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

BY NATALIE HOEFER

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 requirement that only physicians can provide first-trimester aspiration, or suction, abortions, and that ultrasound 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.

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 7FB 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 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...
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.”

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 knit in our mothers’ wombs, as we read in Scripture, but God made those bodies at a time when our children were not yet conceived. 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, the bishop 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 is 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 worked to end the unspeakable pain of childhood sexual abuse suffered by so many in parish families because it was permitted to continue.

The shock and devastation of these crimes, the suffering — although lived and experienced differently — continues. In his book titled, “A Lent 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, a lifetime.”

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 to 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 have suffered.

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 were harmed is 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 horrific 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: 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.

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.

At first bewildered by what to do about the outing of hurt, DeVille realized, “They need a place to tell their story and work through that. 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. “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 victims-survivors of all faiths to come and be supported in their search for understanding and healing. Initially, the groups will offer 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 effective like therapy, 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 these groups should express that intention to DeVille. He can be reached at adeville@phoenixassociates.net or 260-424-0411.

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 people came as a result 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.

“Haiti is page 4...
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 (Harricht) 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 removed the Ministry of Acolyte from his son. He told me how proud 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 diacate 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 that I was even able to hear God’s voice when I received the call,” he said. Father Richard 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 diaconate’s ministry, trained new lectors and extraordinary ministers of holy Communion, assisted at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and in many ways as other as well.

“A new parishioner volunteered to serve as a lector, and after attending a formation session 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 the people 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 also survived by children Lisa (Timothy) Kierpie, 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 Mass of Christian Burial Wednesday, Aug. 11, at 10 a.m., celebrated by Father Gregerson.

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 1.5 million left without homes following the magnitude 7 earthquake in 2010.

The Haitian civil protection service reported late Aug. 15 that nearly 1,500 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.

“Ideally it is time to end the emergency, but we have a lot of work to do,” 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 they “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 basic materials for temporary housing and prioritizing 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.
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 the 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 in an organization’s decision about who can pass on the faith to the next generation.”

Goodrich 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.

“[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,” said Bishop Rhoades of Indianapolis.

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.”

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 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.

In Catholic schools and religious 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.”

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.

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.

Congratulations Father Francis on the 25th anniversary of your ordination!

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide you as you shepherd God’s flock.

The parishioners of Immaculate Conception, Ego and St. John Bosco, huron
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 Emontre 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 1879, 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 Svetko, 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 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 Shamrock 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 “something 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 with the Neocatechumenal Way in New Mexico, catechist teams of the Neocatechumenal Way and the religious sisters working with the Neocatechumenal Way.

Pope prays for peace in Afghanistan as Taliban takes control

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 heat,” 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 Justice Department 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 USCCB’s Committee for Religious Liberty, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, 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.”

Cardinal holds officers, their families ‘in prayer,’ decries gun violence

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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 calling us out of the community, and how often it takes us to unexpected places. It can sometimes be hard, but it is 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 Agustín Torres CFA, a priest with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal based in the Bronx, New York, and the founder of Carzón 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 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 World Youth Day experience includes music, food trucks, speakers, activities, games and eucharistic exposition and Ministerio del Sacramento.

Borrowme 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 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 seminarist 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 encourage-
tment would be to read about the
saints. Read spiritual theology. 
Learn about the importance of 
silence.”

“To be inspired,” Fortin con-
tinued, “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 
Sisters of Providence.

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 broth-
ers.

Fortin expects his family to 
continue to grow after his ordi-
nation 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 fel-
low 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 confer-
ence 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 conno-
tation 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, math-
ematics, geometry, music, rhetor-
ic, grammar and logic. These 
subject areas have changed somewhat over time, but the pur-
pose of a liberal arts education 
remains the same: to bring stu-
dents 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 universi-
ties that the Church founded.

The Institute for Catholic Liberal 
Education is on a mission to 
restore this form of learning 
within Catholic schools, to help 
young people grow not only in 
love of learning, but also in 
moral character.

Dr. Joseph Brettnacher, super-
intendent of Catholic schools for 
the diocese, was one of the con-
ference attendees. “We attended 
the conference to learn more 
about how a Catholic liberal 
arts education centered around 
Jesus Christ can foster students 
to 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 confer-
ence, 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 
outside public schools, allow-
ing them to “flourish when they 
recover and adapt the Church’s 
time-tested approach — which 
formed many of the keenest 
and holiest saints in his-
tory,” 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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To help students seek truth and
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.
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. “It’s that the kids and the 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 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.

“The impact 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 hope I did a little,” she admitted, “but I honestly felt called to come home.”

Her teaching experience was formed by the different cultures, lifestyles, languages and socioeconomic statuses to which she was exposed in these days.

“Teaching never really stood out,” she said. “I hoped to be a leader in a school, because that’s what was important to me,” she explained, “but at St. Bernard, it was very important. I knew the families and children, that’s what we need.”

ANNA MARIA LEWIS

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 not just a leader; you’re a 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 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, 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,” she said. “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 was 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 teach 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 that’s what we are here to 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 25th anniversary this year and remain parishioners at St. Joseph.

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

“I really believe that our story is that we are God’s family, and God only 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.”
Melissa Green leads at St. Joseph Grade School, South Bend

BY JEANIE EWING

M elissa 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 student, 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, where her husband was invited to begin an ACE replication program at the University of St. Thomas.

ACE helped 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 in her a way that nothing else has, she said. It gave her a sense of purpose and direction 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 High School, at the parish she and her family have attended for nearly 14 years, friends in education invited her to apply. “They felt it made a lot of sense for me to continue,” 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 who they are.

“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. Divine providence 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

A t Queen of Peace School in Mishawaka, area teacher and administrator Scott Kovatch will be at the helm beginning with the 2022-23 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 Schools in 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 55 schools a week on average, focusing on implementing individualized education programs and defining 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. Prior to that, he already earned bachelor’s degree and Master of Science in Elementary Education Administration certification. In 1992 and 1993, he worked in the inpatient unit of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac, Michigan, as a classroom teacher, helping hospitalized youth in grades seven 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 unnerved 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 and 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 most recently director 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. Added, “I believe we’re working on souls here, and we aspire 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 Homeboy Bakery,” and “Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship.”

During his presentations, he uses humor and poignant stories 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 discussions 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?’”

Father Boyle will sell books at his presentation. “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 the Goldstine Performing Arts Center or call 260-969-2001.

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.
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 Hoefer, 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, concelebrant 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.

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.

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.

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?”

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.
Centennial year dawns for OLVM 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 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.

“Thank 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.”

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 continue 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 high regard 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’Dennell 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.

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.
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 “cosmetic 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. Cordes 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 hospitals and medical clinics, some times 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 strengthening 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 legal 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.

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.
When tomorrow is a day too late

Greg Erlandson

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

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 59-year-old father in Florida, a father of five, died last month from the virus. Before he died, he testified, “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 may 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 One Virus” attempted to recommend “a strategy for the long fight against COVID-19.” It was no surprise that a pandemologist and expert had been warning us.

Yet the failures of world leaders to rally effectively against the virus in its earliest stages has now left us in danger of multiple variants that may be even more deadly than the delta variant.

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 preparing for the next one “might be the most meaningful challenge of our lifetimes,” they conclude.

Can we rise to the occasion? In some ways, the collapse of the Florida condominium at Surfside is 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 unaware of the air 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 “the cost and scope of the work...dragged out preparations for the repairs for three years.” Delay was the preferential option until it was too late.

Reading about the Surfside tragedy, I thought of climate change. Beyond our shores, we are seeing droughts in Africa and the Middle East, while Siberia and the Arctic thaw; wild fires rage, media predict, 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 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 “reclaim 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.

GOSPEL

Ps 97:1-2b, 5-6, 12-13

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,” Peter proclaims, “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 refine our limits as human beings, and it also has reassured us that God’s mercy, love and forgiveness are available to all of us, including the present moment.

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


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

Tuesday: Rv 21:16-17 Ps 90:3-5a, 15-17 Jn 1:45-51

Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13 Ps 98:1, 7-9 Rv 21:9b-14 Ps 145:10-13

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

Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8 Ps 97:21-2, 5-6, 10-12 Mt 25:13-13

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

Let the consumer beware

KATIE PREESE McGrady

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 gossip and mean-spirited, can influence our thoughts about others. The shows we watch, sometimes even the sports shows, contribute to what we believe as Catholics, can make us question if our faith is outdated or wrong.

We watch media profiles of people we follow, sometimes making us jealous, forcing us to constantly compare ourselves to what so
Hannah Arendt, totalitarianism, and the distinction between fact and fiction

I am currently making my way through D.C. Schindler’s marvelous book, “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 program that Schindler chose for his book, an observation that is meant to haunt the minds of his readers as they consider his partial intrusions. It is drawn from the writings of Hannah Arendt, the 20th-century German-Jewish scholar most famous for her discussions 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 standards of truth) 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 surrenderers and rejoices in its inability to understand or accept that he was a slave of Christ Jesus.

Katie Prejean McGrady

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 the goods competing for dominion. 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 fervent dissident 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 precarious condition today. The grossly exaggerated valuation of private feelings and the comatose denial of objective truth and moral value have introduced the relentless war of ideas 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.

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

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.

The Olympics — the Beijing Winter Games just 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.

SCRIPTYURE SEARCH

Gospel for August 22, 2022

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.

"A HARD SAYING"

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 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
K N O O L F K I R E R
R M R A N A N D 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

The CrossWord

August 22 and 29, 2021

54 Downwind
55 Fins
56 Express joy
57 Adam
58 Bishop’s territory
59 Lamenting poem

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 4da __ (menu listing)
11 Southern dish
12 Full of wrath
21 "This saying is ___"
22 Called for Jesus’ death
23 Monks brewed
24 Position
25 Untroubled
26 Abridged
27 70s hairstyle
33 Easter month
34 Brewed beverage
35 Abbr. for Ephesians
37 Tom
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
47 Compass point
51 After Monday
52 Easter symbol
53 Bashful

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 Ceramic school
16 Hindu religious
teacher
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
36 Day of year
39 Spirituedness
40 Watch for intruders
43 Cheer
45 Got up
46 Note
47 Beg
48 Palo
cancellation
50 Computer measurements

TAKING DOWN: 47 48 49 50 51 52 53
TAKING ACROSS: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

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

Answer key can be found on page 19
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 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, the last 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 crowdfunded 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, partner ships, merchandise and licenses, for example, with the online streaming service, Peacock.

The studio backed “The Chosen” and helped it crowdfund, 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.
**WHAT’S HAPPENING**

**Goschen**
Deacon David Elchert, 81, St. John the Evangelist

**Granger**
John Burggraf, 78, St. Plus X

**Mishawaka**
Richard S. Bosse, 81, St. Joseph

**New Haven**
Daniel Minick, 92, St. John the Baptist

Eucharistic Miracle exhibit
ALBION — Blessed Sacrament Church, 2290 N. State Road 9, will host a Eucharistic Miracles exhibit by Blessed Carloe 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**
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 5 p.m. at the parish office garage, 4916 Trier Rd. Contact Frank Koehl 260-490-6401 for details.

**Marriage Blessing**
NEW HAVEN — A marriage blessing for all married couples and their families will be on the grounds of that event, please call the advertising sales staff at 260-399-1449 to purchase space.

**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.

**Hello, Neighbor!**

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.
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.

**PRO-LIFE, 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.