser said.

"For us in the Catholic sector, it aligns with our Catholic social teaching. We believe in the preferential option for the poor. We also believe that parents are our children’s primary educators. They should be making the decision about what school is the best fit for them, whether that be traditionally public, whether that be charter, whether that be a nonpublic — faith-based or secular." Elcesser noted that Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb has described the new education legislation as "transformational."

"I do as well," Elcesser said. "I think it’s just transformative for our friends in traditional public schools, in charter schools and in non-public schools. All of those sectors benefited from legislation that was passed."

The recent expansion of the Indiana’s school choice program comes 10 years after the program started in Indiana, which is considered at the forefront of the effort to allow families to choose where they want their children to attend school.

"There are 26 other states and the District of Columbia that have some sort of choice program," Elcesser noted.

In the 10 years of Indiana’s program, about 275,000 children have benefited from it, by getting a Choice Scholarship that can be applied to tuition at the nonpublic school of their choice, he said. And more than $1 billion has been awarded to families to make that choice a reality.

"It’s hard to believe the number of families whose lives have been significantly impacted by these programs," Elcesser said. Now, he adds, many more families will have that opportunity, thanks to the expansion of the program.

To apply for a voucher, contact the participating nonpublic school of your choice. The deadline for voucher applications is Sept. 1. For more information, visit the Institute for Quality Education’s website, www.myschooloptions.org.

Provided by Vickie Lortie

Biking along the river with St. Jude youth

Youth from St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, enjoy fellowship and fun while riding their bikes through Promenade Park downtown during one of several rides this summer.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When is the deadline to apply for a 2021-22 Choice Scholarship?
The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is currently accepting applications for the fall semester. Applications for this upcoming semester must be submitted by September 1, 2021.

How do I apply for the Choice Scholarship?
Students must first apply and be accepted into a non-public, voucher-accepting school; then the school will submit the student's Choice Scholarship application to the IDOE.

How much funding will my student receive under a Choice Scholarship?
A Choice Scholarship amount is the lesser of:
- Tuition and fees charged at the eligible school or
- 90% of the per-student state funding for the student's school corporation of residence.

Does every school accept the Choice Scholarship?
No. Only non-public schools that have applied to the IDOE to be a Choice Scholarship accepting school participate. Currently, there are over 300 Choice accepting schools in Indiana. A full list can be found on the IDOE’s website.

Does the Choice Scholarship last the entirety of my child’s education?
No. A Choice Scholarship is awarded annually to a qualified student. A student must apply each year and must continue to meet the program’s income eligibility and pathway requirements.

Where can I find more information?
Contact the non-public school of your choice to find more resources and learn if your child might qualify.
Catholic Identity class instills virtue at Queen of Angels

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Queen of Angels Catholic School in Fort Wayne, under the leadership of principal Dennis Wiegmann, has made concerted efforts to reinvigorate the lifeblood of every Catholic school – its Catholic culture.

One means the school has implemented to deepen its Catholic identity is through a once-a-week Catholic identity class for students from kindergarten through eighth grade, using the Virtue = Strength program.

Michelle Meyer, in addition to teaching middle-school religion, is considered the religion specialist at Queen of Angels. It is her job and her passion to bring the program into its second school year.

“It’s kind of a blessing for me; it’s my dream job. I’ve always wanted to work with kids on all levels. I’ve always wanted to be a witness to the faith as well as witness their faith,” she said.

 Introduced in lieu of other “special” classes, Catholic Identity presents the cardinal and theological virtues using Scripture passages, sacred art and music, and various other resources. Meyer admits that the monthly teaching guide, consisting of a 50-page PowerPoint presentation, may seem overwhelming, but teachers can “pick and choose pieces of it” to work into their lessons.

For the upcoming year, the Virtue = Strength program centers around Catholic practices and pieties that Meyer described as “keeping our Catholic identity alive for the kids.” In the first month, students will witness Queen of Angels’ Tuesday Eucharistic adoration and Mass, and in the following months they will experience eucharistic processions, adoration and others.

Lou Judd, one of the program’s founders, said they were able to tailor it for the school.

“Sometimes, Judd said he is told the program cannot be done in the classroom, but Wiegmann is adamant that it can. Having a dedicated teacher to adapt the material for individual grade levels and aptly present it to each class rather than giving every teacher another task to accomplish is key, he said.

Virtue = Strength began as a ministry called SportsLeader.

Its original goal was to help coaches incorporate the faith in the sports arena, and the athletic departments of several schools within the diocese partnered with the program. But Judd saw the program’s relevance beyond the athletic fields and wanted it to become more inclusive to groups outside that spectrum.

With the backing of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and the Catholic Schools Office, Judd hosted a Zoom meeting last spring to pitch the program to diocesan superintendents. Even before the meeting had ended, Wiegmann emailed Judd, requesting the program for Queen of Angels.

“I think one of our biggest assets at Queen of Angels is our Catholic identity, and the only way it can continue to thrive is to continue to evaluate it and work on it even more,” Wiegmann said.

Judd stated that he “can’t praise Dennis and Michelle more” for their flexibility and drive to make the program work in the classroom.

“The students are learning their faith and loving it,” he commented. He is pleased by the positive stories he hears coming out of it. Parents, too, are growing in the faith through the weekly communications and resources Meyer sends home.

Judd calls the current situation in the Church “urgent,” pointing to statistics that show 85% of Catholic college students fall away from the faith in their first semester of college.

“Parents say that (their children) get religion class, but that’s only 45 minutes a day,” Judd stressed. “If that’s all we’re doing, those statistics are going to get worse.” Students, he believes, “should be choosing to love our Lord for the rest of their life.”

His hope is that the Virtue = Strength program will spread throughout the diocese. Currently, around 15 schools are participating, mostly through athletic departments. He often cites Queen of Angels as an example for how other schools can incorporate the program into their academic programs, hoping it gives young Catholics one additional reason to remain in the faith.

Looking at his own life, Judd recognizes the influence an adult can have on a young person’s faith.

“The more enthusiasm and passion and love you can show for this can be a powerful moment for evangelization.”

Embracing their Catholic identity goes beyond adding a half-hour class at Queen of Angels. As religion specialist, Meyer also collaborates with the other teachers to help boost the students’ knowledge of the faith early on and reinforce some of the more difficult concepts of Catholicism.

“I like that we’re setting the bar here and we’re having the kids rise up to our expectations, rather than coming in at their level and just kind of spoon-feeding them stuff they already know,” she said. “I like that we’re challenging them and giving them harder concepts, but truthful concepts.”

“You can’t be afraid to build the child’s capacity for learning. They can learn that big word, but use a different synonym for it when you start,” Wiegmann added. “But keep telling them, ‘This is the word, but it means this.’ If you continue to teach it, they’ll know it. That’s how we better catechize our kids.”

Meyer, too, emphasized the need for good catechism in young students’ lives to help them retain their faith throughout their lives.

“The big concepts are our truth. They’re the ultimate black-and-white; there is absolute truth, and there is God … that’s kind of a cool thing, to keep them grounded and rooted in the reality and hope of our eternal salvation.”
Mass reunites Fort Wayne Pedro Pan refugees

By Jennifer Barton

As protests took place in Cuba against the communist government in power, a group of refugees who fled the country after Fidel Castro’s 1959 revolution gathered in Fort Wayne July 24-25 to commemorate the 60 years since they came to the area.

Sent to the U.S. as teenagers by their concerned parents, these now-grown men were part of an effort called Operation Pedro Pan. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades offered a Mass for a reunion of the group at the St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel in downtown Fort Wayne July 24.

The Pedro Pan program began when Msgr. Bryan Wash, a priest of the Diocese of St. Augustine, Florida, foresaw an overwhelming influx of unaccompanied Cuban children fleeing the island nation of Cuba to Miami in 1960. Through the operation, parents who feared termination of their parental rights and communist indoctrination of their children realized there might be a way to protect them.

The Catholic Welfare Bureau that Father Walsh headed, worked with the federal government and other organizations to airlift the children from Cuba to Miami and find places throughout the country for them to live. The airlift portion lasted a year, from 1961 to 1962, when air travel was restricted due to the Cuban Missile Crisis. More than 14,000 youths escaped Cuba through Pedro Pan.

Originally, three separate groups of boys arrived in Fort Wayne in 1961, with an additional two groups in 1965 and a final group in the summer of 1964. The young men who came were first housed at St. Vincent Villa, a former orphanage operated by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Religious sisters ran Central Catholic with the Catholic Welfare Bureau and provided care for the boys, while lay Catholics from local parishes served as their guardians and foster families and spent time with the boys on the weekends.

Most of the boys attended Central Catholic High School, and some were able to reunite in Fort Wayne with parents who managed to leave Cuba and start new lives.

Michael Barnett, a member of the first group to arrive, is considered the Pedro Pans’ historian. He stated that: “The purpose of the reunion was mainly to console our revolution-g activist son, who left us in Cuba, and also to thank the people of Fort Wayne for welcoming and allowing us kids to start a new life here, thus making the U.S.A. our ‘home away from home.’

Of the 41 boys who came to the area, some have moved away or passed on, but others continue to call Fort Wayne their home. By and large, they have found success in careers and family life through the opportunities offered in the U.S. In many cases, they have chosen not to return to Cuba, because the political situation there that led to their flight exists to this day.

During the reunion, group members presented Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry with a plaque expressing their gratitude to the city of the people. The bishop also presented a plaque thanking the Catholic Church and its members who were instrumental in helping the Pedro Pan boys start new lives.

Around 35 Pedro Pans and spouses attended the Mass and dinner with Bishop Rhoades on Saturday evening. They took time to visit the old St. Vincent Villa and basked in the camaraderie that is born from shared experiences.

Alejandro Muller said that “when we see each other ... it’s like we haven’t missed a beat. It’s fun, we can kid around like we haven’t missed a beat.

Muller lives in O’Fallon, Missouri, but Fort Wayne will always be a second home to him, he said. He still knows his way around town. He came over as a 15-year-old boy, completed high school at Central Catholic and met his wife of 56 years at St. Joseph Hospital.

He said that only three of the people he had known in Cuba did not support Castro, prior to the revolution. One was a priest at the Jesuit school that Muller attended, he said, the same one Castro had attended previously. But by the summer of 1959 anti-Castro sentiments had begun to grow, and Muller became involved in underground work to overthrow him—mostly through writing letters to bring him to a comfortable life.

Several of the Pedro Pans have chosen not to return to Cuba, because the political situation there that led to their flight exists to this day. The faith he learned from the nun, Father Walsh, and Muller became involved in underground work to overthrow him—mostly through writing letters to bring him to a comfortable life.

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The 18 months since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic have been challenging for high school students. Canceled athletics, graduations, dances and more uprooted the fabric of their lives, creating, for many, a sense of isolation.

Youth ministry programs of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend were not untouched. Retreats, pilgrimages, meetings and other events were postponed or canceled. It is from within this context that diocesan Director of Youth Ministry John Pratt planned a celebration to once again bring the youth of the diocese together.

Diocesan World Youth Day is an annual experience offering young men and women grades 9-12 a fun and faith-filled celebration of their Catholic faith. On Aug. 28 at Headwaters Park in Fort Wayne, Diocesan World Youth Day will take on a new form: a single-day, outdoor event complete with music, food trucks, speakers, activities, games, eucharistic exposition and Mass with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

The event will be emceed by Father Agustino Torres, CFR, and music will be provided by Kairy Marquez and Damascus Missionaries.

Lexie Kloska is a member of the 2021-22 Diocesan Youth Leadership team assisting at Diocesan World Youth Day. Kloska shared, “I already feel that the Holy Spirit is going to be strongly present during this event, and I cannot wait to see how He works in my life and the lives of the other people there. I am hoping to be overcome with joy at just how good God is and how wonderful his plans are for me. I feel like being with a bunch of other teens who are also filled with love for the Lord will help to strengthen my own relationship with Him.”

The opportunity to join with other teens comes just months after Pope Francis urged dioceses “to give increasingly more importance to the diocesan celebration of WYD” in his “Pastoral Guidelines for the Celebration of World Youth Day in the Particular Churches.” The international World Youth Day celebration occurs every few years, with the next being in Lisbon, Portugal, in 2023, but Pratt shared, “Every year since 1985, the Holy Father has given a theme for young people and the entire Church to reflect upon and celebrate.” This year’s theme is “Stand up! I appoint you as a witness of what you have seen,” from Acts 26:16.

Our diocesan WYD offers the youth of our diocese a festival of faith in which to celebrate God’s love for them and their connection with the universal Church,” said Pratt. “It is an experience that seeks to bring the graces and gifts of the international WYD here to our own community.”

Allison Dolby, a member of the 2020-21 Diocesan Youth Leadership team that helped plan this year’s event, said, “I look forward to seeing all the youth come together for this event and just being open to God and everything that he has planned for us.” She continued, “I hope that this event moves hearts and people are just on fire for God.”

While this year’s celebration is a one-day event, it is planned in conjunction with “¡Viva! Your Encounter with Jesus – Night of Worship and Healing,” planned for 6-9 p.m. Aug. 27, also at Headwaters Park and featuring Father Torres, Marquez and Bishop Rhoades. All are welcome to attend the Spanish-language event, hear testimonies and participate in worship, adoration and confession. There is a $10 entrance fee for ages 15 and older; children are free. Food trucks will be on site from 5-8 p.m.

Registration for Diocesan World Youth Day is $60. For more information and to register, visit diocesefwsb.org/youth-conference.

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Who’s your Daddy?

In Plato’s “Republic,” Socrates discusses a society in which the state arranges marriages among its best citizens and assigns their offspring to nurses chosen for the job, “employing every device to prevent anyone from recognizing her own infant.” The state then carefully supervises the children’s education so that they form opinions “desirable for them to hold when they are grown up.”

We have had our flirtations with Plato’s theory. A century ago, Oregon passed an initiative requiring all children to attend public schools. Proponents of the measure, the Ku Klux Klan and other anti-Catholic organizations, argued that it was necessary to preserve a homogeneous American culture. A society of Catholic men who run orphanages and schools sued to enjoin the law, which would have put them out of business.

In Pierce v. Society of Sisters the Supreme Court rejected the idea that the state could monopolize the upbringing of orphans. It held, “The child is not the mere creature of the state; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations.”

The idea that children belong to the state is in vogue again. It was before the Supreme Court in Fulton v. Philadelphia in June. And it is the inspiration for the American Families Plan that the Democrats would like to push through the Senate.

The issue in Fulton was the custody of foster children. Pennsylvania, like a lot of states, claims a monopoly over foster care. The state assigns custody of such children to local authorities, who put them in homes or facilities the government deems appropriate. If a private organization seeks to help, it needs a contract from the authorities.

If the children really do belong to the state, so can the state set the terms. In 2011 Philadelphia told Catholic Social Services that it had to place children with same-sex couples if it wanted to be part of the system. This wasn’t about increasing foster care opportunities. Catholic Social Services was a major source of foster homes for the city, but after ruling it had to employ children who they knew...
What young people could most profit from hearing about marriage

Young people today experience various pressures and expectations that can make them anxious. In a recent essay, Professor Timothy P. O’Malley, of Notre Dame’s McGrath Institute for Church Life, crisply describes some of the over-the-top pressures that graduating college students are likely to encounter in commencement addresses. “Notre Dame students are told that their degree is not exclusively an accomplishment earned through the completion of credit hours but a pledge to change the world. They are charged by a commencement speaker to go out and secure a spot on the Supreme Court, end political polarization and corruption, and renew communities on the margins through being a transformative teacher.... In other words, the bar of anxiety is raised. The future is presented to these students as a series of endless accomplishments that they must complete to be judged worthy by their alma mater.... No wonder students get drunk and hook up on weekends to escape the impending and seemingly impossible responsibility of changing the very arc of human history before they reach the age of thirty.”

He notes that marriage and family life are seldom part of what commencement speakers at Notre Dame and other institutions of higher education propose to graduates. Students, he says, are “told, sometimes quite explicitly, to bracket out marriage and family life for the sake of their professional careers. And when the marriages and children of prominent commencement speakers are publicly raised on the commencement platform, they are always connected a lesser accomplishment.”

Putting our human accomplishments into proper perspective can be challenging. We can be tempted, like many commencement speakers, to invent the relative order of their importance. In the face of unrelenting pressure to change the world, climb the career ladder, build a nest egg, acquire expensive homes, and travel the globe, we can easily convince ourselves that marriage and children are a hindrance.

But as we approach the end of life, we can often see with greater clarity what matters most. I remember a chat I had with my father as he was declining in health. He had had a long career as a physics professor at the University of Arizona. As we were talking about colleges, universities, and the world of academia, I mentioned how impressive his professional accomplishments had been, not only in teaching and research, but also in authoring various notable books with titles like “Radio Galaxies,” “The Catastrophic Universe,” and “Radio Astrophysics.”

“Ah, the real achievement,” he retorted, “what really matters, that would be the children.”

He underlined that the demanding intellectual work and mountains of scientific output were insignificant compared to what he deemed his “real accomplishment”—the gift of his family. After more than 50 years of marriage and raising five children he signaled what authentic satisfaction and an arson fulfillment had come to look like for him.

The commitments we make and faithfully fulfill are a source of stability and strength, particularly against the backdrop of life’s turbulence and uncertainty. While there are conflicts, boredom, trials, and other challenges, the consequential adventure of marriage and family life offers a fulfilling pathway toward human flourishing.

O’Malley notes that this is a narrative that young people are interested in: “They want to hear how to be happy, and they want this happiness not to be tied to their accomplishments.” They want to be able to say, “I cannot control every dimension of the future, but I can dwell with this person for the rest of my days.”

In a sense, marriage and raising a family are becoming revolutionary acts in today’s world. They declare something positive and hopeful about the future and push back against the fear and insecurity that plague our human condition. They ground us in something beyond the passing security of worldly accomplishments and challenge us to a higher and more enduring goal.

Our options do not narrow with the ticking clock. We may find a new passion—or a new version of an old one that doubles the joy. Talents coalesce and converge in unpredictable ways. God is good.

He wants us to be happy and hopeful, to possess the “joyful optimism” named as a virtue in Salesian Spirituality. And in pursuing our passions, we make a sacred offering. As St. Augustine wrote: “The desire of your heart is itself your prayer.”

That prayer keeps pulsing—at 50, 60 and 70. It whispers: I’m just getting going.
“Luca” (Disney)

The timid young sea monster of the title (voice of Jacob Tremblay), who lives off the coast of Liguria, discovers that he is transformed into a preteen boy when on dry land, befriends a more daring shape-shifter (voice of Jack Dylan Grazer) in the same situation and a strictly human local girl (voice of Emma Berman) and together the trio enters a triathlon, hoping to defeat the arrogant bully (voice of Saverio Raimondo) who has long dominated the event. As the two lads try to keep the secret of their dual identity, the protagonist is pursued by his overprotective mom (voice of Maya Rudolph) and well-meaning but distracted dad (voice of Jim Gaffigan).

While it does nothing to solve the perennial problem for real-life parents that obedient children rarely have adventures, director Enrico Casarosa’s animated fantasy is otherwise a winsome tale full of charm and Italian flair. Too complicated for tots, who might also be frightened, it’s acceptable for all others. Characters in peril, a couple of rude gestures. The Catholic News Service classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

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MOVIE CAPSULES

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following capsule review is by John Mulders, Catholic News Service.

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What’s Happening?

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

Immaculate Conception rummage sale
KENDALLVILLE — The Rosary
Sodality of Immaculate Conception
Church, 301 E
Diamond St., will be having a
rummage sale on Friday, Aug.
6, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on
Saturday, Aug. 7, from 9-11:30
a.m. On Saturday the sale is
$2.50 per grocery bag full.

Festival of Our Lady of Guadalupe
WARSAW — The festival of Our
Lady of Guadalupe Parish, 225
Gilliam Dr., will be Saturday,
Aug. 14, from 11 a.m. to 8:30
p.m. with the public welcome to
the festivities. Authentic Mexican
food will be available for pur-
chase, live entertainment and
live music throughout the day.
Door prizes, raffles and more.
Proceeds will benefit building a
rectory on the property: Contact
Leo Fatfio at leopatino@live.
com.

World Apostolate of Fatima Quarterly
Mass and Fellowship
WARSAW — Join the World
Apostolate of Fatima at Sacred
Heart Parish, 135 North Harrison
St., Thursday, Aug. 19, for
Mass beginning at 5:30 p.m.
celebrated by Father Jonathan
Norton. Following Mass will be
a rosary with a rosary followed
by Benediction and fellowship
in the parish hall. Visit fatimaweb.
org or contact Seth Ball at seth@
fatimaweb.org.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish Festival
ELKHART — A St. Vincent
de Paul Parish festival will be
Saturday, Aug. 21, from 10 a.m.
to 4 p.m. at the church, 1108
South Main St. The festival
will include music, games and
Angelo and Hispanic food. Bring
your family out for some fun,
games, food and enjoy the day
in fellowship with family and
friends. Contact Patricia Kile 574-
522-2526 or paikjike@gmail.
com.

St. Pius X fifth annual Flyin’ Lion 5K and
1 mile fun run/walk
GRANGER — St. Pius X Church,
52555 Fir Rd., will host the fifth
annual Flyin’ Lion 5K and 1
Mile Fun Run/Walk on Saturday,
Aug. 21. The 5K race starts at
8 a.m. and the 1 mile Fun Run/
Walk begins immediately follow-
ing the start of the 5K. Proceeds
from the annual Flyin’ Lion
event will benefit the youth and
young adult pilgrims planning to
travel to Panama to participate
in World Youth Day 2023 and
those participating in the Youth
Ministry’s annual Mission Trip.
Contact Megan Sorg at msorg@
stplus.net or by contacting the
parish office at 574-272-8462.

Grant Administrator
with CPA Background

Private Catholic-based charitable foundation
seeking a grant administrator. Duties include
assisting executive director with communications
with grantees and maintaining accurate records
of grantmaking activities. No prior grant administra-
tion experience is required as training will be provided.
Candidate must have extensive CPA experience,
an active Christian faith and be in support of the
mission of helping the poor and marginalized.
Position is remote and part-time with the possibility
of becoming full-time. This is an ideal second job
for a retired or established CPA in private practice
looking to make a difference.

Please send resume with cover letter and
references to info.gfoffice@yahoo.com.

The CrossWord
August 1 and 8, 2021

REST IN PEACE

Auburn
Patricia Correia, 86,
Immaculate Conception
Francis Dulle, 87, Immaculate
Conception
Bristol
William O’Brien,
90, St. Mary of the
Assumption
Fort Wayne
Patty Jasinski, 85,
St. Vincent de Paul
Isaac D. Jemigan, 18,
St. Elizabeth Ann
Seton
Patricia Madden, 77,
St. Charles Borromeo
Mary J. Quillin, 86,
St. Vincent de Paul

Gregg Rounds, 61,
St. Charles Borromeo
Rosella Schaab, 96,
St. Charles Borromeo
Rita Stump, 97, St.
Charles Borromeo
Jennie Andrea, 93,
st. Pius X
Greg Reesor, 73,
st. Pius X
Ruby M. Vincent, 87,
st. Pius X
Josephine Germano,
98, St. Monica
Irene Van Den Abeele,
97, St. Bavo
Dorothy Muldoon, 87,
St. Louis, Besancon
Mary E. Renier, 100,
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St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Making Christ the Center of Our Lives
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.

Interested applicants should email a resume
or inquiries to rnoll@stjohnsfw.org.
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include a section focused on eucharistic coherence, the Church’s teaching on the reception of Communion, there is no plan to adopt a national policy to prohibit anyone from receiving the Eucharist, the bishop said.

It’s a statement Bishop Rhoades has repeated several times since the bishops’ virtual spring general assembly in June during which the bishops approved drafting the document. In the vote, 75% of the bishops said “yes,” while 25% said “no.”

During long discussions on the document before the vote, several bishops specifically pointed to President Joe Biden and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., who are Catholic, for not actively seeking to end legal abortion and called for them to be denied Communion.

Work has begun on sections of the document that pertain to Church teaching while the section on eucharistic coherence will not be drafted until after a series of regional meetings among the bishops concludes by the end of August, Bishop Rhoades said.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, N.J., elevates the Eucharist during a March 15, 2020, livestreamed Mass.

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BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

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BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

it teaches about the real presence (of) Jesus Christ in the Eucharist,” Crowe said.

However, Mollie Wilson O’Reilly, editor-at-large at Commonweal magazine, expressed concern that a document on the Eucharist would bolster an apparent connection to the Republican Party.

She questioned why some bishops have been so outspoken against Biden, the nation’s second Catholic president, when they failed to be as vocal about the transgressions of former President Donald Trump’s policies that also endangered lives.

Saying she agreed that Democratic politicians should be “pushed” for their support of abortion, Wilson O’Reilly said she believed that Catholics would flee in greater numbers because the document on the Eucharist will be perceived as political rather than genuine teaching.

Panelist John Carr, co-director of the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life at Georgetown University, which sponsored the panel, credited Bishop Rhoades for taking on a most difficult task in a time of divisiveness among the bishops and within the Church.

“It’s important to be candid about the differences here,” said Carr, who formerly was executive director of the bishops’ Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development. “How did the Eucharist, which is the sign of unity at our parish and in our Church, somehow become the thing we fight about in terms of politics?

It seems to me like we’ve gotten ourselves in a terrible place.”

Carr said he disagrees with the bishops’ decision to move forward on the document.

Panelist Gretchen Crowe

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