

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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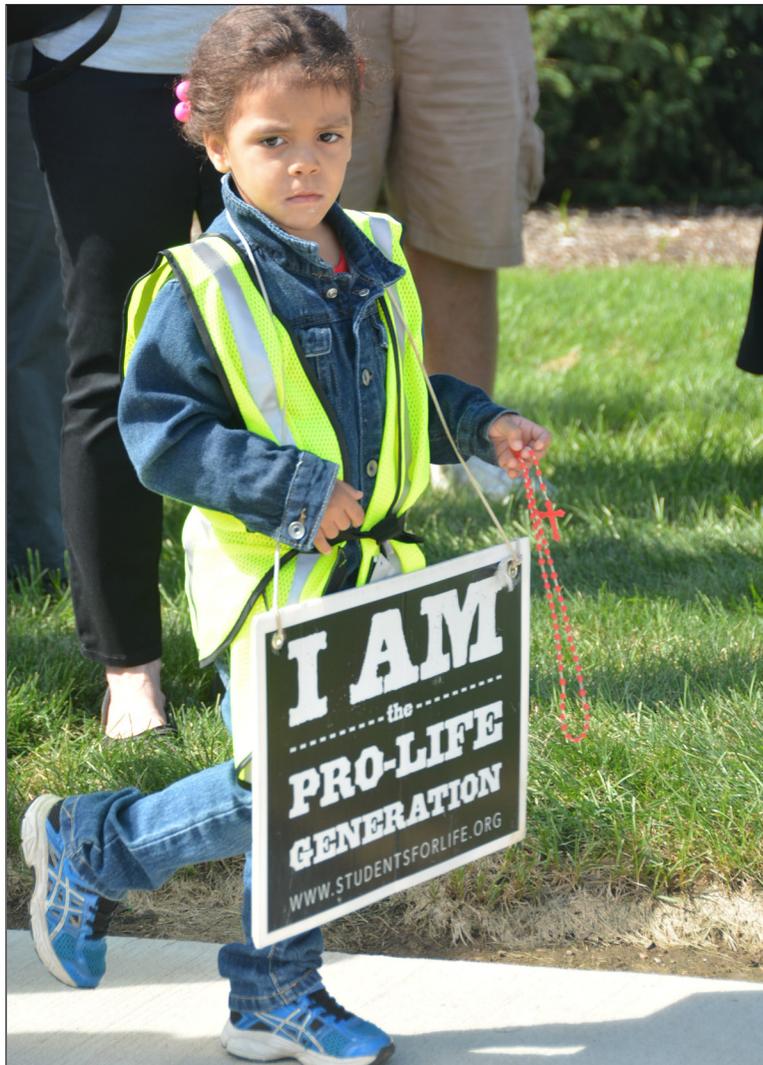
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Summer schedule

Digital email Aug. 29; weekly print schedule resumes Sept. 5

Indiana pro-lifers lament ruling but say fight to save unborn undeterred

BY NATALIE HOEFER



CNS photo/Natalie Hoefler, The Criterion

Larelle Thompson, who was saved from abortion at the Indianapolis Planned Parenthood abortion facility, holds a pro-life sign and rosary in front of the same facility in this 2018 file photo.

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — A U.S. District Court judge placed a permanent injunction Aug. 10 on several Indiana pro-life laws, including those that required physicians examine patients in person before performing abortions and that said only physicians can administer first-trimester medication abortions.

An IndyStar article said several requirements in state law were deemed unconstitutional by Judge Sarah Evans Barker of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana in a ruling in *Whole Health Alliance v. Rokita*.

She did uphold some provisions, including the requirements that only physicians can provide first-trimester aspiration, or suction abortions, and that ultrasounds must be performed before an abortion.

But the IndyStar said she blocked the state's ban on the use of telemedicine as it regards abortion — whereby doctors use an online platform to prescribe abortion-inducing mifepristone and misoprostol.

She also put a stop on a requirement that second-trimester abortions must be performed in a hospital or ambulatory outpatient surgical center as well as blocked requirements that abortion providers provide state-backed information to patients on fetal pain,

the beginning of life and the mental health risks of abortion.

"It's horrible," Right to Life of Indianapolis president Marc Tuttle told *The Criterion*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. "This is a broad-sweeping abuse of judicial power, no doubt about it, especially when you look at hospital admissions for abortion past the first trimester. A lot of those laws had been in place for 30 years. This is devastating."

He said the ruling "opens up abortion on demand without a doctor throughout the state, well past the gestation limits in place now. It also opens the door for abortion clinics to open in Fort Wayne and Evansville — Planned Parenthood has made no bones about wanting to open in Evansville."

Indiana Right to Life executive director Mike Fichter agreed.

"This is a horrific ruling that will directly lead to a massive expansion of chemical and late-term abortions in Indiana," he said in a statement.

"The sweeping blockage of these commonsense laws jeopardizes the health and safety of women, leaves women in the dark on issues of fetal pain and the development of human life, and places communities like Fort Wayne and Evansville clearly in the crosshairs for abortion business expansion," he said.

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Nicole Hahn named Secretary for Communications

FORT WAYNE — The hiring of Nicole Hahn as Secretary for Communications has been announced by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

Hahn will head the Secretariat for Communications for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. She brings nearly three decades of experience in communications and media and public relations to the position. Hahn will be responsible for managing public information, marketing and media relations, and overseeing the 7th Floor Productions video studio, *Today's Catholic* weekly newspaper and other diocesan publications.

"This is an incredible opportunity for me to bring my passion

for communication to the diocese I grew up in," said Hahn. "I am thrilled to be joining an amazing team of professionals and I look forward to the meaningful work we will do together."

Hahn's career began in 1993, when she was hired as an assistant producer at WPTA-TV 21Alive in Fort Wayne while she was still in college. She spent nearly 21-years at Channel 21, working her way up to executive producer.

Hahn first thought she wanted to be a reporter in front of the camera but quickly learned, by working her way up the ranks, that working behind the scenes as a producer allowed her to write more and tell more stories. She said there was also a thrill in



NICOLE HAHN

every day being an opportunity to tell new stories and offer story ideas based on life experiences, including happenings in the Catholic Church and in the diocese.

"One of the greatest things that happened while working at the television station was being given the opportunity, along with TV anchor Melissa Long and chief photographer Brian Gillett, to visit Bishop John D'Arcy in his childhood home in Boston following the news of his illness, to do a special report on his life and his legacy," said Hahn. "I still tear up to this day when I talk about how special that time was for the three of us and how grateful

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GENDER
INCONGRUENCE

Pope Francis, in *Laudato Si'*, his encyclical on the environment, said that human beings' acceptance of their bodies as God's gift "is vital for welcoming and accepting the entire world as a gift from the Father and our common home. Whereas thinking that we enjoy absolute power over our own bodies turns often, subtly, into thinking we enjoy absolute power over creation. Learning to accept our body, to care for it, and to respect its fullest meaning, is an essential element of any genuine human ecology."

Marie Allen/OneSecretMission

Diocesan parishes, schools follow Jesus' example of accompaniment

BY JODI MARLIN

You formed my inmost being. You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, because I am wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works. My very self you know. — Psalm 139

The holy ministry of accompaniment should be at the heart of the encounters parishes and schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend have with young people who are struggling with questions related to gender dysphoria and same-sex attraction, said Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at a gathering of youth leaders, pastoral ministers, schoolteachers, directors of religious education and catechists in July.

College, high school and even grade school students are wrestling with how to interpret the modern acceptance of gender fluidity and how to model God's love to those experiencing gender confusion, the bishop said to those present. The Church, through those who minister in it, should model God's love by showing, and acting with, respect for the inherent dignity of all His children in the way they relate to others while upholding the truths of Christian anthropology.

Guidelines and policies for providing a welcoming environment and supporting young people who experience gender confusion or same-sex attraction were established by the diocese in 2018. Many of the recommendations for compassionately accompanying youths in these situations apply to adults as well and have been in large part included in a pair of documents soon to be presented to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops by the Committee on Doctrine, which Bishop Rhoades leads. Bishop Rhoades' address

included material from drafts of the upcoming document.

Rooted in Christian anthropology

The anthropology behind what the Church believes and teaches about gender dysphoria, same-sex attraction and those influenced by gender ideology was shared by the bishop at length during the day of discussion and reflection at Sacred Heart School, Warsaw. He began with a reminder that humanity occupies a unique place in creation, because the human person is made in the image and likeness of God.

"Human beings have the dignity of being persons with the capacity for self-knowledge; self-knowledge, as well as the gift of freedom," he said.

The gift of man's creation is unique in uniting the spiritual and material worlds, he continued. The human person is created as a unity of soul and body, "not a soul in a body. Both of the principles of this unity, the body and soul, are essential elements of the one human person."

The bishop quoted the teaching of the Second Vatican Council: that "Women and men may not, therefore, despise their bodily life, but on the contrary, are bound to consider the body created by God, and to be raised on the last day as good and worthy of honor."

This issue of the unity of soul and body is important when considering the issue of gender dysphoria, he noted, because of the common description of what gender dysphoria feels like: being "in the wrong body."

"While this language may be used to express a person's experience of gender dysphoria, it should not be taken as a medically or anthropologically

accurate description of reality ... since the human person is a composite unity of body and soul. The soul is the form of the body. A soul cannot be in the wrong body."

"Christian anthropology holds that in the gift of our creation, not only were our bodies knitted in our mothers' wombs, as we read in Scripture, but God made those bodies as either male or female — a distinction based on their respective roles in procreation. We receive life in a body that is either male or female. And our identity as a man or woman is not something self-determined. Rather, it belongs to the given order of creation. So, we must accept our bodies as God's gift."

Quoting *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, he continued: "The acceptance of our bodies as God's gift is vital for welcoming and accepting the entire world as a gift from the Father and our common home. Whereas thinking that we enjoy absolute power over our own bodies turns often, subtly, into thinking we enjoy absolute power over creation. Learning to accept our body, to care for it, and to respect its fullest meaning, is an essential element of any genuine human ecology." Pope Francis goes on to point out that acceptance of the body includes acceptance of the body's sex as either male or female.

The final point of Christian anthropology, the bishop said, is that men and women were both made for friendship with the Creator.

"Humans are unique in all of creation because God has invited us to participate in His very life, the ultimate and best gift of all. What has been granted is the gift of friendship with the Creator. God has bestowed on us the precious and very great promises, so that through them we may come

to share in the divine nature' (1 Peter 1:4) ... and it's toward this end, our union with God, that each human person was created."

Gender identity and gender ideology

Some people experience a significant incongruence between the evident sex of their bodies and their perception of themselves as a man or woman, the bishop said. To be faithful to her mission, the Church reaches out to those who find it difficult to identify with their given sex because "we know that every human person including every person who experiences gender dysphoria, is loved by God and offered redemption in Christ."

In recent years, rapid-onset gender dysphoria has become more common, mostly in teenagers or young adults — possibly a causal effect of gender ideology, which is the view that a person's gender is not grounded in one's actual sex.

"This is basically a new philosophy of sexuality. Pope Benedict addressed this," he noted, quoting: "'According to this philosophy, sex is no longer a given element of nature that man has to accept and personally make sense of. It is a social role that we choose for ourselves, while in the past it was chosen for us by society. The profound falsehood of this theory and of the anthropological revelation contained within it are obvious. People dispute the idea that they have a nature, given by their bodily identity, that serves as a defining element of the human being. They deny their nature and decide that it is not something previously given to them, but that they make it for themselves.'"

Supporting those harmed by the Church — Fort Wayne counseling initiative hopes to help in the healing after sexual abuse

BY JODI MARLIN

It has been nearly two decades since the Church confronted the unspeakable pain of childhood sexual abuse suffered by so many in parish families because it was perpetrated by priests.

The shock and devastation of these crimes, the suffering — although lived and experienced differently — continues. In his book titled, “A Letter to a Suffering Church” Bishop Robert Barron captured the depth of this pain when he writes, “The sexual abuse scandal has been for me and for millions of Catholics, especially for the victim survivors, lacerating.”

In the last 20 years or so, there have been many horrible stories shared, lives shattered, families broken and, in too many cases, lives lost to the pain of the abuse.

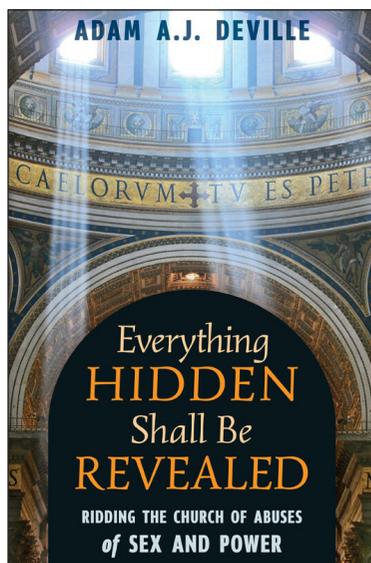
Even as the horrors were uncovered, there have been many who have worked and continue to work to seek justice and healing for victim survivors and for those who love them. Even so, for all that has been done, for all the years that have passed, for all that has been prayed, the devastation of the abuse runs deep for many who remain in the pews and for so many who have left.

The crisis in the Church has not ended. However, it has changed. The pain of the abuse, both institutional and so very personal, still demands that the Church continue its efforts to reach anyone and everyone who has been harmed.

“Our efforts and journey for some measure of justice and healing for those who are still suffering, those known to us and those unknown, must continue,” said Mary Glowaski, victim assistance coordinator for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. “So also must be our resolve to walk with anyone who has been harmed by this horrible chapter in the life of our Church.”

Dr. Adam DeVille, University of Saint Francis associate professor of theology, expected reactions from the ecclesial community when he wrote and published the book, “Everything Hidden Shall Be Revealed,” in 2019. The book detailed ways in which the structures of the Catholic Church needed to change following the 2018 resurfacing of allegations of sexual abuse by priests.

Instead, what landed on his doorstep via email, text, phone calls and after speaking engagements were emotional, personal accounts; people “pouring their heart out” about the pain and confusion experienced by themselves or family members and



A.A.J. DeVille, Ph.D., associate professor and director of humanities at USF, is the author of “Everything Hidden Shall Be Revealed: Ridding the Church of Abuses of Sex and Power” (Angelico Press, 2019). This fall, DeVille will lead two Fort Wayne-based psychotherapy groups that aim to help in the healing of those affected by Church sexual abuse.

friends because of instances of Church sexual abuse and its aftermath. Although the book focused on his recommendations for structural reform and not on the experience of victim survivors and those in the pews, individuals affected by abuse seemed to take it as permission to share with him their painful and very personal experiences.

At first bewildered by what to do about the outpouring of hurt, DeVille realized, “They need a place to tell their story and work this through. They needed more than the Church is offering.”

He began to feel called to pivot from the academic toward helping those who have been affected by such abuse to heal.

Before joining the faculty of the Fort Wayne university in 2007, DeVille had extensive training in clinical psychology and has nearly completed his degree. In September, under the umbrella of Phoenix Associates Counseling Center on Lake Avenue, he will begin leading a male-only supervised psychotherapy group, since the largest group of victim-survivors of abuse in the Catholic church are male.

A support group of approximately six weeks in length will also be offered for those who have watched loved ones wrestle with the aftermath of abuse. The support group, DeVille said, “needs to be kind of fluid to see where people are at and what their needs are. We’ll adjust accordingly.” Both groups will be confidential and take place in-

person at a Fort Wayne location.

“This is taking a toll on them as well,” he acknowledged.

“I have been approached for 2-1/2 years by people who feel they are sort of bereft and left on their own in trying to work through the aftermath of abuse in Church,” DeVille said. The biggest part of those conversations has been their sense of isolation — a feeling not remedied by monetary settlements or individual therapy. “The way they’ve put it to me is, they feel like they’re on their own.”

Working with Glowaski and in consultation with other dioceses, DeVille hopes to be among the individuals and dioceses that are doing more to help victim survivors and their spouses and other family members, as well as parishioners of parishes that have been affected by allegations made against a current or previous pastor. The groups are a place where those affected can talk through what they’re feeling about the situation, lean on others for support and find resources.

Because church sexual abuse is not limited to the Catholic Church, DeVille invites victim-survivors of all faiths to come and be supported in their search for understanding and healing. Initially, the groups will afford the opportunity to come together and share experiences with each other, which DeVille said will likely suggest other types of support that could be offered in the future. “I think there might be a lot of unmet need out there,” DeVille said.

If giving victims a place to tell their stories and work through their experiences one day makes efforts like DeVille’s unnecessary, his response would be “Glory to God,” he said. “The idea is that a patient feels like healing has taken place and is able to comfortably get back to their lives.” But his hunch is that such a day could be several years away.

Anyone interested in attending one of the groups should express that intention to DeVille. He can be reached at adeville@phoenixassociates.net or 260-424-0411.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, August 22: 10:30 a.m. — Mass for St. Monica Parish Festival, St. Monica Church, Mishawaka
Monday, August 23: 10 a.m. — Meeting of the Bishop’s Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
Tuesday, August 24: 2 p.m. — Virtual Meeting of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Advisory Group on the Eucharistic Initiative
Wednesday, August 25: 11 a.m. — Mass for Founder’s Day, Hutzell Hall, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne
Wednesday, August 25: 6 p.m. — Dinner Meeting with Legatus Men’s Forum, Paula’s on Main, Fort Wayne
Thursday, August 26: 3 p.m. — Blessing of Black Madonna Mural, Pontiac Street, Fort Wayne
Friday, August 27: 8 p.m. — Adoration for iViva! Noche de Alabanza, Headwaters Park, Fort Wayne
Saturday, August 28: 4 p.m. — Mass and Adoration for Diocesan World Youth Day Rally, Headwaters Park, Fort Wayne
Sunday, August 29: 10:30 a.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Michael the Archangel, Waterloo
Tuesday, August 31: 8:15 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, St. Thomas the Apostle School, Elkhart
Wednesday, September 1: 10:30 a.m. — Presbyterate Meeting, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw
Thursday, September 2: 10:30 a.m. — Mass for Catholic School Mission Days, Marian High School, Mishawaka
Friday, September 3: 10:30 a.m. — Mass for Catholic School Mission Days, Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne
Saturday, September 4: 11 a.m. — Diaconate Ordination, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
Saturday, September 4: 5:30 p.m. — Mass, St. Bernard Church, Wabash

Haiti earthquake relief work complicated by economy, gangs, weather

BY TOM TRACY

(CNS) — Relief workers in Haiti said the Aug. 14 earthquake might not be as catastrophic as the 2010 quake that was closer to the capital, but recovery will be complicated because the quake came on the heels of July’s presidential assassination, of an economic and ongoing political crisis, the coronavirus pandemic and an active storm season now underway.

Fonie Pierre, a public health professional who heads operations in the region for the U.S.-based Catholic Relief Services, lives in Les Cayes, Haiti’s third-largest city and one of the hardest hit by the magnitude 7.2 earthquake. She told Catholic News Service she and her daughter fled their home during the earthquake and have joined neighbors in living outdoors for the foreseeable future.

CRS staffers are reporting widespread damage to buildings and homes as area hospitals have been overwhelmed by the disaster, pushing them to capacity and forcing them to turn away people in need. The major road connecting Les Cayes to Jérémie is impassable due to landslides and cracks on the road.

“My house is OK, but there

are many cracks, and we cannot stay inside — we stayed the night outside with the neighbors and are living in solidarity as many households,” Pierre told CNS by phone Aug. 15.

The local hospital in Les Cayes, she said, does not have capacity to receive so many injured people, while other medical centers in the south are trying to offer help “but it is difficult for them to find materials, doctors, nurses and human resources to manage this situation,” Pierre said.

Fear of aftershocks and further earthquakes mean that she and her neighbors are planning to live outdoors for as much as a month or so, even as tropical storms threaten the region. Tropical depression Grace was predicted to reach Haiti late Aug. 16, bringing the potential for torrential rain, flooding and landslides.

While the full extent of the Aug. 14 earthquake is far from fully known, Pierre said history will probably record the 2010 earthquake in Port-au-Prince as far more tragic, with many more people living closely together in densely built urban neighborhoods in the nation’s capital.

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Mass of Christian Burial celebrated for Deacon David Elchert

FORT WAYNE — Deacon David O. Elchert, 81, of Goshen, died Wednesday, Aug. 4. He was a member of St. John the Evangelist, Goshen, where on May 21, 2011, he became the parish's second deacon.

Deacon Elchert was born April 26, 1940, in Tiffin, Ohio to Eugene and Mary Louise (Hartzell) Elchert. On June 23, 1962, he married Donna A. Meyer in Tiffin, Ohio.

Diaconal ministry was a vocation to which Deacon Elchert had long aspired, said Donna, in large part because two of his uncles were ordained deacons.

"It's something he always wanted to do. He wanted to follow in their path," she said. "He looked up to them."

When a program of formation for the permanent diaconate was restored in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Deacon Elchert was among the first group of men to be ordained.

Deacon Elchert's devotion to diaconal ministry indeed bore fruit, both for the parish he served and within his own family. Two of the couple's sons followed him into service to the Church: Deacon Ron Elchert serves in a parish in California, and Deacon Jim Elchert was ordained in November in the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio.

"Dad and Mom both always set a good example of service to the Church throughout our lives," said Deacon Jim. "They always made sure we had whatever direction and guidance we needed to be brought up properly in the faith."

"Dad's diaconate journey and service was an inspiration to me in deciding to answer the call," Deacon Jim shared. "When Dad received the Ministry of Acolyte back in 2010, I remember telling him how proud I was to be his son. He told me how proud



DEACON DAVID ELCHERT

he was of me. Even though I had previous inclinations toward the diaconate, it wasn't until after he was ordained that I decided that the call I was feeling was strong enough that I should begin the inquiry process."

Deacon Jim said he was "very blessed to be vested by both dad and my older brother Ron, with my cousin Frank, also a deacon, present as well. I think I can accurately say that Dad was very instrumental in inspiring all three of us in our journeys toward ordination."

Deacon Ron also attributes much of the reason he answered the call to the diaconate, was because of Deacon Dave and Donna's strong, active faith.

"Much talk is made about the formation process that prospective deacons go through, but I feel as though my entire childhood was a formation process which lasted into adulthood. In truth, I think that my dad and I wrestled with the call to the diaconate at the same time without either of us knowing what the other was going through. In fact, we were both in formation at the same time for a few years.

"I have always admired my dad's dedication and love for God and His Church and that left such a deep imprint on my soul," he said. "It was always there when I was asking questions and influenced me to a deeper knowledge of my faith. It was because of this that I was even able to hear God's voice when I received the call," he said.

Father Royce Gregerson, pastor of St. John the Evangelist, said Deacon Elchert was a steady presence at the parish's

Sunday morning Mass. He also coordinated the homebound ministry, trained new lectors and extraordinary ministers of holy Communion, assisted at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and in many other ways as well.

"A new parishioner volunteered to serve as a lector, and after attending training with Deacon Dave told me that she had served as a lector in several parishes and had never received such a thorough training in this liturgical ministry," Father Gregerson recalled. "Deacon Dave wanted to ensure that the lectors didn't just know how to read well, but that they also had a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. That's just one example of how he went above and beyond.

"Shortly after I arrived, Deacon Dave took me to meet the homebound parishioners. You could tell that he had a personal connection with each one of them that was an inspiration to me in loving these treasured members of our community," he added.

"Deacon Dave will be greatly missed by our community for his humble service and steady presence and the quiet way in which he inspired many people to draw closer to the Lord."

Deacon Elchert is also survived by children Lisa (Timothy) Kierpiec, Goshen, and Robert (Emily) Elchert, Kalamazoo, Michigan; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and four siblings, Marilyn Rohrbach, Tiffin, Ohio, Michael Elchert, Fostoria, Ohio, Victoria Sue Moore, Upper Sandusky, Ohio, and Christopher Elchert, Tiffin, Ohio.

Visitation took place Tuesday, Aug. 10, at Yoder-Culp Funeral Home, Goshen, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial Wednesday, Aug. 11, at 10 a.m., celebrated by Father Gregerson.



CNS photo/Cuban Medical Brigade via Reuters

A member of the Cuban Medical Brigade treats an injured man in Jérémie, Haiti, Aug. 15 after a magnitude 7.2 earthquake the previous day.

HAITI, from page 3

More than 300,000 people were killed and another 1.3 million left without homes following the magnitude 7 earthquake in 2010.

The Haitian civil protection service reported late Aug. 15 that nearly 1,300 people had been killed, more than 5,700 were injured and more than 30,250 families needed shelter.

CRS indicated it was sending teams to provide clean water, sanitation, shelter and emergency supplies to an area that was still recovering from the devastation caused by Hurricane Matthew in 2016, as well as drought and two subsequent tropical storms.

Pierre told CNS she understands at least one of her local CRS staff had lost a family member during the earthquake, and others sustained some injuries. Recovery operations were complicated further not only by roads blocked by earthquake damage but by a dangerous, gang-controlled route that connects the south of Haiti to Port-au-Prince.

"And we still have COVID and all the political and social situations," Pierre said.

Fiammetta Cappellini, Haiti-based country representative for the Milan-based AVSI, told CNS by phone Aug. 14 that she traveled from Port-au-Prince to Les Cayes earlier that day. She

estimated that some 30% of the buildings were severely impacted by the earthquake.

"All the people are on the street, and night is approaching, and people will be passing the night on the road in the streets; we have a lot of seismic (aftershocks), and so it is dangerous to enter buildings at this time," Cappellini said.

"The Catholic community here has experienced a lot of churches and Catholic schools in the area that went down — that worries us a lot, because education is maybe the only way out for this country, and now again we face a closed-school situation impossible to manage," Cappellini said. "And so this is a very hard (situation) long term."

AVSI operates some five major projects with 50 to 60 staff in southern Haiti, she said. She told CNS that during staff meetings "we heard a lot of stories which were difficult to hear: They saw neighbors hit by the earthquake and they told us about children dying in their houses in the arms of their mothers trying to rescue them. It is very hard to hear these kinds of stories."

AVSI, she said, will focus on providing materials for temporary housing and prioritize pregnant women with children and women with large families.

"Humanitarian activities could be badly impacted by wars among gangs in this area," she said, adding that she and at least one other relief agency were able to pass through the region Aug. 14. "Absolutely, gang violence will absolutely negatively impact our ability to respond to this catastrophe."

Cappellini agrees with the assessment that the 2010 earthquake near Port-au-Prince will be remembered as far more deadly and destructive, simply due to the miles and miles of housing clusters that collapsed onto each other at that time.

"The situation (today) is very difficult, but it seems absolutely not like the same scale of destruction we knew in 2010 — absolutely not," she told CNS.

She worries that a lack of authority and governance in the country following the presidential assassination in July will negatively impact the ability of the government to respond to the earthquake.

Welcoming Dr. Emily Krach, D.O.
to our Credo Family
Joining us September 2021!




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- Dr. Emily M. Krach, DO
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Federal judge sides with Catholic school over guidance counselor's firing

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A federal judge sided with an Indianapolis archdiocesan high school and the Indianapolis archdiocese in a lawsuit filed against them by a former guidance counselor whose contract was not renewed because of her same-sex marriage.

U.S. District Judge Richard Young for the Southern District of Indiana said complaints by Lynn Starkey, the longtime employee of Roncalli High School, did not stand up to the principle of ministerial exception that protects a religious school's hiring and firing practices from government intrusion.

"When the state interferes with these types of employment decisions, it violates both the Free Exercise and Establishment clauses of the First Amendment," the judge wrote.

He also noted in the 20-page opinion that "ministerial exception is not limited to claims of religious discrimination; it bars all claims of discrimination under Title VII, including discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation."

The judge said Starkey's role at the school was not limited to her position as guidance counselor but that she also helped plan school liturgies, delivered the morning prayer on a few occasions and also took part in school discussions about books to enhance faith formation.

He said the counselor had characterized her work "in purely secular terms" about preparing students for college applications and forms, but that "does not change the result because it would be inappropriate for this court to draw a distinction between secular and religious guidance offered by a guidance counselor at a Catholic school."

In her 2019 lawsuit, Starkey, who had worked at Roncalli for almost 40 years, said the school and the archdiocese discriminated against her because of her sexual orientation and subjected her to a hostile work environment.

Starkey, who married in 2015, was asked at the start of the 2017 school year to sign an employment contract with the ministerial language clause included. In 2019, she was told she would not be offered a new contract.

Starkey's lawyer told The Indianapolis Star that she was disappointed with the ruling and "concerned about its potential impact, not just on Lynn Starkey, but on all educators in religious schools."

Luke Goodrich, vice president and senior counsel at Becket, the religious liberty law firm that

represented the archdiocese in this case, called the judge's ruling "common sense."

"Religious groups have a constitutional right to hire people who agree with their religious beliefs and practices," he said, adding that "at all levels of the judiciary, courts have made clear that the government has no place interfering with a religious organization's decision about who can pass on the faith to the next generation."

He also pointed out in an Aug. 11 statement that the Supreme Court has "recognized that the Constitution forbids secular courts from interfering in important personnel decisions of churches and religious schools," particularly in its ruling last year in the Our Lady of Guadalupe School case, in which it confirmed ministerial exception.

Goodrich said lower courts are continuing to hold up this principle as a means of "keeping secular courts out of questions of faith."

The school counselor's lawsuit is similar to a lawsuit dismissed last year by the Indiana trial court filed by a former Catholic high school teacher in Indianapolis who said he was fired in 2019 because of his same-sex marriage.

Joshua Payne-Elliott, who had been a world language and social studies teacher at Cathedral High School, claimed the Indianapolis archdiocese illegally interfered with his job. A trial court had initially ruled that the lawsuit could move forward, but the Indiana Supreme Court sent the case back down and authorized the trial court to reconsider.

School officials announced in 2019 that it had rescinded the teacher's contract based on the contract's morality clause.

After Starkey filed her lawsuit against the school and the Indianapolis archdiocese, the archdiocese issued the following statement:

"As head guidance counselor, Ms. Starkey signed a contract acknowledging her role as a leader and committing to promote Catholic teaching, including the traditional Catholic teaching on marriage."

It said she "knowingly violated that contract" and that her disagreement with Church teaching on marriage demonstrated she would "not be able to uphold and model it for her students."

The archdiocese said that many families "have sacrificed so their children can attend schools where they will learn the Catholic faith. They rely on the archdiocese to uphold the fullness of Catholic teaching throughout its schools, and the Constitution fully protects the Church's efforts to do so."

GENDER, from page 2

Pope Francis, following Pope Benedict, in his apostolic exhortation 'Amoris Laetitia' — 'The Joy of Love' — "warns against the various forms of an ideology of gender that denies the difference and reciprocity in nature of a man and a woman and envisages a society without sexual differences, thereby eliminating the anthropological basis of the family. This ideology leads to education programs and legislative enactments that promote a personal identity and emotional intimacy radically separated from the biological difference between male and female. Consequently, human identity becomes the choice of the individual — one which can also change over time."

Bishop Rhoades stressed that the Church cannot accept theories about the human person that separate one's sexual identity from biological sex. The Church has consistently taught that human nature must be respected and not manipulated at will.

How marriage is affected

Christians understand marriage as a unique and revered social institution that recognizes a lifelong, exclusive union between a woman and a man, the bishop said. "This union achieves the two-fold purpose of marriage: The good of the spouses themselves and the transmission of life. Neither of these two can be separated from the definition of marriage without altering the very identity and function of marriage and harming the common good."



Pxfuel

The gift of man's creation is unique in uniting the spiritual and material worlds, Bishop Rhoades told a group of diocese youth ministers, pastoral assistants, directors of religious education and schoolteachers recently. "The human person is created as a unity of soul and body."

In defining marriage as between any two persons, one of the two values of marriage is interrupted — the transmission of life.

"The very nature of the human bodies and the conjugal act are designed for this purpose. And a child has the right to be the fruit of this specific act, of the conjugal love of his or her parents."

In rejecting alternate definitions of marriage, definitions other than that of being between a woman and a man, the Church is not rejecting people, he emphasized: Pope Francis and prior popes have been very clear that the Church makes her own the attitude of the Lord Jesus, who offers His boundless love to each person, without exception.

The fundamental dignity of all persons

Catholics are obligated to reach out to every person with the love of Jesus Christ and to speak with kindness, the bishop emphasized, because "every person has a fundamental dignity given to them by God."

"This dignity is not defined by one's sexuality or any other identity, it's just being human," he said. "We believe that every one of us has been created in God's image and likeness and created for eternal life with God, participation in the life of the Trinity. We have the same nature, the same origin, we've all been redeemed by the sacrifice of Jesus."

The role of the schools and parishes of the diocese is to help one another in the process of conversion to a deep and active faith. The beautiful message of the good news of Jesus should be the motivation to accompany young people as they navigate these issues, he said.

Children in Catholic schools and religion classes are particularly in need of compassion and loving support, carried out in cooperation with the parents. "It's kind of how Jesus accompanied, by loving the person," he said. The mission of catechists and teachers should be to provide good instruction on Christian anthropology so they can give reasons for what the Church teaches — guiding, helping, praying and walking with people who are struggling and helping them to realize the beauty and truth of the teachings, and how they will lead to fulfillment and joy.



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Cardinal holds officers, their families 'in prayer,' decries gun violence

CHICAGO (CNS) — Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago offered prayers for slain police officer Ella French and her family and friends “as they cope with the terrible reality that their loved one was taken from them in another act of senseless violence.” In an Aug. 11 statement, he also offered prayers for her critically wounded partner and his family. The partner's name was not released but news reports said the 39-year-old officer, who is married and has a young son, remained hospitalized as he continued to fight for his life. He was shot in his right eye and brain the night of Aug. 7 in the gunfire that took French's life in Chicago's West Englewood neighborhood. “We can only imagine their pain, as we hold them in prayer and stand with them and all first responders who risk their safety every day to protect our communities and keep the peace,” Cardinal Cupich said. French and her partner pulled over a driver for having expired tags on the car. After initially being cooperative, news reports said, the occupants of the car fatally shot French and critically wounded her partner. Brothers Emonte Morgan, 21, and Eric Morgan, 22, have been charged in French's killing. A third person, an Indiana man, has been charged with buying the gun used in the fatal shooting. It was a “straw purchase,” because a felony prevented the alleged shooter from buying the gun himself.

A possible miracle may be attributed to Tennessee priest's intercession

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (CNS) — As Bishop Richard F. Stika of Knoxville, Tennessee, presided at a memorial Mass and reinterment of the body of Father Patrick Ryan at the Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, a possible miracle attributable to the Chattanooga priest may already be in the works. Father Ryan was pastor of the downtown Chattanooga parish when he ministered to yellow fever victims, then died of the disease himself in 1878, just a day short of his 34th birthday. “A life well lived, a short one. There's no greater gift than to give your life for your friends,” the bishop said during the July 31 Mass. Father Ryan is a candidate for sainthood. His cause was officially opened in 2016, granting the priest the title “Servant of God.” Among several women who placed flowers in the priest's tomb at the end of Mass was Teresa Shramko, who believes prayers to Father Ryan have resulted in her son beginning to recover from life-threatening injuries he sustained when he fell out of

Pope prays for peace in Afghanistan as Taliban takes control



CNS photo/Reuters

People try to get into Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, Aug. 16. During his Angelus address Aug. 15, Pope Francis expressed his concern for Afghanistan amid the Taliban's control of the country: “I join in the unanimous concern for the situation in Afghanistan. I ask all of you to pray with me to the God of peace, so that the clamor of weapons might cease, and solutions can be found at the table of dialogue,” the pope said. Only through dialogue, he added, “can the battered population of that country — men, women, elderly and children — return to their own homes, and live in peace and security, in total mutual respect.”

a second-story window in April. Her son has begun to talk and to learn to walk again after coming out of a medically induced coma, and Shramko considers it miraculous. Two verified miracles attributed to Father Ryan's intercession would be needed for him to be declared a saint. In general, one is needed for beatification and one for canonization.

Nuncio urges young people in vocational discernment to realize their gifts

GETTYSBURG, Pa. (CNS) — At vocational discernment gathering of the Neocatechumenal Way in the U.S. this summer, over 10,000 participants were encouraged to realize that they have “some-

thing to do so that the Church may become the Church.” That message was from Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the U.S., who also told the young people that what they experienced at the gathering is “what the Church is all about.” “God has called us to become, as the Church, the living sign of his presence in the world,” he told them at the July 25 event at the Historic Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg, part of the town's vast Civil War battlefield. Most of the participants arrived in buses from different parts of the country after over a week of being on pilgrimage, stopping at sites linked to the lives of U.S. saints, including Sts. Kateri Tekakwitha, Frances Cabrini and Junipero Serra, and those on the road to canonization, such as Blessed Solanus Casey in Michigan and Jesuit

Father Eusebio Kino, who has the title “Venerable,” in Arizona. Also present at the gathering in Gettysburg was Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory of Washington, Bishop Peter Baldacchino of Las Cruces, New Mexico, catechist teams of the Neocatechumenal Way and the religious sisters working at the apostolic nunciature in Washington.

Mary shows humility, service are 'secrets' to heaven, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Mary's assumption into heaven reminds people that they are also called by God to eternal life in heaven through humility and serving him, Pope Francis said. After reciting the Angelus prayer on the feast of the Assumption Aug.

15, Pope Francis also prayed that those enjoying the summer holiday would find “serenity and peace. I cannot, however, forget those who cannot go on vacation, those who remain to serve the community and those who find themselves in distressing conditions, aggravated by the intense heat and by the lack of certain services due to the holiday,” he said, especially the ill, the elderly, the incarcerated, the unemployed, refugees and “all those who are alone or in difficulty. May Mary extend her maternal protection over each one of you,” he said, and he invited people to “perform a beautiful gesture” by going to a Marian shrine to venerate Our Lady. Mary's secret is humility, the pope said before praying the Angelus. “It is her humility that attracted God's gaze to her,” he said.

Justice Department drops conscience case; move called 'dereliction' of duty

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairmen of the U.S. bishops' religious liberty and pro-life committees said Aug. 12 that the U.S. Department of Justice “is acting in dereliction of its duty to enforce the plain meaning of federal law” by voluntarily dismissing a civil lawsuit against a hospital that forced nurses to assist in elective abortions against their religious beliefs. “It is hard to imagine a more horrific civil rights violation than being forced to take an innocent human life,” said Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Religious Liberty, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities. “This is not only deeply wrong, but a violation of federal law,” they said. “We call on the administration to stand up for the basic dignity of our nation's health care workers by reopening this case, and on Congress to pass the Conscience Protection Act so that doctors and nurses can defend their own rights in court.” The Justice Department said it was dropping a case against the University of Vermont Medical Center that the department had brought in December 2020, under the Trump administration, after the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found that the medical center forced a nurse to participate in an elective abortion. “Plaintiff United States notices dismissal of this action,” stated a filing submitted July 30 by Jonathan Ophardt, the acting U.S. attorney for Vermont, and Matthew Donnelly, an attorney with the Justice Department's Washington-based Civil Rights Division.

Sister Katherine Frazier, OP, renews vows

WESTCHESTER, Ill. — Sister Katherine Frazier, OP, renewed her vows with the Adrian Dominican Sisters for three years during a Vespers service Aug. 1 in Chicago. Celebrating with Sister Katherine were sister friends and the newly elected leadership team of the Catherine of Siena Mission Chapter, Sisters Mary Jane Lubinski, OP, Mary Priniski, OP, and Mary Soher, OP.

"There's so much uncertainty right now," Sister Katherine said. "It was very moving to be able to say that I have the path ahead of me, recommitting myself at this time. This is an invitation to keep on my journey with the Adrian Dominican Sisters and to continue to discover how God is calling me in my life."

A native of Fort Wayne, Sister Katherine was serving as coordinator of the Bishop Donald Trautman Catholic House at Gannon University, Erie, Pennsylvania, at the time of her entrance into the congregation. Since her first profession in 2018, she has ministered in Mission Integration at Regina Dominican High School, an all-girls high school founded and sponsored by the Adrian Dominican Sisters and located in Wilmette, Illinois.

Sister Katherine said she is looking forward to beginning a new ministry: refugee resettlement in New Haven, Connecticut, which will involve helping refugees to find their way in their new homes and to meet their basic needs as they become adjusted to life in the United States.

She described religious life as an adventure. "If there's anything I have experienced in these last six years it is that religious life is very full of surprises," she said. "Part of the mystery of religious life is discovering where God is

AROUND THE DIOCESE

St. Charles Knights donate talents in charity



Provided by Justin Purdy

In honor of teacher and assistant principal Sister Genevieve Rauppwill's 50th jubilee Sept. 1 and the opening of the Franciscan Women's Discernment House in New Haven, the St. Charles Knights of Columbus Council 451 donated hours of time and labor. The Knights built a 9'x12' paver patio with a flower bed running the length of it for Sister Genevieve, who loves gardening; at the Discernment House they applied 75 gallons of primer and paint to most of the 10 bedrooms, painted the chapel and assisted in moving and fastening pews from St. Andrews Church to the house chapel.

calling us out of the community, and how often it takes us to unexpected places. It can sometimes be hard, but it's always a place that is full of grace."

Hispanic Ministry plans night of worship and healing

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend invite everyone to ¡Viva! Tu encuentro con Jesús — Noche de Alabanza y Sanación (Your Encounter with Jesus — Night of Worship and Healing). Hispanic Ministry will host this event Friday, Aug. 27 from 6-9 p.m. at Purcell Pavilion at Headwaters Park in Fort Wayne. Join in worship, testimonies, adoration and confession.

Special guests will include Father Agustino Torres CFR, a priest with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal based in the Bronx, New York, and the founder of Corazón Puro, an organization dedicated to forming young people. The evening will feature music from bilingual singer-songwriter Kairy Marquez, and Bishop Rhoades will be present for adoration.

Food trucks will be on-site from 5-8 p.m. There is a \$10 entrance fee for those ages 15 and older. Children are free.

While this event will be primarily Spanish-language, all are invited to join in food, fellowship, praise and healing. For more information, visit diocesefwsb.org/viva.

¡Viva! leads into this year's Diocesan World Youth Day, which will take place the following day also at Headwaters Park in Fort Wayne and featuring, among others, the same special guests. This year's local World Youth Day experience includes music, food trucks, speakers, activities, games and eucharistic exposition and Mass with Bishop Rhoades. For more information, visit diocesefwsb.org/youth-conference.

Fortin answers call to service in the diaconate

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Dedication to the Eucharist and devotion to the Blessed Mother have helped seminarian LeeAllen Fortin realize another step toward his vocation to the priesthood. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will ordain the South Dakota native to the diaconate at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 4, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne.

"I lived out on a little hobby farm, and we had to travel 25 miles to my local home parish, Immaculate Conception," Fortin recalled. "It's actually really beautiful — I was baptized in Immaculate Conception Parish, and I'll be ordained in Immaculate Conception Cathedral."

Bishop Rhoades assigned the seminarian to St. Charles

Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne, this summer. There, he led a Bible study on the minor prophets.

Fortin attributes his having answered the call to the priesthood to an experience with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

"I had a real powerful experience of our Lord's presence — His true presence — in the Eucharist at a Catholic summer camp," he said. After a friend suggested he begin going to daily Mass during his first year of college at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, it soon became clear to Fortin that he should enter the seminary.

Fortin graduated college seminary in Fargo, North Dakota. During his subsequent pastoral year, after a discussion with another friend, he decided to travel to Fort Wayne to visit the Poor Brothers of Saint Francis — known as the Franciscan Friars



LEEALLEN FORTIN

Minor order — that existed at the time.

After a second visit to Fort Wayne, Fortin joined the Franciscans. And while he thought he had found a path to holiness with the brothers, in 2020 the order disbanded.

"That grace came was so clear. I thought I was called to be a brother for the rest of my life unless God took the community away — and then He did."

Fortin had to reevaluate his vocation. He realized God would provide opportunities for him to pursue his vocation to either radical Franciscan life or to the priesthood.

"My spiritual director said it was pretty clear: There are two things you're drawn to, and there's an open door to one of them and there's not an open door to the other. So, it seems like you should go where there's the open door. So, I continued on

toward the priesthood."

For those discerning their own vocation, the seminarian suggests devoting time to prayer — beginning with the Mass.

"Give as much time to prayer as possible," Fortin recommended. "The vocation is about how God wants you to receive and share His love for the rest of your life. And that's what prayer is: It's receiving and, in a sense, sharing His love."

Some, however, may find it difficult to engage in quiet, contemplative prayer at first. Fortin suggested reading about saints who immersed themselves in lives of prayer in order to "better understand the value of it, and thus to cultivate an ardent desire for prayer and sanctity."

"What makes us desire something is understanding how

FORTIN, from page 7

valuable it is. So, my encouragement would be to read about the saints. Read spiritual theology. Learn about the importance of silence.”

“To be inspired,” Fortin continued, “you have to encounter the prayer and sanctity in the source where it’s kept: the lives of the saints.”

Fortin had received the name “Joseph” as a brother at Our Lady of the Angels Friary, the home of the Poor Brothers. He said that name highlights his heartfelt relationship to the Blessed Mother — a devotion that Fortin believes aided in his journey to the diaconate.

“So much of the journey has been characterized by her intercession in so many different ways, but at the same time it’s a constant. My devotion to other saints leads to a greater devotion to her.”

Fortin attended high school in

South Dakota. He has a younger sister and a nephew. Adopted at birth, he also recently connected with his birth mother and sister and has found that this experience of family mirrors what he has experienced in realizing his vocation.

“It kind of speaks to my whole journey in general, as I’ve gotten into my vocation. My family just keeps growing,” Fortin said, also mentioning his more than 20 Franciscan brothers.

Fortin expects his family to continue to grow after his ordination to the priesthood.

“It’s like Jesus says: ‘Who is my mother, my brother and my sister? He who does the will of My Father.’”

After his ordination to the diaconate, Fortin plans to use the following nine months before priestly ordination to “grow in friendship with the Lord and fellow seminarians through all that is to come.”

Catholic liberal education — Helping students use ‘intellectual knowledge and opinion and develop wisdom’

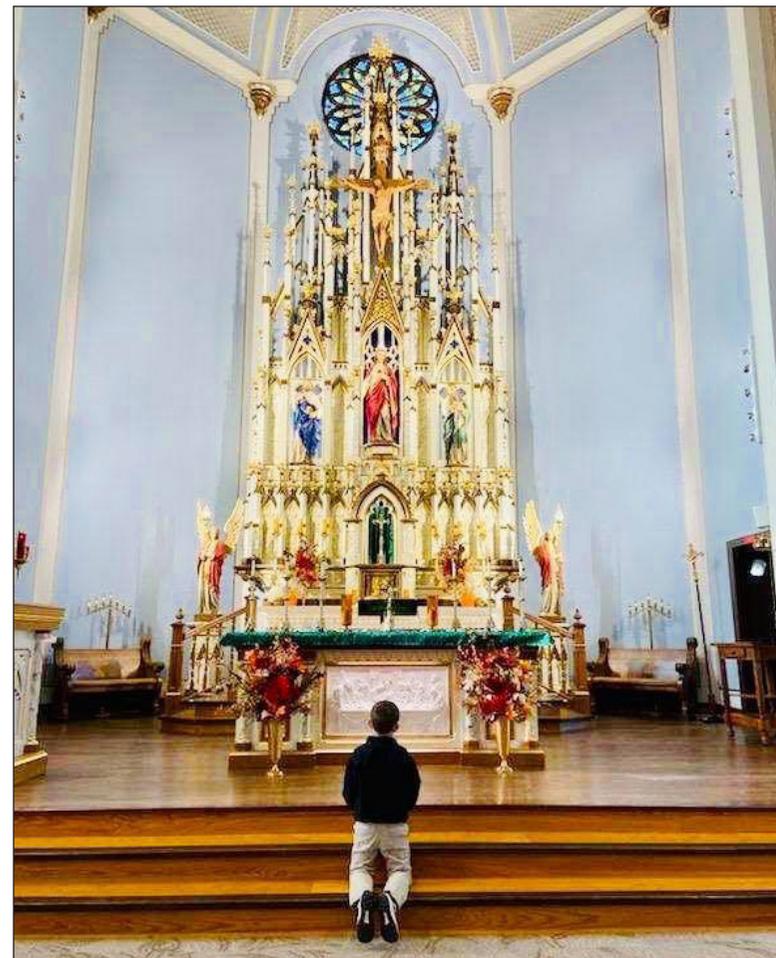
BY JENNIFER BARTON

New methods, new styles and new ways to reach students, and especially to teach the Catholic faith, are crucial in a faith-filled education. To that end, a group of educators from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend attended a conference at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, last month to learn more about incorporating Catholic liberal arts education in the school system. The three-day event was hosted by the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education.

“Liberal” in educational terms has a completely different connotation from the political idea of left wing vs. right wing. In Latin, the word “liber” means free — not necessarily in terms of cost, but in the freedom “to grow in faith, wisdom and virtue,” according to the ICLE website.

The ancient world focused a liberal arts education in seven subject areas: astronomy, mathematics, geometry, music, rhetoric, grammar and logic. These subject areas have changed somewhat over time, but the purpose of a liberal arts education remains the same: to bring students to a greater knowledge and wisdom through study of classic literature and learning critical thinking skills.

Catholic scholars through the ages have been educated in this manner and utilized liberal arts education in the universities that the Church founded. The Institute for Catholic Liberal Education is on a mission to restore this form of learning



File photo

within Catholic schools, to help young people grow not only in love of learning, but also in moral character.

Dr. Joseph Brettnacher, superintendent of Catholic schools for the diocese, was one of the conference attendees. “We attended the conference to learn more about how a Catholic liberal arts education centered around Jesus Christ can free up teachers to help students seek truth and

grow in faith, wisdom and virtue,” he said.

Brettnacher has become part of the ICLE and attends monthly meetings. The conference itself takes place yearly, and this year’s theme was “Regaining a Catholic Vision in a Secular Age.”

Several prominent speakers presented during the conference, including Bishop James D. Conley, DD, STL, of the Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska, and Dr. Michael Naughton, director of the Center for Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas. Topics covered both teaching methods in the classical style and incorporating faith into classroom lessons.

The ICLE’s mission is to aid schools in reviving Catholic traditional education methods that focus on Jesus and the truths of the faith. The institute believes this is best accomplished when children are young and nurtured through their early educational experience.

This sets Catholic schools apart from public schools, allowing them to “flourish when they recover and adapt the Church’s time-tested approach ... which formed many of the keenest minds and holiest saints in history,” as stated on their website.

Bringing Catholic liberal arts aspects into the schools is part of the commission that Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has placed upon the Catholic Schools Office.



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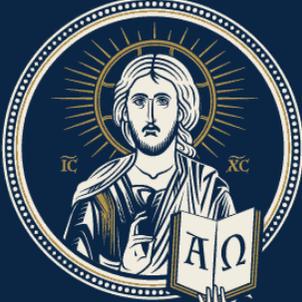
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This focus, Brettnacher clarified, is “not necessarily to turn them all into Catholic classical arts schools, but to bring the rich history of our literature, our arts and our science into our schools so we can count on the beauty of the past to help lead us to the present.”

In a post-modern and post-Christian world, he noted that it is critical to “bring that rich Catholic tradition to life in the diocese by identifying ways we can incorporate liberal arts and science education resources into our curriculum.”

After the conference, he professed that he “was impressed with how Catholic liberal education, centered on understanding Jesus Christ in both the natural and supernatural state, can help

educators instill a deeper understanding of the human person so they can perfect in themselves this anthropological vision.”

Both associate superintendents also participated in the conference and offered their personal takeaways.

“What impressed me most is how the truth, beauty and goodness of God’s creation was seamlessly woven into and a focus in all subjects,” said Jeffrey Kieffer. “This focus on these fundamental elements of our faith in all subjects, discussions and student evaluations could be a tremendous help in forming our students in their faith, at a very deep level, and helping them see the hand of the Creator in all things.”

David Maguel stated that his

takeaway was “the message of forming our students utilizing logic and rhetoric strategies to help our students use their intellectual knowledge and opinion and develop wisdom.”

One Catholic school principal attended as well: Dennis Wiegmann, from Queen of Angels School in Fort Wayne. He has been working to infuse Catholic identity into his school since taking the reins as principal.

“I went to the conference wanting to know how a Catholic liberal education could be incorporated into our current curriculum and found that through changing some of our systems, this type of education can be accomplished. This cannot happen overnight but can definitely be developed and incorporated in a three-to-five-year plan.”

The ICLE website has a variety of resources available for educators who would like to incorporate Catholic liberal education methods into the classroom. Schools, too, can become members of the ICLE, and one Catholic school of the diocese, Our Lady School in Fort Wayne, has already done so.

For more information visit www.catholicliberaleducation.org.



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Principal Abigail Stanley welcomed at St. Bernard School

BY JEANNIE EWING

For Abigail Stanley, the administrative position of principal at St. Bernard School in Wabash feels like so much more than a job – it's her home. "I grew up attending St. Bernard's for grade school, and it is my home parish," she shared.

Attending the school for first through fifth grades left an impression on her faith and her future vocation. "I wasn't entirely sure what I wanted to do when I was in college," she said, "but I remembered my time in youth group, and the opportunity to serve others in this community never left me."

Stanley was raised Catholic. She is the third of four children, and all the siblings remain close, she said. They grew up attending youth group at St. Bernard.

Because the school is small, she was also very close to her classmates as a child. Her fondest memories include attending field trips and playing on the playground.

St. Bernard School stopped at fifth grade during her time attending, so Stanley then went to Wabash Middle School and Wabash High School. During her adolescence, she became very involved in the youth group at St. Bernard.

Once, the group went on a mission trip to New Jersey to renovate a school that had peeling wallpaper. They cleaned, worked with some of the students who attended there, and played with and tutored them.

"There was a lot of community service during those years," she recalled, "which I look back and realize shaped where I am today."

After graduating high school, Stanley chose Indiana University-Bloomington for postsecondary education. While there, she remained uncertain about her vocational direction.

"I knew I loved kids, partly because of my experiences in youth group," she said. "Teaching never really stood out at first, but I had to make a decision and I chose to go into the field of education."

Stanley finished, got her elementary educational license and then completed her student teaching at a local school near her home. She resumed attending Mass at St. Bernard with her parents during that time.

"I job-hopped a little," she admitted, "but I honestly felt called to come home."

Her teaching experience was formed by the different cultures, lifestyles, languages and socio-economic statuses to which she was exposed in those days.



ABIGAIL STANLEY

She taught abroad in Australia, which helped her realize something powerful.

"Despite how differently Australians educate their kids and live, kids are kids. They want engagement, and they need our time and attention. They all just want to feel love from their teachers and administrators," she shared.

Stanley and her husband married in 2013 at St. Bernard and agreed to settle down at the parish.

"There are other Catholic churches in the area we could have attended, but this was home," she said. Stanley got her administrative license the same year from Purdue University-Fort Wayne. The couple have

two children: Drew is 6 and will attend kindergarten at St. Bernard this fall, and Gwen is 3 and is "spunky."

Once the children were born, she put school administration on hold for a while. She began praying, "God, where and when do you want me to do this?" Then followed a period of waiting for her calling and for the timing of the right job to fall into place.

When the job as principal at St. Bernard opened, she felt strongly it was meant for her, especially since her son will be starting kindergarten this fall.

"I feel I can have a true impact on the school, the families and the students, and try to spread the word in the community that this school is an excellent educational and faith option for their children," she explained.

What makes St. Bernard stand out among other area schools and parishes is how welcome and accepted people feel at the parish, she said. The pastor, Father Levi Nkwocha, acknowledges visitors at every weekend Mass. Stanley loves the aesthetics of the cathedral-style church, too; she said that its beauty mesmerizes with high ceilings, organ music and stain-glassed windows.

She considers the ambiance to be a gift to her because it is conducive to prayer and worship.

Entering the church helps elevate her heart and soul to a greater love for God.

"Other parishes I've attended were so busy and distracting for me," she explained, "but at St. Bernard's, I feel a sense of calm, which is conducive to a sense of interior peace. Knowing when the choir will sing and to be able to share this experience with my children and pass on these values to them is very special to me."

Stanley said she didn't appreciate her Catholic faith strongly as a child, but as an adult, she recognizes with gratitude how St. Bernard formed and shaped her. She loves how grounded in tradition it is.

What she is most looking forward to as principal is getting to know the families and children at St. Bernard. She knows they chose the school for a reason, and she wants to share her experiences as a child with these families, to form their children in their faith and character-building and set a standard for excellence in academics. She wants to help develop the whole person in mind, body and soul.

"I know why I was waiting for the right opportunity to come along," she reflected. "I have seen what else is out there. I chose St. Bernard's for my own children. That says a lot about the parish and the school."

Ana Maria Lewis anxious to prepare St. Jude students for heaven

BY JENNIFER BARTON

Openness to the nudging of the Holy Spirit led the new principal of St. Jude School in South Bend to explore a new avenue in her career. Ana Maria Lewis had not planned on seeking a position as a principal, but an unsettled feeling and an answer to prayer guided her toward that objective.

Lewis began her teaching career in the public schools in Cincinnati after earning her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Miami University of Ohio in Oxford. The six years she spent in public education taught her that something was missing in her job: the ability to bring her faith into the classroom.

"I think just being able to instill that love of Christ in children at an early age is so important," Lewis stated. "And to be able to do it in a math lesson, in a science lesson, in a reading lesson ... it was missing."

After moving to South Bend with her husband and three children, St. Joseph Grade School

seemed a logical location to go back to the classroom, as her children were enrolled there. She spent 14 years as a second grade teacher and another four as assistant principal.

When she became the assistant principal at St. Joseph, Lewis decided to obtain her master's degree through the University of Notre Dame's Mary Ann Remick Leadership Program. She describes it as a "grueling but great 26 months"; a time for "fostering and renewing my spirituality and what it means to be a leader in a school, because you're also a spiritual leader."

Last fall, Lewis said she began to feel the Holy Spirit moving, possibly directing her on a new path. She spoke with the same priest who had urged her to begin the Remick program. He believed she was being called to become a principal, but Lewis was uncertain if she was ready for that step.

"A couple of different people told me about the position here, and I just kind of dismissed it," she remarked.

Her husband advised her to write an email and cover letter,



ANA MARIA LEWIS

saying she would know when the time was right to send it. She did.

Hours after submitting the email, Lewis received a call for an interview. In less than a week's time, she was offered the job. "Everything fell into place, and I think that's how I knew this was where God was calling me. This is my next chapter, this is St. Jude's next chapter; it's a lot of new and exciting things."

Lewis has certain goals she would like to accomplish at

St. Jude. The first was to hire an assistant principal in July, Jennifer Crain. The two women found that they mesh well and are already hard at work preparing for the upcoming school year.

High on Lewis's priority list is taking care of the teachers who have been under so much pressure over the last year and a half. "I know that community is really important here and just seeing each other and being with each other, so we want to bring back the community as safely as we can."

Promoting a community that is inclusive is important to Lewis. She stated, "We have a lot of children with different needs, and we are very open to including everyone." The St. Jude staff is also dedicated to aiding students with disabilities and the school has a strong support system for such students.

Of course, living the Catholic faith in every aspect of the school takes top priority in her leadership role.

"We need to continue to prepare our students, not just for high school and college, but beyond; and eventually their

goal is to reach heaven and that's our number one goal." She tells her staff that "in all of our interactions and what we do every single day with our children, that's what we need to teach them. They need to see Christ in everything we do."

Motherhood will always be Lewis's first vocation in life, she said. Her children are grown now, with the youngest a student at Notre Dame, but she is grateful that they all live nearby. She and her husband will celebrate their 29th anniversary this year and remain parishioners at St. Joseph Parish.

Lewis hopes to see the school continue to grow and thrive under her leadership, while remaining mindful of her purpose as the spiritual leader of the school.

"I really believe that our story is already written; God already knows where you're supposed to be and what you're supposed to be doing ... I'm here for a reason. And I'm going to meet people and encounter people along the way, and I just have to know that's all God's hand in it."

NEW PRINCIPALS • NEW PRINCIPALS • NEW PRINCIPALS

Melissa Green leads at St. Joseph Grade School, South Bend

BY JEANNIE EWING

Melissa Green was born and raised outside of New York City. "I came to Indiana as a college freshman at the University of Notre Dame," she explained. It was there that she earned an undergraduate degree in English. Afterward, she entered the Alliance for Catholic Education program.

ACE is a two-year service program – "the Catholic school version of Teach for America," she shared. It is specifically for those who did not study education in college.

"You graduate from the program with a master's degree in education from Notre Dame. For two years after receiving your graduate degree, you serve as a full-time teacher in a Catholic school in a diocese where they are struggling in some way," she continued.

Green taught sixth grade in the ACE program in Montgomery, Alabama. While there, she lived with five other teachers as an "intentional faith community."

Green's exposure to and experience with ACE weaves divine providence into the story. What initially drew her attention to the program was a conversation she had shortly after her mom retired from education, during which the seed was planted about Melissa

going into education.

Shortly after that conversation, while she was an undergraduate senior, Green went to an informational meeting about ACE and was inspired by the ACE teachers she met. While in ACE, she forged friendships with other like-minded people who wanted to form relationships in their day-to-day work. They continue to be present in her life as godparents to her children and among those she sees on an annual basis. Despite the geographical distance, she has maintained those friendships.

After her time in ACE, Green continued to teach in Catholic schools. Her first assignment was at St. Jude School in Atlanta, Georgia. She chose that location because it was recommended by ACE friends, and, again through divine providence, she met her husband through the program. After the couple married, they moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, because her husband was invited to begin an ACE replication program at the University of St. Thomas.

ACE sealed Green's desire to want to be a part of teaching Catholic children in a school setting. Through it she met a wonderful caliber of people, which changed her whole life and formed her in a way that nothing else has, she said. It gave her a sense of purpose and direc-



MELISSA GREEN

tion and clarified for her that she wanted to use her gifts and talents in a setting where faith was central and prominent to the educational environment.

"It's a perfect intersection of both academics and faith. It brings me joy, having a deep, God-centric purpose to what I am doing every day," she said.

Green did not initially consider working in educational administration. In fact, for one year she stepped out of education entirely and into the role of an administrative assistant.

But being a school leader comes with much responsibility, so after Green gave birth to her first child in 2005, she also put her goal of becoming an educational administrator aside. She didn't apply for a leadership

position until 2018, continuing to teach, meanwhile, until the right opportunity and timing coincided.

Green said her experiences helped her realize she wanted to be part of bigger conversations such as: "Where are we headed as a school? What are we doing for our teachers?"

An opportunity came up to be assistant principal at St. Adalbert School in South Bend in 2018. "I felt this was a great learning opportunity," she explained. There, she worked with principal Joe Miller, who participated with Green in the ACE program in 1998-99. "This was a good fit," she said. "The school was run by someone I trusted. It was a smaller school and was a great invitation to take a step toward leadership. I stayed in that role for three years."

When Green saw the principal position at St. Joseph Grade School, at the parish she and her family have attended for 14 years, friends in education invited her to apply. "They felt it made a lot of sense for me to come back," she said. She was offered the position and accepted it.

Green and her husband have four children: two daughters who will be at Saint Joseph High School this fall and two sons who will attend St. Joseph Grade School.

What she is most looking forward to about her new position is working with the teachers. Green said she has found they are driven to be excellent in their field, using summertime to reflect and perfect what they do and plan ahead.

"I'm excited to be in this community of Catholic educators, because they are mission-driven men and women, but they also love the art of teaching," she shared. One of the longtime teachers at St. Joseph, Rachel Schroeder, applied for assistant principal and will be working with Green. The women have formed a strong camaraderie and shared vision for the school.

"In a Catholic school, you are looking to form the hearts and souls of the children as much as you're looking to impart truth and information to them," she reflected. "You're given the opportunity to assist them to see how innately good they are and how much potential they have to express that good in their own unique way, to become holy people. They're good in different ways. Their own holiness will look different from each other, but this spiritual diversity is a gift to the Church. I want to affirm that and help them become the people they're called to be."

Queen of Peace School names Scott Kovatch principal

BY DEB WAGNER

At Queen of Peace School in Mishawaka, area teacher and administrator Scott Kovatch will be at the helm beginning with the 2021-22 school year.

In addition to a diverse background that prepared him for his new profession, he displays an enormous amount of passion for education and compassion toward his faculty, staff and volunteers.

Thirty-five years ago, Kovatch began his career path as a special education teacher. Like most journeys in life, there were a few curves in the road that were perhaps not initially expected but were ultimately part of God's plan.

While an undergraduate student at Indiana University in Bloomington, Kovatch found there to be an emphasis on special education for students with serious emotional handicaps and mild to moderate disabilities.

In 1986, Kovatch became a special education teacher for

emotionally handicapped students in grades three through six with Evansville-Vanderburgh Schools. The following year, he worked for Baugo Community Schools, Elkhart, as a special education teacher for students in seventh and eighth grades. In 1988 through 1990, for Northwest Special Education Cooperative in Crown Point, he was a traveling teacher across four school corporations in northwest Indiana. He traveled to 35 schools a week on average, focusing on implementing individualized educational plan goals and objectives for students identified as emotionally handicapped.

In the early 1990s, Kovatch took a break from education to add a master's degree in social work from Wayne State University to his already-earned bachelor's degree and Master of Science in Elementary Education Administration certification. In 1990 and 1991, he worked in the inpatient unit of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac, Michigan, as a classroom teacher, helping hospitalized youth in grades seven



SCOTT KOVATCH

through 12 maintain credits while in the hospital setting.

Kovatch engaged in school social work for Niles Community Schools in Niles, Michigan, from 1992-94. His duties included working with seriously at-risk families, as a liaison between school, home and community agencies. During that time, he said, people often commented he would be a great principal. The thought ruminated with him.

From 1994 to 1996, Kovatch

was the central office administrator for Elkhart Community Schools in Elkhart. For the next 11 years, he would hold the titles of assistant principal at the area's Horizon Elementary School and principal at Meadow's Edge Elementary School and Horizon Elementary School.

Kovatch also held various positions in the Baugo schools from 2008-19, including intermediate principal, director of operations and student services, Jimtown High School assistant principal and then principal, and chief coordinator of human resources and exceptional students.

Kovatch most recently served as the assistant superintendent for the Concord Community Schools in Elkhart. His responsibilities included overseeing the facilities, maintenance and grounds, as well as all nursing and health office services. He worked as a liaison with the school security and Concord Police Department and for the district's homeless families, and he supervised and evaluated the

directors of transportation, facilities and special education.

His parents and sister have nearly 100 years combined experience as educators, yet, Kovatch said he found himself wondering every two years, "What do I want to do next with my life?" In January, the father of six said he "overwhelmingly thought Queen of Peace is where God may be calling me."

This will be the first time Kovatch has two children attending the same school where he is principal. His son James will be in seventh grade, and his daughter Teresa will be in eighth grade at Queen of Peace.

"I am blessed beyond words that God allows me to dial in to being sympathetic and empathetic to all," he said. He added, "I believe we're working on souls here and we are trying to get them all to heaven."

The school will be committed to helping people with disabilities figure out their individual success, said Kovatch, as their motto is "Truth, beauty, and goodness in everything we think, say, and do."

Father Boyle to headline with message of boundless compassion

BY KEVIN KILBANE

There are two goals organizers hope result from Father Gregory Boyle's presentation on "The Power of Boundless Compassion," which will take place at 1 p.m. Oct. 8 at the University of Saint Francis' Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center in downtown Fort Wayne.

One goal is discussions with social-service providers involving not just numbers of people served, but the amount of hope they instilled in their clients.

The other goal is nurses and other health-care workers re-energized by receiving as much as they give when they form a deeper relationship with their patients.

"The measure of our compassion lies not in our service to those on the margins but only in our willingness to see ourselves in kinship with them," Father Boyle, SJ, the founder of Homeboy Industries gang intervention ministry in Los Angeles, said Sept. 13 on the Talks at Google platform, during a presentation titled, "The Whole Language: The Power of Extravagant Tenderness."

Father Boyle gained worldwide attention for his work helping gang members in Los Angeles leave gang life, rehabilitate themselves and build new lives in the community. The Homeboy Industries ministry he founded in 1988 provides wrap-around support and services for people leaving gangs, including addiction counseling and tattoo removal. Homeboy also helps people learn career skills through jobs with the ministry or in businesses it operates, such as Homeboy Bakery.

Father Boyle is the author of the best-selling books, "Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion," and "Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship."

During his presentations, he uses humor and poignant stories



Provided by St. Joseph Community Health Foundation

Father Gregory Boyle, a gang interventionist from Los Angeles and founder of Homeboy Industries, will present "The Power of Boundless Compassion," at 1 p.m. Oct. 8 at the University of Saint Francis' Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center in downtown Fort Wayne.

to discuss the transformative power of forming deeper relationships with people living on the margins.

"We all are invited to stand with the easily despised and readily left out," Father Boyle said during his Talks at Google presentation. "We stand with the demonized so the demonization will stop. We stand with the deplorables so that the day will come when we stop throwing people away."

"We stand at the margins so that we can create a community of kinship such that God, in fact, might recognize it," he added. "And, of course, we brace ourselves, because the world will accuse us of wasting our time."

St. Joseph Community Health Foundation began thinking about two years ago of trying to bring Father Boyle to speak in Fort Wayne, said Meg Distler, the

foundation's executive director.

"Now, when you look at the past year and the pandemic, it seems the idea of caring for those around us sounds even more critical," Distler said.

More people seem to be dealing with stress and violence in their lives, she said. That situation can be helped if people begin responding to others with more compassion and kindness.

Catholic social teaching encourages compassion and recognizes the human dignity of each individual, Distler said. True compassion, however, involves more than just passing out food to a hungry person. As Father Boyle emphasizes, it means engaging with a person, getting to know her or him, and forming a kinship relationship.

Distler said Father Boyle's message and approach mirror the work of the Poor Handmaids

of Jesus Christ, the order of women religious who created and sponsor the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation. The Poor Handmaids' core values include being open to the Holy Spirit in responding to needs of the time, working in community with others, using and caring for resources wisely, and affirming the dignity of and respect for all people, it said on the foundation's website.

Father Boyle inspires us to be our best and represents Catholic ministry on the front lines, Distler said. "If Christ came back now, this is exactly the type of ministry He would be doing," she noted.

Going forward, the foundation will encourage the social service agencies it funds to serve people with more compassion and to get to know them more deeply, Distler said. She hopes discus-

Faith in action

WHAT: Father Greg Boyle, founder of the Homeboy Industries gang recovery program in Los Angeles, will speak on "The Power of Boundless Compassion" at 1 p.m. Oct. 8 at the University of Saint Francis' Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center, 431 W. Berry St. in downtown Fort Wayne. Father Boyle will sell books afterward.

Tickets are free but seating is limited. To order, go to <https://sjchf.org/boyle> or call St. Joseph Community Health Foundation at 260-969-2001.

sions with grant applicants can be less about data and more about compassion and spiritual health.

"We want to make sure the conversation also includes, 'How much hope are you inspiring?'"

The University of Saint Francis plans to have all its nursing students hear Father Boyle's presentation, either in person in Fort Wayne or through a livestream at USF's Crown Point and Lafayette campuses, said David Johnson, a professor of nursing at USF. Afterward, students will participate in reflective learning during discussion sessions about Father Boyle's message, said Johnson, who serves on the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation board of directors and is its immediate past chairperson.

Many nurses and health care workers currently are experiencing compassion fatigue, in part from treating so many patients during the coronavirus pandemic, Johnson said. While constantly giving to take care of others, he explained, they may not take time to care for themselves.

However, if the interaction forms a kinship as Father Boyle suggests, that transforms the relationship into one in which the health-care worker also is receiving from the patient.

Along with health-care workers, he believes Father Boyle's message will inspire anyone who works with people who live on the margins.

"We all are called to love," Johnson said. "We are called to be in kinship with others."

Father Boyle's appearance in Fort Wayne results from a collaboration between USF and the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation. Tickets are free but seating is limited. Order tickets at <https://sjchf.org/boyle> or call the foundation at 260-969-2001.

Anniversary Masses
25, 40, 50, 60, 65, OR 70 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

FORT WAYNE	SOUTH BEND
Sept. 26 11:30 a.m. Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception	Sept. 19 11 a.m. St. Matthew Cathedral Parish

Ticketed reception will follow. Anniversary couples receive two free tickets. Additional tickets for family and friends may be purchased for \$10 each. Children 10 and under are free.

Register: diocesefwsb.org/Anniversary-Masses or call TheaMarie Burns: 574-234-0687

FATHER/SON RETREAT

Sunday, Sept 19
2-8 p.m.
St. Patrick's County Park
South Bend

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

Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration profess final vows

BY JENNIFER BARTON

With much rejoicing, the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration welcomed three new fully professed sisters into their company Aug. 2 at their convent chapel in Mishawaka. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass with the sisters on the occasion, and provincial superior Sister M. Angela Mellady, OSF, accepted their vows into the Franciscan order.

Fully professed Sisters Mary John Pultorak, OSF; Mary Bosco Davis, OSF; and M. Karol Ann Hofer, OSF; spent eight years in formation for the occasion. Five years ago, they made their temporary vows.

In addition to many priests from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, priests from the Lafayette-in-Indiana and Gary dioceses, along with Holy Cross and Franciscan priests, concelebrated the Mass.

The day was exceptionally meaningful for the sisters, as it was the feast of Our Lady of the Angels, the title of the Blessed Mother under whose patronage St. Francis placed his order. In his homily, Bishop Rhoades summarized St. Francis's devotion to Our Lady of the Angels and his rebuilding of the "Portiuncula," or chapel in Assisi that he rebuilt in her honor.

He then addressed the three sisters. "Sisters, you have chosen a state of life that is a special gift of God to the Church. Your consecration and profession of the evangelical counsels is a special witness of love. We pray that your love may never fail. It will not fail if, as Jesus says in the Gospel, you remain in Him as He remains in you."

"The more we love and obey Jesus, the more our lives become conformed to His," he continued. "When people look at us, they should be able to see God's love shining in the world. When they look at you who are consecrated women, they should be able to see the poor, chaste and obedient Jesus."

The bishop spoke of the need for their example of holy obedience, chastity and poverty in a culture of hedonism and consumerism. He also elaborated on the place the Eucharist and adoration have in the consecrated life. "Adoration enables and equips you to do the works of the apostolate and to serve others with the love of Christ. It also helps you to carry every cross, like St. Francis and Blessed Maria Theresia did, as a gift of God with peace and with joy."

After the homily, the sisters stood before Bishop Rhoades, who proceeded to ensure that they were fully prepared to commit themselves to the Franciscan order. Once they professed their readiness, they laid prostrate before the altar as the Litany of the Saints was sung over them



Photos by Jennifer Barton

Sisters M. Karol Ann Hofer, Mary John Pultorak and Mary Bosco Davis, OSF, from left, radiate joy and happiness after professing their final vows as Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration at the motherhouse in Mishawaka Aug. 2.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades presided over the Mass and perpetual profession of vows, blessing the three sisters, who are now lifelong members of the Franciscan order.



The sisters are each presented with a ring by Bishop Rhoades as a sign of the covenant with their bridegroom, Jesus Christ. The provincial superior, Sister M. Angela Mellady, OSF, placed the ring on each sister's finger.

by the family members, friends and other sisters gathered in the church.

Each sister knelt before Sister Angela and read the traditional formula of profession, after which they signed the document of profession at the altar. Then the bishop presented them with a ring, or the insignia of profession, saying, "Receive this ring, for you are betrothed to the eternal King; keep faith with your Bridegroom so that you may come to the wedding feast of eternal joy." Then they were confirmed into the religious community.

Of the three sisters, only one is from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend: Sister Mary Bosco, whose parents remain members of St. Therese Parish in Fort Wayne, where she grew up. Sister Karol Ann's home parish is Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Mount Carmel, Indiana, and Sister Mary John hails from St. Paul the Apostle in the Diocese of Joliet-in-Illinois. They came into their postulancy together in 2013.

Sister Karol Ann spent all eight years of her formation at the motherhouse in Mishawaka. With her background in accounting, she has worked for the Franciscan Alliance and plans to continue working with the health care organization while she completes her MBA through Franciscan University of Steubenville online.

She said that during the Mass "I really just felt like I was in heaven." The bishop's words of blessing reminding the sisters to hear Jesus' voice as their bridegroom continue to resonate within her heart. "It's just like freedom – freedom to love the Lord with my whole heart. My call is a response to the gifts He's given me."

Sister Mary John said she was not initially interested in joining the order when she first encountered Franciscan sisters as a student at the Franciscan University of Steubenville. She simply enjoyed being with them. The more time she spent with them, however, the more she felt God calling her to live a life of adoration with the community. After professing her final vows, she declared that she is "overwhelmed by the gentleness and greatness of God's love for me in little and big ways and by His providence. ... There is a joy within my heart that is deeper and more profound than myself: I am His and He is mine – forever and all eternity. What greater joy is there than this: to lay down my life for Him?"

Centennial year dawns for OLVN sisters

BY JENNIFER BARTON

On Aug. 5, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass with the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters in the Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel on the Victory Noll campus in Huntington. The Mass took place in commemoration of the beginning of the centennial jubilee celebration of the establishment of the order.

Founded in 1922 by Father John Joseph Sigstein, the order was dedicated to Mary under her title "Our Lady of Victory." Archbishop John F. Noll, who was serving as a priest in Huntington at the time, supported the sisters in their mission and helped build what would become Victory Noll, named, in part, in his honor. Their mission was to provide education and health care for the poor in areas of the country that were underserved. The first two sisters, Julia Doyle and Marie Benes, were sent to New Mexico in 1922.

In the decades following, the missionary sisters went wherever they were needed, not being tied to a particular school or parish. This allowed them to catechize and bring social services to the poor throughout the country, a task they still realize through ministries in places like Chicago, New Mexico and California.

In his homily for the Mass, Bishop Rhoades expressed his gratitude for the work of the sisters in the past 100 years, saying, "In this jubilee year, we remember and give thanks to God for you and all the consecrated women of Victory Noll who have faithfully lived the consecrated life. You have been, and continue to be, a gift to the Church. Your consecrated life, lived after the example of our Blessed Mother, the first and most perfect disciple of the Lord, is a beautiful witness to Jesus, the chaste, poor and obedient One and to His Gospel of salvation."

He pointed to the example of Mary, which the Victory Noll sisters try to emulate in "her spirit of simplicity," according to their website. Bishop Rhoades noted that Mary's actions demonstrated her faith, particularly when she made the journey to visit Elizabeth in her time of need and compared this to the service of the sisters.

"You and so many Victory Noll sisters through the years have followed Jesus on the itinerary of Mary's pilgrimage of faith, going out in faith to serve amid hardships and challenges of many sorts. Like Mary, you bravely followed God's plan for your life, including the sorrow of completing your mission as a community. Mary's faith was perhaps most evident at the foot of the cross. The cross is our ladder to heaven, as St. Rose of Lima once said."



Photos from Facebook

Huntington Mayor Richard Strick presents the Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters with a proclamation Aug. 5 recognizing their charitable works both locally and throughout the country. The sisters are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the order's founding this year.



After a Mass opening the jubilee year, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades greets Sister Valeria at the Victory Noll chapel.

He concluded, "The Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters have carried God's word to thousands of people these past 100 years. Only the Lord knows the many, many fruits of your labors

in His vineyard. Today and throughout this jubilee year, we remember and give thanks for the holy mission of your congregation. May God bless you and may Our Lady of Victory con-

tinue to intercede for you!"

Sister Mary Jo Nelson, president of the leadership team, was pleased by the bishop's words and his knowledge of the sisters' history as well as the role that

Mary plays in their lives.

"What he said really spoke to the sisters," she said, noting how he greeted each of them by name after the Mass. The bishop also posed for a photo with the sisters in the same location where a 1925 photo took place with founder Father Sigstein, to commemorate the completion of the building of the motherhouse.

To have Bishop Rhoades present after the lapse during COVID-19 last year, Sister Mary Jo said, "was delightful. He added a lot of joy and expressed his gratitude" for the work the community has done in the last 100 years, most of it outside of the diocese.

For the upcoming jubilee year, the sisters are working on plans for celebratory events, contingent upon the challenges of the pandemic. The committee in place of planning events is looking to host a large celebration next year with family, friends and former members.

In addition to the upcoming year being a time of celebration, it is also a time of discernment for the sisters. Sister Mary Jo stated that the community "gets smaller, and the structures change." She remarked that "when a sister is in her elderly years, her mission is prayer and presence."

This includes praying for the greater good of the world. One way they accomplish this is a once-weekly "Wednesdays for the World," in which the sisters gather for contemplative prayer for a different theme each week. Previous nights have included praying for the climate crisis, systematic racism, immigration and immigrants themselves, and elected leaders.

"This is a way for the sisters to keep the larger world in prayer," she said. Additionally, there are several younger members of the order who do not live at Victory Noll but continue in the day-to-day missionary work of the original sisters.

With their extensive, sprawling buildings and grounds, the sisters have had to consider new purposes for unused spaces. After conversations with city and county leaders, the sisters agreed to sell their buildings to Huntington County rather than demolish them. The county will use these spaces for an addiction rehabilitation program known as the O'Donnell Center, which Sister Mary Jo stated that the sisters strongly support. A hundred and seven acres of woodland and prairie on the property has already been sold to ACRES Land Trust, an organization dedicated to preserving wilderness areas from development. And Saint Anne Communities will continue to operate a retirement community on the Victory Noll campus, which remains separate and independently owned.



CNS photo/Bing Guan, Reuters

Construction workers in Los Angeles walk through the Wilshire/Western subway platform on their way to work Aug. 10.

Archbishop Coakley:

Senate bill covers many needs, but must not allow abortion funding

BY JULIE ASHER

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill passed by the Senate makes “historic investments” in transportation, climate change mitigation, job creation, expanded internet access and other areas, but several issues still need attention, said the U.S. bishops’ domestic policy committee chairman.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City said the Catholic bishops “continue to be resolute in our insistence that no taxpayer funding go to abortion.”

The bishops also disagree with a provision in the bill that “would advance a false understanding of gender and sexuality,” he said, referring to a section that establishes grants to widen access to broadband.

To be eligible for these grants, the bill says organizations that apply for them must comply with the program’s anti-discrimination protections, including “sexual orientation” and “gender identity.”

Archbishop Coakley, chairman of the U.S. Conference of the Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, issued the statement Aug. 10, shortly after the Senate OK’d the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in a 69-30 bipartisan vote.

The 2,702-page bill provides spending over a five-year period for roads and bridges, rail, transit, ports, airports, electric grid, water systems, broadband and other priorities. It includes \$550 billion in new spending.

The bill now moves to the U.S. House of Representatives. Members plan to end their summer break early and return to Washington Aug. 23 to consider it.

“We are grateful for the bipartisan efforts of members of the Senate to pass the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act,” Archbishop Coakley said. “As the

bishops wrote to all members of Congress in April, we are especially interested in how the package affects those on the margins of society and protects God’s creation.”

“It is critical that any proposal to expand health care coverage avoid an expansion of taxpayer funding of abortion,” he said.

In the last week of July, the U.S. House passed about a dozen appropriations bills without the long-standing Hyde Amendment and other pro-life riders outlawing federal tax dollars from directly funding abortion except in cases of rape, incest or when the life of the woman would be endangered.

The U.S. bishops and several national pro-life organizations criticized this move and urged senators to include the pro-life language in the measures before them.

Regarding the broadband grant provision in the Senate’s infrastructure bill, the wording to which Archbishop Coakley referred says:

“No individual in the United States may, on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity that is funded in whole or in part with funds made available to carry out this (program).”

Archbishop Coakley said the bishops noted the provision “with disappointment,” and added: “We affirm that Catholic institutions must be free to serve everyone with respect and dignity in accordance with our beliefs.”

The provision also has raised concerns among other religious leaders, including the Religious Freedom Institute. Institute officials told the Deseret News: “Rural faith-based colleges and universities, small faith-based

businesses, and faith-based hospitals and medical clinics, sometimes the only health care services for miles, could be forced to violate their religious conscience or be denied participation in the program.”

The April 22 letter Archbishop Coakley referenced was sent by him and four other USCCB committee chairmen to all members of the Senate and the House. In it the U.S. bishops offered “a moral framework and points of emphasis for your consideration”:

- Create jobs for the poor and marginalized.
- Ensure safe, “decent” and affordable housing, and strengthen families.
- Cultivate integral ecology.
- “Welcome, protect, promote and integrate migrants and refugees.”
- Respect the rights and dignity of every human life in health care.
- Preserve religious liberty.
- Expand broadband internet access.

• Manage tax revenues and public spending in service of “development and solidarity.”

Besides Archbishop Coakley, the letter was signed by these committee chairs: Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, religious liberty; Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, pro-life activities; Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, communications; and Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of Washington, migration.

A number of the issues the bishops emphasized are part of the infrastructure bill, but Archbishop Coakley said the Catholic leaders “urge Congress to continue working together to address” several others.

These include, he said, investing in housing and rental assistance; continuing expansion of the earned income tax credit; making the child tax credit permanently refundable; expanding

access to in-home care for family members; and supporting families through affordable childcare options, paid sick leave and parental leave.

The bishops also are pushing for legalization and a path to citizenship for those covered by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Temporary Protected Status, Deferred Enforced Departure programs and for others in the country illegally.

“As work continues, we ask Congress to give consideration to these views and work together to promote the common good and the dignity of every human person,” Archbishop Coakley said.

Immigration reform and a host of other issues are addressed in the Senate Democrats’ \$3.5 trillion spending plan. At 4 a.m. (Eastern time) Aug. 11, the Democrats approved a blueprint for this plan in a party-line vote of 50-49.

News reports said the Democrats “plan to push the

package through” over the next few months by using “budget reconciliation.” The process, created under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, allows a simple majority to pass certain types of legislation.

The \$3.5 trillion spending plan did pass with a pro-life amendment offered on the Senate floor by Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla. It was approved in a largely party-line vote of 50-49, with Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., joining Republicans to support it.

The Lankford Amendment includes Hyde language to prohibit federal funding for abortions and Weldon Amendment language to provide conscience protections for health care providers and medical professionals who object to performing abortions.

Two other amendments that would have prohibited abortions after 20 weeks and protect unborn children with Down syndrome from being aborted failed.

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When tomorrow is a day too late

The human tendency to postpone and procrastinate is at times breathtaking. It can also be fatal.

Now that Americans are starting to believe that COVID-19 variations can be more efficiently lethal, hundreds of thousands of us are finally getting vaccinated. For some, they will have delayed too long.

A 39-year-old father in Florida, a father of five, died last month from the virus. Before he died, he texted, "I should have gotten the damn vaccine."

We all do this, putting off a task or a decision, despite warnings that delay may be harmful. Often these might be small decisions — renewing a license, filling a prescription, writing a term paper. The penalty may be small, the punishment minor.

But sometimes our tendency to delay can be much riskier.

An article in *Foreign Affairs* magazine titled "The Forever Virus" attempted to recommend "a strategy for the long fight against COVID-19." It was no surprise that a pandemic struck. Experts had been warning us.

Yet the failures of world leaders to rally effectively against the virus in its early stages has now left us in danger of multiple variants that may be even more deadly than the delta variant currently forcing us all back into masks.

The article's authors call for a "system reboot," including a "global health threats council" and a greater investment in testing and vaccines that will be able to address the worldwide need for both. "Figuring out how to" address this pandemic and pre-

pare for the next one "might be the most meaningful challenge of our lifetime," they conclude.

Can we rise to the occasion?

In some ways, the collapse of the Florida condominium at Surfside in June seems a tragic metaphor for our current state of vacillation and avoidance.

The video of the building collapsing in the middle of the night as residents slept unawares in their beds is the stuff of nightmares. And yet this unpredictable horror was in fact predicted. Media reports confirmed that there had been multiple warnings of danger.

The Washington Post reported that "debate over the cost and scope of the work ... dragged out preparations for the repairs for three years."

"Despite increasingly dire warnings from the board, many condo owners balked at paying for the extensive improvements."

Delay was the preferential option until it was too late.

Reading about the Surfside tragedy, I thought of climate change. Humanity has had decades of warnings. The scientific evidence may have been tenuous at first, but it has become increasingly clear and increasingly dire.

Now we are seeing "storms of the century" and "fires of the century" every year. Beyond our shores, we are seeing droughts in Africa and the Middle East, while Siberia and the Arctic thaw. The warnings are growing starker, and yet we vacillate. Like the condo residents, we debate the scale of the problem and the cost of the solution.

The Church's social teachings



GREG ERLANDSON

AMID THE FRAY

on the common good are needed now more than ever, as humanity struggles to think beyond its own immediate desires and comfort.

At this providential moment in human history, we have a pope who has made this message forcefully. In his encyclical "Laudato Si'," Pope Francis appeals for all humanity "to protect our common home." He challenges us to "regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world."

The problems we face at times seem overwhelming. We procrastinate out of fear and, sometimes, indifference. The voice of the Church is needed now not only to challenge us, but to provide a sense of hope that we can meet the challenge together.

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

Let the consumer beware

Within 24 hours of the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics, my almost 4-year-old daughter asked me if she could take a gymnastics class. Then she wanted to begin swimming lessons — finally. Then she asked if we could buy a horse. And just the other morning, she wanted to put on her sneakers so she could go "run like the fast girls" in the driveway.

We had the television tuned to the Olympic competitions for a couple of weeks, and since the games ended, I've found different replays and commentary available on Peacock that I'm sure we'll put on to watch again.

With every sport we've watched, from speed climbing to fencing to artistic gymnastics to track and field events to my personal favorites, horse dressage and swimming, Rose sat riveted, asking all sorts of questions about the athletes, the game, and if she can try to do it herself.

I've got more videos than I can count of her attempting to do a cartwheel with Suni Lee's floor routine playing in the background. As we watched the closing ceremonies, Rose said, "I loved learning all these sports. I want to try them all."

There's a desire in little kids to imitate what they see, whether it's athletes competing at the Olympics, cartoon dogs from "Bluey" playing a game with their dad, or a song and dance routine from the latest Netflix show with kids who morph into ninjas to solve neighborhood problems.

They're sponges, taking in what they see, hear, watch, read



KATIE PREJEAN MCGRADY

WINDOW SEAT WISDOM

and absorbing it all and then turning around and repeating it, sometimes correctly, sometimes amusingly, but always with scary accuracy that makes me more closely watch the shows we put on and the songs we play.

The other day Rose dropped her cup of water, and as it splashed everywhere, she called herself a loser. I hurriedly told her she was of course not a loser, and then asked where she heard that word. When she said, "The mean bird in 'Rio' called another bird that," I realized maybe we needed to take a break from that movie.

It's not just kids who absorb, though. Young and impressionable, children take in sights and sounds and spit them back out, but adults do as well.

The company we keep, perhaps gossipy and mean-spirited, can influence our thoughts about others. The shows we watch, sometimes in stark contrast to what we believe as Catholics, can make us question if our faith is outdated or wrong.

The social media profiles we follow, sometimes making us jealous, forcing us to constantly compare ourselves to what so

McGRADY, page 17

Each of us must decide whether to accept Jesus, or reject Him



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time John 6:60-69

The Book of Joshua, the source for this weekend's first reading, looks at the period in the history of God's people when Joshua led them. It was after the death of Moses.

Even though these connections may seem to be clear, biblical scholars disagree about the exact date of this period as well as the time of this book's composition.

This much is clear: Hebrew history was not written as much to chronicle events and happenings as to chart the people's religious response to God's revelation.

In this reading, Joshua gathers all the people at Shechem, along with the leaders of the people, the senior members, the judges and the warriors. He puts before this assembly a blunt and fundamental question. Do they wish to follow God or not?

The people cry out that they wish to follow God.

Although on occasion they rebelled, God brought them out of Egypt and protected them as they made their weary and dangerous way across the Sinai Peninsula.

For its second reading, this weekend's liturgy turns to the Letter to the Ephesians. Not uncommonly, this reading is cited as reinforcing the subjugation of women, once so prevalent, since wives are admonished to obey their husbands.

Knowing the context is essential to understanding this reading. Marriage among pagans in the Roman Empire was quite removed from modern ideals for marriage. Wives were little more than glorified slaves, virtually going to the highest bidder. They had no rights.

Understandably, many marriages were very troubled. Often, spouses detested each other. Often, wives were abused.

This letter, a classic of Christian behavior about human living, calls for a different style of marriage. Using lofty examples to describe marriage, it speaks of the union between Christ and the Church.

At the time these ideas were revolutionary. They established the dignity of women. Christ loves and redeems all people equally, male and female.

In the culture of the time, husbands were responsible for the well-being of families. Husbands ruled. Wives meekly followed. Paul taught that marriage was a union, characterized by cooperation, fidelity and respect. Husbands, as well as wives, should love their spouses with the same unqualified self-sacrificing love with which Christ loves the Church.

St. John's Gospel furnishes the last reading.

In preceding verses, Jesus spoke about the "bread of life."

Jesus is the bread of life. After Jesus spoke these words, many disciples walked away. People, even today, find this at least a puzzling statement.

Very critical to the story is the fact that the Twelve did not desert Jesus. The Lord asked the Apostles to look deeply into their hearts. Would they walk away with the others?

For all the Apostles, Peter responds with a magnificent expression of faith. Saluting Jesus as "God's holy one," the Messiah — in itself a powerful testimony — Peter, says, "Lord, you have the words of eternal life."

Reflection

The Church for weeks has called us to realize our limitations as human beings, and it also has reassured us that God's mercy, love and power lavishly assist humans. We will not be left helplessly to face our needs.

For instance, we risk starvation, spiritually as well as physically. We cannot produce this

food on our own. God comes to us with the bread of everlasting life — Jesus.

We must decide ourselves either to accept this bread or to reject it. Many rejected Jesus in the Gospel stories and later.

Fully realizing their need for the Lord, the solitary source of genuine life, the Apostles are examples to follow. As Peter declared for them, Jesus alone has the words of eternal life.

READINGS

Sunday: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b
Ps 34:2-3, 16-21 Eph 5:21-32 Jn 6:60-69

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10
Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: Rv 219b-14 Ps 145: 10-13, 17-18 Jn 1:45-51

Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13
Ps 139:7-12b Mt 23:27-32

Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13 Ps 90:3-5a, 12-14, 17 Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8 Ps 97:1-2b, 5-6, 10-12 Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11 Ps 98:1, 7-9
Mt 25:14-30

Hannah Arendt, totalitarianism, and the distinction between fact and fiction

I am currently making my way through D.C. Schindler's marvelous book, "The Politics of the Real: The Church Between Liberalism and Integralism." This text will be of interest to anyone passionate about the vexed and much-discussed issue of the relation between religion and politics. But I would like to draw particular attention to the epigram that Schindler chose for his book, an observation that is meant to haunt the minds of his readers as they consider his particular arguments. It is drawn from the writings of Hannah Arendt, the 20th-century German-Jewish scholar most famous for her lucubrations on the phenomenon of totalitarianism, and it is of remarkable relevance to our present cultural conversation. She said: "The ideal subject of totalitarian rule is not the convinced Nazi or the convinced Communist, but people for whom the distinction between fact and fiction (i.e., the reality of experience) and the distinction between the true and the false (i.e., the standards of thought) no longer exist."

We might define totalitarianism as the controlling of every aspect of life by the arbitrary will of a powerful individual or group. If this is accurate, we see why Arendt worried about the blurring of distinctions between the real and the unreal, between truth and falsity. The objectively good and the objectively true have their own intrinsic authority. So, for example, in the presence of mathematical truths, scientific data and philosophical arguments, the mind surrenders and rejoices in its surrender. It does not arbitrarily impose itself on things as with totalitarianism; rather, the intrinsic truth of things imposes itself on the mind and thereby awakens it to its purpose. In the language of Thomas Aquinas, the intelligibility of the world actualizes the mind.

In a similar way, the intrinsic goodness of things engages, excites, and actualizes the will. Aquinas said that the will is simply the appetitive dimension of the intellect, by which he meant that the good, understood as such, is automatically desired. The point is that, once again, the subjective faculty does not impose itself on reality, making good whatever it

wants to be good; rather, on the contrary, what is densely and objectively good commands the will by its own authority. And as I have argued often before, this acquiescence of the will is not a negation of freedom but the discovery of authentic freedom: the same St. Paul who said that he was a slave of Christ Jesus also said that it was for freedom that Christ had set him free. That apparent contradiction is in fact the paradox produced by the fact that the will is most itself when it accepts the authority of the objective good.

Now, does anyone doubt that we are living in a society that puts such stress on the feelings and desires of individuals that it effectively undermines any claim to objectivity in regard to truth and goodness? Does anyone doubt that the default position of many in our culture is that we are allowed to determine what is true and good for us? Some years ago, as part of a social experiment, a 5-foot, 9-inch white man went on a university campus and randomly asked students passing by whether they would consider him a woman if he said he felt he was a woman. A number of students said they were okay with that. Then he inquired whether they would accept that he was a Chinese woman, if that's what he claimed to be. One student answered: "If you identified as Chinese, I might be a little surprised, but I would say good for you — be who you are." Finally, he wondered whether they would agree that he was a 6-foot-5 Chinese woman. This last suggestion seemed to throw his interlocutors a bit. But one young man answered: "If you . . . explained why you felt you were 6-foot-5, I feel like I would be very open to saying you were 6-foot-5, or Chinese, or a woman."

Do you recall the Academy Award-winning film *The Shape of Water*, in which a woman falls in love with an aquatic creature? The title of that movie gives away the game: a dispiriting number of people in our culture feel that the only shape is the shape of water — which is to say, no shape at all, except the one that we choose to provide.

With all of this in mind, let us



WORD ON FIRE

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

return to Hannah Arendt. What opens the door to totalitarianism is, she thought, the radical indifference to objective truth, for once objective value has been relativized or set aside entirely, then all that remain are wills competing for dominance. And since the war of all against all is intolerable in the long run, the strongest will shall eventually emerge. In a word, totalitarianism will hold sway.

Notice, please, that one of the features of all totalitarian systems is strict censorship, for an authoritarian regime has to repress any attempt at real argument. The great Václav Havel was the first president of the Czech Republic after the break-up of the Soviet bloc and a famously dissenting poet who had been imprisoned for his positions against Communism. He commented that, through his writings, he had opened up a "space for truth." Once that clearing was made, he said, others commenced to stand in it, which made the space bigger, and then more could join. This process continued until so many were in the space for truth that the regime, predicated upon the denial of truth, collapsed of its own weight.

I do believe that we are in a parlous condition today. The grossly exaggerated valuation of private feelings and the concomitant denial of objective truth and moral value have introduced the relentless war of wills — and evidence of this is on display in practically every aspect of our culture. Unless some of us open up a space for truth and boldly stand in it, despite fierce opposition, we are poised to succumb to the totalitarianism that Hannah Arendt so feared.

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

around the corner — or a favorite sitcom, a documentary, a Spotify playlist or the radio show that's always on when we go pick up the kids from school, take stock of what you consume. Pay attention to what it's doing in your life and remember you are a sponge that will put out in the world what you've taken in yourself.

Katie Prejean McGrady is an international Catholic speaker and author.

McGRADY, from page 16

and so has or does, can drive us to a place of covetousness and lack of gratitude for our own blessings.

We have to be careful, making sure what we take in does not then, in turn, change the type of life we long to live or drag us further from our faith. Unless, of course, the things we take in — the things and people we allow to influence us — are leading us closer to holiness.

Then, by the grace of God, we want those things and people to help us become better, more prayerful, generous, virtuous people who can in turn positively influence others to pursue sanctity too.

As we are careful, watching closely what we absorb, we can be diligent in finding things that build us up, help grow our faith, and lead us to a vision of heaven as we live life on earth.

Whether the Olympics — the Beijing Winter Games just

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for August 22, 2021

John 6: 60-69

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: A difficult teaching. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SAYING	JESUS	SON OF MAN
ASCENDING	BEFORE	GIVES LIFE
FLESH	NO AVAIL	SOME
NOT BELIEVE	BETRAY	NO ONE
COME	FATHER	NO LONGER
TWELVE	PETER	SHALL WE GO
WORDS	ETERNAL	HOLY ONE

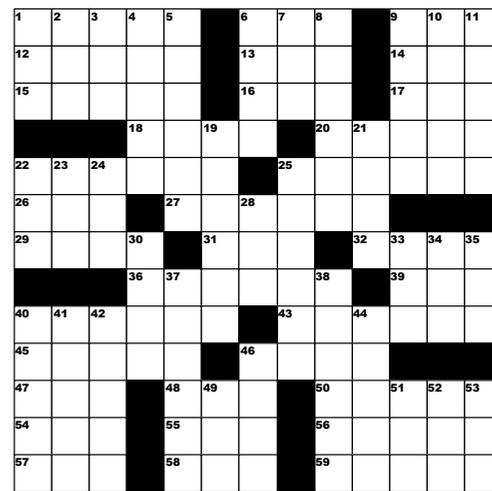
"A HARD SAYING"

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

August 22 and 29, 2021



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Readings: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Eph 5:21-32; Jn 6:60-69 and Dt 4:1-2, 6z-8; Ja 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

- ACROSS**
- 1 Notify
 - 6 **The Lord** ____
 - 9 Microgram
 - 12 Emerald Ash ____
 - 13 IOU part
 - 14 Rowing tool
 - 15 Hindu religious teacher
 - 16 Genetic code
 - 17 ____ Lanka
 - 18 Egyptian bird
 - 20 Boston U's dog mascot
 - 22 "____, to whom shall we go?"
 - 25 Prejudices
 - 26 Bravo! (Sp.)
 - 27 Caulking material
 - 29 Second letter
 - 31 National police
 - 32 Day of year
 - 36 July holiday
 - 39 Spiritedness
 - 40 Watch for intruders
 - 43 Cheer
 - 45 Got up
 - 46 Note
 - 47 Beg
 - 48 **Papal constellation**
 - 50 Computer measurements
- DOWN**
- 1 Braking system
 - 2 **Not a High Mass**
 - 3 Epoch
 - 4 Pay
 - 5 **Israel had 12**
 - 6 **"The ____ of the Amorites"**
 - 7 Possess
 - 8 Fond name
 - 9 **Hebrew liberator**
 - 10 *Ala* ____ (menu listing)
 - 11 Southern dish
 - 19 Full of wrath
 - 21 **"This saying is ____"**
 - 22 **Called for Jesus' death**
 - 23 **Monks brewed**
 - 24 Position
 - 25 Untroubled
 - 28 Abridged
 - 30 70s hairstyle
 - 33 **Easter month**
 - 34 Brewed beverage
 - 35 **Abbr. for Ephesians**
 - 37 Tons
 - 38 **Pharisees were not**
 - 40 **Sacred poem**
 - 41 Afloat (2 wds.)
 - 42 Used like a coin
 - 44 **"Once in David's ____ city"**
 - 46 Way of doing something
 - 49 Compass point
 - 51 After Monday
 - 52 **Easter symbol**
 - 53 Bashful

Answer key can be found on page 19

Follow me: New media entertainment sets the stage for new evangelization

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — It was quite fitting for a Catholic actor and a Christian director of a new streaming series on the life of Jesus to meet Pope Francis on the feast of St. Clare of Assisi, patron saint of televisions and screens.

Jonathan Roumie, who portrays Jesus, and Dallas Jenkins, the series' director, creator and co-writer, were in Rome as part of an effort to expand the global reach and revenue of the multi-season, crowd-funded series, "The Chosen." They sat down with a small group of reporters, including Catholic News Service, a few hours after the audience Aug. 11.

Jenkins said he told the pope, "I'm a Protestant, but I'm making a show about Jesus that people of all faiths appreciate." The pope pointed to the bearded, wavy-haired Roumie next to him, asking astutely, "Is he Jesus?"

After Jenkins said, "Yes," the pope decided to poke some fun, asking Jenkins, "Are you Judas?" sparking a round of laughter.

But, in all seriousness, Jenkins and Roumie have said in multiple interviews, the last thing they are aiming for is to betray the beauty and truth of Jesus.

"I do want people, when they



CNS photo/The Chosen

Catholic actor Jonathan Roumie, who plays Christ in the series "The Chosen," is pictured in a scene depicting the Sermon on the Mount.

are done watching the show, to feel like they know and love Jesus more or at least want to know and love Him more," Jenkins told reporters.

The problem with most renditions of biblical accounts, he said, is that a two- or three-hour film is not a lot of time to do a deep-dive into the characters, backstories, motives, conflicts and context connected with biblical events.

Not only do the characters often come across as "stiff" on screen, he said, "you go from miracle to miracle, Bible verse to Bible verse, and you never get to know anybody Jesus actually impacted."

"From a strictly artistic perspective, that is not really good drama, you need to see change, you want to see a character arc."

"The Chosen" was going to be different, Jenkins said, by look-

ing at Jesus through the eyes of those he chose and changed, and to imagine what their lives and personalities were like and why they made the choices they did.

The finale of season two dropped mid-July and the plan is to make a seven-season show, giving writers and actors the time to fully explore and create "a collection of personal human moments," he said.

Chilean Father Felipe Herrera-Espaliat, a journalist and officer of the Vatican's Dicastery for Communication, told Catholic News Service Aug. 10 that the series' approach reminds him of the way St. Ignatius of Loyola encouraged people to read the Bible and "create the scene in your mind," activate all the senses and engage one's feelings.

The reason, he said, is to "get involved so you can take the place of one of the people that is in that scene. I think that's what they are doing (with the series), and that helps a lot," because it prepares people for a deeper relationship with and understanding of the Word of God by becoming "part of that scene."

"That is how literature and art works, you become a part of this, you are a witness of what is happening," he said. Seeing Scripture from various human perspectives

"does not change the eternal truth of the Word of God, but helps you to live that Word and to incarnate it in your own life."

The series opened as the largest crowd-funded media project ever, collecting more than \$10 million from more than 19,000 people to make the first season. It has more than 250 million views on the app, where people can watch for free and people can "pay it forward," donating money to keep the show free for future episodes. There are an additional 10 million views of season one on the show's YouTube channel, which has 1.3 million subscribers.

Harmon said funding for production comes from sales for DVDs, Blu-ray Discs, partnerships, merchandise and licenses, for example, with the online streaming service, Peacock.

The studio backed "The Chosen" and helped it crowd-fund, he said, because it wanted a TV show with "high production quality like Hollywood but without Hollywood's purse strings."

The app (thechosen.tv/app) is available in more than 180 countries, and the series offers subtitles in more than 50 languages and voiceovers in nine, including Arabic, Hindi and Mandarin Chinese, he said.

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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.

Eucharistic Miracle exhibit

ALBION — Blessed Sacrament Church, 2290 N. State Road 9, will host a Eucharistic Miracles exhibit by Blessed Carlo Acutis on several dates in August and September. The exhibit will include a history of eucharistic adoration, the feast of Corpus Christi and eucharistic processions. An open house for the exhibit is scheduled from 2-6 p.m. Aug. 22 and Sept. 19, the opening and closing dates of the exhibit. The exhibit will also be open from 9-10 a.m. Aug. 29, Sept. 5, Sept. 12 and Sept. 19, following the 8 a.m. parish Mass. For more information, contact the parish at 260-636-2072.

'Big Boys Tools and Toys' garage sale at St. Charles

FORT WAYNE — St. Charles Borromeo Knights of Columbus will host a "Big Boys Tools and Toys" garage sale Friday, Aug. 27, and Saturday, Aug. 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, Aug. 29, from noon to 3 p.m. at the parish office garage, 4916 Trier Rd. Contact Frank Koehl 260-490-6401 for details.

St. Patrick summer festival

SOUTH BEND — St. Patrick Parish will have a summer festival Sunday, Aug. 29, on the church grounds, 308 S. Scott St. Food, live music and beer garden offered. Main meals include chicken, pulled pork and Vietnamese food with corn on the cobb, baked beans, coleslaw and mac and cheese. Tickets are \$13. Contact Karen Horvath at 574-287-2270 or niswongerpg1963@yahoo.com.

Marriage Blessing

NEW HAVEN — A marriage blessing for all married couples and their families will be on the feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist, Sunday, Aug. 29, from 2-6 p.m. at St. Louis, Besancon Church, 15535 Lincoln Highway E. If planning to eat

RSVP to Jenny Babbitt at 260-443-5266 by Monday, Aug. 23. Please bring lawn chairs and blankets for additional seating.

Little Flower Holy Hour

FORT WAYNE — Little Flower Holy Hour for Vocations will be Tuesday, Sept. 7, from 7-8 p.m. at the St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel, 1102 S. Clinton St. The holy hour will be led by Father Michael Ammer. Contact Christine Nix at 260-422-4611.

Sensory-friendly Mass at St. Elizabeth

FORT WAYNE — A sensory-friendly Mass will be the first Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 10700 Aboite Center Rd. Livestream: www.facebook.com/belongingFSB. Contact Allison at 260-399-1452 with questions.

Masses interpreted for the deaf

SOUTH BEND — Masses interpreted for the deaf are on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 11 a.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral, 1701 Miami St. A Mass interpreted for the deaf will also be celebrated

on the second Sunday of each month at the 11:30 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne. Contact Allison Sturm at asturm@diocesefwsb.org or at 260-399-1452 for information.

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 Anglo 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 patjkile@gmail.com.

St. Pius X fifth annual Flyin' Lion 5K and 1 mile fun run/walk

GRANGER — St. Pius X Church, 52553 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 following the start of the 5K. Proceeds from the annual Flyin' Lion

REST IN PEACE

Fort Wayne

Muriel A. Eagan, 84, St. Vincent de Paul
Norman Henry, 93, St. Charles Borromeo

James Kohrman, 83, St. Vincent de Paul

LeRoy Lepley, 83, St. Vincent de Paul

Mark S. Nill, 72, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Rose M. Noll, 91, St. Charles Borromeo

John Onest, 84, St. Charles Borromeo

Jacqueline Roehling, 88, St. Charles Borromeo

Goshen

Deacon David Elchert, 81, St. John the Evangelist

Granger

John Burggraf, 78, St. Pius X

Theresa Carrico, 86, St. Pius X

Domenico Cataldo, 80, St. Pius X

Mishawaka

Richard S. Bosse, 81, St. Joseph

Gary Weldy, 77, St. Joseph

New Haven

Daniel Minick, 92, St. John the Baptist

South Bend

William Dudek, 61, St. Adalbert

Pedro Galicia, 40, St. Adalbert

Loretta Klota, 89, St. Casimir

Emil Zernick, 83, Christ the King

Wabash

Shirley Shanabarger, 85, St. Bernard

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@stpius.net or by contacting the parish office at 574-272-8462.



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

When you have some time, stop by or simply give us a call. We'll be here, and we would love to help you.



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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 administration 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 22 and 29, 2021



FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS are ALIVE in ROME CITY!

Our Lady the IMMACULATE VIRGIN PATRONESS of AMERICA

awaits you at the Mother of Mercy Chapel
2730 E Northport Rd, Rome City, IN
September 4th at 11am EDT
for Holy Mass and Devotions
Confessions beginning at 9:30 am.
More info @ www.patronessofamerica.org

Eucharistic Miracle Exhibit

By Bl. Carlo Acutis

Including a history of Eucharistic Adoration, the Feast of Corpus Christi and Eucharistic Processions

Blessed Sacrament Church
2290 N. State Road 9, Albion

Open: 2-6 p.m. Aug. 22 and Sept. 19

also open

9-10 a.m. Sundays following

8 a.m. Masses

Aug. 29, Sept. 5, 12, 19



CNS photo/Natalie Hoefer, The Criterion

Pro-life advocates in Indianapolis gather near a Planned Parenthood abortion facility in this 2018 file photo. A U.S. District Court judge placed a permanent injunction Aug. 10 on several Indiana pro-life laws, including those that required physicians examine patients in person before administering abortions and that only physicians can administer first-trimester medication abortions.

PRO-LIFE, from page 1

"This is judicial activism at its absolute worst."

Other provisions challenged in the case that Evans Barker upheld were requirements that abortion providers maintain admitting privileges with a hospital or a written agreement with a provider who has such privileges; that minors receive either parental consent or a judicial waiver to receive an abortion;

and that patients delay their abortions for at least 18 hours after receiving state-mandated disclosures.

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita, a pro-life Catholic, said in a statement that Evans Barker's ruling "only strengthens our resolve to keep fighting for the lives of unborn children and the health of mothers. ... We will continue to fight to defend Indiana's commonsense abortion laws and to build a culture of life in Indiana."

He said he was grateful the District Court "upheld Indiana's eminently reasonable laws requiring ultrasounds, limiting surgical abortions to licensed physicians, ensuring pre-abortion counseling sessions are provided by physicians or advanced-practice clinicians, and imposing criminal penalties for violations of abortion laws."

But he lamented the injunction placed on other provisions in the law, thus contradicting "binding precedent, including a 7th Circuit (appeals court) decision that upheld the very same

in-person-counseling Indiana law that the district court invalidated today."

His office said Aug. 11 it would ask the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, based in Chicago, to review Evans Barker's ruling.

"We will continue to fight to defend Indiana's commonsense abortion laws and to build a culture of life in Indiana," the attorney general said.

The decision, which "doesn't have much in the way of a silver lining," said Tuttle, ultimately does not alter the mission of the pro-life movement.

"Our main mission is to make abortion unthinkable and illegal," he said. "Abortion is becoming increasingly unpopular in public opinion, and fewer women choose abortion year after year."

"For the pro-life movement, we need to continue to work to decrease the number of abortions regardless of what the law is."

Hoefer is a staff writer at The Criterion, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

HAHN, from page 1

we were to be chosen to share his story with the public."

The installation of Bishop Rhoades as bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend was another big story Hahn helped produce for the station.

"I love the ceremony of the Catholic Church at Mass, so being able to be at the installation, in all its grandeur, in person, was something I will never forget."

The station was also the only television station in the diocese to air the full funeral of Bishop D'Arcy following his death in 2013.

"It was an honor to be able to help in sharing these significant events with the public," Hahn said.

In 2014 she was hired as assistant news director at WNWO-TV in Toledo, Ohio. In less than three months, she was named news director for the station.

Hahn moved out of television news and into public relations when she was hired as a public relations specialist at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. During her time there, she helped the school

transition from IPFW to its new identity as Purdue Fort Wayne and was named director of media relations and issues management.

Most recently, Hahn worked as the communications and volunteer coordinator for Pathfinder Services in Huntington.

Hahn was raised in the Catholic faith, the daughter of a mother and maternal grandparents who immigrated from Europe and were very active in the Church before and after moving to the United States.

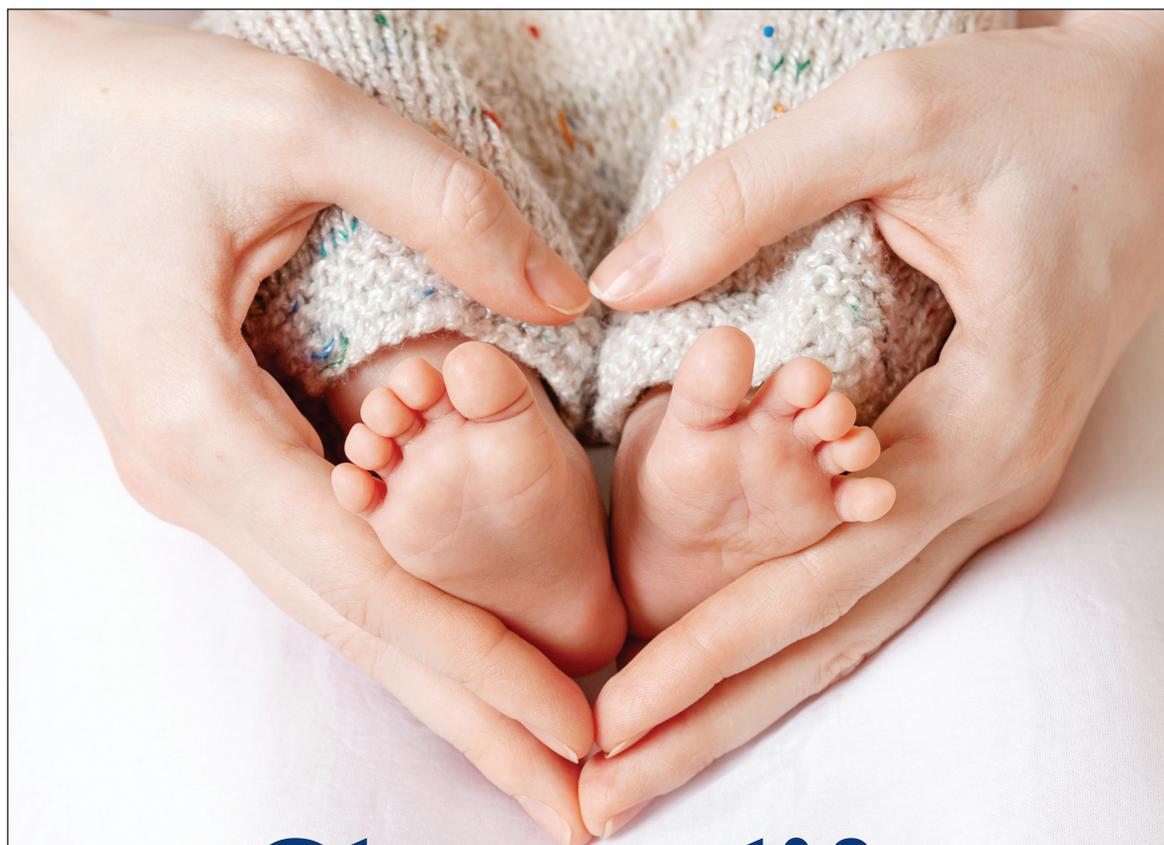
Her parents were transferred from her hometown in upstate New York to Huntington when she was a baby. She attended St. Mary School and has been an active member of St. Mary Parish throughout her life.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne. She lives in Huntington County with her husband and two children and is a member of St. Mary Parish.

Hahn said she is excited and at peace that her career has led her to the diocese. She believes that her journey and career path was God leading her to this position and she looks forward to continuing its mission.



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